

# STORIES OF HOPE



www.girlsincofsantafe.org

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#### Declaracion De Derechos De Las Niñas

# Girls' Bill of Rights

Las niñas tienen el derecho a er ellas mismas y a contrarrestar estereotipos de género.



**Girls have the right to** be themselves and resist gender stereotypes.

Las niñas tienen el derecho a expresarse con originalidad y entusiasmo.



**Girls have the right to** express themselves with originality and enthusiasm.

Las niñas tienen el derecho a tomar riesgos, a libremente esforzarse, y a sentir orgullo de su éxito.



Girls have the right to take risks, to strive freely, and to take pride in success.

Las niñas tienen el derecho a aceptar y apreciar sus cuerpos.



**Girls have the right to** accept and appreciate their bodies.

Las niñas tienen el derecho a tener confianza en sí mismas y a sentirse seguras en el mundo.



Girls have the right to have confidence in themselves and be safe in the world.

Las niñas tienen el derecho a capacitarse para realizar trabajos interesantes e independencia económica.



**Girls have the right to** prepare for interesting work and economic independence.



# **CEO Message**

#### Dear Girls Inc. of Santa Fe Community,

As we reflect on the past year at Girls Inc., I am immensely grateful for your unwavering support and dedication to the girls of Santa Fe. Your generosity has truly made a difference in the lives of countless girls in our community, and I am thrilled to share with you some of the incredible moments and achievements that, with your contributions, have become possible.

One of the most inspiring moments I witnessed last year was during our College Shower, where we honored five remarkable young women by equipping them with the items they need to be prepared for this next chapter of their lives. These young women, who had been part of our Girls Inc. programs, were preparing to embark on their journey to college with confidence and determination, as well as jersey sheets and laptops! As they spoke passionately about their dreams and aspirations, it was evident that Girls Inc. had played a pivotal role in empowering them to believe in their own potential and shape the future on their own terms.

At Girls Inc., we believe wholeheartedly in awakening our community to the boundless potential of girls and their inherent strengths. We recognize that every girl is already strong, smart, and bold, and it is our collective responsibility as a community—including you, our valued donors—to support them in being their true selves. Your generosity enables us to give young people the resources, guidance, and mentorship they need to thrive and succeed in every aspect of their lives.

Throughout the past year, we have remained committed to listening to girls' voices and implementing our community-centric strategic plans that center our families and our participant's needs and aspirations. I sat with 100 other adults in a theater at our State of the Future event which provided a platform for young people to share their perspectives and experiences, reminding us that girls are powerful agents of change who deserve our unwavering support and attention. It was incredible to watch adults listen to their insights and inherent wisdom. They made pleas to adults to take action on issues that affect teens. They confidently spoke to this room full of adults, challenging them to craft better policy, build effective and responsive systems, and envision, through their actions, a safer future for all. Together, we have the opportunity to make New Mexico a great place to grow up and the best place to be a girl. Just imagine.

In today's world, where young people face numerous challenges and uncertainties, our community gives me hope for our collective future. At Girls Inc., we are not only changing individual lives but also contributing to the creation of a more equitable and inclusive society for generations to come.

My heart continues to grow more each year from the support of our mission and the staff, board, donor, volunteer and city's commitment to empowering girls to be strong, smart, and bold. I hope that in this annual report, you find moments of inspiration that make you as hopeful as I am about the future.

Together, we are making a tangible difference in the lives of girls and the fabric of our community.

With heartfelt appreciation, Kim Brown



# About Girls Inc. of Santa Fe

- Girls Inc. of Santa Fe: Inspiring and empowering young girls to be strong, smart, and bold individuals.
- Vision: Envision a world where <u>every girl</u> has the opportunity to **achieve her full potential and lead a fulfilling life.**
- Commitment: Dedicated to providing a supportive and inclusive environment for girls' skill and confidence development.
- Mission: Focused on fostering girls' development through mentorship, educational programs, and safe exploration of interests.
- Goals: Equipping girls with tools to overcome societal barriers, encouraging education, embracing uniqueness, and striving for excellence.
- Initiatives: Aiming to instill self-worth, resilience, and belief in their ability to achieve goals through various programs.
- Collaboration: Actively works with the community, schools, and families to create a support network for girls.
- Impact: Addressing unique challenges and providing resources, to build a future where every girl can unleash her potential and contribute positively to society.





