10/09/08 MEDIA ALERT!

THE PERFECT STORM:

Layoffs, Foreclosures & High Energy Costs = More Homeless on the Streets of San Diego This Winter. Community Picnic at Balboa Park to Brainstorm Solutions and Bring Warm Lunches to Those in Need!

WHO: THE GIRLS THINK TANK

WHAT: 2nd Annual Community Picnic and Fundraiser for the Homeless at Balboa Park. This year's theme: Local Voices, Community Solutions. For the $10 price of admission, you are buying a lunch for someone in need!

WHERE: Balboa Park, North of Laurel Street at 6th Avenue.

WHEN: This Sunday, October 12th, from Noon to 4:00 p.m.
Admission includes food, drink, entertainment, speakers, and a warm lunch.

MORE INFO: Rachel Jensen, rachelj@csgrr.com, 619/228-1686 or Joanna Jacob, joanna@lepinelaw.com, (619) 723-6564

FEATURED SPEAKERS:
U.S. Congressman Bob Filner, San Diego City Council candidate Marti Emerald, and Homeless Advocate David Ross. Co-sponsoring organizations include: Foundation for Change, Progressive San Diego the League of Women Voters, Shakti Rising, Lotus Outreach, The Resolved Church, and the Isaiah Project

PERFORMANCE BY:
GTT's own Corina Rose, Terry Matsuoka, and DJ Quist, as well as a dance performance by the Super Sonic Samba School.

"In these difficult economic times where more people than ever will be displaced on our streets this winter, we cannot turn the other cheek on this growing problem in San Diego," urges GTT's founder and president, Rachel Jensen. "Come join us in brainstorming solutions to homelessness in San Diego, hear from inspiring community leaders like Congressman Filner, enjoy live music and dance performances and break bread with our neighbors in need." The GTT will also be kicking off its signature Winter Survival Backpack campaign. "Last year we made and distributed over 350 winter backpacks to our friends in need on the streets, this year we want to double that number." Feel free to bring items to donate, including blankets, sleeping bags, warm clothes, socks and shoes, baby wipes, and diapers. We're making special mother/baby kits this winter for pregnant women on the streets. 100% of the proceeds of the picnic will go towards the Winter Backpack program. We hope to see you there!

P.O. BOX 620633 * San Diego, California 92162 * (877) 365-3566 * www.girlsthinktank.org

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The Girls Think Tank ("GTT"), a local go-to group on homelessness recently honored by Channel 10 with a leadership award, will host their **Second Annual Community Picnic on Sunday, October 12, 2008 from 12-4 pm**, **in Balboa Park** (north of Laurel St. at 6th Ave.).

"We are experiencing a perfect storm of layoffs, foreclosures and soaring food and gas prices, all of which is displacing more people than ever," said Joanna Jacobs of GTT. A recent report from First Focus estimates nearly 2 million children will be directly impacted by the mortgage crisis as their families lose their homes due to foreclosures. Here in San Diego, we have reports of families whose homes have been foreclosed now sleeping in their cars downtown.

To address this critical problem, we are inviting community leaders and members to join us in brainstorming solutions, breaking bread with our homeless neighbors and enjoy an afternoon of BBQ, music, dance, speakers, and discussion. 100% of the proceeds from this event will go to providing Winter Survival Backpacks to San Diego's homeless, GTT's signature project.

Featured speakers include **U.S. Congressman Bob Filner**, **City Council candidate Marti Emerald**, and Homeless Advocate David Ross (aka the "Water Man") We will also showcase musical performances by Corina Rose, Terry Matsuoka, and DJ Quist, with dance performances by the Super Sonic Samba School. Co-sponsoring organizations include: Foundation for Change, Progressive San Diego, the League of Women Voters of San Diego, Shakti Rising, Lotus Outreach, The Resolved Church, and the Isaiah Project.

GTT will partner with the **League of Women Voters of San Diego** to offer voter registration at the event, and invited all locally elected officials and candidates for city office to attend.

"We believe that Election Day is the great equalizer," said Jen Lai, Special Projects Coordinator, "By exercising and accessing your right to vote, we can and should all have power and political voice. The next San Diego administration will decide many issues important to our homeless neighbors, including location and budget for a permanent shelter. It is important that their voices be allowed to be heard in choosing who will represent them."

Members of the homeless community will attend, and for the price of your picnic lunch ($10 minimum donation), you will be buying a warm lunch for someone in need. People are encouraged to donate blankets, sleeping bags, socks and shoes, warm clothes, and diapers.

<u>About GTT's Homeless Outreach Project</u>

For the past two years GTT has distributed hundreds of Winter Survival Backpacks on the streets of San Diego during the winter months. In conjunction with the community picnic, we are

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gearing up to do it again this winter. Additionally, we will distribute "Baby Bags" for expecting and new mothers who are on the streets. Both items will provide much-needed warm clothes and supplies for our homeless neighbors this winter. "In spending time on the streets of San Diego during the last two winters, we have witnessed the heartbreaking reality that pregnant women and newborn infants are not spared from the harsh conditions of living on the streets," commented Rachel Jensen, President and co-founder of the Girls Think Tank, "we've created GTT baby bags to do our own small part in helping these young women and children."

About the Girls Tank

Girls Think Tank is a grassroots collective of mothers, lawyers, teachers, organizers, artists, planners, and doers of different races and ethnicities, ages, and points of view. The purpose of GTT is to foster a culture of empowerment amongst members and in the community by providing a vehicle for change on local issues that confront us in our daily lives. GTT members put our heads, hearts, and hands together to provide a public service for the community and create a sense of pride that we are doing something about the issues that matter most to us.

For these efforts, GTT was honored by Channel 10 with a 2008 Leadership Award for outreach and advocacy on behalf of San Diego's homeless. Building on the momentum of our success, GTT has taken on other socially-conscious projects this year, including homeless voter registration, street survival packs for new mothers with infants, a Leadership Academy with students at Lincoln High School, and anti-trafficking work.

For more information about the GTT or the upcoming event at Balboa Park, contact girlsthinktank@gmail.com or visit us online at www.girlsthinktank.org.

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