Girls For A Change is ready to start the new program year! Not only is Silicon Valley entering its fifth year, but our site in Phoenix has just begun its full program year, now giving girls in the Valley of the Sun the opportunity to participate in social change projects in their neighborhoods. We would like to thank our community for the constant support and generosity that has made this possible.

We are very excited to share with you the new members of the GFC team, new supporters, and upcoming events. We would love for you to read more about this below!

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**4TH ANNUAL GIRL SUMMIT 2006**

Girls For A Change will hold the 4th Annual Girl Summit on Thursday, October 12th, 2006 at the San José convention Center. The Girl Summit will gather together 1200 girls and 500 women participants from the Bay Area to kick off the program year. Girls will have the opportunity to discuss issues affecting their communities, participate in knowledge and skill building workshops, and listen to powerful speakers and performers.

**CUPCAKE BROWN: WORDS OF CHANGE**

Cupcake Brown is a woman of change. Growing up in Southern California, Cupcake faced challenges that included the death of her mother, abusive foster parents, and drug and alcohol addictions. By the time Cupcake was 13, she had been involved in child prostitution and was active in a gang. Her teenage years and beyond continued to be turbulent and she led a life of risk that could have easily resulted in jail time or death on the streets.

With determination, prayer, and a network of caring people, Cupcake battled fear and self-doubt to become a lawyer, author, and advocate.

At the Girls For A Change Girl Summit on October 12th, 2006, Cupcake will be the keynote speaker. She will share the story of her childhood and how she managed to overcome the barriers put in her way to successfully graduate from college despite not having a high school diploma.

Cupcake speaks all over the country, using all of the negative experiences, coupled with the positives, to share with others how - even though it seems impossible - the hopes and dreams of anyone really can come true.
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

GFC is honored to announce Cupcake Brown, the New York Times best-selling author, as the keynote speaker. For more information, please read Cupcake's biography to the right.

SPONSORS

The Girl Summit is sponsored by National Semiconductor, Heffernan Group, Kaiser Permanente, Camino Medical Group, and Wells Fargo, along with generous contributions from other corporations and donors.

VOLUNTEERS

We are still seeking women volunteers for the Girl Summit on October 12th!

Volunteers will be part of a team working to make the event a powerful and inspiring day for the girls. Volunteers will help with a wide array of jobs including: checking in, directing girls, supporting speakers, performers and facilitators, organizing the flow of the event, setting up, answering questions, and generally supporting the girls and women participants in their experience. This is an all day commitment.

All Summit volunteers on October 12th need to attend a volunteer training on one of these two dates: Thursday, October 5th or Monday, October 9th between 6-9 pm at the San José Convention Center.

We also need volunteers to help stuff 1500 goodie bags on Tuesday, October 10th between 5-10 pm, as well as set-up volunteers throughout the day on Wednesday, October 11th.

For more information about volunteering, please read the Volunteer Information Form (Word Version) (PDF Version) or contact Gal at gal@girlsforachange.org.

To apply, please fill out the Volunteer Application Form (Word Version) (PDF Version) and email to Gal at gal@girlsforachange.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE GIRL SUMMIT

www.girlsforachange.org/girlsummit2006.htm

SAVE THE DATE: GFC FALL BREAKFAST

Cupcake is the author of the New York Times bestselling memoir, A Piece Of Cake (Crown Publishers). She is also an attorney at Bingham McCutchen, one of the 25 largest law firms in the nation. Cupcake's law practice includes land use and litigation.

For more information, check out her website at: www.cupcakebrown.com.

GIRL SUMMIT 2006 SPONSORS

National Semiconductor

Heffernan Insurance Brokers

Kaiser Permanente

Camino Medical Group

Wells Fargo

NEW AND CONTINUING GFC SUPPORTERS

Alijon Charitable Trust
Barrett Family Foundation
Camino Medical Group
Cisco Systems Foundation
CREW Foundation
Deloitte Consulting
Eva Gunther Foundation
eWomen Network
Heffernan Group
Hewlett Packard
DATE: Thursday, November 16th, 2006
TIME: 7:45 am - 9:15 am
WHAT: Complimentary breakfast
WHERE: Synopsys, 455 North Mary Ave, Building 2, Sunnyvale, CA.
RSVP TO: emily@girlsforachange.org or 408-515-3838

Generously hosted by Synopsys.

