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girls for a change

moxie

December 2004 Edition

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girls for a change news

note from

Niko and Whitney

The holiday season is underway, but we at Girls For A Change are already busy at work preparing for the New Year. After a short, but restful and reenergizing winter break we will be jumping back into action. Two items on our long to do list are supporting our 34 Girl Action Teams which began in the fall and also planning our "Spring into Action" Girl Training which will take place in March. We will also be working on our much anticipated organizational growth plans. Girls For A Change is going to be busy in the New Year! We are growing in all different directions! We are growing our capacity to serve girls, our expertise in training and supporting our coaches, our program quality and retention, our staff skills and experience, and our geography in the near future. Stay tuned for the excitement.

Until then, have a wonderful, safe, and peaceful holiday! We thank those of you who have supported us this year and are so truly grateful for everyone who believes in this work! We also would like to thank those of you who are giving an end of year gift through this newsletter. It will help us to do all that work in the New Year!

We wish you the best and can't wait to see you in 2005!

Fondly, Whitney & Niko

what's hot

Many thanks to the **Haynes Charitable Foundation** for a \$7,000.00 grant to support the work of Girls For A Change! The funds will make a direct impact in the lives of GFC girls and our communities throughout the Bay Area!

GFC thanks the Women of Silicon Valley Fund for partnership and a grant award of \$20,000.00 to continue our work on women's and girl's economic opportunity, leadership, financial literacy and safety. For more information, please visit: www.womensfoundca.org/news_enews19

Our most successful fundraiser to date! Girls For A Change **raised over \$40,000.00** at our November Fundraiser Event at the Improv Theatre in San Jose! We would like to share the success with each and every one of you, for you made it possible! Thank you to all our supporters and friends..you are truly changing the face of leadership.

November Fundraiser Event was fabulous with beautiful words from Whitney Smith, Niko Clifford and GIRLS from GFC! Please see our Completion

Happy Holidays!

transform your wish into action this season



Girls For A Change is partnering over 70 women with over 30 Girl Action Teams, from San Jose to Oakland, to identify community problems and design, fund and implement creative social change projects to address those problems. Girls are becoming practiced innovators and leaders within their communities and at the same time making intergenerational connections with professional women, thereby learning about and utilizing the power of networking.

A proud mother recently spoke with GFC staff. In a strong voice, she shared her wish for her daughter.

She wishes that her daughter continue to develop what she has learned in GFC: leadership skills; confidence in making her voice heard; and a belief in herself that empowers her to take a stand for her rights and for her community. This mother shared this wish with us, this wish that her daughter continue to gain knowledge of how to harness social power and use it to make positive change. Girls For A Change asks you to share your wish with us this holiday season. What is your wish for your community? What is your wish for girls today? Your wish can help to transform the world, one girl at a time.

Girls For A Change relies on donations and gifts from each and every one of you. Please share your wish for a better world and more opportunities for girls in this world with us. Please feel free to make a wish in your name, or a make your wish a gift in a loved one's name.

We invite you to transform your wish into action this holiday season.

Please send a check, made out to Girls For A Change to: Girls For A Change P.O. Box 1436 San Jose, CA 95109

You can also donate online with any major credit card! Just visit our website: www.girlsforachange.org -- Click on the DONATE NOW button in the top right corner and follow the prompts to donate in a click!

completion ceremony 2004 recap



On November 17, 2004 Girls For A Change celebrated the power of girls and social change with 500 powerful girls, friends and community members. Thirty Girl Action Teams, in tow with coaches, gathered to celebrate their impact on their communities. The ceremonies included a video montage featuring the Girl Action Teams in action, and an awards ceremony with official certificates from Girls For A Change, the Office of Senator Jackie Speier, the Office of Assemblywoman Sally Lieberman, and the Honorable Pete McHugh. Please [click here](#) to see more Completion Ceremony photos.

Girls For A Change would like to thank Citibank for so generously sponsoring the evening.

Ceremony 2004 Recap section for more!

want to change the world?

Girls For A Change needs coaches in Santa Clara County, the East Bay and San Francisco. This is your chance to spend just 10-15 hours per month working in partnership with girls on social change! If you are interested please contact Carrie Ellett or visit the GFC website: 408.515.8148 or carrie@girlsforachange.org

wish list:

Digital Camera with printer; Digital Video Camera; Easels for Display boards

Quick Links...

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We would also like to thank the following speakers, special people and organizations:

- Cheryl Evans, Citibank, Director of Community Relations-Western Division
- The Honorable Pete McHugh, Santa Clara County Supervisor-District 3
- The Honorable Cindy Chavez, Councilmember-City of San Jose
- Jackie Speier, CA State Senator-8th Senate District
- Sally J. Lieber, CA Assemblywoman, 22nd District
- Ron Dawson & Cinematic Productions
- The Improv
- All our amazing volunteers

girl action team highlight



Team 20, East Palo Alto High School

Mentoring Students to Encourage Their Dreams and Goals

This team has identified a lack of motivation to do well in school and go on to college as a major problem in their community. They see too many of their peers going down the wrong path- dropping out, abusing drugs, and joining gangs. They are changing this pattern by starting a mentor program for kids that will change their perspectives on life, give them strong role models who they can trust and depend on, and assist them academically. They plan to work with fifth and sixth grade boys and girls from neighboring Willow School.

coach highlight



Coach Caroline Kvitka, Team 20, East Palo Alto High School

GFC Team 20 is the only program run by people outside the school that has lasted and been successful at East Palo Alto High School. Coaches Caroline Kvitka and Rebecca Kieler helped form and lead this team through the 2004 coaching year. Caroline's experience with her team has been challenging and amazing. About her experience, she says GFC:

..impacted me by forcing me out of my comfort zone..working with teenage girls is definitely one of the most challenging things I've ever done..they have so much going on in their lives, in their heads, and at school..The trainings were amazing, I met some really wonderful women, and the staff at GFC is top notch. So being a coach was a great experience that challenged me to keep my cool, be patient, think outside the box, act like a kid, and just have fun.

Caroline will be leaving her GFC coach position for the 2005 coaching year to embark on the journey of motherhood, and is on board as a GFC friend for life! Thank you for all your hard work Caroline, and keep us up to date on the arrival of Baby Kvitka!

email: info@girlsforachange.org

web: <http://www.girlsforachange.org>

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