



2014

GOLD AWARD CEREMONY

AND

YOUNG WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARDS

*with a special salute to our
Silver Award recipients*

**Saturday, May 31, 2014
10:00 am – 11:30 am
Brunch and Ceremony**

**Rhodes on the Pawtuxet
60 Rhodes Place
Cranston, RI 02905**



Presented By



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AWARD DESCRIPTIONS



About the Gold Award

The Gold Award has evolved from a long line of Girl Scout leadership awards which recognize older girls who make a difference in their communities. The Girl Scout Gold Award was first introduced in 1980, but has been known as The Golden Eagle of Merit (1916-1919), the Curved Bar Award (1940-1963), and the First Class award (1963-1980).

Approximately one million Girl Scouts have earned the Gold Award or its equivalent since 1916. Currently, between 5-6 percent of eligible Girl Scouts earn the Gold Award annually. The Gold Award recognizes the work of Girl Scouts who demonstrate leadership, culminating in 80 hours or more dedicated toward a Take Action Project that has lasting effects in the community.

About the Silver Award

The Girl Scout Silver Award – the highest award a Girl Scout Cadette (grades 6 – 8) can earn – gives girls the chance to show they are a leader who is organized, determined, and dedicated to improving their community. After completing one Cadette Journey – either It’s your World-Change it! or It’s your Planet-Love it! or It’s Your Story Tell It! – girls must identify an issue they care about, explore their community, pick a Take Action project, and put it into motion. The suggested minimum time for earning the Girl Scout Silver Award is 50 hours.

About the Young Women of Distinction Awards

Our third annual Young Women of Distinction Awards will be presented to three Gold Award recipients whose Gold Award projects stood out from the others in the areas of creativity, sustainability, and impact. Not an easy task for the Higher Awards Committee – with 24 truly impressive Gold Award projects in this year’s class. The top recipient will receive a \$1,000 scholarship and two runners-up will each receive a \$500 scholarship.





WELCOME



We extend a warm welcome to this year's Girl Scout Gold Award recipients, their families and friends, and other higher award alumnae in attendance today. We are also honored to have the hard-working members of the Higher Awards Committee in attendance, as well as many dignitaries, board members and other "friends" of Girl Scouting.

Each member of this year's Gold Award "class" spent at least eighty hours working on her Gold Award project. Projects included designing a series of walking trails and working with community groups to ensure an implementation plan, improving an outdoor play area for displaced children, and organizing a race in an effort to raise awareness about a local farm. In addition to working with dedicated leaders and mentors, girls formed partnerships with several community groups including the Boys and Girls Club of Cumberland-Lincoln, Interim House, Pawtucket Housing Authority, the Women's Center of Rhode Island, and the RI Department of Child, Youth and Families Key Program.

While some of the young women we are honoring today are attending college now, or will be pursuing higher education in the fall, they have all created projects that will have a lasting impact in their communities.

We also give a special salute to this year's Girl Scout Silver Award recipients, and trust that today, you will be inspired by your older sister Girl Scouts!

Congratulations to all of you!



EVENT AGENDA



- ▷ Introduction of Special Guests ◁
- ▷ Welcome ◁
- ▷ Acknowledgment of Silver Award Recipients ◁
- ▷ Procession of the 2014 Class of Gold Award Recipients ◁
- ▷ Young Women of Distinction Awards ◁
- ▷ Closing ◁
- ▷ Group Photos ◁

*Recipients of the 2014 Gold Award and Former Recipients of the Gold Award, Golden Eaglet, Curved Bar, or First Class Awards
as well as Silver Award Recipients*



GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS



Kasey Cardin Troop #426, Barrington, RI

THE COMMUNITY BLEND

The issue my project addressed was the need for disadvantaged and diverse children to integrate into the community. I taught children from low-income families that barriers should have no bearing on getting involved with the community, and helped them build confidence and self-esteem. Prospect Street Housing Development, part of the Pawtucket Housing Authority, provides after school and summer enrichment activities for disadvantaged youth. Over the course of about two weeks, I taught a variety of hands-on craft lessons to children ranging in age from 4-14 and provided all of the materials needed. While doing the crafts, I got to know the kids and understood how they felt. I discussed with them how they can turn something fun, like making crafts, into a business.

The most successful aspect of the project was seeing the children's self-esteem and motivation increase while they worked to complete their projects. They felt part of a group, talked about starting their own businesses, made gifts for family members, and realized that they are capable of things they may never have tried.

Girl Scout member for 11 years. Barrington High School, 2014. I will be attending Providence College and hope to major in either education or humanities.

Special thanks to my mom for always believing in me and motivating me to never give up. Without you mom I would have never been able to achieve my Gold Award! Love you with all my heart!!!



