



**GEMINI CRICKETS, PARENTS OF MULTIPLES**  
A Not-For-Profit Organization Serving the Santa Clara Valley  
c/o Camille Hoffman / 2011 Auction Chair  
P.O. Box 10305 San Jose, CA 95157  
[www.gemini-crickets.org](http://www.gemini-crickets.org)

February 7, 2011

Dear Prospective Donor,

You may know what it's like to care for an infant - but can you imagine how overwhelming it can be to care for two at the same time? Or even more? Raising a family with multiples presents unique challenges, both financially -- the cost of raising multiples in their first year of life is estimated to be \$8,000-11,000 more than raising a singleton -- and emotionally -- divorce rates are also significantly higher for parents of multiples.

Gemini Crickets, Parents of Multiples of Silicon Valley is a nonprofit organization that steps in at a critical time and gives support to expectant parents and families of twins, triplets, and higher order multiples. We offer these parents emotional support, education, and social opportunities with other parents of multiples. We are also a very philanthropic multiples group, giving equipment (cribs, strollers, car seats, etc.) toys, clothing, food and monetary donations to families in need. Our member families range across the greater Silicon Valley from Palo Alto to Gilroy! With over 100 new member families joining this last year, our needs are greater than ever.

From now through the end of April, we are accepting donations for our upcoming Annual Auction. This auction event is our main fundraiser each year, and its success determines our ability to provide services to needy families of multiples. We are very excited to announce that once again, 60% of all proceeds from our Annual Auction will be devoted to our education and philanthropy programs. Please be sure to read the second page of this letter for more about the programs our Annual Auction enables.

Any assistance that you can offer in terms of merchandise, services, gift certificates or tickets would be greatly appreciated by our organization and the lucky winner! Since our auction occurs in May, it would be great if you could ensure that the expiration dates of your donation is extended past that date. Donations can be mailed to the PO Box listed at the top of this letter. If your donation requires pick-up, please send me an email or give me a call.

As a special thank you for your generosity, once your donation is received, we will advertise your business in our Auction program, and in our newsletter through July 2011. The newsletter goes out to over 300 families with multiples in our area. Your establishment will also be on our auction page on our website [www.gemini-crickets.org](http://www.gemini-crickets.org). Don't forget to provide your .jpg logo and website address! Of course, if you prefer to remain anonymous, please let us know!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. For your tax purposes, our tax identification number is 23-7409994.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Sincerely,

Camille Hoffman  
Gemini Crickets 2011 Auction Chair  
Email: [gcauction@pobox.com](mailto:gcauction@pobox.com)  
Phone: 408-244-6946

## **HELP SUPPORT GEMINI CRICKETS EDUCATION AND PHILANTHROPY PROGRAMS!**

Gemini Crickets Parents of Multiples of Silicon Valley is a nonprofit organization that steps in at a critical time and gives support to expectant parents and families of twins, triplets and higher order multiples. We offer these parents emotional support, education, online forums, and social opportunities with other parents of multiples. We are also a very philanthropic multiples group, giving equipment, toys, clothing, food and monetary donations to families in need. Our members are mainly residents in San Jose, CA and surrounding areas, but our families range across the greater Silicon Valley from Palo Alto in the north and Gilroy to the south.

### **Philanthropy Programs**

The Gemini Crickets' philanthropy program had another fantastic year helping our member families!

- In 2010, Gemini Crickets hosted 2 Open Garage Days (Spring and Fall). Each Open Garage Sale allows more than 30 needy families to “shop” for free from a selection of much needed items donated by members and purchased by the club. Some examples of Open Garage Day items include cribs, car seats, clothing, toys, and infant supplies.
- Supported our Gemini Cricket ‘adopted’ families. Through our Continued Help Program, we provide support throughout the year to a dozen active families in need who have been verified through local social services organizations. The families are diverse in their make-up from triplet families, to single moms of twins, to families with twins where one or more parent has lost their jobs. Our program donates equipment, toys, clothes and books to these families, with special attention paid during the holiday season.
- In 2011, our philanthropy efforts will focus on ‘adopting’ and helping more families with multiples and continuing to develop new programs that will make it easier to obtain the necessary equipment, food, and support provided to these families. Additionally, our School Age Liaison would like to develop a program to introduce our school age (5 year olds and up) twins and triplets to the benefits of volunteering and giving back to their community. Your contribution will help make programs like this possible.

### **Educational Programs**

We host 18 very well attended educational seminars each year for our members. Our most popular events this last year featured a marriage and family therapist who discussed how parenting multiples affect a marriage, an Estate Planning expert, and “Young Minds Require Creative Discipline” with a well-regarded early childhood consultant. In the coming months, we hope to address topics such as breast feeding, potty training, and selecting the best childcare.

Additionally, we maintain an online forum for those parents who cannot attend in-person seminars. The forum continues to provide a place for members to share experiences and best practices of navigating the world of parenting multiples.

We are really excited about our philanthropy successes from 2010 and eager to make 2011 an even better year! We hope to have your support in continuing to help these families with multiples, and others like them.

**You can make a difference in the lives of others! Thank you for your consideration.**