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***Girls Club of Los Angeles Teens Rally for a Healthy Future
At Fremont High School***

Los Angeles, California –*Girls Club of Los Angeles (GCLA)* will be sponsoring the “**My Future is Up to Me Teen Rally**” at John C. Fremont High School on May 12th, 2003.

The event will offer 2,000 Fremont High School students an opportunity to receive information on Pregnancy Prevention, College Information, and opportunities for summer jobs. In addition, students will learn about the various organizations offering services in their communities. The rally will be held on the Fremont High School Tennis Courts from 8:30 a.m to 1:30 p.m.

“Although California ranks 21 in the nation, there are still more than **53,000** births to teens each year,” said **Gloria J. Davis, Executive Director of GCLA**. “We know this is a real problem and that teen pregnancy prevention is a serious issue for today’s youth and we are excited about this opportunity to promote positive, healthy lifestyles and encourage responsible decision making under the ideology that *‘the best contraception is a future’*”.

Through the efforts of agencies like *Girls Club of Los Angeles*, teen birth rates reduced from 72.9 per thousand in 1991 to 45.1 in 2001. Through the “**It’s Up to Me**” campaign funded by the California Department of Health Services, Office of Family Planning, which *GCLA* is a participant, more than 300,000 youth and their families have received information and participated in activities that raise awareness about the need to reduce teen pregnancy, encourage responsible parenting and promote youth development.

This event is sponsored under *GCLA’s Project LEAD (Leaders in Enrichment of Adolescent Development)* -- a youth development initiative. **Project LEAD** offers an in class series of **Comprehensive Sexuality Education** workshops, **Advanced Mentoring** and an after-school **Service Learning Club** where youth learn about and gain the opportunity to volunteer in the community.

GCLA is a non-profit agency that focuses on the needs of underprivileged and at-risk youth between the ages 2 and 21 years old. ***The GCLA mission is to enrich the lives of children, youth, and families in a personalized high quality learning environment that contributes to self-sufficient, stable and productive lives.***