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Director's Corner

I'm delighted to have the opportunity to bring you our Summer 99' Newsletter. As we stand on the cusp of a new millennium, I often reflect on the summer of '89 when I first arrived at GCLA as a board member. As I remember my 10th anniversary at GCLA, many images have left their indelible marks on my heart and mind: the '92 civil unrest, Proposition 187 and 209, the alarming number of children killing children, individuals brutalized by police and teen girls killing their newborn infants. Then on the other hand, I see the significant difference GCLA has made in the lives of thousands of youth in Los Angeles through our children's center, after-school and community outreach programs. The primary driver of our achievement and growth is partnership with our employees, board, parents, youth and you. Your contributions to this partnership past, present and future are of enormous importance to us all. We hope you will continue to take the initiative and invest in youth.

Gloria J. Davis, MA

Smoke Free Leaders

Over 25 youth were educated about the effects of tobacco and second-hand smoke in 1998-1999. Leaders were trained to bring awareness to the community about the tobacco industry's tactics and manipulations. Smoke Free Leaders conducted presentations, participated in summits and have been involved in planning groups. They have participated in numerous community events, conducted one-on-one outreach and have disseminated information.

The Leaders created an NBA petition, in response to the 1998 NBA championships, when several NBA players were seen smoking cigars on national television. The petition requests that NBA players acknowledge their role model status by conducting more responsible behavior during events that will be viewed by youth. Thus far, close to 500 signatures have been obtained!

Smoke Free Leader, Gabriel Chess, has been very active with the LA Link Smoke Free Zoo Project. The purpose of the project has been to assist the Los Angeles Zoo in creating a smoke-free policy. Ms. Chess attended planning meetings and

made presentations to the General Manager of the Los Angeles Zoo. On June 17th, Ms. Chess made a presentation to the Zoo Board of Commissioners along with other members of the project. At this meeting, the commissioners voted unanimously to let the Zoo become a smoke free environment.

Ms. Chess was also invited to represent youth at the Hollywood on Tobacco Summit, which was held at the Director's Guild of America. During the Summit, reports were given on the use and impact of tobacco in movies. At this summit, "James Bond" action star, Pierce Brosnan, vowed to omit the use of tobacco in future Bond Movies.

On June 20th, Gabrielle Chess and Tiffany Applewhite were invited to do a skit at the American Lung Association of Los Angeles County's (ALALAC) Annual meeting. The skit portrayed the importance of the ALALAC Kick Butts Youth Advocacy Program and the exciting activities. Both of them were given prizes for their participation. For 1999-2000, GCLA has enhanced the Smoke Free Leaders program

... "James Bond" action star, Pierce Brosnan, vowed to omit the use of tobacco in future Bond Movies...

with the Smoke Free Peer Mentorship program. This year, youth will be charged with getting support for smoke-free policies in parks. More specifically, the group will be working on developing policies at Jesse Owens' Park, located at the corner of Western

<p>Picture</p>	<p>The Future is Me</p>	
<p>The day was an exciting adventure!...They visited the Central Mail Processing Center,...</p>	<p>On Thursday, April 22, 1999, the Girls Club of Los Angeles hosted the Seventh Annual "Take Our Daughters To Work Day". The event was sponsored by the Coalition of 100 Black Women. The theme for 1999 was "The Future is Me."</p> <p>"Take Our Daughters To Work Day" is a public-education campaign sponsored by the Ms. Foundation For Women. The event was created in 1993 in re-</p>	<p>sponse to disturbing research on what happens to girls during adolescence. Research indicates that girls often receive less attention in school and in youth-serving programs, and suffer from lower expectations compared to their male counterparts. They are also more likely to be valued for their appearance, not their ability.</p> <p>The day was an exciting adventure! Twenty-five girls, ages 8 to 16, were treated to a tour of various businesses within the community. They visited the Central Mail Processing Center, Certified Bakery and Crystal Stairs, a childcare resource and referral agency. The trip ended with lunch at the Baldwin Hills Sizzler, where the girls were treated to a moving presentation by author, BeBe Moore Campbell. It was a fun opportunity to learn about career choices.</p>

