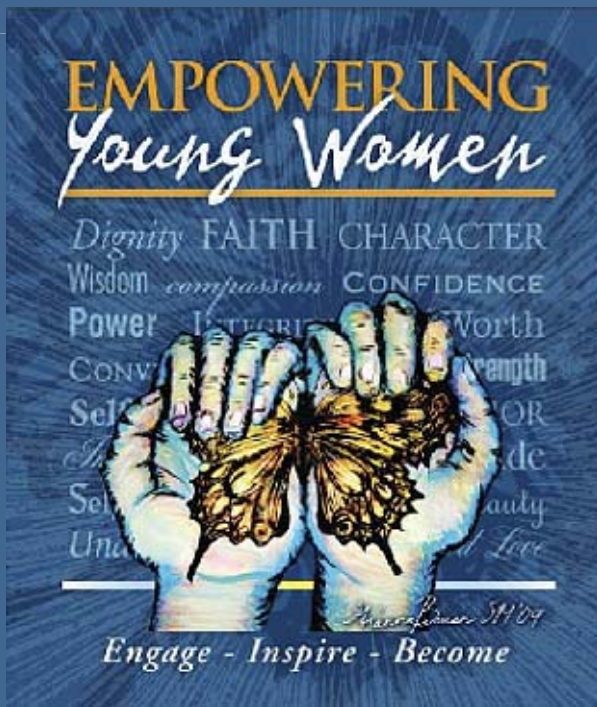


Saint Mary's High School Presents

“Women Empowering Young Women”

February 9, 2012



“Empowering Young Women” will begin on the Saint Mary’s High School campus on Thursday, February 9th, where student breakout sessions throughout the day will feature community speakers whose goal is to encourage students to think about societal norms, media messages and peer pressures by discussing how they shape and influence behaviors, confidence, emotions and actions.

Recognizing a need to address the pressures faced by teens in general, and especially young women, Kathy Smith, Saint Mary’s High School Dean, was instrumental in organizing this first-time event. “Our mission is to empower and inspire young women by using the tools of education and our faith to foster and strengthen self esteem and confidence in order to build a strong sense of self-worth, personal responsibility and accountability,” said Smith.

“Empowering Young Women is an event that will focus on how we can make a positive difference on young women today, during a particularly critical time in their lives, where peer pressure, media messages and unspoken expectations have a tremendously influential impact on their confidence, self esteem and hence, future success in life,” said Tori Verber-Salazar, Empowering Young Women Committee Chair, and SJC Deputy District Attorney. “We have seen a rise in young women being treated with less dignity and respect. The media, social media and society place unreasonable pressures on young women. It is important to have a conversation with young women about what it means to be a woman in America. Our goal is to help them positively navigate the path of their future for success,” she said.

The day culminates with a dinner celebration open to the public at Stockton Golf and Country Club. Social hour will begin at 5:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. Following dinner, Dianne Gini, SMHS Class of ’57, will be honored for her life’s dedication to helping others with grace and faith. The evening will also feature keynote speaker, Pamela Eibeck, President of the University of the Pacific, community partner, mother and academic leader. In addition, Saint Mary’s High School student speakers will share their stories of adversity, faith and triumph. Proceeds from the event will benefit student scholarships.

“The SM student body is integrally involved in the event,” said Smith. “The girls are creating a video that shares students’ perceptions on dating, beauty, the media and peer pressure,” she said. A special logo for the event was created by Gianna Brusa, SM graduate ‘09, and currently a junior at Saint Mary’s College, majoring in Studio Art. The logo shows hands gently releasing a beautiful butterfly. “I created the hands releasing the fragile butterfly to signify letting go of societal norms and peer pressures, in order to become empowered and confident to be yourself,” said Brusa. “I chose strong words to run across the background of my art, such as dignity, faith, character, wisdom, compassion, confidence, integrity, self-worth, and grace, to remind young women about all of things we can have when we are true to ourselves,” said Brusa. “This has been an exciting collaborative effort between our administration, our faculty, our students and the community,” said Smith.

For more information, dinner sponsorship opportunities, or dinner tickets, call the Saint Mary’s High School Office of Development, 209 957 3340, ext. 195.

For Additional Comments and Information, Contact:

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