# Who We Serve



**21%** come from single-parent households



**41%** speak a language other than english at home



15 Schools 36 Groups



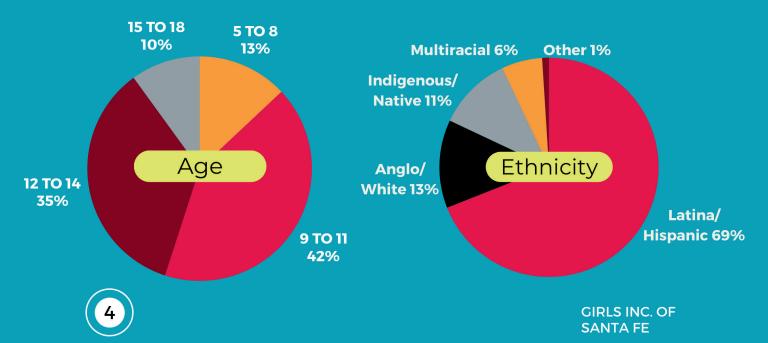
**86%** come from low-income households

#### School-Based Locations We Serve:

Amy Biehl Community School
Capital High School
Cesar Chavez Elementary
Chaparral Elementary
El Camino Real Academy
Milagro Middle School
Nava Elementary
Nina Otero Community School
Ortiz Middle School
Ramirez Thomas Elementary
Salazar Elementary
Santa Fe Indian School
Sweeney Elementary
Tesuque Elementary
Turquoise Trail Charter School



#### **Participant Demographics**



# **Our Impact**

The Girls Inc. Strong, Smart, and Bold Outcomes Survey (SSBOS), conducted by a third-party serves as a powerful tool in understanding and amplifying the impact of Girls Inc. of Santa Fe on the girls who participate in our programs. The 2023 survey results are nothing short of inspiring, painting a vivid picture of empowered and resilient young women. Notably, 97% of girls expressed the willingness to listen, even in disagreement, showcasing a commitment to open-mindedness and collaboration. The survey also revealed high levels of confidence, determination, and a strong work ethic, with figures such as 95% feeling confident about problem-solving and 98% considering themselves hard workers. Additionally, the overwhelming majority of girls expressed a genuine care for academic success (99%) and a curiosity for learning (98%). These figures affirm that Girls Inc. is not only providing opportunities for skill development but also instilling essential qualities that pave the way for a hopeful and promising future for each participant.

97%

of girls listen to people even if they disagree with them 95%

of girls feel confident about handling their problems 97%

of girls do their best even when things get tough

1,107
Young People
Served

98%

of girls said they get to learn more about people who are different than themselves 98%

of girls said they're hard workers

99%

of girls said they care about doing well in school

# Madonna Hernandez Director of Programs

# Director of Programs Message

#### Hello My Friends,

Another year is in the books for Girls Inc. and we are experiencing a new found feeling of optimism. As we all have struggled through the last years, optimism or hope may not have been something that was always at the front of our minds. I can say for myself that triage and caution were my go to places both personally and professionally. However, the clouds have begun to part and the path forward is looking much more enticing than it has in a while.

First, I am thrilled to share that we are currently well on our way to pre pandemic numbers. We finished 2023 serving over 1,100 girls and young people and are providing Girls Inc. programs in 15 schools. We can't wait to see what 2024 has in store.

Looking back at the last year I am reminded of the hope out there when I see our girls, kindergartners to high schoolers, being encouraged to advocate for what they need and want while also working collaboratively with their group mates on a project or issue. This school year I watched in awe as our grade school girls explored racial injustice and gender inequality. They were thoughtful and inquisitive, and quite angry as they discussed how many of their experiences were similar. On the teen front, several of them spoke and wrote letters on behalf of bills at the legislature, and our Leadership Out Loud teens coupled with our Teen Leadership Council hosted a panel discussion for the community where they talked about issues young women and people in New Mexico face every day. Nearly 100 people showed up to listen.

