



2007 Commission for Women Service Award Recipients

First District

Girls, Inc. of Carpinteria

Girls Incorporated of Carpinteria celebrates 35 years as an affiliate of a 140 year old national non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring all girls to be strong, smart and bold. Through educational, research-based programs, activities and advocacy, Girls Incorporated offers girls ages 5 to 18 years with opportunities to experience success as they prepare to lead independent and fulfilling lives. Girls Incorporated is a vigorous advocate for all girls and recognizes that girls today continue to experience the impact of past and continuing discrimination on the basis of gender. Because gender biases continue to play a pivotal role in shaping girls' opportunities and expectations, it is necessary to provide girls with activities that break traditional patterns, foster leadership, and build self-confidence. Girls Incorporated strongly believes that the special needs of girls can be most effectively addressed in an all-girl environment in which girls are encouraged take risks, acquire skills, gain confidence, become self-reliant, and practice leadership. At Girls Incorporated, every girl has the right to be herself and resist gender stereotypes; to express herself with originality and enthusiasm; to take risks, strive freely, and take pride in success; to accept and appreciate her body; to prepare for interesting work and economic independence; and every girl is valued for who she is. Girls Incorporated encourages girls to actively explore the world around them, find their own voices, and strive to be responsible, confident and independent young women. At the heart of Girls Incorporated is our mission to inspire all girls to be strong, smart and bold.

Second District

Breast Cancer Resource Center

Since 1997, the Breast Cancer Resource Center has been dedicated to serving the Santa Barbara community. The BCRC cottage is a warm and welcoming place where a woman and her loved ones can hear a soothing voice that says "I understand how you feel." At the BCRC you will find a caring network of people ready to answer questions and help you obtain information so that you are better able to make informed decisions and advocate for your breast health. More information about the BCRC can be found at www.bcrsb.org.

Third District

UC Santa Barbara Women's Center

The Women's Center works towards retaining students, staff and faculty and empowering them to be successful within the academy and beyond. We strive for an inclusive and equitable campus community through advocacy, education and support services. The Center promotes an understanding of the role and impact of gender in our lives and our society. The Center challenges sexism, racism, heterosexism, ageism, ableism, classism and other barriers that inhibit full inclusion and equal power in society. This is to help people of diverse backgrounds achieve their intellectual, professional and personal goals and realize their full potential. Through our programs we work to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning and ally students, staff and faculty and promote a supporting and accepting climate regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. More information about the UCSB Women's Center can be found at www.sa.ucsb.edu/women'scenter.



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Fourth District

American Association of University Women, Annual Girl's Conference

The American Association of University Women of California has over fourteen thousand members in local branches, along with our college and university partner members. We are a part of the American Association of University Women, headquartered in Washington, D.C. Members of AAUW are graduates of colleges and universities in diverse backgrounds; interesting women who join together to share friendships while we work together for the women of tomorrow. The Lompoc Vandenberg branch of the American Association of University Women sponsors an annual Girls Conference. It is a free event open to all middle school and high school girls. The conference consists of group sessions focusing on themes such as financial independence and positive self-esteem. All participants attend three morning workshops which deal with educational opportunities, positive relationships and healthy lifestyles. The afternoon sessions address issues of image and exercise.

Fifth District

League of Women Voters of Santa Maria, Health Committee

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The health Committee was formed within the League of Women Voters to study health care resources in the Santa Maria Valley and raise awareness of health issues in the North County. The focus of their efforts is in Mental Health, Hospitals, Clinics, Local Education and training of health care professionals. With a recent grant from the Fund for Santa Barbara, the health committee was able to distribute brochures targeting the minority community and get them in touch with local clinics and health care providers in the Valley.