Don't be sad be glad that it's time for a bit of nostalgia: whenever I visited my grandmother as a little girl, two things were guaranteed. #1: At some point I would be thoroughly interrogated as to the whereabouts of a slice of baloney (or some other equally-unimportant processed meat) that went unaccounted for in her daily tally (yes, for real). #2: For at least three blissful hours, I would have unabated reign over her extensive grandma collection of makeup and jewelry. As I applied and combined colors with abandon, she would sit and watch, chuckling at my excitement.

My grandmother was quite the diva, but more importantly, she was a lady. To me, she will always define an inextricable combination of grace, glamour and beauty that is ever so rare to come by. It was like she had some magical ability to tap into a certain radiant power source within herself. It's that same source that all of us women share and also that which drives and inspires so many really terrific femmy organizations like GLAMOUR GALS.
When I first met Glamour Gals’ founder RACHEL DOYLE at their GLAMOUR IN THE CITY event this month, I was immediately struck by her genuine passionate for her organization’s work. Glamour Gals connects high school student volunteers with nursing home residents for complimentary facials and makeovers. (Uh, hi, where do I sign up? Oh yah, I’m neither a teenager, nor a senior, but still...) GG began six years ago as a young girl’s initiative to foster meaningful connections between the generations and has now blossomed into a nationally recognized, non-profit organization sponsored by MAYBELLINE and boasting quite an impressive collection of fans, advisors and supporters (me = #a1-fan!).

The Glamour in the City event featured key note speakers Tim Gunn of Project Runway (Mr. Tight-lips himself), and Dr. Sheila Johnson, co-founder of BET and CEO of Salamander Hospitality (yah, how badly do you wanna be her?). Also on board to lend support were Nathaniel Hawkins of Treseme and reps from Maybelline. Their collective presence is a powerful testament to the tremendous impact the organization has had on so many lives.
Throughout the evening, guests were hooked-up with complimentary makeovers and hair styling tips. But the special treat was Glamour Gal’s first ever "GLAMMIES" award ceremony recognizing their outstanding volunteers. With 30 chapters throughout 7 states, Rachel is quick to acknowledge the dedication and work of the high school volunteers who could just as easily spend their time in the mall or chatting online with their peers (too kewl for skool). For these girls (hailing from Irvington High School in NJ and Thomas Edison High School in Queens, among others), the Glamour Gals appeal is a unique opportunity to exercise their strength as leaders in a way that positively impacts them, at least as much as the amazing and beautiful women they dote their attention on.

Rachel, who travels to high schools and speaks on numerous panels, continues the good work of hyping interest in Glamour Gals. And as the glam members enter into college, many establish chapters on their new campuses, further spreading the word to the world beyond high school (as if!). And even if your days of mid-terms and dorm rooms are (thankfully) in the past, there are still tremendous opportunities to participate in Glamour Gals. Contributions can be made through their website at www.glamourgals.org or simply by using the internet search engine “Goodsearch.” And fabulously, once Glamour Gals is established as your preferred charity, the website donates one penny for every search (and your thoughts). So keep those good pennies from heaven raining down on Glamour Gals and keep the all-important connection between the female generations alive and strong for years to come.

Posted by BeautyNewsNYC at 11:01