### In these moments, the light they exude is almost blinding and I find myself feeling overwhelmed with hope and love.

I mentioned in last year's annual report that our girls and young people were requesting to be heard and to have a space at the table. In response to this request we have begun to develop a new program that focuses on adult learning and family engagement. This program's objective is to educate adults in how to work alongside with young people while also developing the skills to create connection and community. If we want to make bigger change in the world we must be a united front, and we are well on our way.

I recognize that we couldn't do this work without the dedicated staff and volunteers who show up ready to inspire, support, and love our girls. As much as we pride ourselves when the staff goes the extra distance we also understand that they too need support and love. This is why we have worked diligently to ensure we have a full staff and every one of them are receiving the training, support, and compensation they need to show up as their best selves for our young people. Girls Inc. is also a wonderful place for the adults, living our mission with everyone engaged.

I am eager for what 2024 will bring and am optimistic to see how our young people will respond. Keep in mind, when you feel the weight of the world, remember that there are young people out there with fresh ideas who need a seat at the table.

Until next year, Madonna Hernandez



# **Thanks to our BOLD Volunteers!**

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each one of you for your unwavering dedication and passion in supporting our mission. Your commitment to empowering young girls, fostering inclusivity, and creating a positive impact in their lives is truly commendable. Your time, skills, and energy contribute significantly to the success of our programs and events, making a lasting difference in the girls' journeys. Your kindness, mentorship, and willingness to share your knowledge create a nurturing environment that inspires growth and self-discovery. Girls Inc. of Santa Fe is truly fortunate to have such a remarkable team of volunteers. Thank you for being the driving force behind the positive change we strive to bring to the lives of the young people we serve.





126
Volunteers
served youth
in 2023

**6,552**Hours served by volunteers in 2023



# **Celebrations of Hope**

Going to college is scary, that's for sure. Thanks to that's for sure. Thanks to Girls Inc., I was prepared for the unknown. All of the necessities I received were more than helpful. Thank you Girls Inc.!







Christiana
CNM / Diagnostic Medical
Sonography



My college experience wouldn't be the same without all of the help and gifts that I received from Girls Inc of Santa Fe at my college shower. When I was just beginning to figure out what I might need for college they assisted me by putting an entire list together of all the essentials. I would have been lost without it. The gifts from the college shower made my transition from high school to my first semester so much easier. Not only was a major financial burden taken off my shoulders, but so were some of my first year anxieties. I use the items from my shower every single day and I honestly couldn't imagine dorm life without them. I'm now the person that everyone needs to borrow from because I'm the girl with both a tool kit and a vacuum. A huge thank you to Girls Inc. of Santa Fe and the donors who made my shower and many other girls' showers so amazing.

# COLLEGE



The Girls Inc. of Santa Fe College Shower is an annual initiative providing essential support for young people in their pursuit of higher education. Tailored to meet their unique needs, this program ensures a supply of essentials for Girls Inc. participants headed off to college. A critical aspect of our commitment to fostering an inclusive environment, the College Shower allows girls to focus on academics and personal development without the added stress of meeting basic needs. Girls Inc. recognizes the importance of creating a supportive atmosphere for college-bound girls, and the College Shower plays a vital role in achieving this goal.

# **Celebrations of Hope**

#### ANNUAL SPRING CELEBRATION

For Girls Inc.'s future, I want more people to be able to come to Girls Inc., where they will be safe and respected. -ALTHEA PAK









#### INSPIRATIONS **SUCCESSFUL DEBUT**

Inspirations, an exciting new project for us, was introduced in August 2023 at a capacity-filled breakfast at Bishops Lodge. The August event celebrated strong, smart, and bold role models throughout New Mexico and introduced a magazinequality Inspirations publication. This firstever book includes 81 tributes to more than 300 amazing women and girls who reflect our state's diversity of cultures, ages, interests, and occupations and provides powerful examples of role models for all.

**SANTA FE** 



# **Advocacy in Action**

#### STATE OF THE FUTURE TEEN ADVOCACY FORUM



Last May six teenagers ranging from freshman to seniors in high school, representing four different schools in Santa Fe, took center stage at our State of the Future Teen Advocacy Forum in front of an audience of 100 adults from the community. Community artist and advocate Dez Baa' moderated the discussion about the world teens are living in, the issues that matter most to them, and their hopes for their future.