Jane Carney Troop #926, Bristol, RI

OUT LOUD: A READER'S THEATRE WORKSHOP

Due to economic stress in my community and schools facing budget cuts, students are losing vital opportunities to take part in extra-curricular artistic activities. My project, a Reader's Theatre Workshop entitled "Out Loud", focused on the three main qualities every actor must have: flexibility, self-confidence, and courage. I worked with a group of 3rd to 5th graders to perform three short skits, each of which discussed one of the "acting pillars". At the end of the week we performed a show for the residents of the Rhode Island Veteran's Home, who enjoyed a free performance from the group of young actors. A manual I created, including lesson plan examples, theatrical terms, fun theatre games, copies of my scripts and photos of the kids in action, is available as a reference at the Rogers Free Library in Bristol and at Mt. Hope High School.

The most successful aspect of the project was the fact that it was a "win-win" situation. A truly remarkable experience is when both the teacher and students benefit, and I am proud to say that my workshop certainly helped me grow alongside the kids.



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Girl Scout member for 12 years. Mt. Hope High School, 2014. I will be attending Simmons College, majoring in communications and environmental science.

Special and sincere thank you to Mrs. Brzozowy, Mrs. Wainwright, the girls of Troop 926, and my family for supporting me and guiding me throughout my entire Girl Scout career. The memories we have created will not be forgotten.

Morgan Colvin Troop #744, North Scituate, RI

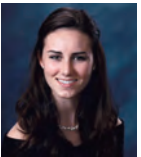
COMMUNITY REPURPOSING PROJECT

This project addressed the need for people in my community to become more mindful of the effect we have on our community's and planet's health. My intention was to demonstrate that it is possible to have a positive impact on the environment by repurposing materials that would otherwise be wasted, by growing things and purchasing locally grown food.

Since energy and raw materials are used in the making and transportation of CD cases, I asked people in my community to donate old cases, and repurposed them to create a mini greenhouse. I donated the greenhouse to a local third-grade class. Working with my peers from the National Energy Education Development (N.E.E.D) club at Scituate High School, I talked to third-graders about energy use and helped them plant gardens. I also ran the annual organic plant sale at my high school. The most successful aspect of the project was getting the elementary school students involved, so they have new understanding of energy use and the environment.

Girl Scout member for 10 years. Scituate High School, 2013. I am attending Ursinus College in Collegeville, PA and plan to major in biology with a minor in environmental studies.

Special thanks to my troop leader, Julie Lang, and my advisor, Shannon Donovan, for making this project possible.



Kerry Connolly Troop #437, Cumberland, RI

FRANKLIN FARM 5K

Franklin Farm is dependent on volunteers to plant and pick vegetables, which are donated to food pantries across the state. My project addressed the lack of knowledge my community had about the great work of the farm and all it does for the community and the state.

I organized a road race with an awareness campaign so that participants could run and show their support for the farm. This included advertising the event and getting supplies donated or loaned. I also made signs, with painted names and pictures of each of the seven vegetables grown on the farm. I put these along the race route, and later gave these to the farm to use when the race was over. I also created a binder with all of the necessary information to run the race again, so that making the



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race an annual event would be possible. The most successful part of my project was the huge turn-out for the race. More than 70 people ran and many of the participants and spectators were eager to volunteer for the next harvest season!

Girl Scout member for 13 years. Cumberland High School, 2014. I plan on attending Syracuse University and studying either international relations or chemistry.

Thank you to my troop, troop leaders, project advisor, and my parents! I would not have been able to complete this project without you! A special thank you to my troop leader Mrs. Jackson for all the encouragement and help with my project!



Elizabeth Cox Troop #462, Warren, RI

CLOTHING EXCHANGE

I found out that over 300 families receive food from the East Bay Food Pantry, and I thought about other needs these families had. I realized that in this economy, pay checks don't go as far as they used to. When people use their limited funds for essentials like food and heat, very little money is left to buy new clothes.

My project was a "Clothing Exchange", an event where clothing was donated, exchanged, and distributed to those in my community who needed it. Over 1,100 items of clothing were donated by members of the First Congregational Church, Girl Scout families, my family members, students at Mt. Hope High School, and the community on the day of the event. People received a ticket for every item of clothing they donated, which they could exchange for an item of clothing. Families who received food from the East Bay Food Pantry and living in the Women's Shelter also received free tickets to exchange. The most successful aspect of the Clothing Exchange was the fact that people who really needed clothing for themselves and their children were able to pick up what they needed without spending a dime.

Girl Scout member for 13 years. Mt. Hope High School, 2013. I am attending Community College of Rhode Island, studying marine biology with a minor in wild life conservation.

Special thanks to Mrs. Fisher and my parents for helping me achieve my Gold Award. I would never have done it without your support!



