

Close

girls for a change

moxie

November 2004 Edition

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girls for a change news



The past few months have been a time of great joy and great sadness at GFC.

On the personal side, **Whitney Smith**, Co-CEO of GFC experienced a great loss. Whitney's mother, **Andrea Smith** was murdered on September 5, 2004. Whitney's mom was an amazing woman and a ceaseless supporter of Girls For A Change. Andrea was a donor, regular volunteer and occasional chef for the organization who shamelessly took every opportunity to brag about her daughter and Girls For A Change. Her life was too short, but her essence and her love lives on through her family and friends. Whitney would like thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers.

"I want to fly like that" Jonathan said, and a strange light glowed in his eyes. "Tell me what to do." Chiang spoke slowly and watched the younger gull ever so carefully. "To fly as fast as thought, to anywhere that is," he said, "you must begin by knowing that you have already arrived"

girls for a change is changing the face of leadership... ...they need every one of us to help make that change happen

You are invited to our November 17th Fundraising Event and Completion Ceremony~

Join Girls For A Change in an unforgettable evening documenting empowerment and social change. Come witness the extraordinary work of Girls For A Change (GFC) and help celebrate the creative and empowering process of working together to improve our cities and our world!

GFC is bringing together professional women to support urban girls in becoming social change makers and community leaders by empowering them to design, lead, fund and implement social change projects that tackle the problems they face in their own neighborhoods. Each year GFC empowers 1,000 girls with the support of 200 women.

The goal of the event is to educate and inspire you about the potential of urban girls as world leaders as well as to raise funds and volunteers to support this dynamic organization.

Immediately following the Fundraising event, there will be a networking reception and the Girls For A Change Completion Ceremony where hundreds of girls will be present to showcase their social change projects and receive recognition for their incredible impact. We'd love you to stay and meet these girls who are changing our world.

Fundraiser & Completion Ceremony Event -- when & where

Wednesday, November 17th
6:00pm - 7:00pm Fundraising Event
7:00pm - 7:30pm Networking Reception (optional)
7:30pm - 9:00pm Completion Ceremony (optional)

The Improv

62 S. Second Street, San Jose, CA 95150

Please RSVP to **Whitney Smith**, whitney@girlsforachange.org or 408.529.7226

Please indicate whether you will be staying for the Girls For A Change Completion Ceremony

girls for a change new additions



We are pleased to announce a new girl at Girls For A Change! **Patty Torres**, Program Assistant, will be managing the Girl Steering Committee and the Spring Into Action, spring training for girls. She also supports the Girl Action Teams, Coaches and Consultants and Girl Summit event

The trick, according to Chiang, was for Jonathan to stop seeing himself as trapped inside a limited body with a forty-two inch wingspan. The trick was to know that his true nature lived, as perfect as an unwritten number, everywhere at once across space and time. - Richard Bach, Jonathan Livingston Seagull

Whitney, The Board of Directors and Staff of GFC are so happy to be able to share some joy with you. We feel that we must remember to focus on joy and light in times of sadness.

Niko Clifford and **Caleb Everett** were married on September 4th at a beautiful ceremony in Healdsburg, CA. We are so happy for Niko and Caleb and wish them such joy and love as they sail off on their journey of partnership.

note from Niko and Whitney

In this less than subtle political environment we have been thinking lately about how change really gets created. We watch the young women in Girls For A Change with awe as they grasp the idea of social change. In the midst of video taping these young women for a presentation at the upcoming Completion Ceremony (see below for details) we began to hear how their language has changed. They are saying things like, "this is how a revolution is started", or "I am simply powerful now." And we have begun to understand that language can create change. Girls are calling themselves change agents, decision makers, powerful and community leaders - they are speaking what they are creating and we are listening and believing. So this month, think about how you want to speak, how you want to call yourself, how you want to call others, especially girls. And try out words like change agent, leaders, powerful and see how that effects your conversations with others and with yourself.

Powerfully, Niko & Whitney: Girls For A Change Co-Change Agents!

what's hot

GFC will be recognized in Fast Company Magazine in their upcoming annual Social Capitalist Awards Issue as a "Rising Star"

Girl Action Team in the Mercury News!

On October 15, 2004, Team 6 made headlines by campaigning to increase the number of women voters in this groundbreaking election year! This small mention of GFC is in line with our dreams - that we will be a small mention behind the powerful young women who are changing



planning. Prior to joining GFC, Patty worked for 8 months in Mexico City educating indigenous women in small business management and leadership skills. In 2002, she graduated from UC Berkeley with a major in Gender and Comparative Urban Studies, where she identified women's leadership as key to democratic planning for healthy cities worldwide.

After several weeks with GFC, Patty says: *"I am continually inspired and amazed by the creative work of GFC girls and women. With genuine connection between girls and women, and projects ranging from volunteering at local homeless shelters to critically explore housing issues, to women's economic development in Afghanistan, these girls are picking up on the new tide of critical questioning and informed activism. Actually, they're leading it and everyday feeding me with hope for the future!"*

In addition to staff, GFC is thrilled to announce four new board members. The GFC board is unique in that girls act as voting members to truly shape GFC as an organization.

