



girl scouts
of south carolina
mountains to midlands

12

Leadership
Line

It's Girl Scout Cookie Time!



*Girl Scouting builds girls of courage,
confidence, and character, who
make the world a better place.*

WINTER 2016



It's Girl Scout Cookie Time!



Girl Scouts of South Carolina – Mountains to Midlands has launched its annual cookie sales program. This is the largest girl-led business in the country and generates over \$700 million for girls and communities nationwide.

Door-to-door, pre-order sales began January 8 with delivery in mid-late February. Sales dates at local retail locations, when customers can buy directly, are weekends from February 19 through March 13.

Once again, the girl entrepreneurs will be able to sell cookies to consumers through the revolutionary, digital technology program that was introduced last year called Digital Cookie. Using a mobile app, girls can create and manage their sales online and customers can enjoy the convenience of having cookies shipped directly to them and paying via a credit card on a smart phone or tablet.

Kim Hutzell, President/CEO, Girl Scouts of South Carolina – Mountains to Midlands, states, "Through the Digital Cookie platform, a game-changing upgrade to the iconic Girl Scout Cookie Program, girls have more ways than ever to connect with their customers, and are able to dig deeper into the economics of cookie selling by forecasting troop earnings and analyzing sales data."

Shortbread, Thin Mints, Thanks-a-Lot and Trios. Lemonades are in the spotlight this year because it is their 10th anniversary!

Our girls have been exceptionally successful with this sales program. They sell an average of 242 boxes each as compared to the national average of 179 boxes. For the past eight years, M2M has seen a 30 percent composite sales growth. In addition, last year our council had zero inventory at the end of last year's sales period – one of only four councils buying from ABC Bakers. Girl Scouts are definitely excelling at the five business skills experienced through the cookie program: business ethics, decision making, goal setting, money management, and people skills.

For the first time in over a decade, the price of a package of cookies has increased by 50 cents to \$4.00 a box. The council has been absorbing inflated costs as long as possible but is now raising its price to cover the cost of continued ingredient and transportation increases. One hundred percent of the net revenue earned from the cookie sales remain with, and is utilized for, the girls throughout the 22 counties of the Girl Scouts of South Carolina – Mountains to Midlands council.

As in years past, Cookies for Soldiers will be our collective project of service. Customers can buy cookies that will be shipped to our military members.

The returning popular cookies are:
Caramel deLites, Cranberry Citrus Crisps, Lemonades, Peanut Butter Patties, Peanut Butter Sandwich,

For more information:
www.gssccookies.org
1-800-849-4475



Trios
Gluten Free

*\$5.00 per package. Available only during direct/booth sales (while supplies last)



Lemonades™



Caramel deLites®



Cranberry Citrus
Crisps



Peanut Butter
Patties®



Peanut Butter
Sandwich



Thin Mints®



Shortbread



Thanks-A-Lot®



A NOTE from Rebecca and Kim

A new year is always filled with promise and possibility, and with fresh opportunities to learn, grow, and inspire. Thanks to the generous support of you, our volunteers, members, donors, supporters, and friends, we are especially excited about what is in store for our council in 2016! Three brief highlights below are also covered by detailed stories elsewhere in this newsletter:

First, to ensure we deliver the most outstanding service and programs approved by the Board, we have increased our staffing by 27%. This has been made possible by reinvesting surplus funds from prior years to achieve council priorities. The extensive backgrounds and strong references of our new staff members are stellar and we couldn't be more thrilled to have them join the team.

Second, it is the 100th anniversary of the Highest Achievement in Girl Scouting. Now called the Gold Award, we will be celebrating the achievements of Gold Award recipients throughout our council during the year. Partnering with our sister council, Girl Scouts of Eastern South Carolina, we are planning both statewide and local events that will showcase the hundreds of Take-Action community service projects completed by current Girl Scouts and alumnae.

Third, we are making strong headway in our *She Sees the Future* plan. Approved by the Board of Directors in 2009, this Long-Range Program and Property Plan was created to best align property to meet the program needs and wishes of our girls. The plan includes the needed remodeling of some properties. The Spartanburg Service Center was the first to be remodeled in 2015. Columbia remains on the calendar for 2016 and Greenville is scheduled for 2017.

There is so much more we are excited about but we'll save that for the next newsletter. In the meantime, please log onto www.gssc-mm.org to get updates on our programs and ways you can get involved.

Thank you for all you do to support Girl Scouts!



