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girls for a change

moxie

March 2006

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GFC Donor Highlight



Here at GFC, we honor our donors and supporters and enjoy the relationships we have been able to build with many of you. We also think it important to let you know how your contributions, financial and otherwise, are deeply appreciated.

That is why we like to honor some of you from time to time, to publicly thank you and share your experience with others. This edition of Moxie honors long time donor, Rebecca Ramirez.

Rebecca is a long time supporter of Girls For A Change—in terms of supporting her niece's participation in the program for the past 3 years and through her generous donations.

Rebecca first decided to donate because she saw the transformed relationship between her niece, Stephanie, with Stephanie's mom, a GFC coach and long time volunteer. She saw that as Stephanie's outlook on the world changed, and that as Stephanie realized her power as a young woman, her relationship with her family improved.

Rebecca continues to donate today because she sees how GFC creates a rare space where girls are consistently encouraged to speak their mind and take action on their ideas. GFC creates a space, she says, where girls know they are valued, no matter where they come from, who their family is, and who their friends are. She sees girls learning skills that they can use later in life. Most of all, she sees girls who are learning how to feel good about themselves while creating a change in their communities. She says,



GFC house party host Deb Ludewig, and members of the Girl Steering Committee, take a break after presenting to the community.

What's hot

Nearly 100 guests attended the annual Girls For A Change house party on March 2, 2006. This house party was generously hosted by board member Deb Ludewig. GFC house parties are informal events where members of the community and GFC supporters come together for the latest GFC news, to meet GFC staff, volunteers and girls! Two members of the Girl Steering Committee delivered moving speeches about their experience with GFC and as agents of change. If you would like to learn more about GFC you can attend our Fundraiser on June 2, 2006 in Mountain View.

Save The Date!

We'd love to see you at one of the upcoming GFC events. See below for dates, more details will follow shortly.

- Spring Fundraiser ~ June 2nd, 2006
- Completion Ceremony ~ June 11th, 2006

GFC supporters...

"GFC allows girls to move from victims or passive observers, to powerful, action oriented members of the community."

We honor her commitment to young women and social change, and thank her deeply for her ongoing support.

We invite you to contribute to the magnificent transformation in young women, and our communities.

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

Girl Action Team Highlight

**Team 52
Cunha Middle School
Half Moon Bay**

The girls at Cunha Intermediate School want boys and girls in school to start respecting each other. They know that if an atmosphere of respect can start now in their school, it will change the way these girls and boys treat each other when they are men and women. They also believe that this project will help students learn skills they can use to navigate the transition to middle school.



The girls' project will be to present to fifth graders this spring in Half Moon Bay emphasizing the importance of gender respect. The team will put up posters, perform skits and share personal stories to get the message across. They are hoping to perform the presentation at multiple elementary schools in Half Moon Bay.

Spring Into Action

Spring Into Action is an annual skill-building training event for girls and coaches to enhance their social change projects, and to celebrate the change being made!



This year we had more than 260 girls and nearly 100 coaches in attendance! The day started with a local spoken word artist celebrating the power of girls, women and all people to create social change. Girls and coaches then participated in workshops on networking,

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

- Adobe Systems Incorporated
- Applied Materials
- The Barrett Family Foundation
- The Bernstein Family Foundation
- Cisco Systems Foundation
- City of San Jose
- Community Foundation Silicon Valley
- CRA International
- CREW Foundation
- The Elaine S. Elkin Living Trust
- Electronic Arts Foundation
- The Eva Leah Gunther Foundation
- Jewish Community Endowment Fund
- Junior League of Palo Alto – Mid-Peninsula, Inc.
- Kaiser Permanente
- National Semiconductor
- The Pakis Family Foundation
- Peninsula Community Foundation
- Synopsys Foundation
- Technology Credit Union
- United Way Silicon Valley

GFC News

Advisory Board

We are honored to introduce our newly created Advisory Board for 2006. These remarkable leaders have dedicated themselves to advancing the GFC mission of girl empowerment. They represent the thought leaders of our Silicon Valley community and will strengthen Girls For A Change with their expertise and enthusiasm.

We are very excited to welcome these amazing individuals to the GFC team!

