

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas Celebrates Those Leading the Way for Women in Texas**

Arcilia C. Acosta, Linda Perryman Evans and Avi Kahn to be honored at the Women of Distinction Luncheon on Friday, November 2

September 5, 2018

Media Contact  
Cori Bray  
214-891-2901  
cori\_bray@richards.com

**DALLAS** – [Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas](#) (GSNETX) will host the annual Women of Distinction Luncheon presented by AT&T, which recognizes outstanding women leaders of all ages for their service to the community, at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, November 2, 2018 at the Omni Dallas Hotel.

In honor of their commitment to community leadership and service to others, both **Arcilia C. Acosta** and **Linda Perryman Evans** will receive the Woman of Distinction Award. For his extraordinary efforts in supporting and empowering girls and women in Northeast Texas, **Avi Kahn**, president and CEO of Hilti North America will receive the Man Enough to be a Girl Scout Award.

The luncheon's keynote speaker will be magazine editor and writer, **Ann Shoket**. A former editor-in-chief of both *Seventeen* and *CosmoGIRL*, Shoket is a champion for millennial women. She is the author of *The Big Life*, a guide for successful millennial women. Lifetime Girl Scout, former board member and FOX 4 news anchor, **Clarice Tinsley**, will return for her eleventh year as the luncheon emcee. The Women of Distinction luncheon is co-chaired by Dee Brown and Sharon Morrison. The Host Committee is chaired by Venise Stuart and Candace Winslow.

“It is an honor to recognize Arcilia, Linda and Avi for their exemplary leadership and lifelong commitment to serving girls in our Dallas community,” said Jennifer Bartkowski, chief executive officer for the Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas. “Today’s world is changing rapidly, and for girls to succeed, they must find their voice, fortify their confidence and stand rooted in who they are and what they believe in. We are incredibly thankful each honoree recognizes the importance and value of empowering girls.”

Proving that community engagement can start and any age, **Timarie Luker** and **Divya Lal**, both local high school Girl Scouts, will receive the Young Woman of Distinction Award. The award is given each year to two Gold Award Girl Scouts – the organization’s highest achievement level, and recognizes exemplary service projects and a commitment to improving their communities, a requirement for Gold Award designation.

Funds raised during the luncheon provide crucial leadership development, socio-emotional skill cultivation, and science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), entrepreneurship, life skills, and outdoor leadership programs to more than 25,000 girls in Northeast Texas. To purchase tickets, visit: [www.gsnetx.org/wdl](http://www.gsnetx.org/wdl)

###

### **Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas**

Girl Scouts is building a pipeline of strong, confident girls. As the expert in how girls learn, Girl Scouts provides relevant programming that focuses on life skills, STEM, entrepreneurship and the outdoors – helping girls develop the confidence to know they can do anything they put their minds to. Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas serves more than 25,000 girls and 12,000 adult volunteers across 32 counties. In 2018, Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas opened the STEM Center of Excellence, a 92-acre state-of-the-art camp just outside of Dallas where girls can experience programs in astronomy, robotics, coding, computer science and more. Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas was recognized as a 2018 Tech Titan Technology Advocate Finalist, 2017 Million Women Mentors Stand Up for STEM Award, and 2016 CNM Connect Nonprofit of the Year. Learn more at [gsnetx.org](http://gsnetx.org) or call 972-349-2400.

Relevant Bios:



**Arcilia C. Acosta**

*2018 Woman of Distinction*

Arcilia Acosta is the President and CEO of CARCON Industries and Construction and of STL Engineers. The oil and gas division is located in Midland, Texas.

Ms. Acosta is an entrepreneur, nationally recognized speaker, philanthropist and mother. She and her companies have won more than 45 national, regional and local awards. She is an inductee of National Women's Business Hall of Fame, has been featured in the national acclaimed television show "CEO". She has received the Each Moment Matters award and the MAURA Award in 2018.



**Linda Perryman Evans**

*2018 Woman of Distinction*

Linda Perryman Evans is the president and CEO of The Meadows Foundation, one of the largest and most influential private charitable foundations in Texas.

Linda serves extensively throughout the philanthropic community. She is on the executive boards of Southern Methodist University's Meadows School of the Arts and Meadows Museum, is a board and finance committee member of Council on Foundations, a board and governance committee member of The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, and a founding board member of The Philanthropic Collaborative.

She is the recipient of a myriad of honors and awards, including being named to *The Nonprofit Times* list of the Top 50 Power and Influence Leaders three times and receiving one of Spain's highest honors, Encomienda de la Orden de Isabel La Catholica, for her work to enhance relations between Spain and the United States.



**Avi Kahn**

*2018 Man Enough to Be a Girl Scout*

Avi Kahn leads Hilti North America's operations as president and chief executive officer, overseeing businesses in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean and Guam. Prior to this role, he served as president of Hilti Canada.

Kahn holds a Bachelor of Business Administration, Information Technology from The Interdisciplinary Center and a Master of Business Administration, International Business from Bellevue University.

He is involved with a number of charitable organizations and has served on the Habitat for Humanity Canadian National Leadership Council.



**Divya Lal**

*Young Woman of Distinction*

To earn her Gold Award, Divya partnered with Take Me Home Rescue and Duck Team 6 to educate her community about the importance of spaying and neutering pets.

This avid reader and tennis lover developed curriculum to teach children proper animal care and provided their parents with a certificate for a free spay/neuter procedure to help combat the homeless pet issue in south Dallas. Divya is a senior at Richland Collegiate High School with plans to pursue pharmacology upon graduating.

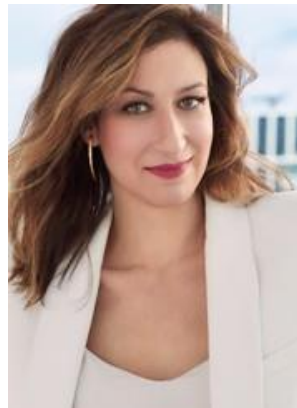


**Timarie Luker**

*Young Woman of Distinction*

For her Gold Award project, Timarie designed a special needs classroom for students with severe autism at a Plano ISD elementary school. After researching their needs and the specific sensory issues associated with autism, she incorporated her findings into the nautical-themed room, adding 3D materials and appealing to all five senses.

Her design has even inspired educators throughout Plano ISD to consider adding sensory rooms to their school. Timarie is a junior at Plano East High School with plans to pursue psychology and nursing after graduating.



**Ann Shoket**

Keynote Speaker

Ann Shoket is a key architect in shaping the national conversation about and for millennials. Her widely acclaimed book, *THE BIG LIFE*, is a guide for this generation, which is changing what it means to be powerful and successful. Formerly editor-in-chief of *Seventeen* and *CosmoGIRL*, Shoket has appeared regularly on *Good Morning America*, *Today*, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *The View*, *CNN*, *Access Hollywood*, and *E! News*. In 2009, Forbes named Shoket one of the “Most Powerful Fashion Magazine Editors” in the country.