Alexa Darche Troop #55, North Scituate, RI

MUSEUM CONSERVATION

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants Museum had one paper copy of their archive that was outdated. My project was to create a digital archive that addressed the lack of organization within the museum's records. I entered all of the items listed on old insurance documents into an archiving software



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program called Past Perfect and updated several items that had incorrect information. Once all of the items were catalogued, I worked with my team to photograph almost 200 items to add to the archive. I taught the museum curator how to effectively use Past Perfect, so that she can keep the archive current and accurate. I presented my project at the Museum's board meeting. I also researched an item I found particularly interesting: a sword hilt from the 17th century that was found buried in the Museum's garden. I wrote an article about the sword that was published in the Museum's annual newsletter.

The most successful aspect of my project was completing the archive. For the first time in the history of the Museum, everything was accounted for in an easily accessible, digital format.

Girl Scout member for 10 years. Scituate High School, 2015. I would like to major in either electronic or chemical engineering in college.



Gianna Desrochers Troop #772, North Attleboro, MA

NORTH ATTLEBORO ANIMAL SHELTER MEMORIAL GARDEN

The issue my project addressed was how to cope with pet loss. For my project, I made the outside of the North Attleboro Animal Shelter more inviting by building a memorial garden, including beautiful perennials, a birdbath, three bird houses, a dog mailbox, stepping stones to a bench and a memorial rainbow bridge fence. I also created pamphlets that provide information on coping with the death of a pet, what the grief process is, and getting another pet. I shared the pamphlets with attendees at several shelter events.

The most successful aspect of my project is that the garden provides a place where people can reminisce about all of the great times they had with their pet.

Girl Scout member for 11 years. Bishop Feehan High School, 2015. I plan to study science and art in college.

A special thank you to my family and friends for being so supportive in helping me achieve my Girl Scout Gold Award.



Monique Desrochers Troop #772, North Attleboro, MA

PET CARE AND ADOPTION OF SHELTER ANIMALS

The issue my project addressed was the importance of shelter pet adoption and pet care. I created an awareness campaign to show people the positive effects of donating to the North Attleboro Animal Shelter and potentially adopting a shelter pet.

Following a recent renovation, the shelter had thrown out the cat scratching posts. Without a scratch post, cats in the shelter would resort to destroying



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their beds or blankets, so I designed, built and donated 14 cat scratching posts to the shelter. Signs that were used to advertise annual fundraising events and promote animal adoption were moldy and unkept, so I made several new signs and refurbished old signs. I also donated poster frames to help decorate the new building and created an "Adoption Awareness and Pet Care" pamphlet, which I distributed at several events and left for visitors. The most successful aspect of my project was making and refurbishing signs, because they helped to advertise fundraising events hosted by the animal shelter to raise money on a continual basis.

Girl Scout member for 12 years. Bishop Feehan High School, 2015. I hope to major in pre-veterinary medicine and biology.

Special thanks to my advisor Karen Fontneau for giving me the opportunity to achieve my Gold Project doing something that I am passionate about.



Sarah Dolan Troop #437, Cumberland, RI

GARDEN PAINTING

At the church I attend, Arnold Mills United Methodist, the atmosphere of the basement classrooms used for Sunday School was very bland and the education department did not have enough money to fund some of the projects included in the curriculum.

To address this need, I painted a mural in one of the classrooms to create a friendlier environment, brighten up the space and foster learning. I also held a bake sale to raise money to get supplies for the art and education departments. My troop helped me paint a garden scene; we filled the bottom of the wall with grass and daises, painted vines wrapping around a window, a frog and rabbit sitting together with a birch tree, and placed a bird's nest on top of a bulletin board. The centerpiece of the mural was a giant tree with blank branches. I invited congregation members to add their handprints to fill the tree with leaves. The mural was the most successful part of my project because the entire congregation was able to get involved. It shows the multiple generations of worshippers, and the classroom is a brighter space.

Girl Scout member for 9 years. Mount Saint Charles Academy, 2014. I aim to pursue a major in Creative Writing with a minor in Graphic Design.



Rebecca Fruggiero Troop #106, Cranston, RI

PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENT

Women who flee to The Women's Center of Rhode Island often arrive with their children and only the belongings they can carry. The goal of my project was to help these families during their stay by providing a cheerful and educational



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playground for the children who have been displaced.

I made improvements to an outdoor play area by painting new sidewalk games such as hopscotch, foursquare, and an educational map of the United States. I also donated a book that contained educational games, puzzles, and states and capitals to go along with the map. After months of hard work, I provided the Women's Center with a safe and updated play area for children of the residents. I can only hope that the work I put in will give the children some normalcy in their lives and inspire them to go out into the world and give back.

Girl Scout member for 13 years. Cranston High School West, 2014. I plan on attending Johnson & Wales University to study Sports/Entertainment/Event Management.