The goal of this free event is to educate and inspire you about the potential of urban girls as world leaders. We aspire to raise funding and volunteers to support the future of girls in Silicon Valley. There is no minimum contribution.

NOTE FROM WHITNEY AND NIKO

Whitney and I were given an amazing opportunity this summer to attend the Harvard Business School’s Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management. With a generous scholarship from the Bay Area Harvard MBA Alumni group, we packed our bags, turned our cell phones off, and went back to school for a week. The program welcomed 100 non-profit leaders from around the world to work with the HBS faculty to examine our missions and rethink our approaches for implementation and replication.

We expected ivy and tweed, what we didn’t expect was staying up until 1 am doing homework and discussing strategy with our classmates. We expected dorms and the Charles River, what we didn’t expect was the most stimulating, engaging, and clarifying learning experiences of our careers.

The HBS professors were truly the finest “teachers” we have ever experienced. We challenged our own mission, vision, evaluation, and strategy. We pushed our own thought process further then we have ever had the time or support to before.

The outcome? Of course, the learning is integrated into our daily actions but we actually flew an Executive Director candidate out to our dorms in Harvard after a particularly stimulating session on attitude versus aptitude and have since brought her on as our shining new star in Phoenix! We imagine the impact to continue to reveal itself and in the meantime, we will miss dorm life and all-nighters.

In Gratitude,
Whitney & Niko

NPR E-CHIEVEMENT AWARD: WHITNEY SMITH

Whitney Smith, GFC Founder and Co-CEO, was awarded an e-chievement award by the NPR show, etown, for her role in founding GFC. The show recognizes “people around the country who’ve found positive solutions to challenges in their communities.” You go Whitney! The show aired the week of 8/22/06.

For more information:
www.etown.org/awards.about.shtml
www.etown.org/awards.past.shtml

SILICON VALLEY UPDATE: SUMMER HOUSE PARTY

We want to thank our Boardmember, Elisa Jagerson, once again for graciously hosting the House Party for GFC. It was a wonderful opportunity for people to learn more.

A special thanks to Rich Cline and the team at Voice Communications for sharing their Palo Alto office space with Girls For A Change in September.

PHOENIX UPDATE: FALL HOUSE PARTY

On Monday, August 28th Girls For A Change - Phoenix hosted a very successful fundraising event at the home of Phoenix supporter Deborah Carstens. Ms. Carstens graciously opened her beautiful Paradise Valley home to the more than 100 people who attended to learn more about GFC and to hear from our special guest Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano.

Jenny Herrera and Karla Bocardo from Gateway Early College High School and the GFC Girl Steering Committee introduced Governor Napolitano, spoke about what GFC means to them, and made a very powerful ask for volunteer and financial support of the Phoenix program. In addition, Governor Napolitano spoke highly of GFC and supported our efforts to empower young women to be leaders. Ms. Napolitano referred to herself as a “Girl For A Change” and offered one of our girls an internship in her office next year.

From this event we were able to recruit several Coaches and raised more than $12,000 to support 20 teams in the 2006-2007 program year. Several media representatives attended the event, including the editor for a new magazine, Phoenix Woman, who offered our girls the opportunity to write an article about issues affecting them. Thank you to all of our wonderful supporters, volunteers, and Advisory Board members for making this event a great success!
about the organization and interact with others from the GFC community!

NEW SILICON VALLEY PROGRAM MANAGER

Alicia Gregory was born and raised in East San Jose®. She is excited about becoming an active member of her community and is really passionate about creating social change. She recently graduated from Cal State Univ. Monterey Bay with a Bachelor of Arts in Film/Theater Arts and a Minor in Service Learning Student Leadership. In college, she was also a cast member of the Vagina Monologues. She believes that all women deserve equal rights and equal opportunities to excel to their full potential. She is super excited to be a part of the fabulous women team that makes up Girls For A Change!

