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girls for a change

moxie

December 2005

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You're Invited to Take Action!



Girls For A Change Silicon Valley is partnering over 100 women with over 50 Girl Action Teams, from San Jose to San Francisco and Oakland, to identify community problems and design, fund and implement social change projects to address those problems.

Girls not only create change in their communities, but also within themselves. One program participant, Alicia G., also the key note speaker at the Girl Summit, has decided

to share her story with you:

I started with Girls for a Change as a Girl Steering Committee member a year ago. I love it so much because of the great skills I learn. I get to express my ideas, learn how to organize events, network with different people, and make new friends. I am also a member of the National GFC Board. It is so amazing to have businesswomen sitting beside me while I express my ideas, and even vote on amazing things, like where to launch the next GFC site. To be behind the scenes of GFC makes me feel powerful and important.

The most powerful thing however, has been learning how to public speak, because it opened so many incredible doors to me, professionally and personally. I also learned how important it is to build up a network. I meet so many important people and I am now so comfortable talking to them and starting conversations. I was not confident in myself until GFC. This incredible organization brings



Girls For A Change being awarded a grant from the dynamic Junior League Mid Peninsula .

What's hot

Girls For A Change would like to thank our most recent corporate and foundation supporters:

- Agilent Technologies
- Community Foundation Silicon Valley
- CREW Foundation
- Foss Family Foundation
- Junior League Mid Peninsula
- Sobrato Family Foundation
- The Department of Labor
- BEA
- Electronic Arts
- Westley Family Foundation

The annual *Girls For A Change Fundraiser*, held on November 2nd, 2005, was amazingly successful! With over 200 community members in attendance, the night was magical and informative about how girls are changing the world. Thank you to all of our supporters! The event was generously hosted by the San Jose Marriott.

GFC News

out the inner me! To see myself transform is so amazing; I never knew I had this potential. I now hear a lot of "You are Great/Amazing/Inspiring," which is something I would never hear before.

I remember my first standing ovation! Everyone stood up, and I cried because no one had ever applauded me for speaking my mind. I never thought people would pay attention to my story, to my life. "Come on, I'm just some low-income girl from East Side San Jose! Who would care what I have to say?" To have that thought break down before my eyes was the beginning of my inner self peaking out of my body. Who knew I could do this?"

You did.

We invite you to celebrate the potential in Alicia and young women around Silicon Valley this holiday season. We invite you to transform your belief in the power of young women, into action. You can help to change the world, one girl at a time.

You can donate online with any major credit card. Just [click here to donate now](#) or [visit our website](#) for more information and donate from there!

OR

Send a check made out to Girls For A Change to:

Girls For A Change, P.O. Box 1436, San Jose, CA 95109

2005 Girl Summit

Each year 1,000 girls have the opportunity to attend the Girl Summit, an all-girl conference with interactive workshops, dynamic speakers, social change activists and performers. It is the kick off event for the GFC program year, which runs from November through May. Girls then join a Girl Action Team and practice the skills gained at the Summit by designing and implementing social change projects, which in the past have reached thousands of youth throughout the Bay Area.



We would like to thank schools, community organizations, corporations, and youth serving social change organizations who partnered with us to make this event possible and amazing! Click on the link below for the event program and a complete listing of partnering organizations and workshops offered, performers and sponsors.

[Girl Summit Program](#)

The Girl Summit by the Numbers:

• Moxie

GFC's quarterly newsletter is a powerful tool which allows us to share our milestones, wishes and challenges with you. As such, the Girl Steering Committee, the GIRL leadership body of GFC, has decided to take part in producing each edition of Moxie. From this point on, members of the Girl Steering Committee will co-write, edit and publish Moxie. Thank you to Alicia G. and Zaida A. for getting this edition of Moxie to you!

Note From Niko & Whitney

Greetings GFC Community~

Another year comes to a close and we at GFC are reflecting on the amazing achievements and opportunities for learning from 2005, and prepping for even more in the year to come. In 2005, girls took action with social change projects ranging from traveling to Sacramento to discuss policy issues, to placing an anti-smoking billboard in San Jose. Girls' projects impacted more than 1,500 community members. Another 2005 feat is In Her City, GFC's new social change blog site where women, girls and all people are welcome to engage in a dialogue about our most pressing issues. GFC Phoenix had a successful launch event in October 2005 resulting in a flurry of volunteers for coaches and a new network of GFC supporters! Whitney and Eleanor Rouse, the New Ventures Director for GFC Phoenix, are hard at work setting up teams to start creating change in the Phoenix area! GFC Silicon Valley is starting the year with over 50 Girl Action Teams and 100 Coaches spanning San Jose, San Francisco and Oakland. GFC staff and the Board of Directors will spend the holiday season reflecting on these achievements, and the year's challenges, in order to pave the way forward to ensure that GFC remains girl and social change driven as we expand nationally.

