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(L-R) Ayana Barry Buchanan, Camille Crump, Tanya Egins (Director of Programs) Brenesha Gray, and Charnitra Harp

Cool Girls awards scholarships to young ladies previously enrolled in their after school program

ATLANTA, GA, May 07, 2009- Cool Girls is committed to supporting girls academically from as early as third grade into womanhood, which is why they have awarded four scholarships to young ladies who were previously enrolled in the after school program during elementary and/or middle school.

The scholarships are used to assist the ladies with tuition costs, books and other education needs as they pursue their respective degrees. Ayana Barry Buchanan described her experience with Cool Girls and said, "I can remember walking into the cafeteria in Drew Charter Elementary School and seeing a booth for Cool Girls...If only I knew then how Cool Girls, Inc. would change my life. Cool Girls molded me into a young woman that the world needs now. The best thing I have gained from Cool Girls is the confidence to do anything. They offered computer skill, self esteem and self image, entrepreneurship, and countless other classes. I have been able to stay connected with my Cool Sister (mentor). She has helped me so much through my life. She even edited my college essays for me! Experiencing the support I have received through Cool Girls helps me push myself to strive to do my best and to do more for others."

Award recipients include: Ayana Barry Buchanan (Vanderbilt University, 2009-2010 Freshman); Camille Crump (Hampton University, 2009-2010 Sophomore); Braneshia Gray (University of West Georgia, 2009-2010 Sophomore) and Charnitra Harp- Georgia Perimeter College (2009-2010 Freshman).

About Cool Girls

Cool Girls, Inc., an Atlanta-based nonprofit, was founded in 1989 and is dedicated to the self-empowerment of girls in low-income communities. We provide the tools to help girls make positive choices to achieve academic success, break the cycles of teen pregnancy and poverty and to overcome the barriers of racism and sexism. Our programs instill confidence and provide exposure to a broader world of opportunity through mentoring relationships, field trips, health and life skills education and academic support. Our mission is achieved through the collaborative efforts of volunteers, staff, schools and the local community in active partnership with the girls and their parents. For more information, please www.thecoolgirls.org.

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