NEW MEMBERS OF NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ALINA DIN

Alina Din has started her second year at De Anza College as a political-economy major. Her passion for social change is the driving force behind her experiences with community activism and her major in school. She serves on the Youth Committee at her mosque and as a Steering Committee member for Muslim American Society - Youth Give. This past summer she interned with the Silicon Valley Leadership Group's Education Committee. Since 2002, she has been an active member of GFC, both as a member of a Girl Action Team and the Steering Committee. She looks forward to joining the board so she can progress the ideals of the organization in bringing lasting social change - through the energy and vision of young women - in our community!

ELISA JAGERSON

Elisa Jagerson is the CEO of PartsRiver, a provider of Service Parts Management solutions for transportation and industrial equipment parts. Elisa has broad experience in private equity investing and project/executive management. Elisa has worked with two international private equity funds, managing investments into industrial firms. She has served as interim management in multiple companies, including CEO, CFO, COO, VP Marketing, and VP Sales. Elisa has also worked as an independent strategy consultant for start-up endeavors in both high-tech and traditional retail arenas. Elisa has a BA from Princeton University and MBA from the Wharton School of Business.

JOCelyn KUNG

Jocelyn Kung is the CEO and Founder of Jocelyn Kung Associates, a firm that provides independent consulting services to corporations such as Juniper Networks, Telos Venture Partners, Levi Strauss and Company, Oracle, and Cisco Systems. She has also served as the Chairman of the Bay Area Human Resources Planning Society and a Member of the Junior League of San Francisco Advisory Board. Jocelyn graduated from the University of San Francisco with a BS in Business Administration and received her MBA from Golden Gate University.

SPOTLIGHT ON GFC INTERNS: CLAIRE AND STEPHANIE

NEW PHOENIX EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Alexandra Zavala was hired as the new Executive Director for GFC - Phoenix in August. Having grown up in the Valley of the Sun, Zavala is dedicated to effecting change in her community and working with women and girls. She is proud to be at the forefront of the only social change organization for girls in the region. Zavala explains, “There is such a high need for a program like this and I am thrilled to be a part of this organization, especially at such an early stage in what promises to be a wonderful relationship with the Valley.”

With her background in journalism and community relations, she hopes to “help promote GFC and the GFC mission in order to ensure that every girl in the Valley knows about Girls For A Change and has the opportunity to join a Girl Action Team.”

Not only is Zavala deeply committed to this mission, but she comes to GFC with significant experience in community outreach. Most recently, Zavala created and managed the first-ever Hispanic Outreach Program for Planned Parenthood of Central and Northern Arizona and co-founded the Hispanic Outreach Alliance. She has also worked as a Communications Outreach Coordinator for Families USA and Community Involvement Coordinator with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. Zavala currently sits on the Phoenix Women’s Commission, is the Phoenix area facilitator for Las Comadres Para las Americas, and was selected as a Public Policy Fellow of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute.

According to Whitney Smith, Co-CEO, “Alex will be the face of GFC in Phoenix and will be an entrepreneurial and visionary leader.”

NEW PHOENIX PROGRAM DIRECTOR
This summer, we were fortunate enough to have two amazing young women, Claire Kiely and Stephanie Ramirez, take on internships with GFC. We loved every minute of having them in the office! They have described some of their experiences below.

Claire Kiely: "Not only did Girls For A Change lay a foundation of skills that can be useful in any future endeavors of mine, but it also re-confirmed the principle of GFC."

"Through the internship, I continued along my path to supreme self-confidence and empowerment. GFC has been pivotal in my growth to the powerful woman I am."

Stephanie Ramirez: "The summer has finally ended and today is the last day of my internship here at Girls For A Change. I can honestly say that I have gained effective working skills, but most importantly I have learned how to build positive relationships with my fellow co-workers."

"Overall, I have taken away fantastic life values with me. GFC truly reaches out to young women to change their communities, but they take it even farther than that. GFC takes young woman on a journey. They have guided me in changing my community and have also opened doors of opportunity for me. By welcoming me into an internship they have showed me how important it is to them to have young women surrounding every level of GFC. They have given me a priceless gift: the gift of experience. I have built great relationships here and I use the skills I learned in my personal life. I have grown again this summer in my mind and morals. This summer has lifted me up more in becoming a strong adult woman."

To check out Stephanie Ramirez's blogs, visit www.hercity.org.