In this time of reflection and starting again, we wish you peace and happiness.

In Peace,

Niko and Whitney

Wish list

- Digital camera
- Digital video

- Girls in Attendance: 1,100
- Adults in Attendance: 300
- Facilitating Organizations & Workshops Offered: 47
- Schools Participating: 60
- Organizations Participating: 15
- Community Volunteers: 130

We would like to thank the following sponsors:

- National Semiconductor
- Applied Materials
- City of San Jose
- Kaiser Permanente, Health & Wellness Sponsor
- Citibank, Financial Literacy Sponsor
- Sandisk Foundation
- Evergreen Valley College
- Gap Inc.
- Ikon
- Luna, The Whole Nutrition Bar for Women
- Respect, A Girls Guide to Dealing When Your Line is Crossed
- Sephora
- Technology Credit Union
- Deloitte Consulting
- Voce Communication
- LaBelle Day Spas & Salons

And a special thanks to our media sponsors:

- NBC11
- The San Jose Mercury News
- WomensRadio

Girl Action Team Highlight

We are thrilled to highlight three teams in this edition! Teams 48, 49 and 50 are all composed of social change agents at Lionel Wilson College Preparatory Academy in Oakland. GFC started with one team, grew into two teams, and this year the girls have demanded one more team at the school!



A Very Important Adult night was held on December 5th to inform parents, guardians, and supporters about the social change the girls will be making this year. We had over 40 Very Important Adults and their girl allies in attendance!

Teams at this school have worked on issues such as teenage pregnancy prevention, bullying and community violence. We will keep you posted on what the three teams and six coaches are up to this year!

- In-kind conference call services

Quick Links...

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[Girls For A Change Phoenix](#)

In Her City - BLOG highlight

Below is an excerpt from a recent BLOG posting by a member of the Girl Steering Committee. To read the full posting and more, check out the link below!

[In Her City](#)

It is so inspiring, amazing, and super energetic to attend a poetry slam with people from your neighborhood. You get to see, listen, and feel all sorts of different things. In October, the Girl Steering Committee visited *Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana* (MACLA), the well-known place for poetry slammin'!



I was so inspired and energetic by the time the event was over. I even felt like taking poetry workshops, which MACLA had offered for free for about three weeks. Anyway, the slam had a variety of poets/poems, from simple everyday things, to personal and deep feelings, and definitely cultural expression! During the slam, I got to listen and feel the thoughts about peer pressure not just from school but from home and parents as well. But, the most inspiring poem was about my culture and things I've had to deal with, yes: Machismo. This poetry slam was a place where I met young adults who are opening their minds and taking steps for a positive change. To see people expressing themselves and speaking their minds made me feel so proud. I said to myself, "Look at us, how many people have the ability to express themselves in poems and speeches?"

This is so empowering to me because many of us (Mexicans) or any other Minorities (Cultures) don't have the opportunity to realize that they have all this incredible potential inside themselves for anything they are passionate about.

As a young Mexican, this is very important to me, because I see my culture taking baby steps to a positive change! No matter how big or how small the steps are. Did you know that California had the largest Hispanic population in July 2004 (12.4 million) and the largest numerical increase (351,000) since July 2003. If there are so many of us, then why are this statistics the way they are?

- Of the 81 women serving in the 109th Congress, 7 are Latina
- Of the 81 women serving in statewide elective executive offices, 3 are Latina
- Of the 1,666 women state legislators serving nationwide, 69 are Latina

I am now part of those who take baby steps for change, because of GFC, and because of the inspirational people I meet. Imagine what it would be like to see more members of congress and the U.S. Senate who are of our cultures, who represent all of us, imagine the big change! So, find your inner potential, at a SLAM or anywhere you'd like, and use it, because it is a great tool, the key to many doors!

Visit the GFC BLOG to BLOG for change [In Her City](#) and share your thoughts!

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