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One Of Time Magazine's "Most Influential People in the World,"
America Ferrera to Speak at Girl Scouts of Western New York
Women of Distinction Event.

Buffalo, NY.....Girl Scouts of Western New York continues its tradition of honoring outstanding local women and connecting leaders of today with leaders of tomorrow. This year's Women of Distinction Awards will be presented on Thursday, September 15, 2011 from 5:30 to 9 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel Rochester Riverside.

Nine women will be recognized for their strength of character, commitment to community service, and dedication to mentoring girls and young women. Each recipient's accomplishments make her an exceptional role model who inspires girls to reach their full potential.

"This is truly an event that provides opportunity for girls to rise to the positions of leadership and honor women in our communities whose strength of character and dedication to mentoring girls enrich the lives of many. It validates an important part of Girl Scouting which is to inspire girls to reach their full potential," said Cindy Odom, Chief Executive Officer.

Business: Antoinette McCorvey, Chief Financial Officer and Senior Vice President, Eastman Kodak Company, **Entrepreneur:** Christine Whitman, Chairman, Chief Executive Officer, and President, Complemar, Inc., **Education:** Amy Marschilok, Research Assistant Professor, University at Buffalo, **Healthcare:** Dr. Nancy M. Bennett, Director, Center for Community Health, University of Rochester Medical Center, **Sports:** Alexandra Sahlen, President, Sahlen's Sports Park; President and Player, Western New York Flash, **Arts and Humanities:** Nydia Padilla-Rodriguez, Founder and Artistic Director, Borinquen Dance Theatre, **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math):** Dr. Stefi Baum, Director, Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science, Rochester Institute of Technology, **Armed Services:** Colonel Dianne M. Schmidt-Ciminelli, Nurse Practitioner, Canandaigua VA Medical Center, **Girl Scout Volunteer:** Karen Morris, Distinguished Professor of Law, Monroe Community College; Judge, Town of Brighton.

America Ferrera, best known for playing the lead role in the television comedy series Ugly Betty, will serve as the keynote speaker. Ferrera is one of Time Magazine's "Most Influential People in the World" and a recipient of The Imagen Foundation's Creative Achievement Award. She will present at a special Girl's Forum before her keynote address. At the Forum, she is expected to hold a candid discussion with the girls about body image in the media. Her keynote speech is anticipated to be upbeat and inspirational.

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This year's event chair is Jennifer Leonard, president and executive director of the Rochester Area Community Foundation, and honorary chair is Kitty Van Bortel, president of Van Bortel Ford, Van Bortel Subaru, and Van Bortel Used Car Center.

Several Girl Scouts, between the ages of 14 and 17, will create, produce and host the event, as follows: **Mistresses of Ceremonies:** Julietta Gervase, Williamsville; and Jackie Sosnowski, Grand Island. **Presenters:** Khadijah Bagais, South Dayton; Delaney Dominguez-Salerno, Lockport; Breona Lashaay Jones, Buffalo; Rosemarie Lenz, East Amherst; Simone Liano, Rochester; Casey Mulroy, Pittsford; Oneida Rosa, Buffalo; Emily Hammer Walitzer, Alden; and Blair Dakota Yaiser, Middleport. **Ambassadors:** Emily Brown, Clarence Center; Erin Cullen, Pittsford; Roslyn Davis, Buffalo; Nicole Ehrne, Rochester; Karen Eisenberger, Clarence Center; Jocelyn Flecha, Rochester; Emily Karlsson, Rochester; Rebecca Rehac, Blasdell; Erin Sheehan, Alden; Laura Skinner (Senior Ambassador), Williamsville; Victoria Trent, Orchard Park; and Molly Wightman, Hamburg

Gold sponsors of this year's event are: Eastman Kodak, Federated Clover Investment Advisors, Rochester Area Community Foundation, and the University at Rochester. Silver sponsors are: Arbor Capital Management, Bryant & Stratton College, Falconer Printing, Mount St. Mary's Hospital, Nocon & Associates, Rochester Institute of Technology and Timothy O'Mara Attorney-at-Law.

Women of Distinction is widely regarded as one of the region's premier fundraising events. Each year, it draws together and honors a select group of purpose-driven women who – like the Girl Scouts themselves – are dedicated to service and leadership.

It costs roughly \$250 to provide a whole year's worth of opportunities and volunteer support for each local Girl Scout. Through fundraising events, like the Women of Distinction program, the Girl Scouts of Western New York is able to achieve its mission of developing leadership, decision-making skills, and commitment to community within today's generation of girls.

Girl Scouts of Western New York (GSWNY) is the preeminent leadership development organization for girls and young women, serving over 20,000 girls and 9,000 adult volunteers across the GSWNY jurisdiction; including Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming counties. The council's administrative headquarters is located in Buffalo, N.Y. GSWNY program and service centers are located in Buffalo, Batavia, Jamestown, Lockport, and Rochester.

Founded in Savannah, Georgia, on March 12, 1912, Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) strives to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. Accordingly, GSUSA continues to be the leading authority on girls, with a membership of more than 3.7 million girls and adults.

For sponsorship opportunities, tickets, or to learn more, contact Amy Johnson at Amy.Johnson@gswny.org or 1-888-837-6410, ext. 6030, or visit gswny.org.

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