Rebecca Lever
Chair, Board of Directors



Kim Hutzell
President/CEO

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 8 - March 13
COOKIE PROGRAM

February 22
CAMP REGISTRATION OPENS

February 22
WORLD THINKING DAY

February 26-28
NATIONAL COOKIE WEEKEND

March 6-12
GIRL SCOUT WEEK

March 12
GIRL SCOUTS' BIRTHDAY

April 14
WOMEN OF DISTINCTION
COLUMBIA

April 22
GIRL SCOUT LEADER'S DAY

April 30
COUNCIL ADULT RECOGNITION
CELEBRATION

June 14
HIGHEST AWARD CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION
US CAPITOL

BOARD of DIRECTORS

**Welcome to our newest
Board members!**



**Seven new members
have been elected as new
Board Members At-Large
beginning January 1, 2016
for a two-year term.**



Ruth Cate, Spartanburg, is an attorney with her own firm, The Cate Law Firm. She has a B.A. from the University of South Carolina and a J.D. from the University of South Carolina Law School.

Ruth is a previous board member for Girl Scouts of South Carolina – Mountains to Midlands, serving from 2007-2010. Prior to that, Ruth served on the board of the legacy Piedmont Area Council from 1998 to 2007 and as a member of the Council Realignment Committee from 2006-2007. She serves on the Board of Trustees for USC Upstate Foundation, the Board of Advisors for Wells Fargo and on the South Carolina Family Law Council. She has also served in leadership roles on the Board of the Spartanburg Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Governors for the University of South Carolina Alumni Association, and on the Board of Trustees for the Mary Black Foundation. Ruth was named a 2014 Karen Mitchell Woman of Distinction by our council. Ruth says, "I love Girl Scouts. Always have and always will. I love the fact that it empowers girls and ultimately women and that it provides lots of fun. I love the emphasis on courage and character and confidence."



Meghan Hickman, Columbia, is COO of Sagacious Partners. She has a B.A. Public Relations with a minor in Political Science from University of South Carolina Honors College. Meghan serves as Executive

Director EngenuitySC, Midlands; board member Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce; board member R212 Advisory Board; board member Richland Two Superintendents Council; volunteer with St. Lawrence Place; and life member University of South Carolina Alumni Association. Meghan says, "There are few causes more worthy or time better spent than developing the young women of South Carolina to be more confident, capable leaders. As a board member, I will be a committed champion for the cause and I will offer my unique abilities to enhance the vision of success in the years to come."



Phonacia Hughes, Columbia, is a Design Engineer at V.C. Summer Nuclear Generating Station. She received a B.S. Engineering from the University of South Carolina. Phonacia earned her Girl Scout

Gold Award in 2010 and currently serves as a panelist on the council's Gold Award Committee. She is a member of Women in Nuclear and the North American Young Generation in Nuclear. She is an active member of Divine Expressions of Worship. Phonacia says, "I served as a Girl Scout in the Mountains to Midlands Council for 13 years and have volunteered periodically

after high school. Now as an adult, I would like to continue my service as a board member in an effort to contribute to the betterment of the Council."



Leon Lott, Columbia, is Sheriff of Richland County. He earned an Associate and Bachelor Degrees in Sociology at the University of South Carolina. He is a graduate of Harvard University's John F.

Kennedy School of Government as well as the FBI Academy and the Riley Institute at Furman University Diversity Leadership Academy. Sheriff Lott is a Brigadier General in the South Carolina Military Department. He previously served as Chief of Police of St. Matthews, SC. Sheriff Lott has received numerous awards, a few of which are Honorary Defense Force Commander – 169th Security Forces Squadron; Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award – ESGR; DEA/DARE American Law Enforcement Executive of the Year; and Human Rights Presidential Citation, SC NAACP.



Meredith Manning, Columbia, is Assistant Vice President and Senior Deputy General Counsel at BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina. She has a B.A. in Political Science from Agnes Scott

College and a J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law. Meredith is a Sustaining Member of the Junior League of Columbia. She has also served as board member and chairman of Sandhills



School; Youth Committee member and chairwoman at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral; and was a member of Leadership Columbia. Meredith tells us, "As a farmer's daughter, I grew up as a tomboy and loved hunting, fishing and all outdoor activities. I was taught to respect and treasure the wonders of God's creation. At age 6, I began attending a small rustic girls camp located near Hendersonville, NC during the summers. From a camper to a counselor and instructor, I spent my youth and young adult time here, forging lifelong friendships with other girls, learning independence, the value of teamwork and the tests of nature and competition. These camping years shaped my spiritual and personal development and growth."



