



February 22, 2010

Dear Friends,

With a mixture of sadness and joy, after nearly 25 years as Executive Director of Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital, I am submitting my resignation so I can assume the role of Chief Operating Officer for Girl Scouts of the USA.

My years at Nation's Capital have been rewarding beyond words. We have grown our membership, expanded our programs, and recruited and trained more volunteers than we can count. We have increased our funding, built new camps, and enhanced our community image. We have hosted the largest gathering of Girl Scouts in history – not once, but three times – and have watched many of our programs replicated across the country. Most importantly, we have watched hundreds of thousands of girls – with the strength of Girl Scouting behind them – launch careers that will, indeed, change our world for the better.

I have been personally enriched by the staff whose strength and commitment never ceases to amaze, the many volunteers who have provided wisdom and guidance, and the friends we have made in the community whose creativity and financial support have added immeasurably to our success. And the girls, those who I have had the pleasure to know and those who I have never met, they are the magic of this movement. They are what memories are made of.

As you would expect, I have contemplated my retirement from Nation's Capital for the past several years – always believing that it would mark the end of my 40-year Girl Scout career. But I have been asked to come to New York, at this important time in our movement, to work on the things I care about most – membership, program, volunteerism, and services to councils. And I must go.

I will leave behind a life that I love – friendships I cherish – and the job that I have treasured for nearly 25 years. I am grateful for the opportunity I have had to work with all of you and am even more grateful that I have the opportunity to continue to serve this movement that I love.

With appreciation,

Jan Verhage  
Executive Director