



**GirlsQuest**  
Going Outside. Growing Inside.

*formerly Girls' Vacation Fund*



# PATHWAYS

The Official Newsletter of Girls Quest



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## A Letter from our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As the 2005 summer season comes to an end, I want to thank everyone for their support and patience during our transition from Girls' Vacation Fund to Girls Quest. As with all transitions, there are challenges, and we faced many this year.

However, change also brings opportunities, and I am pleased to report that our 2005 Summer Experiential Education and Development Program (SEED) at Camp Oh-Neh-Tah, under the supervision of Beverly McEntarfer, Senior Director of Programs, was a great success. Bev joined us in February of 2005, and did a remarkable job in putting the program together in a short period of time. I thank Bev and the wonderful staff that supported us throughout the summer.

This newsletter provides a little glimpse of what our campers and counselors experienced during our first Girls Quest summer. I hope you enjoy it! In addition, should you wish, we would be happy to provide you with a copy of a camper-produced newsletter from our SEED program this summer. Just call the office and we will send one out to you.

With this year behind us, we will take what we have learned to provide an even better summer camp experience for our girls in 2006. Shortly, we will begin to plan our 2006 SEED program, and we are very excited about the opportunities to enhance and build on this nearly-70-year-old program.

Additionally, we will soon launch a new interactive website which will not only include sections for our SEED, Teen Leadership and Mentor Programs, but will also enable us to extend our outreach and provide online registration and up-to-date information on our 2006 programs. It will also help us build a stronger, more connected family of girls, volunteers, and alumnae, providing areas on the site for each of these groups to interact with each other.

As always your support—financially, as a volunteer in our programs, or helping us to clean up and renovate the camp for next year—is needed so that we can continue to provide the quality programs to our girls for which we have been known since 1935. You are welcome to contact me anytime to discuss the variety of ways you can be part of our future success, and I can be reached at (212) 532-7050 or at [shall@girlsquest.org](mailto:shall@girlsquest.org).

In the meantime, thank you again for your support of and interest in our work. I hope to speak with you soon.

Sincerely,  
Susan Hall  
Executive Director



Three new friends take a break at Camp Oh-Neh-Tah.



Our girls enjoy an afternoon of boating on Silver Lake.



Campers happily relax after an all-day hike on Zore Mountain.



All smiles after completing the High Ropes course.

## Mentor Program Update

The Mentor Program is in full swing and we would like to offer new opportunities for our mentors and mentees to participate in during their outings. We are in need of in-kind donations, such as tickets to plays and concerts, gift certificates to restaurants, etc. that mentors and mentees can attend together.



Mentee Kendra and Mentor Linda indulge in the delicious sweets at Serendipity 3.

Our goal for our mentors and mentees during their planned outings is for them to create a bond together while exposing our girls to new and diverse opportunities. Although mentors generally absorb the cost of the activities with their mentees, any support or in-kind donations will be greatly appreciated.

## A Letter from Camp Oh-Neh-Tah

Dear Friends,

What a pleasure and honor it is to be a part of the Girls Quest family. It has been an exciting time, and I am very grateful to all who have provided support and encouragement throughout the spring and summer. I would like to give a special thank you to the Board members, alumnae, and other friends who visited camp this summer.

We had a wonderful and successful summer at Camp Oh-Neh-Tah. A total of 305 campers attended the three two-week sessions, including seven Teen Leaders, who in addition to acting as assistant counselors, spent six weeks developing leadership skills and focusing on personal and group development. Our staff was very dedicated to providing a fun and positive learning experience for the campers.

Once again, the girls participated in a variety of traditional camp activities, such as arts and crafts, boating, ceramics, archery, and basketball. And as always, each girl participated in the Literacy Program each day—some learned about women in history, while others learned of

far-off places such as Nepal, Africa, and Australia. Meanwhile, the Learning Center provided a place where the girls could go and read a book on those hot summer days.

In addition, we added several new “clubs,” many utilizing the skills of our international staff, including: South African Gumbo dancing, Colombian and Yoruba dance, as well French, yoga, and meditation. The new addition of real soccer nets made that activity very popular. Many girls got up at 6 am to go Polar Bear Swimming in the mist-covered lake, while others went on day-long hikes to Windham & Zore Mountains.

We have already begun to plan for next year, and we are really excited about the possibilities, including new camp menus, additional recreational and educational activities, more camping and hiking, and an expanded Teen Leadership Program.

Until then, thank you for your continued trust and support.