Phyllis Ward Rich, Anderson, is Sales Director with Fisher-Price. She has a B.A. with a Major in Economics and a Minor in Math from Spelman College. Phyllis has served as a mentor for Anderson

School District 5; an oratorical advisor for Anderson County Congress of Christian Education; and a youth advisor with St. Paul Baptist church in Anderson. Phyllis states, "I believe that the Girl Scout organization is a great place to affect positive change in young ladies...such as building confidence, teaching responsibility, and providing good mentors. I believe I can be a productive member, especially as it pertains to advocating in the Anderson area."



Liz Stewart, Aiken, is founder and President of the consulting firm Stewart and Associates, Inc. She has undergraduate degrees in Spanish, French, and Education from the University of Florida, a Master's degree in Psychology, a Ph.D. in Economics, and a law degree. Extremely active in her community, Dr. Stewart is the current past Chair of the United Way of Aiken County board; the Chair for the Public Education Partners board; current past Chair for the Savannah River Cancer Foundation and is incoming chair-elect of Savannah River Site Heritage Foundation board. She serves on the SCANA Advisory Board, is a member of the American Association of University women, and serves as an Assistant Governor for Rotary. She was the first USC Aiken School of Business Administration Executive-in-Residence and in 2014 received the USC Aiken Distinguished Partner award. Dr. Stewart says, "I believe the programs developed by Girl Scouts do a great deal to instill self-confidence. This is so necessary today to help young women make good decisions as teenagers that will impact their lives forever. As an entrepreneur, I am especially drawn to the wonderful opportunity to learn valuable skills through the process of selling cookies."

Board of Directors officers returning for 2016:



Chair
Rebecca H. Lever
Greer



Vice Chair
Karen Luchka Wingo
Columbia



**Secretary/
Treasurer**
Hammond E. Edwards III
Columbia

Returning Board Members At-Large are: Laura Allen, Spartanburg; Lillian Brock Flemming, Greenville; Bridget Bennon-Lytton, Columbia; Reed Brown, Gaffney; Michelle Hunt, Spartanburg; Kimbrelly Kegler, Greenville; Karen Mitchell, Spartanburg; Magaly Penn, Greenville; Miriam Pflug, Spartanburg; Bonnie "Boo" Ramage, Greenwood; Linda Renwick, Newberry; Linda Salane, Columbia; Mary Winter Teaster, Columbia; and Jacqueline "Bootsie" Wynne, Lexington.

Girl Scouts went *Back in the Woods*

Approximately 400 Girl Scouts and adults went Back in the Woods at Camp Mary Elizabeth, Spartanburg, on Saturday, October 24. Girl Scout Brownies (grades 2-3) and Juniors (grades 4-5) had the choice of traditional and non-traditional activities such as wall climbing, Zumba, horse care, yoga, stream and ecology, fire building and outdoor cooking.

Outdoor programming has long been at the core of the Girl Scout experience, establishing the organization as a national leader and advocate in getting girls outside to help them develop valuable skills and an appreciation for the natural world. In support of that commitment, five new outdoor badges were added to the Girl Scout Leadership Experience program last year. The badge program has always been one of the cornerstones of Girl Scouts and its research shows that there is a connection between outdoor experiences and girls' understanding of their leadership potential.

First held in 2012, Back in the Woods founding sponsor, volunteer Nancy Anderson states, "At a time when many young people are so plugged into the latest technology that they lack outdoor experiences, this is an opportunity for them to explore nature and the outdoors at its finest – to be so close to a horse they can feel its gentle breath, leaves floating down a creek, and to GPS to find their way on unknown trails."

Nancy Anderson founded the Back in the Woods program in 2012.

Girls prepare to explore the stream area while pretending to be animals in the ecosystem.



Celebrating 100 Years of Changing the World

1916-2016



2016 is the year of celebrating 100 years of the highest honor in Girl Scouting. For the last century, millions of Girl Scout alumnae have created, developed, and executed "Take Action" projects that have positively impacted their communities and the world, earning Girl Scouts' highest award.

Since 1916, Girl Scouts have been making meaningful, sustainable changes in their communities and around the world. The Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest honor a Girl Scout can earn, acknowledges the power behind each recipient's dedication to not only empowering and bettering herself, but also to making the world a better place for others.