A special thanks to my parents and my troop for helping me achieve my Gold Award.



Elisabeth Iacono Troop #229, Bristol, RI

MUSIC MATTERS

Compared to their peers, students who play an instrument score higher on English and math tests, develop a better memory, improve their organizational skills, have better attendance in school, are more active in the community and are less likely to use drugs. In order to encourage incoming students to study music, I created two videos which highlight the music program in the Bristol-Warren School District.

One video, created for sixth graders at Kickemuit Middle School, discusses the types of instruments students can choose to play and the benefits of music education. The second video, created for freshman at Mt. Hope High School, explains the different music programs available to students, including marching band and other extracurricular music activities. To create these films, I shot and gathered photographs and footage, wrote a script, and assembled all the components into educational videos using editing software. The music teachers at both schools were very excited to use the videos and the greatest indicator of success will be if the enrollment in music programs increases over the next several years.

Girl Scout member for 10 years. Mt. Hope High School, 2014. I will be attending the University of New Hampshire, majoring in history.

Special thanks to my mom and dad, my advisor Melissa Labonte, and my troop leaders Laura Masterson and Jean McMullen for their advice and support.



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Alison Izzi Troop #529, Greenville, RI

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

My project addressed the issue of The Learning Place in Glocester (where I attended pre-school and kindergarten) not having an outdoor space to use for educational purposes. I transformed an existing play area into an outdoor classroom by incorporating a garden area for the students to grow plants, a digging area, a tic-tac-toe game built into the ground, a vine teepee to play in and watch grow, a butterfly house, bird houses to observe nesting and habits, natural wind chimes made from shells, and a place to sit for doing class work and projects. I scheduled several of my work days during summer camp weeks so the students could help and be proud and excited about their new space. I also created a book titled "What Will I See Here?" about the birds and butterflies that might visit, to help the students identify and learn about them.

The most successful aspect of this has been the positive impact on the teachers and students by providing the opportunity to introduce nature-based learning and promote a love for the environment in a fun outdoor space.

Girl Scout member for 10 years. Smithfield High School, 2015. I plan to major in meteorology in college.

Special thanks to Miss Bethany, my project advisor, for giving me the guidance and support I needed to successfully complete my project!



Kimberly Kelly Troop #563, Barrington, RI

READING FOR ALL: DESIGNING AND ASSEMBLING A LIBRARY AREA FOR INTERIM HOUSE

The primary objective of my project was to address the lack of books available to lower income families in inner-city areas. I helped to address this issue by creating a library at Interim House, a temporary shelter in Providence.

I transformed an unused office into an inviting, aesthetically pleasing library and resource center in which residents can now obtain books, read, do homework, create artwork, and hold workshops and meetings. In an attempt to make the room inviting, especially to children, I designed and painted a large mural. I designed a space that included a table and chairs, a desk with a computer and printer, an area housing art supplies and creative games, and floating shelves for books. I also engaged friends, scout troops, churches and other organizations to collect over 1,000 books. The mural I painted was the most successful aspect of my project because it is the defining feature, as it sets the mood for the room and welcomes residents into the space.

Girl Scout member for 12 years. Barrington High School, 2015. I plan on majoring in engineering in college and obtaining a minor in Spanish.

Special thanks to my advisor, troop leader, family, and friends for their helping me complete my project. You were all so instrumental in helping me get this done, and you made the journey fun. Thank you!



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Suzanne Kunitz Troop #563, Barrington, RI

KREATIVITY IN THE KEY PROGRAM

Due to budget restrictions and lack of volunteers, youth in the Key Program, which provides services under the Rhode Island Department of Child, Youth and Families (DCYF), do not generally have access to creative programs. To address this, I facilitated four photography and four sewing courses for girls in the program.

The curriculum I developed sought to graduate the girls from basic skills to more complex ones so that by the end of each course, the girls could use a sewing machine on their own and complex settings on cameras. I also created a Power Point presentation for each course, which includes all of my lesson plans and can be used as a reference. By sharing my project with the community, I was able to obtain second-hand equipment, which was used during the course. At the end of the course, each participant was able to take a camera or a sewing machine home so they could continue using the skills that I taught them during the class. The most successful aspect of my project was the girl's sense of empowerment and their excitement over the creative projects they made.

Girl Scout member for 12 years. Barrington High School, 2015. I hope to pursue a major in science and would like to teach and continue to help people.

I would like to my parents and my troop for constantly supporting me. Also, HUGE thanks to Ms. Jacobs for encouraging me through both Silver and Gold.



Melissa Mirza Troop #772, North Attleboro, MA

DON'T LABEL US AS CRAZY

My community was in desperate need of mental health awareness because it is a huge problem faced by teens, but no one wants to talk about it. My project addressed teenage depression and suicide prevention and also touched on self-harm and eating disorders.

