

*****NEWS RELEASE*****

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AHG's Christ-centered community celebrates God's unique design for every girl

'By learning a little more about each other, we can better love one another as God calls us to love,' says AHG Founder Patti Garibay

CINCINNATI, Ohio — [More than one in four adults](#) (28.7%) in the United States has some type of disability, meaning millions of families are impacted. For parents of [disabled children](#), it can be difficult to find a community that understands and supports their child's particular needs. However, it is important that children with disabilities find a culture that not only allows them to join but also celebrates what makes them unique and treats them with dignity and acceptance.

"It can be so scary for parents of differently-abled children to imagine their child's future," said American Heritage Girls (AHG, www.americanheritagegirls.org) Founder and Executive Director Patti Garibay. "What challenges will they have to face? Will they receive the same opportunities as other children? How can I best provide for their needs while encouraging them to grow? Researchers have discovered that typically-abled children as young as preschool age have already begun to develop a social bias against those with special needs. For parents of children without disabilities, there is another question: How can you teach your child to accept, love and encourage their peers who are differently-abled?"

"At AHG, we welcome girls from all walks of life and teach them to see their worth as God sees them — perfectly designed just as He intended! God made us each unique and we all have different abilities. Jesus reached out to those in need, including those with physical, mental, cognitive, social and emotional disabilities. Jesus showed God's mercy, kindness, love and hope to individuals with special needs. By learning a little more about each other, we can better love one another as God calls us to love."

On AHG's [Raising Godly Girls Podcast \(RGG\)](#), Garibay recently spoke with Shauna Amick, disability rights advocate, mother of a child with Down syndrome and a key member of [Joni & Friends](#), to explore how families can instill in their daughters the heart of Christ when it comes to inclusion, friendship and honoring those with disabilities. Garibay and Amick dive into Shauna's powerful personal story — how her daughter's diagnosis transformed her faith and deepened her understanding of God's purpose in suffering. Amick also discusses practical ways to help young girls befriend and uplift peers with disabilities, address common fears or misconceptions, and reinforce the truth that every life is created in God's image.

In 2022, AHG honored those impacted by disabilities through its [National Day of Service](#), encouraging Troops to learn more about how to interact and celebrate their differently-abled peers as well as serve those in their communities and their families. AHG partnered with Joni & Friends to provide resources for Troop leaders to educate their Troops on topics such as disability awareness and disability etiquette. AHG Troops received

resources and suggested ideas for honoring this theme during their day of service in their communities, as well as videos and activities to incorporate into their Troop meetings.

Tune in to this week's [Raising Godly Girls \(RGG\) podcast](#) and "[Raising Godly Girls](#)" one-minute [radio feature](#) to equip, affirm, and strengthen those leading their girls in honoring and uplifting their differently-abled peers.

Marking the organization's 30th anniversary this year, *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 [Troops](#) in all 50 states and girls being served in six countries around the globe. Girls can join a Troop at any time; if a Troop is not available nearby, they can become a [Trailblazer](#) and enjoy the *AHG* program alongside their parents. A variety of Christian denominations are also represented as [Charter Organizations](#) 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 "[Raising Godly Girls,](#)" including a [weekly podcast](#), 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 [raisinggodlygirls.com](#). 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, Dawn Foglein, ext. 100, or Jeff Tolson, ext. 108.

To inquire about airing the "[Raising Godly Girls Minute](#)" with *Patti Garibay*, contact [Michael Hamilton, 610.584.1096, ext. 101.](#)