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Moving Your Memories

Maureen Beal Honored by Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana

Chicago, IL – Maureen Beal, CEO, National Van Lines and seven other Chicago leaders were recognized as “Smart Cookies” and honored for their achievements by Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana during its annual “Smart Cookies Make a Difference” fundraising breakfast on September 6 at 7:30 a.m. at the Palmer House Hilton.

The “Smart Cookies Make a Difference” awards program applauds the accomplishments of exemplary leaders who, through their achievements, have changed the rules of the game, especially on behalf of girls who aspire to be business and entrepreneurial leaders themselves, and in doing so have made the world a better place.

In addition to Maureen Beal, the event honored Jon Kotay, founder, AKIRA; Jeanne Gang, founder and principal, Studio Gang Architects; Eric Hsueh, founder, AKIRA; Eileen Sweeney, senior director, Motorola Mobility Foundation, Genevieve Thiers, founder, Sittercity.com; Roz Varon, reporter, ABC 7; and Erikka Wang, founder, AKIRA. For detailed bios please visit: <http://www.cvent.com/d/rcqlfx>

“Our Smart Cookies event honors women and men who change the rules of the game, challenge the norm and take calculated risks to make the American Dream a reality,” said Maria Wynne, CEO of Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana. “This year’s eight honorees exemplify the Girl Scout values of courage, confidence and character, and serve as the inspiration for girls with big ideas and dreams.”

The “Smart Cookie” awards program is a contemporary and playful way to honor a Girl Scout tradition that dates back as early as 1917 when girls first envisioned selling homemade cookies to support their activities. A century later, the Girl Scout Cookie® Program is still a highly successful entrepreneurial and business skills-building program that gives girls the opportunity to practice important leadership skills while earning proceeds for their group activities.

“Smart Cookies” respond to “What was your greatest act of courage?”

Maureen Beal, CEO, National Van Lines

While I’m not sure I’d call it “courage” – more a “leap of faith” perhaps – I think the most courageous thing I’ve done in my career was to give up my home in California (and that glorious weather) to come back to Chicago to run the International Department at National Van Lines because my father said he needed me. And, it didn’t matter to him that I knew *nothing* about International Relocations at the time!

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