I created a performance entitled "Trapped", which included various art forms such as dancing, singing, poetry, and acting. I put up posters about my project to advertise the performance around my town and school. Trapped was performed at North Attleboro High School and told the stories of two fictional high school students who were suffering from depression, and their roads to recovery. Following the performance, Annemarie Matulis from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health spoke about the signs and symptoms of suicide. The most successful aspect of my project was that people learned more about mental health problems faced by teens, learned how to recognize signs and symptoms of suicide, and it seemed like they would pay more attention to mental health problems.



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Girl Scout member for 12 years. North Attleboro High School, 2014. I will be studying physical therapy in college, and hopefully minoring in dance.

Special thanks to my mom for putting up with me, being there for me, and supporting me throughout my project



Rachel Kathryn Nunes Troop #959, Richmond, RI

THE GOLDEN EAGLE NATURE WALK

My project addressed the need to clean the Ashaway Elementary School Nature Walk after damage from Hurricane Sandy and heavy snowfall. In conjunction with a local Boy Scout Eagle Scout project, we cleaned the nature trail, clearing debris, repairing damage, and replacing the benches. I also took leaves from trees along the path and used them to make an interactive book of local trees which can be used by teachers at the elementary school to educate students.

The most successful aspects of my project were the refurbishment and replacement of the benches, and the book. The original benches were completely rotted out and covered in graffiti, and the new ones are wider, sturdier, and much nicer looking. The book is brightly colored and kid-friendly.

Girl Scout member for 12 years. Chariho Regional High School, 2013. I am attending the University of Rhode Island with a triple major in journalism, political science and French.

I'd like to thank Boy Scout Troop 112 and my project partner Steve Anderson for their part in my project. The biggest thank you to my mom, without her I never would have finished my Gold Award.



Amelia O'Rourke Troop #47, Providence, RI

CELEBRATING ALL ABILITIES

My Gold Award project addressed the need in the community for more tolerance, understanding, and acceptance of people with disabilities. I have viewed first-hand children, teenagers, and adults who do not fully understand or accept people with disabilities treat someone with a disability as unequal to themselves.

I created a curriculum and guidebook for parents and teachers of elementary-aged children to help them teach tolerance and acceptance in their classrooms and homes. The curriculum includes a brief description of several major disabilities children may have, worksheets, activities, discussion questions, coloring pages, and reading lists for specific disabilities to help teach children to value their own abilities and respect and celebrate the different abilities of their peers. I also created a website to share the curriculum and information I had gathered with the public. Another successful aspect of the curriculum were the reading lists. I was able to discover and preview hundreds of books about all different kinds of



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disabilities, and format them into lists that teachers have found very helpful.

Girl Scout member for 13 years. Classical High School, 2014. I am planning on getting both my Bachelor's and Master's degrees in social work.

I would like to thank my two Girl Scout leaders, my mom and my "second mom". Thank you both for being shining examples of living out the Girl Scout law everyday with happiness and love.



Angela Paoletta Troop #162, Hope, RI

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

The need in the community that my project addressed was the issue of educating children about physical and mental impairments, disabilities, and other conditions, and instilling acceptance and understanding. I held an interactive workshop, which included five stations, each representing a disability, impairment, or other condition. Children ages 4-14 rotated through these stations and participated in a fun and educational game or activity. I created several posters, including a tongue twister poster for the speech impairments station, a sign language poster for the hearing impairments station, and a poster of scrambled words for the dyslexia station. Each participant in my workshop was sent home with a brochure that I created to spread the knowledge of the disabilities and impairments that were focused on in my project.

The blindness and vision impairments station was the most successful aspect of my project. Participants were able to more realistically empathize with blind people when faced with the challenge of the obstacles. The children who attended the workshop experienced how people with disabilities feel and were able to better understand people.

Girl Scout member for 11 years. Coventry High School, 2015. I plan to study science, specifically chemistry or chemical engineering, in college.

I would like to thank Donna Edgerley, Biz Hoogerzeil, and my parents for all of their support and enthusiasm.



Janelle Platt Troop #888, Cumberland, RI

GET FIT AND HAVE FUN! EDUCATION PROGRAM

My project addressed the growing number of children with obesity and children's lack of physical activity and healthy eating. As electronics, junk food, and other unhealthy habits consume the lives of many kids I know, I knew it was important to educate these children about ways to have fun and live a healthy life.

In order to fix this issue, I created a series of health and wellness classes designed for 5-10 year olds who attend the Boys and Girls Club of Cumberland-Lincoln. I worked with the activities director to create a curriculum that was both fun



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and beneficial to the children. I designed three instructional classes about topics such as healthy eating and the food pyramid, and three hands-on classes: Zumba for children, yoga, and strengthening, all taught by professional instructors with my assistance. The most successful aspect of my project was being able to educate children in my community in a fun and positive way.

