NEWS RELEASE

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American Heritage Girls' National Day of Service is September 21

AHG inspires the next generation to make a lasting impact through acts of service

'Girls really want to make a difference in the lives of others, and **AHG** provides the chance for them to serve those in their communities'

CINCINNATI, Ohio — Even though culture and the modern world encourage selfishness and entitlement, committing acts of service has immense positive benefits for young girls. The <u>benefits of volunteering</u> can have a holistic effect on students' lives — professionally, educationally and personally. Volunteering promotes leadership skills, teaches the value of sacrifice, and shows girls how they can make a positive impact on the world.

American Heritage Girls (AHG, <u>www.americanheritagegirls.org</u>) has encouraged acts of service for girls ages five to 18 for almost three decades. One of the nation's premier scout-type organizations with a Christian emphasis, AHG provides ample opportunities for girls to get out in their communities and serve those in need.

On September 21, *AHG* will celebrate their National Day of Service, bringing to light the importance and need for girls to serve the needs of others. *AHG*'s Community Service Patch recognizes girls' hands-on efforts in making a difference in their communities.

"Throughout my tenure as a volunteer working with girls, and now as a leader of volunteers who work with girls, one area remains constant: girls love service," said AHG Founder and Executive Director Patti Garibay. "Girls become more compassionate and empathetic when they consider others' needs. When they serve, girls feel like they are contributors to the greater good. The importance of service in a girl's life is confirmed by research. According to studies conducted over the last two decades, children experience a wide range of benefits when engaged in community service projects including better grades and self-image, better overall health, reduced loneliness and depression and more."

Garibay recently outlined the benefits of service with Gracie O'Loughlin, Director of Strategic Partnerships and Promotions at Operation Christmas Child (OCC), a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, on AHG's popular podcast Raising Godly Girls (RGG). In the episode, O'Loughlin discusses the mission and vision of OCC and how their efforts encourage girls to look beyond their own needs and serve children across the globe. She elaborates on different forms of charity and their significance in developing life skills such as observation, listening, and questioning. Through personal stories and practical examples, O'Loughlin illustrates how a simple act of packing a shoebox can create a profound difference in the lives of children around the world.

"Girls really want to make a difference in the lives of others, and AHG provides the chance for them to serve those in their communities," commented Garibay. "We hope to inspire a Christ-like heart for service that will continue long after their time in AHG."

To learn more about how Operation Christmas Child and *American Heritage Girls* work together to bring the joy of the Gospel worldwide, click <u>here</u>.

Tune in to this week's <u>Raising Godly Girls (RGG)</u> podcast and "Raising Godly Girls" one-minute <u>radio</u> feature to equip, affirm, and strengthen girls on recognizing the importance of seeing and meeting the needs of others through volunteering and service.

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 parents. A variety of Christian denominations are also represented as <u>Charter</u> <u>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.

AHG offers various resources under <u>"Raising Godly Girls,"</u> including a <u>weekly podcast</u>, one-minute radio features, a blog, and guides for parents. All "Raising Godly Girls" platforms and materials offer guidance and biblically based advice on various topics affecting girls today, such as bullying, identity, anxiety, and body image issues. "Raising Godly Girls" provides parents, educators, and faith community leaders with tools, resources, and Scripture-based advice to help raise girls after God's own heart.

AHG's new podcast, "*Raising Godly Girls*," features fresh episodes every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Subscribe and follow on any major podcast platform or visit <u>raisinggodlygirls.com</u>. Additionally, 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 Jeff Tolson, ext. 108.

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