The Power of the Girl Scout Gold Award: Excellence in Leadership and Life, a research study by the Girl Scout Research Institute (GSRI), reaffirms the lifetime benefits award recipients receive pertaining to positive sense of self, life satisfaction, leadership, life success, community service, and civic engagement. Girl Scouts is excited to celebrate 100 years of Girl Scout Gold Award excellence, innovation, and visionary leadership in 2016, and to continue empowering future generations of girls to follow their dreams, discover their passions, and make a global impact.

The GSRI report also highlights that those who have earned Girl Scouts' highest award feel they have had success in their lives (95 percent), their education (94 percent), their careers (92 percent), and their financial life (78 percent) because of the unique and powerful experiences they had access to through Girl Scouting.

In 2015 our council had 29 hard-working Girl Scouts complete an average of 110 hours each to meet all the Gold Award requirements (minimum hours required is 80).

Collectively, this represents 3,190 hours of planning and executing sustainable "take action" projects in response to pressing community needs.



One recipient was Zakiya Geter. She states, "The issue that my project addressed was helping parents living with children at St. Lawrence Place, a homeless shelter in Columbia. To help them transition into the community equipped to succeed as self-sufficient citizens, I conducted

four self-help presentations for children and I presided over workshops conducted by professional presenters for parents: educational workshops on coupon clipping, basic finance, professionalism and health and nutrition."

The Gold Award was formerly known as the Golden Eagle of Merit, Golden Eaglet, Curved Bar and First Class. And it's not just Girl Scouts who understand the value of the Gold Award. Many universities and colleges offer scholarships unique to award recipients, and girls who enlist in the U.S. armed forces may receive advanced rank in recognition of their achievements.

Be on the watch for more information about ways you can participate in 2016 events throughout our council in to celebrate 100 year of the highest Girl Scout award.



#GSSCMMGold100

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

Girl Scout Madeleine Mitchell gained media experience while giving a WSPA 7 News interview about the open house.



Many thanks to the Open House planning committee volunteers (L-R): Charlene Dillard, Crystal Streacker, Stephanie Wofford and Carolyn Harbison





L-R: Rebecca Lever, Chair, Board of Directors; Joan "Corky" Powell and Lynn Knoepp, both former legacy Board Members; Cathy McCabe, former Board Member; Karen Mitchell, current Board Member; Ruth Cate, former and returning Board Member; Kim Hutzell, President/CEO.

SPARTANBURG SERVICE CENTER

Remodel

The Future is Here!

As part of its Long-Range Program and Property Plan (LRPP), our Spartanburg Service Center completed its remodel in late August. Based on the feedback of volunteers, the remodel includes a more modern, comfortable environment that offers after-hours training and meeting space, a resource library and computer access.

The remodel had been in the works since the LRPP was approved by the Board of Directors in 2009. The plan is appropriately called She Sees the Future. When Girl Scouts of South Carolina – Mountains to Midlands was formed in 2007 through the merger of three councils and three counties from another council, we also acquired various properties throughout our new 22-county jurisdiction. The Plan was created to best align property to meet the program needs and wishes of our girls. The Plan included selling and purchasing properties, and this is the first property to be remodeled.

If you happen to be in the neighborhood, and haven't seen it yet, be sure to drop by at 349 E. Blackstock Road, Spartanburg 29301.

The Spartanburg Service Center is one of three centers that serve our council. Our service center in Greenville is our headquarters and the other center is in Columbia. These facilities serve as training and program centers, hosting Girl Scout activities, workshops, events, and meetings. All three service centers are home to our Girlz Gear Shops which offer the purchase of patches, badges, uniforms, books, accessories, and gift items.

In celebration, members, volunteers, donors, partners, and friends were invited to an Open House on August 27. The more than 200 guests of all ages who attended were entertained by a DJ, music, and a kids' Fun Zone complete with a rock wall and inflatable obstacle course with a slide. Refreshments included freshly-grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, s'mores, and popcorn.

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

22nd annual WOMEN of DISTINCTION



With the launch of the Women of Distinction event in Greenville, our council was able to honor more high-achieving women in one year than ever before. The event pays tribute to women who exemplify excellence in service, leadership, community visibility, and professionalism.

Three prominent Greenville County women were honored on September 10 at CU-ICAR-Clemson University. The dynamic, savvy women are: Dr. Judith S. Prince, Professor Emerita, University of South Carolina Upstate; Sue Priester, President, Cliffwood Enterprises, and Jil Littlejohn, CEO/President of the Urban League of the Upstate and Greenville City Council member, who was recognized as a Blazing Trails Young Professional.