Program Snapshots

<p>City of Los Angeles Summer Youth Employment Training Program (SYETP)</p> <p>GCLA is proud once again to work with SYETP. This summer 20 young men and women, between the ages of 14 and 21, have been given the opportunity to interact with GCLA staff while gaining valuable experience. Youth are learning skills in office management, computers, child development and event planning. This year's youth workers were busy preparing for the end of the summer talent show, held on August 20th. The summer workers and children were preparing skits, dances and</p>	<p>tion to workshops and field trips, youth were treated to a variety of activities: swimming at Jesse Owens Park, water days, walks to the park, pizza parties, arts/crafts, modeling/dance, acting and exercise.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Picture</p>
<p>Summer Day Camp</p> <p>Summer Day Camp 1999 was filled with exciting field trips, workshops and activities. Summer Day Camp is held at both the Operation SMART site and the Children's Center. Campers are treated to a number of field trips: Museum of Science & Industry, Golf n' Stuff, La Brea Tar Pitts and the UCLA Garden Sculpture. The following workshops were conducted by the agencies, the American Lung, Planned Parenthood and Breaking the Cycle: nutrition, computer, cultural awareness, self-esteem, health, hygiene, etiquette, tobacco prevention, HIV/AIDS awareness and teen pregnancy prevention. In addition to</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Picture</p>	
	<p>Faith Children's Center</p> <p>The Center is busting at the seams with children in the Preschool, Kindergarten and After School programs. Over 60 youth are provided with nurturing and loving care that allows parents to work and attend school/training. On June 23, 1999, 20 youth graduated from Pre-school and Kindergarten. Parents were proud to see how their children had grown academically, developmentally and emotionally. The staff looks forward to continually working with children in the next grades, after school and through other programs. A child with hope...Is a child inspired.</p>	<p>Operation SMART</p> <p>This last year, over 60 girls have benefited from homework assistance, tutoring and computer development. Every Tuesday, the Health, Hygiene, and Etiquette Seminar was attended by our girls, as well as girls from the Community Development Division Family Resource Center. The girls discussed various topics. The girls also attended sessions on tobacco prevention and African American History. In honor of African American History Month, several girls wrote essays using a list of vocabulary words. Sisterfriends (an on-line group for Women of Color) donated the prizes for all of the participants. See us on their website: http://sisterfriends.com. The key to prevention is giving our youth someone to talk to on a daily basis while discussing and practicing better choices.</p>
		<p style="text-align: center;">Picture</p>

GCLA Reaches New Heights

Latchkey Program

GCLA awarded \$40,000 for 1998-1999 from the California Department of Education to conduct after-school care for ages 5-12. The award has been renewed for 1999-2000. Thus far, GCLA has served more than 30 boys and girls from South Los Angeles. Youth are provided with homework assistance, tutoring and special projects. Care is given both after school and during school.

New Playground coming!

GCLA has been awarded \$35,000 from the California Dept. of Education to renovate the playground, build a new fence and do some much needed painting.

Picture

Project LEAD (Leaders in Enrichment for Adolescent Development)

GCLA is funded through the California Department of Health Community Challenge Grants Office to provide a school-based teen pregnancy prevention program at Fremont High School. GCLA has received \$100,000 annually for the next three years. The program will be offered to 9th graders in their health classes. The sessions will focus on youth development, positive lifestyles, responsible sexual decision making, relationships and goal-setting. In addition, students will be given the option to participate in a mentoring component which will be conducted by Catholic Big Brothers. Youth will receive mentoring by trained adults from a variety of professions and in return, will mentor youth from other GCLA pro-

grams. GCLA welcomes new staff members to Project LEAD: Jade Jennings, graduate of Cal State Long Beach, BA in psychology, and Cathleen Otero, a recent Yale graduate, also with a BA in psychology. Chris Medina, a community advocate, brings to Project LEAD HIV training, Tobacco prevention and community mobilization. We are eager to have them on GCLA's team. Together, we can achieve the extraordinary.

...Youth are provided with homework assistance, tutoring and special projects...

