

**Lily of the valley**  
**Bowling dollars to fund incubator**

**February 23, 2007**

The **Women's Initiative for Self Employment**, a 19-year-old program that trains women for business roles, is coming to the South Bay, thanks to funding from Cadence Design's high-profile Stars & Strikes program.

"We are thrilled to be selected by Cadence for the Stars & Strikes fundraiser" said Julie Castro Abrams, CEO of **Women's Initiative**. "We've been planning with the city of San Jose and community leaders for well over a year to move forward with extending our program into the South Bay. With the Stars & Strikes pledge, Cadence has provided us with the significant financial commitment to kick off the capital campaign."

The annual bowling tournament draws some of the valley's biggest names, from CEOs to pro football players. This year's event is set for May 12 with Kathy Wheeler, Cadence's manager of global community involvement, handling sign-ups.

The record of the **Women's Initiative** is impressive. Graduates have created 1,555 new businesses in the Bay Area and 70 percent of those are still in business after two years. That kind of result earned the Women's Initiative the President's Award for Excellence in Microenterprise Development.

The Stars & Strikes funding will be used to set up a business incubator in the South Bay.

"**Women's Initiative** provides women with the managerial tools and support to lift themselves out of poverty, create jobs, and to become full-fledged participants in the economy," said Mike Fister, president and CEO of Cadence Design Systems Inc. "I am impressed by the innovative programs and success in San Francisco and the East Bay. We are pleased that Cadence can play an integral part in bringing this important organization to San Jose to help low-income women start successful businesses and share in the entrepreneurial spirit of Silicon Valley."

Sounds like a 300 game.