

## Girls Inc. honors inspirational women

Girls Inc. recently honored Linda De Jesús-Cutler, president and chief operating officer of The Bravo Group; Mindy Meads, president and chief executive officer, of Lands' End Inc. and executive vice president and general manager of apparel for Sears, Roebuck and Co.; Robin Klehr Avia, managing principal of the northeast region and member of the board of directors, of Gensler; Anne Pollack, senior vice president and chief investment officer of New York Life Insurance Company; and Carla Harris, managing director of Morgan Stanley and Solera Capital at the annual Girls Inc. celebration luncheon in New York City. Each year Girls Inc., a national organization that inspires girls to be strong, smart, and bold, honors women at the pinnacle of achievement — women who by their daily example are giving girls the inspiration to achieve their highest goals.



Linda  
De Jesús-Cutler



Mindy  
Meads



Robin  
Klehr Avia



Anne  
Pollack



Carla  
Harris



Gerry  
Myers



Taunee  
Besson

### A search for women's advisory board members in Portland, Ore.

Advisory Link has been developing MassMutual Financial Group Women's Advisory Boards across the United States to level the playing field for women in the financial services industry and advocate financial literacy for women and girls. Currently, there are 11 boards in 10 cities: Atlanta, Charlotte, Dallas, Detroit, Los Angeles, New York City, Peoria, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C.

Because of the success of the programs in these locations, Craig Chambers, a general agent in Portland, Ore., asked Advisory Link to begin a WAB for him. Chambers' organization, MassMutual Oregon Financial Services Group, is already active in the community and wants to continue extending its reach, especially in the areas impacting women. While the majority of the managers are women, the sales force is primarily men. Chambers would like to substantially increase the number of women working directly with clients.

As Advisory Link Co-founders Gerry Myers and Taunee Besson create WABs, they first develop a slate of chair candidates who are highly respected, influential women in their careers and communities. One of the best ways to secure these contacts is to ask for recommendations from Advisory Link's extensive network. Potential candidates should have a track record of professional and philanthropic success, not specifically in financial services. The newly appointed chair of the MassMutual Oregon Financial Services Group board is Joanne Ban Ness Menashe, director of individual development for the Oregon Symphony. If you know anyone who would enjoy the opportunity to be a part of a Portland, Ore. Women's Advisory Board, please contact Advisory Link at [www.advisorylink-dfw.com/contact.html](http://www.advisorylink-dfw.com/contact.html). Or, if you are acquainted with anyone, male or female, who is well-connected in the Portland area and may have someone to suggest, please forward the information to Taunee Besson at [tauneeb@advisorylink-dfw.com](mailto:tauneeb@advisorylink-dfw.com) or Gerry Myers at (817) 379-0956.

### HEFNER AWARDED MAKE MINE A \$MILLION RECOGNITION

Dr. Kim Hefner is one of the first three women in the country chosen to receive the Make Mine a \$Million Award. An optometrist and owner of Omni Eye Center in Oklahoma City, she is the state chair of InfantSEE, a new program being launched this summer by the American



Dr. Kim  
Hefner

Optometric Association. Hefner is also a four-year member of EWF International, a firm that creates peer advisory groups for women business owners.

While women own over 10 million businesses in the United States, only 283,000 or 3 percent of them have gross revenues of \$1 million or more annually.

The Make Mine a \$Million Business program is a national effort to award 15 of the nation's most promising women business owners with financial loans and business coaching. This new mentoring and financing program is sponsored by Count-Me-In for Women's Economic Independence, OPEN: The Small Business Network from American Express, and the Women's Leadership Exchange.