Girl Scout member for 11 years. Cumberland High School, 2013. I am currently a freshman at Worcester State University, enrolled in the Honors Masters Program of Occupational Therapy.

Special thanks to my wonderful family for always having my back and supporting me in all that I take on in my life. Also, thank you to my awesome troop leader, Melanie Madden, for making this whole experience so enjoyable and bringing together a group of girls that I now proudly call my friends.



Helen Prates Troop #563, Barrington, RI

LIFE SKILLS CLASSES

Many of the girls under the care of the Key Program, an organization tied into the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services, do not have a lot of family support or many resources. The issue that I addressed was the need for these youth to acquire some essential life skills.

I taught an 8-week Life Skills Course to high-school aged girls in the program, which covered topics including cooking, fitness, self-confidence, etiquette, hygiene, job interview/resumes, relationship skills, and school/studying skills. I created a lesson plan for each class and arranged for the girls to attend a Zumba class taught by a certified instructor. Through donations and personal purchases, I was able to provide a number of items to the girls who participated in the classes including backpacks, school supplies, hygiene products and gym bags. I also created a Power Point to serve as a reference for those who took the course. The two classes I felt were most successful were the self-confidence and fitness classes. Through the classes I taught, I was able to provide participants with a number of the tools that will aid them as they become independent adults.

Girl Scout member for 7 years. Barrington High School, 2015. I plan to pursue a career as a physical therapist.

Special thanks to my troop leader, Ms. Jacobs, for supporting me throughout these many years, and especially, for guiding me towards my Gold Award. Thank you for believing in me.



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Isoke Samuel Troop #229, Bristol, RI



FROM TRASH TO TREASURE

In today's society we waste and throw away valuable materials. The goal of my project was to teach children that recycling is fun and that things that are thrown away on a daily basis can actually be used for a greater purpose.

From Trash to Treasure was a week-long summer program designed to teach kids how to transform trash into beautiful works of art. I began each day with a brief lesson and then I instructed the kids on how to do each project. The children learned to make cereal box tote bags, bracelets from straws and newspaper, piggy banks from water bottles and much more. They learned the skill of creative thinking, such as learning to see water bottles as beautiful bald eagle structures. I also created a binder and DVD with step-by-step instructions for each of my projects, which is available as a resource at the Roger's Free Library. The most successful aspect of my project was seeing how the attitudes of the children changed toward recycling, because they learned the benefits of recycling and how much fun it can be.

Girl Scout member for 9 years. Lincoln School, 2014. I hope to major in journalism in college.

Thank you Ms. Masterson, Dr. Iacono and Mrs. McMullen for your leadership in helping me to achieve this award. Words cannot express how much the past 9 years has meant to me!

Olivia Thornton Troop #426, Barrington, RI



COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S GARDEN

My project addressed the community's need for a functional children's garden. To do this, I worked with the Audubon Society to design and create a children's garden located at the Fisherville Brook Audubon Society in Exeter. In order to create a place where children could go to learn about gardening and plants, I first cleared the area of debris, trash and invasive plants. Then I built, arranged, and installed sturdy flowerbeds with weed protective linings, created a butterfly garden, a rainbow garden, a miniature garden, an annual/shade garden, and a box for just dirt, and made an existing waterfall more functional. I also created signs for each flower bed, explaining the reasoning behind their creation and the purpose of the garden.

The most successful aspect of my project is that each of the flowerbeds I created can be used to teach various programs, to multiple age groups, for years to come. The area is frequently used for programs, is age-appropriate, and the children who use it can learn about the outdoors, local wildlife, plants and the animals that each of the plants attracts.



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Girl Scout member for 12 years. Barrington High School, 2013. I am attending the University of Rhode Island, majoring in theater.

A very special thanks to my incredible leaders and the wonderful girls in my troop. Without all of your support, help, and encouragement I would never have gotten to where I am today.



Amanda Way Troop #28, Cranston, RI

WAITING WITHOUT WORRY

To many who visit the Miriam Hospital, the hospital seems like an uninviting place. As a volunteer in the transport unit at the hospital, I noticed a need for different sorts of things for people to do while waiting or visiting.

I assessed what these activities should be by making observations and asking people of all age groups what they would want available to keep their minds occupied. I came up with different activities and items for different areas of the hospital, including crosswords, puzzles, books and magazines for those waiting, toys and pieces of fabric for geriatric patients to keep their hands busy, and wallets with fake money for older patients with memory problems. I found materials by going to yard sales, the recycling center, and asking those in my community, and met with Infection Control to make sure that the activities would not cause germs to be spread. The activities are now available for all to use. I helped the geriatric unit substantially and now patients can keep busy with materials and activities, which is something the unit wanted to implement for a long time.

