

girls *Presents*
inc.
of Greater Houston



2025 Strong, Smart & Bold Gala
Hosted by Chairs Kat Pressly & Sue Rogers

4 | 17 | 25 ♦ 6:00 PM

UNION STATION AT DAIKIN PARK



Gala Program

VIP CHECK-IN

GENERAL RECEPTION CHECK-IN

WELCOME REMARKS

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

DINNER

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

APPEAL

LIVE AUCTION

ENTERTAINMENT

COFFEE & DESSERT



FEATURING
Mistress of Ceremonies
Julia Morales
Houston Astros On-Air Personality

WELCOME

To an All Star Evening!



Treopia Cannon

President & CEO - Girls Inc. of Greater Houston



Dear friends of Girls Inc. of Greater Houston,

Welcome to the 2025 All Star Strong, Smart, and Bold Gala!

Tonight, we gather not only to celebrate, but to stand united in our commitment to a future where every girl has the opportunity to thrive. Your presence here speaks volumes — it means you believe in the power of girls, and in a world where they are seen, heard, and given the tools to lead.

Over the past year, Girls Inc. of Greater Houston has reached new heights. We've expanded our footprint, deepened our impact, and continued to break barriers: from launching innovative STEM programs that ignite curiosity and confidence, to elevating girls' voices through our bold Teen Advocacy Council. We've shown up in schools, community centers, and even in wilderness parks, meeting girls where they are and walking alongside them as they discover their strength.

This year's theme honors the champions who pave the way — our Strong, Smart and Bold Honoree, Janet Gurwitch, our Melanie Gray Vanguard Award Honoree, Estefania Torres, and our 2025 Local Scholar, Victoria Torres— each of whom exemplifies what it means to invest in the next generation. Their stories, like those of the girls we serve, are filled with resilience, purpose, and transformation.

At Girls Inc. of Greater Houston, we don't just imagine a better world — we build it, one girl at a time. And tonight, you are part of that bold vision. Your support fuels the programs that shape futures and sparks the kind of lasting change our city and our world so desperately need.

Thank you for showing up. Thank you for believing. Let's make this a night to remember, and a future to be proud of.

Inspiring all girls to be

#StrongSmartBold

Strong, Smart & Bold

COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs - Kat Pressly & Sue Rogers

2025 GALA COMMITTEE

Treopia Cannon
Dishinquea Doakes
Jeannie Gibbs

Alexandria Maxey
Blonde Suico

HOST COMMITTEE

Monica Alvarez
Vanessa Ames
Dana Barton
Cathy Brock
Leah Oliver Christman
Kristen Collins
Chelsea Collmer
Meghan Conroy
Jennifer Cope
Adrienne Crane
Kathy de la Mora
Pamela Espada
Melanie Gray
Maria Hader

Courtney Harmon
Marian Harper
Paula Harris
Terrie Havens
Shelby Hodge
Stacy Humphries
Tori Jacoby
Lindsey Kessinger
Allie LaForce
Donna Lewis
Cheri Lindley
Kara McCullers
Elizabeth McIngvale
Courtney McKinney

Maddy Moffitt
Melissa Moncreif
Julia Morales
Ann Muntz
Roz Pactor
Laura Perez
Neda Sabzevari
Lexi Sakowitz Marek
Laurie Sanders
Iris Shaftel
Cindy Soefer
Samantha Tucker
Sheridan Williams

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2025 STRONG, SMART & BOLD *Gala Honoree*



STRONG, SMART AND BOLD AWARD

Janet Gurwitch

Board of Directors, Front Row | Board of Directors, Astros |
Founder & Former CEO, Laura Mercier Cosmetics

This year, we are proud to present the prestigious Strong, Smart, and Bold Award to Janet Gurwitch.

Selected by the 2025 Strong, Smart, and Bold Gala Committee, Janet exemplifies what it means to lead with purpose and impact. She has demonstrated a commitment to excellence in her field and has gone above and beyond to champion social and economic justice, equal opportunity, and the advancement of girls and women throughout Greater Houston.

Janet Gurwitch is a highly successful corporate executive with over 25 years of experience in the beauty industry. She is currently on the Board of Directors of the Houston Astros baseball team and e-commerce accelerate Front Row.

Gurwitch is the founder and former CEO of Laura Mercier Cosmetics & Skincare, a global brand of high-end niche cosmetics. Gurwitch managed and oversaw Laura Mercier's day-to-day business operations, strategy development and retail negotiations.

Gurwitch joined forces with famed makeup artist Laura Mercier after realizing the imminent paradigm shift in the beauty industry that was propelling niche lines to the forefront of the cosmetics business. The combination of Gurwitch's business savvy and foresight coupled with Mercier's talent provided a solid foundation for a strong, growing business based on technique and a high-quality product.

Prior to founding Laura Mercier, Gurwitch was the Executive Vice President of Neiman Marcus, where she established the merchandising strategy.

After selling Laura Mercier in 2008, Gurwitch transitioned into private equity as an operating partner at Boston-based Castanea Partners, where she served on the boards of consumer brands Urban Decay Cosmetics, Tatcha, Drybar and First Aid Beauty. In 2020 she became an operating partner with Advent International, another Boston-based private equity firm, where she focused on the beauty & wellness consumer sector and served on the board of public company Olaplex (OLPX). She also served on the boards of Dollar Shave Club and public company La-Z-Boy (LZB).

Gurwitch's personal community involvement includes the President's Leadership Council for Houston Methodist Hospital, trustee for the Houston Museum of Fine Arts, chairing the Hermann Park Conservancy dinner event and chairing the Communities In Schools' (CIS) annual event. She has also served as Underwriter for the Drawing Institute for the Menil Collection, and she's an avid supporter of the Houston Symphony and Houston Grand Opera.