Greenville honorees (L-R) Judith S. Prince, Sue Priester, Jil Littlejohn

Two Spartanburg area women were honored at the council's 3rd Annual Boots & Pearls Women of Distinction Awards event on October 8 at the Piedmont Club. Selected for their exemplary commitments to career, community, and family, the honorees were: Joy Ayers Couch, Athletic Director, Converse College, and Dr. Fern Powell, Optometrist. Honorees received the Karen H. Mitchell Women of Distinction Award. It is named in honor of long-time community volunteer and supporter, Karen H. Mitchell.

More than 100 guests were in attendance at the Piedmont Club and WSPA 7 News anchor Amy Wood was the emcee.

Announced earlier this year, Columbia's 2015 honorees were: Jan C. Burt, Metro Columbia Retail Banking Manager and Senior Vice President, First Citizens Bank; Dr. Debra W. Hamm, Superintendent, Richland School District 2; Pamela P. Lackey, President, South Carolina - AT&T; Laurie Parks, Camden City Council; and Dawndy Mercer Plank, Television Anchor, WIS-TV. Posthumous recognition was given to Mary Kennemur, Distinguished Businesswoman.

Spartanburg honorees (L-R) Dr. Fern Powell and Joy Ayers Couch



Go to www.gssc-mm.org for details or contact LaTanza Duncan, Chief Advancement Officer, LDuncan@gssc-mm.org, 803-461-3731.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Jean Shew is that rare visionary volunteer who also applies ideas practically, leads efforts effectively, and engages others successfully. She is a tireless volunteer, event founder, and fundraising leader.

Jean is the founder of the annual Powerful Women Summit, now in its ninth year, which has served more than 1,000 girls in our council. She has advised countless Girl Scouts through their process of earning the Gold Award, the highest leadership award for Girl Scouts in grades 10–12. She has also served on many strategic Board committees and was elected as a national Girl Scout delegate.

A Girl Scout volunteer for over 25 years, Jean was a co-leader for daughter Ashley's Troop 72 in Greenwood. Then, after moving to Greenville, she started Troop 17 in 1997 with daughters Betsy in first grade and Megan in 5K. Troop 17 went all the way through Senior year for eight of the girls, all of whom received their Gold Awards. Troop 17 attended the national conventions in Atlanta and Indianapolis. Four of the troop members attended the first SusuFUND international trip to London.

She recommends being a volunteer because, "The Girl Scouts is the complete activity package for girls, providing sports opportunities, outdoor adventures, travel, and so much more. The badges cover everything from baking to computer technology with space and star exploration in between. As the girls progress through the age levels of Brownies, Juniors, etc., the activities become more challenging, which means more fun and learning for

Jean Shew, Greer

the girls. Beyond all the fun, there's a lasting sisterhood that continues in each girl as she grows up. The level of commitment to service and friendship are found in no other girl organization."

When she's not busy with Girl Scouts, Jean is a school advisory programmer and health room manager at Greenville Technical Charter High School. There she meets with the Students in Action team, Youth in Government delegation, Future Physicians Club, and Red Cross Club. The Students in Action team is currently on a quest to get South Carolina in line with most others, and require CPR training for seniors in high school as part of their graduation requirements.

In 2010 and 2011, as Director of the Green Villains robotics team, she brought the team to the International F.I.R.S.T. (For Inspiration and Recognition Science and Technology) Robotics Championships. Jean was recognized in November as the Volunteer of the Year by the Association of Fundraising Professionals in the Upstate.

Jean, thank you for all you do to support Girl Scouts with passion, heart and soul!

SHARE YOUR LIFE The Alumnae Spirit

We encourage all alumnae to share your news – graduations, marriages, births, employment, location, grandchildren, etc. – for publication in our electronic newsletter. We want to help celebrate those special life moments.

Email them to: alumnae@gssc-mm.org



Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

EMERALD CIRCLE SUPPORTS GIRLS THROUGHOUT GSSC-MM

For more information about joining the Emerald Circle in your area, contact Lee Ann Maley at 864.423.8442 or lmaley@gssc-mm.org.

The Emerald Circle

Women all across our council are stepping forward boldly to invest in girls. Women continue to give generously of their time and talent by volunteering with girls, with other adults and in governance roles in our council. In 2015 we launched five new women's giving groups, called Emerald Circles, where women can also financially support girl scouting through their collective giving power. Through their shared desire to help girls become leaders today and for the future, women commit their resources by annually supporting their local Emerald Circle. Visionary women in 14 of our 22 counties are now investing in girls through Emerald Circles; in 2016, this opportunity will grow to include all 22 counties in GSSCMM. All funds raised stay in the county where given, so Emerald Circles afford women a wonderful opportunity to impact local girls and build future community leaders.