Girl Scout member for 14 years. Cranston High School East, 2013. I am currently attending Brown University, in the 8-year Program for Liberal Medical Education, concentrating in Neuroscience.



Haley Wohlever Troop #563, Barrington, RI

BLAZING THE WAY: HIKING TRAIL DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Between 1986 and 2003, the Town of Barrington purchased three adjacent parcels of undeveloped land which had been allotted for conservation use. My project aimed at providing a safe recreational area for community members to enjoy.

I met with a number of interested individuals and community groups, researched how to design walking trails and conducted numerous site visits. In order to collect field data, I used Barrington's Trimble handheld GPS device and learned the software program AutoCAD. My trail design went through a number of iterations and in the end I proposed three distinct, but interconnected trails, that could be implemented in separate phases. My project culminated with my



GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

presentation to the Town of Barrington Conservation Commission, who accepted my Walking Trails Design and 5-Year Implementation Plan, and will work with a number of the groups I involved in the project to ensure the trails are implemented over the next several years. One of the most successful aspects of my project was flagging Trail I along-side a number of interested community members.

Girl Scout member for 12 years. Barrington High School, 2015. I plan to attend a four-year college and major in engineering in order to pursue by interests in this field.

I am indebted to my leaders, Kim Jacobs and Jo Ann Kunitz, and my adviser, Cyndee Fuller, who helped make this journey an incredible experience. Also, a huge thank you to my girl scout sisters, Kim, Suzy, and Helen – I'm glad we went on this quest together.



Congratulations
Rebecca!

We are so very proud
of you and your
amazing
accomplishments.

With all our love,
Mom, Dad, Michael and Rob



**Congratulations
Bolt!!!**

**We are so proud of you,
and we love you very
much.**



Mom, Dad,
Patrick, Emmet and Joseph

CONGRATULATIONS 2014 Gold Award Recipients



Isoke Samuel and Elisabeth Iacono
from your very proud Leaders and sister
Scouts in Troop 229



Congratulations
Lexi on achieving
your Silver Award!

We are so
proud of you.

Love, Mom, Dad
and Christian



Dear Taylor,

Congratulations on
earning your
Silver Award.

We are so proud of your
accomplishments.

From Your Loving Family

Congratulations Elisabeth & Laura On Gold & Silver!

Love Mom
& Dad



SILVER AWARD RECIPIENTS

Brenna Carney

Troop #306, Pawtucket, RI

Sofia Casale

Troop #433, Cumberland, RI

Hannah Champ

Troop #826, Westerly, RI

Emma Collins

Troop #119, Wood River Junction, RI

Haylee Cooper

Troop #1077, Westport, MA

Maia Correll

Troop #259, Saunderstown, RI

Kaelin Costa

Troop #900, Warren, RI

Kate DeBoer

Troop #431, Wakefield, RI

Sarah Deyo

Troop #873, Attleboro, MA

Kathrine Esten

Troop #1019, Somerset, MA

Alexandria Evers

Troop #373, Cumberland, RI

Katelin Fish

Troop #264, East Greenwich, RI

Emily Foley

Troop #306, Pawtucket, RI

Hanna Gordon

Troop #900, Warren, RI

Sarah Hackey

Troop #863, Wakefield, RI

Laura Iacono

Troop #900, Bristol, RI

Sarah Jager

Troop #259, Saunderstown, RI

Lauren Kellerman

Troop #96, Warwick, RI

Elysandra Larlham

Troop #431, Wakefield, RI

Sabrina Lemire

Troop #363, Pawtucket, RI

Nicole Lewis

Troop #873, Attleboro, MA

Rosalind Lucier

Troop #431, Wakefield, RI

Taylor Marsella

Troop #200, Cranston, RI

Cheyenne McGuire

Troop #779, North Scituate, RI

Brooke McLaughlin

Troop #390, Cumberland, RI

Jacqueline Ray

Troop #415, Cumberland, RI

Danielle Robinson

Troop #431, West Kingston, RI

Sarah Russell

Troop #900, Warren, RI

Bianna Santiago

Troop #873, Attleboro, MA

Lily Sneesby

Troop #87, Providence, RI

Jaclyn Steen

Troop #264, East Greenwich, RI

Samanatha Swerdlow

Troop #415, Cumberland, RI

Angela Xu

Troop #87, North Providence, RI

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on receiving
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SPECIAL THANKS



Cierra Putman, Master of Ceremonies

Before moving to Rhode Island, Cierra worked in Rochester New York for WROC. In Rochester, Cierra covered a multitude of stories that included the Kodak's bankruptcy announcement, the mysterious illness of teenage girls in LeRoy and the numerous pieces on how New York schools response to the growing bullying problem. She's now ready to make her mark here in Southern New England.

