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# girls for a change

## moxie

September 2005

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### Seeking GFC Coaches



Girls For A Change empowers young women to create social change in their own communities. These young women partner with women volunteer coaches to create this change. We ask all you amazing women out there in the GFC community to consider coming on board as a [Girl](#)

**Action Team Coach!** If you already are one, think about those women in your life who can share this experience with you, and pass this message along!

As a volunteer coach you work with a partner coach and a group of 5-10 girls. Coaches guide girls through the process of identifying a community issue and solving it.

The coach position with GFC is a dynamic and rewarding experience that leads to connections with girls and other adult women in the Bay Area, implementation of a social change project and a contribution toward putting women at the global leadership tables. Coaches and girls form teams that meet about twice a month. GFC also provides orientation, monthly trainings, a coach manual and full time support.

A 2004-05 GFC Coach said: *"I've felt an improvement in my life through this. I've found a greater purpose for my own being. And the constant enthusiasm and support of GFC staff has kept me afloat to want to do more for my team as well as my own life friendships/relationships. Thank you over and over again for this life experience!"*

### GFC NEWS



\*Girls For A Change extends a special thank you to Santa Clara Vice Mayor Jamie McLeod for speaking and distributing awards to GFC girls at the Completion Ceremony event in May 2005. We greatly appreciate her support of girls as social change agents! Visit her [website](#) to see the positive change she is creating!

### \*Save the Date!

#### Girls For A Change Fundraiser

November 2nd, 2005 (the night before the Girl Summit!) 6:30-8:00pm Generously Hosted by the San Jose Marriott 301 S. Market St. San Jose, Ca 95113

#### 3rd Annual Girls For A Change Girl Summit

November 3rd, 2005 8:30am-3:40pm San Jose Convention Center

*\*Our thoughts and prayers are with those in the Gulf Coast region of the U.S. We support relief efforts in the area, and our hearts are also with Sheila Bernus-Dowd, GFC Board President, currently in the region working on the relief effort. For information about charitable aid and how to take action for positive social change in the aftermath of this tragedy, visit [The Ella Baker Center for Human Rights](#) network [Help Resurrect New Orleans](#)*

For more information on this volunteer position, please contact Carrie Ellett at 408-515-8148 or [carrie@girlsforachange.org](mailto:carrie@girlsforachange.org) and visit our [website](#) under Volunteer

## Girl Summit Volunteers

We are very excited to tell you the 3rd annual Girl Summit is planned for November 3, 2005 at the San Jose Convention Center. We are looking forward to welcoming over 1,000 girls and 500 women to provide an opportunity to discuss their most pressing issues, attend workshops taught by women leaders, entrepreneurs and activists, and gather information to implement into their own one-year long projects.



**The key to a successful Summit is the volunteers. We need to recruit 100 volunteers and would be thrilled if you can donate your time for the event! This volunteer opportunity is a full-day commitment, but if you can only volunteer for a portion of the day, we can arrange for that.**

We are also looking for pre-event volunteers to help on either Tuesday, Nov. 1 from about 6-9 p.m. to help stuff goodie bags for the girls, or throughout the day and evening on Wednesday, Nov. 2 to help set-up for the event. While only women can volunteer for the Summit, men are welcome and encouraged to help on Tuesday or Wednesday.

If you have volunteered for the Summit before, you know, the day is truly an amazing experience where you will have an opportunity to inspire and be inspired, and will connect with an amazing group of girls and women. We promise you will walk away changed and feeling good about the world. We hope you will consider helping!

*For more information please contact Eryn Johnson, Girl Summit Organizer, Girls For A Change 650.303.2579 or 650.328.2868 [eryn@girlsforachange.org](mailto:eryn@girlsforachange.org)*

## New GFC Staff



Please join us in welcoming our new Operations Assistant, Tina Cansler. Tina is an Oakland native who has been passionate about her community and activism since she was a young girl.

Tina comes to GFC with a diverse background in nonprofit

administration and organizing. A 1995 graduate of Holy Names High School in Oakland, Tina consciously decided not to attend college in

## Note From Niko & Whitney

Greetings GFC Community~

We are ramping up to kick off the 2005-2006 GFC program year with the Girl Summit and are excited to be moving forward with expansion plans in Phoenix, AZ by hosting our launch event to introduce GFC to the community. Check out the [GFC Phoenix website](#) for an [invitation](#) to the launch event and forward it to anybody you know in the Phoenix area to join us to celebrate the power of girls and social change in Phoenix. We are currently in the process of hiring the GFC Phoenix Executive Director and promise to keep you posted.

