

Girls Inc. of the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area

INAUGURAL
Champion
for Girls

LUNCHEON

Recognizing strong, smart and bold
leaders in our community

OCTOBER 11, 2023

girls
inc.

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October 11, 2023

Friends of Girls Inc. of the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area,

Welcome to our Inaugural Champion for Girls Luncheon, held on *International Day of the Girl Child!*

Thank you for your support. The mission of Girls Inc. DC is to inspire the next generation of girls and young women to be *strong, smart, and bold*. Since our founding in 2004, we have proudly served local girls through Girls Inc.’s evidence- and school-based programming model, summer camps, empowerment programs, and leadership meetings. Through *strong* programming, we help girls increase confidence, public speaking, and self-awareness; through *smart* programming, we invite partners and facilitators to provide girls hands-on STEM activities and training; and through *bold* programming, we teach girls how to be effective advocates and to champion the issues that matter most to them.

Today, we honor leaders in our community who share this commitment to strong, smart, and bold girls. We begin by recognizing leaders in government and corporate America who are working to close the digital divide, which is the theme of the 2023 International Day of the Girl Child. We are also honoring the memory of our beloved founder Dr. Roselyn Payne Epps by dedicating an award in her honor and presenting it to a leader from Howard University, where Girls Inc. DC was founded.

We also have other treats in store as we celebrate our girls — their experiences, rights, and voices! At Girls Inc. DC, we know that girls have something important to say. Our girls are already leaders and advocates who are reshaping their schools and communities, and one day they will reshape their workplaces, the nation, and the world.

Our job, as their adult support network, is to ensure they have the resources to realize their dreams and fulfill their destiny. By supporting and partnering with us, you are doing just that, and we thank you - today and always.

Strong, smart, and bold girls grow up to be strong, smart, and bold women.

With gratitude and in partnership,

Dr. Heather L. Hairston
Executive Director





Inspiring all girls
to be strong,
smart, and bold

On International Day of the Girl, we celebrate the incredible power that lies in each girl. It is a day to recognize the resilience, strength, and determination that girls worldwide embody.

This day also serves as a reminder of the challenges girls face, sometimes hindering them from reaching their full potential. In a world that too often underestimates girls' abilities, we reaffirm our commitment to breaking down barriers, shattering stereotypes, and creating a future in which every girl can access opportunities that result in positive outcomes for her and the communities in which she lives.

At Girls Inc., we celebrate the power of girls every day, and on this International Day of the Girl, we are galvanizing our network across the U.S. and Canada to amplify girls' voices and perspectives on the issues they care about through the "Girls have Something to Say" celebration campaign. We are also showcasing Girls Inc. girls who are changemakers, already making a difference in their communities. We invite you to join us by using your own networks to raise awareness about issues we collectively care about.

As we mark this day, let us stand in solidarity, united by the vision of powerful girls in an equitable society. Let us seek to challenge the status quo, champion equity, and create bridges to opportunities to help build the new generation of leaders.

Thank you for standing with girls.

Sincerely,

Stephanie J. Hull, Ph.D.

Girls Inc. President & CEO



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

October 11, 2023

GREETINGS!

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to the **Girls Inc. DC** as you host your 2023 **Inaugural Champions for Girls Luncheon**.

I applaud Girls Inc. DC for recognizing strong, smart, and bold leaders in our community on International Day of the Girl. The D.C. community is eternally grateful for the impact of mentors on the health and wellbeing of our community. As a District, we rely on our citizens especially those within minority communities to further lead, guide, and develop our institutions.

The District of Columbia is grateful for your continued work and dedication to provide role models for our young girls and women.

My best wishes for an outstanding afternoon and continued success in your important work!

Sincerely,

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Not printed or mailed at government expense.
(Facsimile)

Champion for *Girls*

HONOREES

STRONG AWARD

Anna M. Gomez

Commissioner, *Federal Communications Commission*

Commissioner Anna M. Gomez is the first Latina-American to be confirmed to the FCC in over two decades. She believes the FCC does best when its work honors the people it serves. Bringing over 30 years of public and private sector experience in domestic and international communications law and policy to her position, Commissioner Gomez is committed to ensuring we have a vibrant, strong, competitive telecommunications and media marketplace that promotes U.S. economic prosperity and security while also meeting the needs of all consumers.

SMART AWARD

Dr. Robert Simmons

Head of Social Impact and STEM Programs, *Micron Technology*

Robert Simmons, EdD currently serves as the Head of Social Impact and STEM Programs at Micron Technology and the Micron Foundation. In this role Robert leads all social impact philanthropy and STEM programming in North America. Robert's research for the last 15 years has focused on racial equity, STEM education and the lived realities of historically marginalized communities across multiple K-12 contexts. More specifically, he explores the experiences of Black students and teachers, equity in STEM, as well as the lived experiences of Black fathers.

BOLD AWARD

Broderick Johnson

EVP, Public Policy & EVP, Digital Equity, *Comcast Corporation*

Broderick has more than three decades of experience as a lawyer, policy advisor, and political strategist, most recently with the international law firm of Covington & Burling. He has served under two U.S. Presidents, as Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs under President Clinton, and as Assistant to the President and Secretary of the Cabinet under President Obama. Currently, Broderick oversees the Comcast Public Policy team and holds overall responsibility for the company's role in the digital equity space. He sits on numerous boards, including the boards of directors of the Obama Foundation, the Black Economic Alliance, and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. He also chairs the My Brother's Keeper Alliance Advisory Council.