Around town, you may see Cierra in black and gold - the colors of her alma mater the University of Missouri - School of Journalism. It's at Mizzou that she made her on air debut as a reporter on the NBC affiliate KOMU.

Originally from Southern Illinois, Cierra made two decisions at an early age - she wanted to be a storyteller and discover new places and people. Since graduating high school, she's worked to make that dream a reality by interning at the NBC London News Bureau to moving down South and then to the Northeast for reporting positions. In each new place, she's learned everyone has a story to tell and the only thing that changes is the scenery.

Whether in Texas, New York or Rhode Island now, Cierra loves learning more about the local community and what matters to the people in it.



Bonnie Bryden, Videographer

A special thanks to Bonnie, who again this year volunteered to shoot and edit the Gold Award videos for the Young Women of Distinction Award.

Bonnie Bryden earned her Bachelors Degree in TV production from Eastern Connecticut State University and her Masters Degree in journalism from Emerson College. Bonnie is currently employed at WPRI 12, where she has used her schooling to fill many jobs at the TV station including audio operator, videotape operator and studio camera/floor director. Her most recent position is working with The Rhode Show, Ch. 12's morning lifestyle show.

Bonnie began in Girl Scouting as a Brownie, earned her Gold Award in 1999, volunteered with the Girl Scouts of Connecticut Studio 2B program while in college, and worked with the Eastern Massachusetts council to do a mini documentary as part of her Masters Degree. The lessons she learned in Girl Scouts and the friendships she made remain part of her life today.



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HIGHER AWARDS COMMITTEE



We are grateful to the dedicated volunteers who make up the Higher Awards Committee (HAC):

- ▶ **Tricia Driscoll, Barrington, RI.** Tricia was a Girl Scout in North Kingstown, was a member of the GSRI staff for 5 years, and directed Camp Hoffman from 1995-1998, where she is currently the Sailing Director. Tricia is a lifetime member of Girl Scouts and has been a member of the HAC since 2010.
- ▶ **Carolyn Dyer, Narragansett, RI.** Carolyn celebrated 40 years of Girl Scout membership in 2013, having been a girl member, a leader, a service team member and a trainer. Carolyn is an Outstanding Leader Award recipient, an Appreciation Pin recipient, and was the recipient of the Kit Hammett Award. Carolyn's served on the HAC for 9 years.
- ▶ **Claire Fabrizio, Cumberland, RI.** Claire celebrated 46 years of Girl Scout membership this year. During those years, Claire was a troop leader, a camping consultant, a program aide trainer, and served on both the Council Nominating Committee and the Council Adult Recognitions Committee. Claire is a recipient of the Appreciation Pin and the Outstanding Volunteer Award and was appointed to the HAC in 1994.
- ▶ **Ann Ganley, Attleboro, MA.** Ann was a troop leader for 7 years and served on the Attleboro Service Unit Team as the Camping Coordinator. She's been a trainer since 2007. She is also the co-founder coordinator for Attleboro GoeS, and outdoor adventure and travel group. She has been a member of the HAC since 2012.
- ▶ **Kim Michalik, Chepachet, RI.** Kim was a troop leader for 16 years and served as a service team member for 12 years. She's been a membership, product sales and a program coordinator and is currently a trainer, the service unit manager for Yankee B and a member of the newly created Volunteer Advisory Board. Kim is an Outstanding Leader recipient, received the Kit Hammett award in 2012, an Appreciation Pin recipient in 2013 and the Honor Pin recipient in 2014. Kim's served on the HAC since 2011.
- ▶ **Christine Stevens, North Kingstown, RI.** Christine celebrated 25 years as a Girl Scout in 2013, having been a girl member in Pittsburgh, where she was a First Class Scout, and a volunteer in Rhode Island for the past 15 years. She was a troop co-leader for 10 years, graduating several girls with their Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. She continues to serve as the Membership Coordinator for North Kingstown/Jamestown, and has been a trainer for 10. Chris is a recipient of the Appreciation Pin and a member of the HAC since 2010.
- ▶ **Carole Ann Young, Pawtucket, RI.** Carole celebrates 45 years of Girl Scout membership this year, was a girl member, troop leader, Business Director and Camp Director at Camp Cookie, and has served on the Council Nominating Committee, Adult Recognitions Committee and Volunteer Management Task Force. Her awards are numerous: the Appreciation Pin, the Honor Pin, co-recipient of the Mira Hoffman Award, and most recently the Thanks Badge. She currently serves as the Service Unit Manager for Pawtucket, is a Trainer, Ranger and is on the Camp Hoffman Museum Committee. Carole has served on the HAC since 1997.

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Gilbane congratulates all the Girl Scouts who have achieved their Gold Award in 2014. We are honored to be a sponsor of the Girl Scouts of Rhode Island's Gold Award Ceremony.

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