- Sandy Castelblanco
- Richard Cline
- Alison Coy
- Linda Gold
- Carl Guardino
- Linda Lezotte
- Lance Lew
- Jamie McCloud
- Joan Scott
- Jayne Tang

fundraising, public speaking, contacting elected officials and using the Internet to effect change. Girl Action Team consultants joined teams in the afternoon to consult on project brainstorming and planning.

Michaela, a member of Team 49 from Lionel Wilson Prep, Oakland says:

"This day made my team feel stronger about our project and it was fun to chill with all the girls. I learned about networking. I learned that I have the right to speak up and ask for whatever I need to change my community!"

For images of the event, click below:

[Spring Into Action Girl Training Slideshow](#)

Thank you to all workshop facilitators for your energy, skills and time! Girls For A Change would also like to thank all of our coaches, consultants, girls, volunteers and contributing organizations who made this day powerful and possible.

Our deepest gratitude to Synopsys, Inc. for generously donating event space for three years in a row!

We'd also like to thank the following organizations:

- Avalon Natural Products
- Baja Fresh, Palo Alto
- Chef Chu's, Los Altos
- Fresh Choice, Palo Alto
- Fresh Choice, San Jose
- Global Exchange
- Macaroni Grill, Milpitas
- Noah's Bagels, Palo Alto
- Noah's Bagels, Redwood City
- PF Changs, Palo Alto
- Rainforest Action Network
- Trader Joe's, Menlo Park
- Trader Joe's, Palo Alto
- Whole Foods, Redwood City
- Wine Cellar, Los Gatos
- YO! Youth Outlook

GFC is Growing

We are thrilled and honored to introduce the newest member of the GFC staff! As the current GFC Operations Assistant, Olivia brings her substantial experience working in academia and activism with girls' issues in the Los Angeles area. She successfully founded and sustained several women's organizations on her campus, with responsibilities that ranged from event planning to social action campaigns. Through her intensive networking, she



- Colleen Wilcox
- Valerie Williams

GFC Girls in the Community

Dulce V., a GFC girl board member, has been selected to join the Northern California Grantmakers Youth Philanthropy Advisory Committee. Along with other youth leaders from the SF Bay Area and adults, she will meet from April through August 2006 to get trained in grant making, review project proposals from local youth and distribute grants. Congratulations Dulce!

GFC Community Workshops

Girls For A Change Program staff has been spreading the word about social change and youth empowerment throughout the community. Below are some of the most recent workshops we've facilitated this winter:

- National Mentoring Institute's Mentoring Conference
- [Girls' Day 2006](#)
- [Words as Weapons Youth Conference](#)
- [Empowering Women of Color](#)

Note From Whitney and Niko

Greetings GFC Community~

Thank you so much to everyone for the continued amazing support, abundance, and passion you all bring to GFC!

This note is about our blog, [InHer City](#). Our blog is 10 months old and we have had thousands of visitors who have come to read about GFC, social change, and girl issues. We have had many blog authors; both girls and adults and we are easily found on [Google](#) in the coveted left hand column when you search any of the following terms: Social Change, Kid Blogs, Barbie Dolls, Cosmo Girl, Girl Blogs, and even Seventeen Magazine. By cross-referencing the blog we are attracting people nationally to read it who might be searching for topics of interest to our girls!

This blog has become a powerful marketing tool and has taught us the importance of getting on board to utilize

created the Progressive Alliance, a coalition to bring together political and civil rights groups.

In addition, she served as a credentialed mentor and learning assistant to girls and minorities for four years. Olivia graduated with high honors from the University of Southern California in 2005 with majors in International Relations and English and concentrations on the Middle East, Gender, and Peace and Conflict Studies. As a student, she sought to link different types of oppression on the local and global levels in order to develop comprehensive political strategies for activist organizations. She was presented with the International Relations Director's Award for her leadership and service in the field.

Welcome, Olivia!

the newest venue for communication and information sharing. We recently attended a conference hosted by the [Society for New Communications Research](#) and learned that we were among a very small group of nonprofits who have jumped into using this technology. We continue to learn and improve our blog and have been reaching out to our nonprofit partners in the community to consider joining the blogosphere! We are also looking for ways we can use this resource to generate an income stream for GFC and continue to grow the number of people internationally who hear about our work! If you are interested in learning more about our blog or you would like to be a guest blog author, contact [Whitney](#).

Light and Peace to everyone!

Whitney & Niko

Wish list

- Digital camera
- Digital video
- In-kind conference call services

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