



1550 Bryant St. Suite 675  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
415-252-8880  
info@girlsource.org  
www.girlsource.org

October 1, 2008

Dear Friend of GirlSource,

On June 6<sup>th</sup> 2008, Melissa San Miguel did something *no one* in her family had done before. She graduated from college. And she didn't just graduate—she graduated at the top of the Political Science department at UC Berkeley! Standing in front of 500 of her peers delivering her valedictorian address, Melissa thanked the supportive network of teachers, mentors and friends who helped her reach her goal of graduating from college. She stressed that **the key to her success was being a part of a supportive community, like the one she gained at GirlSource**- one that believed in her and helped her identify and meet her educational and career goals.

That is why Melissa volunteered with GirlSource once she got to college, mentoring other young women just like her. Today, she continues to be a part of the GirlSource community, even as she starts a challenging fellowship at the Commonwealth Club. After all, once a *GirlSource Girl*, always a *GirlSource Girl*!

**As part of our GirlSource community, your contribution creates a better future for the 250 low-income young women, like Melissa, who we reach every year.**

The obstacles our young women face make their accomplishments all the more inspiring. Recent data reveals that 60% of the young women who drop out of the San Francisco Unified School District are African American and Latina. Less than 10% who do graduate have the necessary credits to attend a UC or CSU institution. When our young women come to us from schools throughout this district, they are at risk of falling through the cracks.

**With your generous financial and moral support, we are able to catch our young women...and lift them up *before* they fall through the cracks.**

This year is GirlSource's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Support from donors like you has allowed us to serve over 1,300 low-income young women from San Francisco in a decade. Evaluation results from the past five years show that 86% of participants who completed our programs graduate from high school and 70% of those graduates go on to college.

**Through your involvement, our young women are breaking the cycle of poverty!**

Because GirlSource provides leadership and life skills as well as practical "on-the-job" technology training and college guidance, our participants graduate from our programs with goals that stretch them and give them new direction. Our graduates can envision *and* pursue a positive future, full of life-long learning, professional success, and healthy relationships.

While we know the economy is shaky, it has hit hardest those who have the least. Make your GirlSource 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorative gift **of \$50, \$200, and \$500 or more to GirlSource** so that every GirlSource Girl can flourish!

In community,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leticia Y".

Leticia Hernández, Executive Director