Archdiocese of Los Angeles Youth Employment Programs

The summer of 1999 marks the beginning of a new collaboration with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. This summer, five youth, who live in the County of Los Angeles, are working at the Faith Children's Center. Like their counterparts from the City program, the teens are gaining child care experience, learning office management skills, developing leadership techniques and working on personal development. GCLA hopes to work with the Archdiocese throughout the

Summer Graduate Interns and Teen Volunteers

GCLA has been fortunate to have many helpers this summer. Sharon Brown and Joy Sisisky are students from the Irwin Daniels School of Jewish Communal Service at the Hebrew Union College. The interns are participating in the Milkin Seminar, a field internship designed to give students an understanding of different types of local organizations outside of the Jewish community. Sharon and Joy have been really helpful by creating a donor database, which will be used to track all individuals and corporate contributions. They have also helped to design and format the GCLA newsletter.

Vicky Warner is also with us for the summer. She is a student from Southwest College, studying child development. Ms. Warner has been enhancing her child care knowledge by working with the Preschool group. Past participants, Delores Fractious, age 13, and Brandon Johnson, age 16, have been very helpful (as always). Both have assisted with projects in the office, such as developing office management systems and performing clerical duties. They have also assisted the teachers and have acted as liaisons between the staff and the summer youth workers.

State Preschool

The California Department of Education (CDE), Child Development Division (CDD) awarded \$175,000 to Faith Children's Center to provide State Pre-school services from August 1999 to June 2000.

LA for Kids Renovation Project

Improvement at the Faith Children's Center! The City of Los Angeles Commission for Children, Youth and Their Families awarded GCLA \$200,000 for renovation. Funds will be used to comply to ADA standards, heating and air conditioning, and minor repair.

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Capitalizing on Our Resources

Palisades/Hamilton/University Resource Coordinating Council

Over the last three years, GCLA has provided a mentoring program for youth at Daniel Webster Middle School. In 1999, the youth participated in Junior Toastmasters. They learned the different elements of conducting meetings, and how to write speeches from beginning to end, conflict resolution and goal setting. Special thanks to Glenda Brass, Ted Brass, Donyielle Holley and Jack Roberts.

Washington Complex & Fremont Resource Coordinating Council

GCLA has been an active member of both councils since their start in 1996. The councils are designed to coordinate existing resources in the schools and in the community. With the Washington Complex, GCLA has participated in events, resource directory and steering committees. Most recently, GCLA has provided technical assistance for several mini-grants being written by the Council. With the Fremont Council, GCLA has participated on the Race and Human Relations Committee. Most recently, GCLA assisted in the development of the youth workshops for the Fremont Cluster Summit.

Fremont High School

GCLA has always attempted to stay connected with the schools in the area served. GCLA was recently funded through the CA Department of Health Services Community Challenge Grant to provide teen pregnancy prevention services at Fremont. Project LEAD (Leaders in Enrichment for Adolescent Development) will begin in Fall 1999. GCLA has also formed a partnership with Fremont to create a Healthy Start Collaborative. The planning is in the beginning stages, the goal is to bring together a core group of service providers and school officials to begin writing the grant due in March 2000.

Women's Tobacco Coalition

GCLA has worked very closely with the Women's Tobacco Control Coalition since 1997. WTCC is under the auspices of the California Women's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Dependencies. WTCC is a coalition of representatives from various organizations, agencies and community groups who have joined together to reduce the impact of tobacco use and second hand smoke amongst women and girls. Every first Wednesday of the month, at 10:00 a.m., WTCC meets at the Faith's Children Center. GCLA executive director, Gloria Davis, is the co-chair of WTCC, along with January Wiggins, National Council on Drug and Alcohol Dependencies. WTCC has been very active throughout Los Angeles County with The Tobacco Control Alliance, attending public hearings, conducting letter writing campaigns, developing trainings, and creating counter tobacco billboards, posters and cards. The Los Angeles County Tobacco Control Alliance is comprised of six dynamic groups: The Asian and Pacific Islander, Latino, African American, Youth, Women's and Gay/Lesbian/Bi-sexual/transgender Coalitions.

Picture

Drew Child Development Corporation

GCLA is a community partner with Drew Child Development Corporation. Drew is bringing together residents, business owners, agencies and educators to create positive solutions to reduce teen pregnancy. The group is focusing on the South Central community and working on strategies to reduce the high rate of teen pregnancy in the community. Both GCLA and Project SOAR (Supporting Options for Adolescent Responsibility) have made a commitment to support each other's endeavors to provide youth with a variety of options. Project SOAR is sponsored by the California Wellness Foundation. Recently, Project LEAD staff, along with Sonya Vasquez, attended the Best Practices II workshop in San Francisco with Drew.