New girl board members: **Fatima Rahim** and **Yasameen Sharifi**

Fatima -- As a senior at San Jose High Academy, a member of Girl Action Team #15, the Fabulous Group 15, a member of the Girl Steering Committee, the Expansion/ Replication Committee, the Marketing Committee and now a member of the Board, Fatima has a variety of roles within GFC. She worked with the Fabulous Group 15 to promote volunteerism through the use of the media and got media attention on DTV and NBC 11! The team is now working on getting their message on Oprah!

Fatima shares her thoughts on girls and social change after three years as a GFC member: To all the GIRLS out there, never underestimate your capability to create change, just go out there and MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!!

Yasameen -- As a senior at Los Altos High School, a member of Girl Action Team #6, current President of her school and a recent addition to the GFC Board and Steering Committee, Yasameen brings her leadership skills to many facets of GFC! Yasameen has worked with her team to organize a girl Health Fair. Last year, along with team #6, she invited a series of high profile guests, including Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, Assembly woman Sally Lieber and Stanford Women's Basketball coach Tara VanDerveer for a guest speaker series put on by team 6 to talk about women and leadership. Yasameen and her team had a busy fall as they encouraged people to register and vote in partnership with the League of Women Voters. To see Yasameen's recent media mention, please see what's hot

New adult board members: **Deb Ludewig** and **Anita Manwani**

Deb -- As a partner at Pillsbury Winthrop LLP and previous partner at Cooley Godward LLP, Deb brings legal expertise and a passion for supporting and promoting women's equality to the GFC Board. Her law practice focuses on emerging companies, mostly high tech, in a wide range of areas. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from the College of Notre Dame while maintaining a full time job, and as a single mother. Deb proceeded to graduate from Boalt School of Law with honors, also as a single mother of two children, Michael and Melissa. Deb is an active member of the Advisory Board of the Forum for Women Entrepreneurs and the Women's Technology Cluster. She is the head of Pillsbury Winthrop's LLP "No Glass Ceiling" committee, where she monitors women's progression to leadership within the firm and provides guidance to the firm regarding training needs and business development opportunities for the firm's women lawyers.

On her role as a woman leader in business, she says: *"I enjoy the opportunity to help our associates succeed through training and business development opportunities. I also think that providing a support network for women is critical for those who are balancing family responsibilities and their career."*

Anita -- As Vice President and General Manager for Global Sourcing, Agilent Technologies, Anita brings her professional and international expertise to the

the world. Read the story, and quotation by Board and girl action team member Yasameen Sharifi, at: L.A. Chung: Enthusiastic voice added to voter registration drive

WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD? Girls For A Change is recruiting coaches NOW! To sign up or get more information please call **Carrie Ellett** or go online! Carrie: 408.515.8418 www.girlsforachange.org

WISH LIST: Digital Camera

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GFC Board! She holds a PhD from Cincinnati University, and a Masters and Bachelors degree from Bombay University. Anita has held a variety of management positions within Agilent including Vice President of Business Strategy. She is responsible for Agilent's strategy for an increased presence in India and the formation of a new entity, Agilent Technologies International. Prior to joining Agilent Technologies, Anita successfully led many of Hewlett Packard's software technology initiatives. Anita was also responsible for the growth of HP's India software operations in Bangalore. Anita was one of the 80 U.S. women selected as a "Technology All Star" at the National Women of Color Conference for her executive leadership.

Welcome Patty, Fatima, Yasameen, Deb and Anita! We look forward to your creative, diverse and powerful contributions to GFC!

girl action team highlight - team 22



Team 22, Evergreen Valley High School, South San Jose

Team 22's project is entitled SCUPINO (Smoking Causes Ugly People In N Out). They hope to reduce the "cool" factor of smoking and to make sure young people realize the consequences and dangers of smoking before they actually start. It will inform prospective teen smokers about the health issues associated with

smoking, and do it in a way that is informative and powerful. Their images (along with the slogan, "I Don't Give In") will be placed on billboards, busses, mall kiosks, and everywhere teens are likely to hang out. They will start in their immediate community and expand from there.

girl team action highlight - team 47



Team 47, Yerba Buena High School, East San Jose

In this neighborhood, gangs are part of the community. This team wants to educate youth in sixth grade, particularly girls, about the consequences of being in a gang. The girls are networking with San Jose experts on gangs and their causes and will spread their message to schools in the area and provide youth with alternative activities to

joining a gang.

Thank you Teams 22 and 47! Your projects inspire the change-agents within us all!!

coach highlight



Soni Shukla Team 39, Various Palo Alto schools

Soni's experience with Girls For A Change began in March 2004. Soni recently shared her thoughts on her experience with Girl Action Team #39:

"When I joined GFC I definitely felt like I needed to do something for my



community. To be honest I was intimidated by the idea of meeting with teenage girls and helping them achieve their goals in terms of social change. I guess I was in for a surprise. After that first meeting I actually found myself looking forward to our fortnightly get-togethers. I developed a tremendous amount of respect for my girls and feel that we have some great leaders for social change developing right before our eyes."

Soni also shared what it feels like to be a Girl Action Team coach:

"I feel complete! I used to feel that I need to do something apart from work and science. Being a GFC coach brings me fulfillment. The connection I feel with the girls is very powerful and I feel so many aspects of my personality develop with this interaction."

Soni's connection with the girls and her celebration of every step of the social change process reflects what many of the coaches achieve and is what keeps GFC going! Thank you Soni and all coaches!

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

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