



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Girl Scout Council Executive Takes COO Post at National Girl Scouts

*Council creates **The Jan Verhage Endowment for Campership** in her honor*

WASHINGTON—The Girl Scout Council of the Nation’s Capital (GSCNC) recently announced Jan Verhage will retire as Executive Director of the Council to assume the position of Chief Operating Officer for Girl Scouts of the USA in New York. Verhage dedicated 25 years of her career to creating a nurturing environment for girls to build character and success in partnership with committed adult volunteers in the Greater Washington Region. She has guided GSCNC through unprecedented growth, tripling membership, expanding programs, increasing financial contributions and enhancing the organization’s image. Today the council serves 90,000 members in the District of Columbia and 25 surrounding counties in Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.

With 40 years in the nonprofit sector, 33 years in executive director positions, Verhage has been a prominent figure in the Washington business community. To celebrate her legacy, the Washington Business Journal and GSCNC will co-host the *Business Leaders Salute to Jan Verhage* on May 13, 2010 at the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

"While I am saddened by Jan’s departure, our Girl Scout Council will move forward in the most positive way, into an exciting future," said Diane Tipton, President of GSCNC Board of Directors. "Jan leaves us with a powerful legacy, and to say thank you we are establishing **The Jan Verhage Endowment for Camperships**, to ensure that the rewards of a Girl Scout sleep-away camp experience is available to every girl, regardless of her family’s financial situation. The goal of the campaign is to raise \$700,000, to send 100 girls to camp in Jan’s name each summer." For more information on the endowment visit our website at <http://www.gscnc.org/SaluteJan.html>.

The GSCNC Board of Directors has appointed a search committee and hired the McCormick Group to manage the recruitment process. In the interim, GSCNC Deputy Executive Director, Lidia Soto-Harmon will serve as acting Executive Director.

About Girl Scout Council of the Nation’s Capital

Girl Scout Council of the Nation’s Capital (GSCNC) is a non-profit organization with over 90,000 members, including 63,000 girls in 4,900 troops throughout the District of Columbia, eight counties in Maryland, ten counties in Virginia and seven counties in West Virginia. With the help of more than 27,000 dedicated volunteers, the generosity of corporations and foundations, and our popular Girl Scout cookie program, GSCNC helps girls from kindergarten to 12th grade become leaders through a wide range of fun and educational activities. GSCNC is headquartered in Washington DC, with offices in Frederick and Waldorf, Maryland; Lorton, Leesburg and Manassas, Virginia; and Martinsburg, West Virginia. To get involved, visit our website at www.gscnc.org.

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