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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cool Girls appoints 14-year supporter Sandy D. Welfare as Executive Director

ATLANTA, GA, June 22, 2009 – Cool Girls is excited to announce the appointment of 14-year volunteer, supporter and past Board Chair—Sandy D. Welfare—as Executive Director. The board of directors was committed to selecting a leader who shared our passion, drive and enthusiasm along with a strong history with the organization that included working directly with the girls, hands-on knowledge of programmatic goals and a dedication to strengthening and expanding the services to girls in our program.

“We are excited to have Sandy as our new Executive Director. Her longevity with the organization allows her to bridge the gap from the past to future. She is familiar with our programs, is dedicated to the stability of the organization, having served as Board Chair, and has a personal commitment to the girls. She is the perfect fit for the girls, staff and board.” says Cool Girls Board Chair, Sonnet Edmonds.

Sandy brings a plethora of experience which includes serving as the former Managing Director of Xchanging Global Production and Senior Manager for Lucent Technologies, Inc. Her long history with Cool Girls began in 1995 when she volunteered for the Cool Girls ‘Girls Club’ and ‘Cool Sister’ mentor programs. In 1997, she joined the Cool Girls Board of Directors and over the next several years served various terms on the Finance and Program committees and as Co-chair for the Cool Girls annual special event. In 2008, Sandy was nominated to chair the Cool Girls Board of Directors and has now assumed the position of Executive Director.

“Over the past 14 years I have continued to support Cool Girls because I truly believe in the mission of the organization. To be a part of an organization that empowers girls to not only make positive choices in their lives, but to become a positive contributor in their communities and society is an amazing honor. Our recent scholarship recipients, who will be attending schools like Vanderbilt and Georgia Perimeter, validate for me that the work we are doing is effecting change in Atlanta and in people’s lives. My goal now is to take our organization to the next level.”

Sandy's educational foundation includes an undergraduate degree from St. John's University in New York, and a Masters of Business Administration from Sacred Heart University in Connecticut. Sandy resides in Marietta with her husband Cliff and their son Soloman.

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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