Gurwitch was inducted into the Texas Business Hall of Fame in 2023.

We are honored to celebrate Janet's inspiring work and deeply grateful for her acceptance of this award!

2025 STRONG, SMART & BOLD *Gala Honoree*



THE MELANIE GRAY VANGUARD AWARD

Estefania Torres

Sustainability Analyst, Halliburton

Estefania Torres' journey with Girls Inc. of Greater Houston began when she joined our after-school programs as a high school student. From the start, she stood out for her curiosity, creativity, and determination — the very qualities our programs are designed to nurture.

While attending Chinquapin Preparatory School, Estefania remained closely connected to GIGH, embracing every opportunity for growth and leadership. Her hard work and dedication culminated in a major achievement in her senior year: she was awarded the prestigious Girls Inc. National Scholarship, a \$20,000 award that helped her pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies at Bryn Mawr College.

After graduating in 2023, Estefania returned to Houston (and to GIGH) to give back to the community that had helped shape her path. As a summer intern, she worked alongside GIGH leadership, gaining valuable professional skills, mentoring high school girls (including her younger twin sisters, Victoria and Sofia), and preparing for her next chapter. With the support of GIGH mentors and a connection to one of our corporate partners, Estefania was offered a full-time position at Halliburton, where she now works as a Sustainability Analyst. In her role, she brings together her passions for environmental responsibility, innovation, and equity — values first sparked and nurtured through her experiences at GIGH.

The Melanie Gray Vanguard Award honors women who exemplify the qualities of strength, leadership, and vision — someone who breaks barriers, uplifts others, and leads with integrity. Estefania is a shining example of what it means to be strong, smart, and bold. She continues to serve as a mentor, advocate, and role model for the next generation of girls — proving that when girls are supported, they can transform not only their own lives, but the world around them.

Inspiring all girls to be

#StrongSmartBold

2025 STRONG, SMART & BOLD

Corporate Champion

PERRY HOMES

Founded in 1967, Perry Homes has grown into one of Texas's largest and most trusted homebuilders. As a family-owned and woman-owned business, Perry Homes has built over 65,000 homes across more than 90 communities in Texas, including Houston, Austin, Dallas-Fort Worth, and San Antonio. Recently, Perry Homes also expanded to Florida, bringing their signature quality and design to the Sunshine State.

Perry Homes has been a steadfast supporter of Girls Inc. of Greater Houston, demonstrating a deep commitment to empowering young women. Their contributions have significantly bolstered programs such as the Be BOLD Summer Institute and the BOLD Leaders Initiative. Beyond financial support, Perry Homes employees have dedicated numerous volunteer hours, directly impacting the lives of the girls we serve.

In recognition of their unwavering dedication to our mission of inspiring all girls to be strong, smart, and bold, we are proud to honor Perry Homes as our 2025 Corporate Champion. Their partnership exemplifies the profound impact that corporate commitment can have on community development and the empowerment of future generations.



2025 STRONG, SMART & BOLD *Gala Honoree*



LOCAL SCHOLAR
Victoria Torres
A. Valos P-Tech High School

Victoria Torres exemplifies resilience, heart, and unwavering determination—qualities that define the spirit of a Girls Inc. Local Scholar. Now a senior at A. Valos P-Tech High School, Victoria balances a demanding schedule with grace, juggling academic responsibilities, a part-time job, volunteer work at her church, and assisting her father with his business. In every arena of her life, she demonstrates the perseverance and drive that Girls Inc. of Greater Houston (GIGH) aims to nurture in every girl we serve.

Victoria's journey with GIGH began years ago, inspired by her older sister and fellow alumna, Estefania Torres. Alongside her twin sister, Sofia, Victoria has grown up in GIGH programming — from summer camps to advocacy and leadership development. Today, she is a standout participant in Project Accelerate, Girls Inc.'s intensive college and career readiness initiative. Whether she's creating self-affirmation jars, engaging in cultural exploration through activities like mochi-making, or touring STEM facilities, Victoria dives into every opportunity with curiosity and courage.

Her words about the Girls Inc. Experience reflect her deep connection to our mission: "It's a place where you feel accepted and like you truly belong... where you are encouraged to dream and given the tools to make those dreams a reality."

Victoria's story is also a testament to the power of family. She credits her parents for their sacrifices, love, and belief in a better future — and she carries that legacy forward with pride, purpose, and an unshakable commitment to make them proud.

We are honored to recognize Victoria as our 2025 Local Scholar — a young woman who embodies the Girls Inc. values of being strong, smart, and bold. The future is brighter with her in it.

Inspiring all girls to be
#StrongSmartBold

GIRLS INC.

Girls' Bill of Rights

1



GIRLS HAVE THE RIGHT TO
BE THEMSELVES AND TO RESIST
GENDER STEROTYPES.

2



GIRLS HAVE THE RIGHT TO
EXPRESS THEMSELVES WITH
ORIGINALITY AND ENTHUSIASM.

3



GIRLS HAVE THE RIGHT TO
TAKE RISKS TO STRIVE FREELY
AND TO TAKE PRIDE IN SUCCESS.

4



GIRLS HAVE THE RIGHT TO
ACCEPT AND APPRECIATE
THEIR BODIES.

5



GIRLS HAVE THE RIGHT TO
HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THEMSELVES
AND BE SAFE IN THE WORLD.

6



GIRLS HAVE THE RIGHT TO
PREPARE FOR INTERESTING WORK
AND ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE.



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Cherie Lindley

Kat Pressly/Sue Rogers



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!