As you know, Girls For A Change is an intentionally innovative organization whose mission is to empower girls to create social change in their communities. As girls grow through our program, we are constantly looking for new ways for them to step up into leadership positions within the organization. One method we have come up with is providing summer internships for GFC girls!

We are honored to pass this edition of Note from Niko & Whitney to our summer intern Stephanie Ramirez, a program graduate and long time GFC member. Please take a moment to read her thoughts and experience at the GFC headquarters under **Social Change and Leadership~Girl Highlight**. We share her insight and passion with you so that you too can experience the change we are all creating.

In Peace,  
Niko and Whitney

## What's hot

\*Girls For A Change has been selected to receive the Women of Color Action Network's Honors Award this year! GFC will be honored at WCAN's Annual Gala Event, honoring those contributing to the community at large. WCAN generally awards individuals and this year chose to honor GFC for its contributions, particularly to young women of color in the Bay Area. Alicia, a Girl Steering Committee and GFC Board member will be speaking at the event. [Click here for more information.](#)

\*We're partnering with authors Courtney Macavinta ([a Girl Action Team Coach](#)) and

order to expand her influence and training in community activism. She's worked and volunteered with organizations like AFSCME Local 3299 / UC Contract Campaign, SEIU, Habitat for Humanity, The Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors, is a former board member for the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) in the United Methodist Church, and a former volunteer fundraiser and event planner for RMN.

Most recently, she has worked as an independent consultant for several local and national start-up organizations focusing on development and outreach. Tina currently sits on the Board of Directors for the Pacific Center for Human Growth in Berkeley and is active at First Unitarian Church of Oakland with programs on anti-racism.

Welcome, Tina! We are thrilled to have you on board!

## Social Change & Leadership~Girl Highlight

Stephanie Ramirez has been a member of a Girl Action Team, the Girl Steering Committee and the GFC Board of Directors. Stephanie is also a well known speaker at GFC events, and has shared her activist and artistic talents with girls many times over the past 3 years. She is completing a summer internship at the GFC headquarters in Palo Alto, and has shared the impact of her summer with you. As you read her words, know that each and everyone of you have been a part of creating the conditions to make GFC possible, and to make Stephanie's experience all that it has been, and will continue to be. Thank you.



An open letter to the GFC Community~

*Working for GFC has allowed me to evolve into a stronger and more mature woman. I have learned unbelievable skills from office tasks like filing, putting together marketing packets, sending out hundreds of invitations and communicating information in an effective manner. I have also learned to make hundreds of phone calls to donors, congresswomen and CEO's. My time in the office has truly changed my communication skills and business skills. I am much more experienced with computers. I know how to create spreadsheets and how to make labels.*

*All that said, I think what is most important is that working with the GFC staff has really helped me figure out who I want to be professionally. This internship has impacted my life so much. I have experienced working in this business environment and I adapted to it great. This will help guide me throughout college from being organized to knowing how to work with different types of people.*

*I am honored to have had the chance to be on staff. I will always have the skills I have learned here. I realize that I even use these skills in my everyday life. I approach others differently and I am much more organized at home with tasks. This job has opened new*

Andrea Vander Pluym to raise enough contributions to give the 1,200 girls attending the Girl Summit a copy of their new book, **Respect: A Girl's Guide to Getting Respect and Dealing When Your Line Is Crossed**. Visit [www.respectgirls.com](http://www.respectgirls.com) for information on their book party and information on how you can donate to support GFC girls!

\*Terry Hillyard, [a Girl Action Team Coach](#), has been awarded the 2005 Outstanding Volunteer Award by the BEA Foundation. All winners will receive a commemorative award from the BEA Foundation and their chosen agencies will receive \$1,000.00! Thanks so much Terry for your amazing work, and congratulations!

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

- Community Foundation Silicon Valley
- Sandisk Corporation Fund
- The National Semiconductor Foundation
- Hewlett-Packard Company-Lynda Guertin Philanthropy & Education Applied Materials
- Peninsula Community Foundation-Pierre and Pamela Omidyar Fund
- Sobrato Family Foundation
- Crew Foundation
- Citibank
- Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health, President's Fund

## Wish list

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

## Quick Links...

[Donate Now](#)

[InHer City - BLOG for Change!](#)

[Moxie Newsletter Archive](#)

[More About Us](#)

[Girls For A Change Phoenix](#)

*doors for me and has made me so experienced at 18 years old.  
Thank you to all the GFC Staff and to you, supporters of GFC, for  
making my time here one of the greatest experiences ever.*

*~ Stephanie*

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