Picture

GCLA is strengthening its community partnerships and engaging new ones.

Cornerstone Consulting Group, Teen Outreach Program (TOP) National Project

GCLA was one of the ten agencies in California awarded TOP training and curriculum in June 1999. TOP is a youth development program, which combines life skills and adolescent sex education with youth involvement and community service. Developed by the Association of Junior Leagues in St. Louise, and owned by the Cornerstone Consulting Group in Houston, TX, the TOP curriculum will be used in Project LEAD at Fremont High School. TOP's unique approach consists of two components: a classroom-based curriculum, Changing Scenes, and community service experience. A five year impact evaluation showed that TOP students generally have fewer pregnancies, fewer course failures and fewer school suspensions than non-program peers.

GCLA YOUTH LEADERS CONQUER THE CITY

GCLA works hard to provide youth with programs that address the issues and challenges that they face while providing them with meaningful opportunities and support throughout the year. Youth are given the opportunity to learn valuable skills and use them to the benefit of the community.

Youth Advocacy Council

The Youth Advocacy Council (YAC) is an essential component of the 8th District Empower Congress. The purpose of this council is to form a community based youth constituency that works to address issues that impact youth in South Los Angeles. Youth Leaders, Gabrielle Chess and Brandon Johnson, have been active members of the council since February 1999. Along with Akeisha Davis, Assistant Program Coordinator, the youth have assisted in dialogues on civil unrest and race relations between youth and law enforcement. Improving the future one child at a time.

L.A. Human Relations Commission

The City of L.A. Human Relations Commission is committed to reducing community conflict, tension and building stronger inter-group relations within the community. Gabrielle Chess and Brandon Johnson were also very active in the community meetings assembled to develop these community projects. GCLA strives to give the youth skills that they need to bring about change in their community. We are always happy when they use those skills to make a

County of Los Angeles Dept. of Health Tobacco Control Program Contractor Orientation

On July 20-21, the County conducted a new orientation for the new contractors, 1999-2000. Two GCLA participants, Gabrielle Chess and Abigail Flores, were invited to work both days of the orientation. They assisted with registration, passed out information and provided support for the workshops.

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...Improving the future one child at a time...

FOSTER GRANDPARENT LUNCHEON 1999

The Foster Grandparent Program, sponsored by Pepperdine University, celebrated their 27th annual recognition luncheon, on Wednesday, May 26, 1999, at the beautiful, Lowes Santa Monica Beach Hotel. Dr. Robert Thomas, Executive Director of Campus Orientations with Pepperdine University, gave a heartfelt welcome. Gary Moore, Director of the Education Center, gave the Invocation. Gospel vocalist, Jimmy Philips, with Agape Christian Fellowship Church, provided entertainment. Ms. Gloria Davis, Chairperson of the Advisory Council and Director of the Girls Club of Los Angeles, presented the guest speaker, Dr. George McKenna, Deputy Superintendent of Compton Unified School District. Dr. Josephine Yelder, Professor Emeritus, Pepperdine University, presented the recognition certificates to Foster Grandparents. Service plaques of recognition were given to the Foster Grandparents that volunteered 10 to 15 years with the program. A representative from Governor Gray Davis' Office presented a Proclamation. Faye Pinkette, Director, gave the special thanks & closing remarks. She read a letter to the Foster Grandparents from President Bill Clinton commending them on their dedication and love to children. "The recognition luncheon was an outstanding success in every way. The flowers, food, program, video presentation and hospitality were all first rate, primarily due to the organizational abilities, creativity and interpersonal skills displayed by Faye Pinkette and Leslie Burton", said Gloria Davis. There were 160 in attendance.

CAREER DAY 1999

On May 1, 1999, the National Association of University Women sponsored GCLA's Annual Career Day. About 100 youth were present to hear over 10 professionals speak about their positions, job duties, educational background and career/personal goals. Youth received insight into the entertainment industry, computer field, government work, medical field and the arts. Youth were also given advice about preparing and planning for college as well as how to choose the best career paths. Summer Youth Employment applications were also distributed.

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