NEWS RELEASE

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APRIL IS STRESS AWARENESS MONTH

'A Raising Godly Girls Guide to Tackling 8 Stressors that Girls Face Today'

AHG equips parents with guide to leading girls through modern anxieties such as isolation, fear and more

CINCINNATI, Ohio — Today's youth are more stressed out than ever before. Unfortunately, <u>girls are more</u> <u>impacted</u> by stress and anxiety than boys, leading to a <u>national mental health crisis</u> for young women. Many parents and guardians are unsure <u>how to best address their girls' mental health</u> and are looking for resources and answers.

As America recognizes <u>Stress Awareness Month</u>, one of the world's largest Christian scout-type organizations, *American Heritage Girls (AHG, <u>www.americanheritagegirls.org</u>)* proudly provides parents and guardians with the tools to help girls deal with <u>the anxieties that plague today's youth</u>. In order to equip adults with biblical truths to deal with girls' stress, *American Heritage Girls* released '<u>A Raising Godly Girls Guide to Tackling 8</u> <u>Stressors that Girls Face Today</u>.'

Patti Garibay, founder and executive director of American Heritage Girls, stated, "Fear is debilitating. It manifests itself into a variety of unhealthy behaviors. Today's teens are experiencing the effects of worry and fear in unprecedented numbers. Diagnostic interview data from the National Comorbidity Survey Adolescent Supplement shows that <u>31% of all youth have diagnosed anxiety disorders</u>. Note the word 'diagnosed.' Imagine the percentage when we include those who have not sought medical or psychiatric help. Fear has reached pandemic levels.

"Yes, fear is part of the human condition, but as part of the Body of Christ we are called to faith over fear. We are called to know beyond a shadow of a doubt that God will never leave us or forsake us. My prayer at this time of anxiety and distress is for each of us to dismiss fear and shine as a beacon of certainty that we serve a sovereign God who is the creator of the earth, the Prince of Peace, the Alpha and the Omega, and the Lord that provides."

The comprehensive and useful guide dives deep into topics such as diagnosed anxiety, worst-case scenario thinking, fear of illness, panic attacks, worrying, scarcity mindset, and isolation. The guide provides biblical support as an additional foundation for parents and even has an activity in the back for girls to help cope with their stress.

To learn more about "A Raising Godly Girls Guide to Tackling 8 Stressors that Girls Face Today."

American Heritage Girls was founded in 1995 when Founder and Executive Director Patti Garibay became concerned with the direction the Girl Scouts of America was headed. Garibay, along with a group of concerned parents, wanted a faith-based, scout-type character development program for their daughters, and American Heritage Girls was born. Today, there are Troops in all 50 states and girls being served in 15 countries around the globe. Thousands of volunteer members across the country are helping girls grow in their faith, cultivate a heart for service, enjoy the great outdoors, and have more fun than they can imagine.

At *AHG*, girls ages five to 18 meet together as <u>a single Troop</u> at the same time and then break out into Units by Levels. This gives *AHG* girls the important social experience of interacting with friends and godly mentors of various ages; members also learn leadership skills within a group setting. *AHG* Troops are located in <u>local</u> communities across the nation. To hear more about the purpose, mission, and vision of *AHG* from *Founder and Executive Director Patti Garibay*, <u>click here</u>.

AHG's "Raising Godly Girls" radio feature and <u>Raising Godly Girls blog</u> shares guidance and biblically based advice on many key topics affecting girls today — from bullying and identity to anxiety and body image issues. It gives parents, educators, and faith community leaders a set of tools, resources, and Scripture-based advice to assist in raising girls after God's own heart. The <u>*"Raising Godly Girls Minute" with Patti Garibay* airs on 1000+ Christian radio stations across the country.</u>

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To schedule interviews with spokespersons from *American Heritage Girls*, contact <u>Media@HamiltonStrategies.com</u>, Beth Harrison, 610.584.1096 ext. 105, or Deborah Hamilton, ext. 102.

To inquire about airing the <u>*"Raising Godly Girls Minute"*</u> with Patti Garibay, contact Michael Hamilton, 610.584.1096, ext. 101.