



Living Classrooms Foundation ♦ 802 S. Caroline Street Baltimore, MD 21231

James Piper Bond  
President and CEO

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Fourth Annual BeDazzle: A Bright Night for GEM**

*Girls' Empowerment Mission (GEM) Fundraiser  
Helps Empower Underserved Young Women*

Baltimore, MD (March 16, 2010) – Living Classrooms Foundation's *Girls' Empowerment Mission* (GEM) program will hold its fourth annual fundraiser at the American Visionary Art Museum on Thursday, April 15, 2010 at 6:30pm (optional museum tour begins at 5:30pm). This "girls only" event will feature an exploration of the museum's exhibits, dinner, and keynote speaker Sunny Hostin, Multi-platform Journalist and Commentator, CNN, HLN, and Fox. Proceeds will benefit the Girls' Empowerment Mission.

The Girls' Empowerment Mission (GEM) is a gender-responsive program that serves disadvantaged Baltimore County high school girls by providing opportunities and growth experiences that will enable them to become independent, self-sufficient, and confident young women. GEM provides an intensive, structured, three-year after school and weekend curriculum that address the needs of at-risk girls by helping them see beyond their current situations, by building their life skills, demonstrating the benefits of education, and exposing them to opportunities that will enhance their futures. The program also provides mentoring, counseling, and exposes the girls to a wide variety of positive female role models. The main goal of this program is to break the cycle of poverty by keeping the girls on track with their education and empowering them to feel good about themselves and their potential. GEM helps these girls understand that while they cannot help where they come from, they can control where they are going.

Living Classrooms Foundation is a Baltimore-Washington based nonprofit organization that strengthens communities and inspires young people to achieve their potential through hands-on education, job training, and community service programs, using urban, natural, and maritime settings as "living classrooms." The Foundation has been proudly serving the community for twenty-five years.

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