As participants in our Leadership Out Loud program and members of our Teen Leadership Council these young people generated ideas for discussion points and crafted responses for current events. For most of them, this was their first opportunity to speak in front of an audience and though they were nervous at the beginning of the planning process, they were confident and poised on the night of the event.





#### ADVOCACY IN ALL PROGRAMMING



Our participants have been learning Advocacy in all realms of the Girls Inc. Experience. We teach mediation and conflict resolution to everyone in the program starting at age 5. The young people learn how to build community among disparate beliefs and backgrounds.

They see conflict as a tool for growth, they recognize it and do not shy away from conversations where there is an opportunity to navigate through conflict as opposed to being afraid. They are seen as leaders, they learn about power and choice and voice.

# **Providing Access**



Girls Inc. of Santa Fe creates accepting and inclusive spaces for all people who feel welcome in our center and our community-based programs. Girls Inc. operates on a sliding scale with additional scholarships available. The application process is not extensive, and **access** is an important value to us. We work in conjunction with the Santa Fe Public Schools and the Santa Fe Indian School. We offer summer camp, spring break camp and afterschool programs at our Hillside Avenue Center, where we serve young people aged 5 to 18.





# **Board Chair Message**

Dear Girls Inc. of Santa Fe Community,

In today's global climate, I am reminded of the profound significance of our shared mission in a world that too often overlooks the invaluable contributions of authentic leadership. It is with a deep sense of purpose and conviction that I write to you, as the Board Chair of Girls Inc. of Santa Fe, to celebrate the transformative impact of our organization, the essential role it played in empowering young people in 2023, and to thank you for being a part of it.

In a time where the voices and talents of women are all too frequently sidelined, Girls Inc. of Santa Fe stands as a beacon of hope and possibility. We are more than an organization; we are a movement dedicated to nurturing the next generation of leaders, innovators, and change-makers.

Throughout my own journey, from academia to the boardroom, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges and barriers that women face in asserting their place at the table. As the only female student in the Geology department at my university and later as the CEO of a top-100 law firm, I experienced the not-so-subtle biases and systemic inequalities that continue to pervade our society.

#### But I also know the power of resilience, determination, and community.

For the last year I have volunteered nearly once a week, working with girls in our programs. Each week I witness how Girls Inc. of Santa Fe provides a safe and supportive space for girls to explore their passions, develop their skills, and unleash their full potential. Through our programs and initiatives, we guide them to find the confidence in themselves to defy expectations, the courage to speak their truth, and the resilience to overcome any obstacle in their path.

Our work is not merely about leveling the playing field; it is about redefining the game entirely. It is about challenging the norms and stereotypes that confine girls to narrow roles and limited opportunities. Together, let us continue to champion their dreams, amplify their voices, and build a future where every girl is empowered to lead with grace, resilience, and unapologetic authenticity.

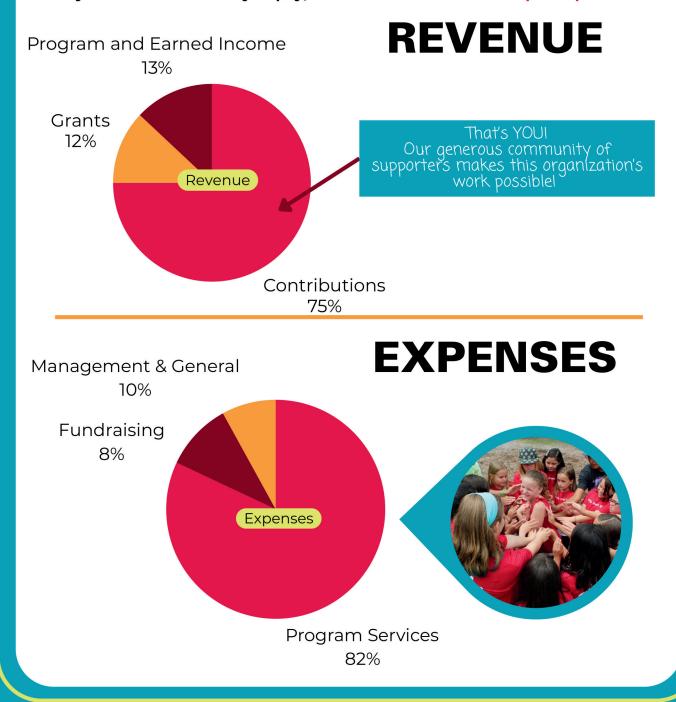
None of this would be possible without steadfast supporters like you. Girls Inc. of Santa Fe relies largely on the generosity of individual funders and grants. It's incredible to think that approximately 250 households provide our operating budget for the year, ensuring that our programs continue to thrive and inspire girls to be strong, smart, and bold. Your contributions are not just financial; they are a testament to your belief in our mission and your commitment to creating a more equitable and inclusive world for all. I am so proud to be part of this community, our Girls Inc. community. But without you it would not be possible, so again, thank you for your support in 2023 and beyond.

