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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Visa Foundation Empowers Girls in STEM with Girlstart Through Visa Foundation Gives

Visa Foundation to donate \$125K and participate in volunteer projects to help Girlstart inspire young girls to pursue STEM

AUSTIN, Texas (Jan. 30, 2024) - Girlstart today announced a \$125,000 grant from Visa Foundation to support the nonprofit's mission to create a future where all who identify as girls believe they have the potential to change their world through STEM. The commitment will span two years and include hands-on volunteer opportunities for Visa employees to encourage girls to explore their limitless potential in STEM. The grant will support Girlstart's Austin-area programs, ensuring over 2,000 girls have access to life-changing STEM education.

Women are dramatically underrepresented in STEM majors and careers, constituting 48% of the total workforce, but only 34% of the STEM workforce. Girlstart seeks to change this through its comprehensive After School, Summer Camp, and Community STEM programs, which introduce STEM careers to girls who have been historically marginalized. These evidence-based programs reach girls during the critical 4th-8th grades and provide the confidence and awareness they need to pursue STEM interests in elementary and middle school and beyond.

The grant is part of the Visa Foundation Gives program, launched in 2022, an ongoing initiative dedicated to addressing local social issues in the communities surrounding Visa's largest global offices.

"Empowering these young minds through education and STEM transforms individual lives and ignites a positive ripple effect for the future," said Graham Macmillan, President, Visa Foundation. "Girlstart's commitment to STEM education echoes the Foundation's mission to build an inclusive future for all; one where access to education is unlocked and everyone, everywhere can reach their full potential."

Visa employees will have several opportunities to volunteer for Girlstart and make an impact, such as writing messages of encouragement to participants and sharing inspiring

quotes. These personalized notecards are a fantastic opportunity for volunteers to motivate young girls in the field of STEM. Additionally, volunteers can serve as guest speakers for Girlstart's After School programs and present hands-on workshops during the Girls in STEM Conference this spring.

“We are grateful to Visa Foundation Gives for their impactful \$125,000 grant to Girlstart,” said Girlstart Executive Director Shane Woods. “Their investment in our Austin programs will make a lasting impact on girls' lives, equipping them with the skills and confidence they need to succeed in STEM and beyond. We are honored to partner with Visa Gives to foster a more inclusive and diverse future.”

To learn more about Visa Foundation and Visa Foundation Gives, visit visafoundation.org.

For more information about Girlstart, visit girlstart.org.

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ABOUT GIRLSTART

Girlstart is a national women-led organization, offering year-round out-of-school STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) programming for girls in grades 4-8 in Texas, California, Massachusetts, and other locations across the country. Girlstart's comprehensive programs are designed to engage, increase confidence, and introduce STEM careers to girls who have been historically marginalized by providing meaningful, hands-on STEM programming through after school, summer camps, and other community events. To learn more, visit www.girlstart.org, or follow us on social: [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

ABOUT VISA FOUNDATION

Visa Foundation seeks to support inclusive economies where individuals, businesses and communities can thrive. Through grantmaking and investing, the Foundation prioritizes the resilience and growth of micro and small businesses that benefit women. The Foundation also supports broader community needs and disaster response in times of crisis. Visa Foundation is registered in the U.S. as a 501(c)3 entity. For more information visit: visafoundation.org.