NEWS RELEASE

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JANUARY IS SANCTITY OF LIFE MONTH

American Heritage Girls teaches girls the value of life through thoughtful patch programs and valuable alliances

'To respect life is to see life through God's eyes,' declares AHG Founder and Executive Director Patti Garibay

CINCINNATI, Ohio — Today's Christian parents are wading through conversations that they never imagined having to address so soon into their parenting journey, such as violence and war, gender and identity, suicide and mental illness, and the right to life. While the overturning of Roe v. Wade was a huge leap toward protecting the lives of the preborn in America, it certainly wasn't the last step toward restoring the recognition of the sanctity of life in the nation. Modern society teaches children that life is easily disposable, but the Bible makes it clear: life begins at conception and is worth protecting.

Despite the prevalence of these issues in the debate and at the polls, *American Heritage Girls* (*AHG*, www.americanheritagegirls.org), one of the world's largest Christian, scout-type organizations, believes that the sanctity of life supersedes the cultural opinion of today. *AHG* is dedicated to raising godly girls of integrity through carefully curated programming that emphasizes faith, family, friendship and fun.

"Standing for life is not a political issue but rather a God issue," said AHG Founder and Executive Director Patti Garibay. "All life is valuable to Him. If we as a ministry purport to love Him and follow Him, life must be valuable to us as well. We must teach our girls this most important lesson."

To emphasize the value of human life, *AHG* is encouraging girls to rally the nation to celebrate the right to life through community outreach and other forms of service. In the fall of 2023, *American Heritage Girls* partnered with <u>The Radiance Foundation</u> and unified Troop efforts for the National Day of Service around a common theme — respect life. The event encouraged Troops nationwide to find ways to form new connections with local life-affirming organizations to make an impact in their community. From collecting formula for crisis pregnancy centers to scheduling engaging arts and crafts time with local nursing homes, Troops across the country answered this call to serve God's people. In addition to this National Day of Service effort, girls are encouraged to learn about and protect the dignity and sanctity of life through several programmatic initiatives including the Respect Life Patch, All God's Children Badge and more.

"All life has value," said Garibay. "This is more than a social, moral, or ethical issue — it is a foundational biblical principle handed down by our Heavenly Father. Over and over, Scripture testifies to the devotion and love of God in designing, creating, and pursuing each individual person in His creation. To respect life is to see life through God's eyes.

"Through service to expectant mothers, new mothers, foster mothers, adoptive mothers, pregnancy care centers, foster services, and, of course, newborns, girls can gain an appreciation for the wonder and beauty of new life. They can carry this biblical worldview into adulthood by respecting and valuing children and motherhood."

American Heritage Girls was founded in 1995 by a group of parents who wanted this faith-based, scout-type character development program for their daughters. At AHG, girls ages five to 18 meet together as a single Troop 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 local communities across the nation. If none exists in a given area, families can bring the AHG Program to their own area. An American Heritage Girls Troop Development Coach is available to provide resources to potential Charter Organizations and other families to form a new Troop. To hear more about the purpose, mission, and vision of AHG from Founder and Executive Director Patti Garibay, click here.

Today, there are <u>Troops</u> in all 50 states and girls being served in 15 countries around the globe. Girls can join a Troop at any time; if a Troop is not available nearby, they can become a <u>Trailblazer</u> and enjoy the *AHG* program alongside their parent. A variety of Christian denominations are also represented as <u>Charter Organizations</u> for Troops. 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.

The "Raising Godly Girls" radio feature, Raising Godly Girls Guides, and Raising Godly Girls blog share guidance and biblically based advice on many key topics affecting girls today — from bullying and identity to anxiety and body image issues. These platforms give 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 "Raising Godly Girls Minute" with Patti Garibay airs on 1000+ Christian radio stations across the country.

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To schedule interviews with *Patti Garibay*, founder and executive director of American Heritage Girls, contact Media@HamiltonStrategies.com, Beth Bogucki, 610.584.1096 ext. 105, or Robin Sprague, ext. 103.

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