With deepest gratitude and unwavering commitment, Connie Burke



# **Money Matters**

Philanthropic Support is essential to our ability to serve girls and youth. 82% of every dollar donated goes directly to programs. Because of you, we are able to provide our community based programs free of charge. **Families are never turned away based on their ability to pay; 98% receive financial aid to participate.** 



# THANK

Each donation plays a vital role in sustaining our year-round operations, serving as the lifeblood that fuels our commitment to the future. The impact of each contribution resonates far beyond mere financial support; it signifies a shared belief in our mission and a collective effort to foster a community of With inclusivity. approximately 250 foundations households alongside and corporations contributing, we form a resilient network of advocates dedicated to breaking barriers and promoting equal opportunities. These donations empower us to implement programs, provide resources, and create where diversity thrives. spaces **Every** contribution, big or small, is a testament to the strength of our community and reinforces our ability to enact positive change.

# RED CAPE SOCIETY (LEGACY GIVING)

The Red Cape Society honors those who have designated a legacy gift to Cirls Inc. of Santa Fe.

Anonymous (3)

Connie Burke and Bill Leeman

Diane E. Carlson Estate\*\*

Frania D'Alessio and Jason Saslow

The Barbara J. Hall Revocable Trust\*\*

Diane Heath

Tiia Kari-McLaughlin

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Judy Kowalski

Lauren Snyder Art

Brenda Shears and Keith Kintigh

Rebecca Spence

\*\*Deceased



Do you plan to leave a legacy gift to Girls Inc. of Santa Fe?

Let us know!

# Individual and Corporate Giving FY23 (September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023)

Every gift is important and appreciated. Thank you to everyone who donated during FY23. Due to space limitations, our acknowledgment lists gifts totaling \$250 or more.



# CHAMPIONS FOR GIRLS

A giving society of philanthropists making annual gifts totaling \$1,000 or more.

#### **VANGUARD (\$50,000+)**

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#### **LUMINARY (\$25,000-\$49,999)**

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GIRLS INC. OF SANTA FE

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**WE WANT TO THANK** THE SANTA FE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR THEIR SUPPORT FROM THE FOLLOWING **FUNDS:** 

**Jack and Mary Gilliam Endowment Fund** Jordan and David Smith Fund **Las Campanas Community Grants Fund Liberty Ranch Infinite Possibilities Fund Rabinowe Family Fund** Santa Fe Hestia Fund **Santa Fe Community Foundation Cabin Fund** Carla Freeman Grants Fund The Douglass Foundation **Elizabeth Heller Allen Fund** Mike and Dee Maloof Family Fund

\*MONTHLY SUSTAINHER DONOR

**Every effort has been** made to be error free and represent our donors correctly.

**Please contact Alexandra Hesbrook Ramier** (aramier@girlsincofsantafe.org) if you feel an error has been made.



# **Equity & Inclusion**

Girls Inc. of Santa Fe acknowledges the beautiful land on which we reside is still recognized as Oga Po'geh and is a part of the ancestral lands of the Northern and Southern Tewa. It is also included in the lands and stories of Taytsugeh Oweengeh (Tesuque), the Nambe Pueblo, the Tewa and the Jicarilla Apache. Interwoven into the history, ancestry, and stories of this land are the Dinè (Navajo), Cochiti, Taos, and Hopi. We acknowledge and honor the many native nations and peoples. We acknowledge the violence, colonization, and displacement that took place. While this acknowledgement does not rectify the pain, we hope to begin a relationship of healing and promise to work towards a more Equitable world and community.