Champion for *Girls*

HONOREES

CHAMPION FOR GIRLS AWARD

Clint Odom

Vice President, Strategic Alliances and External Affairs, *T-Mobile*

Clint Odom serves as the Vice President of Strategic Alliances and External Affairs for T-Mobile, where he is responsible for shaping and advancing the company's public policy agenda. He leads the team responsible for increasing visibility and awareness of the brand among external partners in the community and NGOs to further shared policy issues, including 5G deployment, internet governance, privacy, and broadband adoption. In his previous role with the National Urban League, he served as the Senior Vice President for Policy & Advocacy and Executive Director of the

Washington Bureau. Before joining the National Urban League, Clint served for a decade in the United States Senate as legislative director for then Senator Kamala D. Harris of California

EPPS FOUNDERS AWARD

Dr. Tashni-Ann Dubroy

Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, *Howard University*

Dr. Tashni-Ann Dubroy serves as the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Howard University. Her leadership responsibilities include oversight of human resources and services, auxiliary services, information technology, facilities management, environmental and emergency management, public safety, and enrollment management. Under her leadership, Howard University has experienced significant growth in its enrollment growth and in turn, its financial outlook. Prior to this role, she served as the 17th president of Shaw University.

LUNCHEON HOST & GIRLS INC. ALUMNA

Symone Sanders-Townsend

MSNBC Host of SYMONE

Symone Sanders-Townsend is an author, seasoned democratic strategist and host of "SYMONE" on MSNBC and MSNBC on Peacock. Symone's namesake show provides essential context on the most pressing issues facing Americans today and creates the discourse missing in the media.

Symone rose to prominence in 2016 as the national press secretary for U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders's then-presidential campaign. At 25, she became the youngest presidential press secretary on record and was named to Rolling Stone Magazine's list of 16 young Americans shaping the 2016 election. Symone was later appointed as a senior member of the Biden-Harris administration. Symone is an alumna of Girls Inc. of Omaha.

ABOUT OUR FOUNDER

DR. ROSELYN ELIZABETH PAYNE EPPS



Roselyn Payne Epps, M.D., M.P.H., was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, the daughter and granddaughter of educators. Dr. Epps attended elementary school at Powell Laboratory School in Savannah, GA, and graduated from Palmer Memorial High School in Sedalia, NC. She graduated from Howard University in Washington, D.C., with undergraduate and Doctor of Medicine degrees, with honors. She also earned the Master of Public Health from Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD and Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies from American University, Washington, DC.

Dr. Epps completed her internship and pediatric residency at Freedmen's Hospital (now Howard University Hospital). After training and private practice, her public health career began with the DC Department of Health in the well-baby clinics. She rose within the DC Department of Health, served as Chief of Bureau of Maternal and Child Health and Bureau of Clinical Services, and in 1980 was appointed the first Commissioner of Health of the District of Columbia.

After leaving DC government in 1981, she returned to Howard as Professor in the Department of Pediatrics and Child Health, where she would become the Chief of the Child Development Division and Director of the Child Development Center. While there, Dr. Epps oversaw programs assisting disabled children and their parents, and founded the High-Risk Young People's Project, which brought together several university health science departments, community organizations, and government agencies within DC. In 1989, Dr. Epps joined the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, focusing on cancer prevention nationally. Dr. Epps served as a requested and respected consultant in the public and private sectors, nationally and internationally. Epps authored more than 90 articles for medical publications and was a co-editor of *The Women's Complete Handbook*.

Dr. Epps was a pioneer and leader in many professional and service organizations. Among her many firsts included the first African American and female president of the DC Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and first African American president of the American Medical Women's Association. She served in many professional, service, and philanthropic organizations, and was the recipient of more than 60 awards. The Council of the District of Columbia declared February 14, 1981, as Dr. Roselyn Payne Epps Day across DC.

Dr. Epps' leadership included national president of Girls Incorporated, 1990 to 1992, and founded Girls, Inc. of the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area in 2004. Dr. Epps passed away in 2014. She was married to classmate Charles H. Epps, Jr., M.D., and they raised four children.



Who is Girls Inc. DC?

Girls Inc. DC is the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area affiliate of Girls Inc. Founded locally in 2004, we inspire girls and young women to be **STRONG, SMART, and BOLD** with a data-driven, proven program model aimed at helping girls lead physically, emotionally, and mentally healthy lives, achieve academically, and build the confidence needed to advocate for themselves and their community. We have a deep commitment to serving all girls in the metropolitan Washington, DC area including neighboring areas in Maryland and Virginia.

Using the Girls Inc. model, Girls Inc. DC:

Works with schools to provide the safe spaces, mentoring relationships, and evidence-based programming that are proven to help girls succeed.



Provides girls with the all-girls, pro-girl environment, encouragement, and experiences they need to achieve their goals.

Advocates with and for girls to advance their rights and the rights of other girls at the local and federal level.



Together with partners and supporters, inspires all girls to be **STRONG, SMART, and BOLD!**

**girls
inc.**

of the Washington, DC
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