Sincerely,  
Bev McEntarfer  
Senior Director of Programs

## Annual Benefit 2005 Wrap-Up

On April 27, 2005, over 150 friends and supporters attended Girls Quest’s Casino Night and Silent Auction, our annual benefit held for the past three years at the New York Tennis and Racquet Club. On behalf of the staff, board, and our girls, we would like to extend special thanks to event co-chairs **Jessica Davis** and **Laurianne Murphy** for providing the dedicated leadership that led to this year’s event being the most successful ever, raising over \$100,000 for Girls Quest’s programming. Campers Miriam Ortiz and Tatiana Davis, parent Gina Davis, and mentor Shawanda Williams were the guest speakers for the evening, providing the personal perspective on our programs that is so important to understanding the true impact of our work. We would also like to thank all

of the mentors who volunteered, and special thanks to Briscoe Savoy, Danita Armstrong, and Tess Jacobs-Lewis.



Guests try their hand at Roulette.

We are already planning a great evening for next April’s benefit; watch your mail for a Save the Date announcement this fall. If you would like to join the 2006 Benefit Committee, please contact Susan Hall at 212-532-7050 or [GObenefit@girlsquest.org](mailto:GObenefit@girlsquest.org).

## Camp Oh-Neh-Tah Profiles



**Name:** Corrine Birchard  
**Age:** 10  
**Hometown:** Staten Island  
**First-time camper**

**How have your first days at camp been?**  
 Camp is great!

**What is your favorite activity at camp?**  
 I love swimming! I'm in Crib 2. I also love to dance! Yesterday, I did South African Gumboot dancing and today I am learning step dancing.



**Name:** Audra Clyburn  
**Age:** 15  
**Hometown:** Brooklyn  
**5th year at Camp Oh-Neh-Tah**  
**2nd year as Teen Leader**

**Why have you returned to camp?**  
 This is my only chance to see the outdoors. It's so peaceful.

**What are your life goals?**  
 I plan to go to college and become a psychologist or a dancer. I attend a performing arts school.



**Name:** Aliya Allen  
**Camp Counselor**  
**Former Camper and Teen Leader**  
**How many years have you been at Camp Oh-Neh-Tah?**

This is my second year as a staffer. Last year, I was the Ceramics Assistant. Now I am a counselor. I am also a former camper and Teen Leader.

**What are the greatest challenges you face daily as a counselor?** The biggest challenges from the campers are dealing with homesickness and helping new campers make friends.



**Name:** D'onna Woolfolk  
**Age:** 11  
**2nd Year Camper**

**What do you like about camp this year?**  
 I got to see Houdini [the pet rabbit] again and also went hiking.

**What is your favorite activity at camp?**  
 Boating. When I go to the lake, I see frogs and fish and seaweed.

**How does your cabin get along?**  
 I like my cabinmates. I am taking pictures of all my friends and then at the end, I will write down their names and email addresses, so we can keep in touch.



## Calling all Alumnae!

If you are a former camper of Camp Oh-Neh-Tah, Camp Manitou, Camp Talaka or Camp Tawanka, we are looking for you! We are currently creating an alumnae webpage & directory and would like you to sign up! Please contact us at [alumnae@girlsquest.org](mailto:alumnae@girlsquest.org) for more information.



Susan and Bev visit the Alumnae Reunion at Camp Manitou.

## Thank You!

A special thank you to alumna **Connie Stine** for her continued donation of her time, talent and resources!



GirlsQuest

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★ *Going Outside. Growing Inside.* ★

## A Parent Thanks Girls Quest



4 August 2005

Girls Vacation Fund, Inc.  
370 Lexington Avenue  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Camp Staff,

This is a note to express my gratitude. Both of my daughters had such a wonderful experience. They felt safe and well cared about. Both, Julia and Tatiana trusted their Camp Counselors, made friends, and had the best time ever.

In fact, Julia and Tatiana took pictures and I can not express the joy our family and friends had looking at each photo. One could see the comfort of each child. Each had smiles and free-style poses. One could easily see the dedication of your camp staff. They were cheerful and ever so attentive (Special "Thanks" to whom ever did Tatiana's hair).

At a time when I really needed someone really new and trusting in our lives, I met the Girls Quest Organization. I am so happy we have met. I will never forget the experience shared and the impact of an astounded memory for the Holland Family.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Sincerely,  
  
Juakita Holland  
(Julia Holland and Tatiana Holland's - Mommy)

### STAFF

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Maureen O'Gorman

Monica Sherer

**Campers and Parents:** Please send any camp pictures that you would like to share with us! Please mail your pictures to our New York office or email them to [info@girlsquest.org](mailto:info@girlsquest.org).