Girls Inc. of Santa Fe's (GISF) mission to inspire all girls to be strong (healthy), smart (educated), and bold (independent) hinges on our vision for an equitable and inclusive society of empowered girls and women. As stewards of the public good, GISF embraces and celebrates the common humanity and the inherent worth of all people.

We believe a commitment to equity and inclusivity will make this vision a reality. We celebrate the similarities and differences, embrace all backgrounds and abilities, and are enriched by each other's lived experiences and unique perspectives. Girls and youn with different lived experiences are integral to our programs.

GISF is committed to equity and inclusivity in principle and practice from the Board of Directors, staff, programming, community engagement, and programming.

Affirming our commitment to this work, we were recently selected as "Champions" (a mentor organization) by Girls Inc. National for our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Roadmap Cohort initiative. Our application eloquently expressed our approach to DEI and we're invited to share our insights, successes, and lessons learned with other Girls Inc. affiliates across the nation who are beginning their respective DEI journeys.



#### 2023 Achievements

- Participating on the Girls Inc. National Gender Expansiveness working group;
- Acknowledging and challenging power structure in our daily operations;
- Integrating equity and inclusivity into our daily operations;
- Recruiting/retaining Board and Staff members from diverse backgrounds; and
- Embedding advocacy into our programmatic planning and schedules.







GIRLS INC. OF SANTA FE

#### **Our Best Team Ever!**

(\*=Moved on / +=joined the team)

#### **Our Board**

Connie Burke. Board Chair Mary Kushnir, Vice Chair Alina Catanach, Board Treasurer Diane Ramsey, Secretary Ann Livingston, (Outgoing Chair)\* Dona Bolding, (Outgoing Vice Chair)\* Adrienne Murray, (Outgoing Secretary)\* Polly White, (Outgoing Treasurer) \* Sascha Guinn Anderson Linda DeWolf Jenna Gruhala-Oltersdorf + Laura Hudman Ellen Marshall Elizabeth Martinez-Archuleta \* Suzanne Kern Sylvie Obledo **Erica Ortiz-Berke** Ally Rael+

#### **Our Contractors**

**Barbara Seeley** 

**Reba Serafin** 

Daniel Varela, Building Cleaning and MaintenanceBiquin Nerio, Building CleaningOlivia Garcia, Bookkeeper

#### **Our Staff**

Kim Brown. Chief Executive Officer

Carolyn Chambers, Chief Finance and HR Officer

Madonna Hernandez, Director of Programs Adrienne Murray, Chief Storyteller Araseli Varela, Director of Operations Ginger Williams, Chief Philanthropy Officer Erica Davis Crump, Director of Advocacy and Community Engagement \* Daniela Anderson-Fernandez, Program Facilitator \* KatherineElizabeth Armstrong, Donor Relations Manager \* Keeley Aspaas, Data Coordinator/Program Facilitator Farrah Baker, Summer Program Facilitator Rebecca Calhoun, Senior Program Manager Melissa Costello, Program Facilitator Jolene Duran. Administrative Coordinator Maggie Feil, Center-Based Program Manager Sara Gmitter, Programs Coordinator **Lucy Hastings**, Summer Program Facilitator Alex Hesbrook Ramier, Donor Relations Manager Devlyn Iturralde, Program Facilitator Ginger Johns, Program Facilitator \* Katherine Killeen, Program Facilitator Bethany Morse, Development Manager Lila Quezada, Summer Program Facilitator Ruby Reyes Tapia, Summer Program Facilitator Jericha Romero, Program Facilitator Paloma Sandoval, Program Facilitator Rhynda "Storm" Stephens, Corporate & Community Engagement Manager Indira Tho-Biaz Wilder, Summer Program Facilitator Isabella Willard, Summer Program Facilitator Ellen Walkley, Grants Manager

# Thank You to everyone who contributed to the success of Girls Inc. of Santa Fe!









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