Emerald Circles succeed in supporting girls largely through the efforts of local volunteer co-chairs. Thank you to our Emerald Circle co-chairs for your hard work and dedication to helping girls in 2015 (listed on the left)!

2015 Appeal Leadership

Dr. Liz Stewart & Mary Driscoll
Aiken/Edgefield

Jean Shew & Tavia Gaddy
Greenville/Pickens

Trish Hartung & Rossie Corwon
Greenwood/Abbeville/McCormick/Saluda

Sherri Gregory & Rep. Mandy Powers Norrell
Lancaster/Chester

Katherine Swartz Hilton & Tiffany Sullivan
Richland

Mary Mazzola Spivey
Richland BCBS

Anna Converse & Carter Graves
Spartanburg

Misty Hatfield & Elizabeth Williams
Sumter

EMERALD CIRCLE

It's a First! BlueCross BlueShield Corporate Emerald Circle

Our council's first corporate Emerald Circle was formed in September, thanks to the efforts of Mary Mazzola Spivey, Senior Vice President Managed Care & Population Health with BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina. Mary, a GSSC-MM Board member and former Women of Distinction honoree, extended to her colleagues the opportunity to support girls by hosting a breakfast on BCBS's Columbia campus. CEO Kim Hutzell shared information with the women's giving group that demonstrates how Girl Scouting impacts critical community issues like physical health, education, and economic well-being. The 33 new Emerald Circle members contributed \$13,900 to help local girls participate in Girl Scouting and build leadership skills through troop and council programs. Thank you for your leadership in helping girls build courage, confidence, and character to make the world a better place.

THANK YOU to our SUPPORTERS

While individual gifts of cash, stock, or pledges are key to funding the organization's program delivery plan, gifts in-kind, or gifts of items and services from the community are greatly appreciated. They allow us to complete a project through those donated items or services and, in turn, redistribute budgeted dollars to other needed areas.

CAREY MOVING and STORAGE

A heartfelt thank you to Carey Moving and Storage for donating trucks and drivers to assist our flood relief efforts this past fall.

The historical and unprecedented rain and flooding that closed the Columbia office for a week, and that forever changed the lives of affected families in South Carolina, prompted an immediate response from our council's staff and volunteers. Working together, they collected hundreds of boxes of items such as water bottles, canned goods and packaged snacks, blankets, baby items, clothes, and plastic containers to provide many displaced families with relief.

Just as quickly, Carey Moving and Storage agreed to provide two trucks and drivers to transport the collected items from the Spartanburg and Greenville Service Centers to the Columbia Service Center. States Brian Carey, vice-president, "I have been working with Girl Scouts since I was six years old. It is an honor to partner with such an outstanding organization so that together we can make a positive difference in the communities we serve."

Photo credit: Girl Scout volunteer Natarsha Adams



A Culture of

As 2016 is well underway and many of us make and break New Year's resolutions, I want to ask you, "How do you want to be remembered?" Many of our resolutions have to do with ourselves. We make resolutions for living healthier whether it's physically, mentally, or financially. What if this year you extended your resolution to include others? What if your resolution not only contributes to your wellbeing but also really impacts society—your community, your country, your world?

When you invest in girls you change the world. But, we believe it is not just enough to say it to you. We also know it is important for you to know exactly how your financial investment in Girl Scouts of South Carolina – Mountains to Midlands Council is changing the lives of girls and contributing to broader wellbeing of the community and the world. Last year, the collective impact of your donation, along with the donations of other community members, ensured that more girls' lives were enriched. Through these stories, you will see your investment at work.

Enrichment at your front door

For thousands of girls in public housing attending regular Girl Scout meetings and enjoying the enriching activities that our organization provides just isn't possible. That's why we have outreach. Our team recently visited apartments run by The Woodruff Housing Authority in Spartanburg County. During a weeklong afterschool program elementary school girls explored topics like being a good friend, preventing bully behavior, and working together as a team. Kenisha, a fifth grader, was in it to win it from day one. Kenisha was eager to jump in with the other girls and demonstrate her knowledge of the Girl Scout Promise and Law. When asked why she enjoyed Girl Scouts, she said, it "teaches [me] about girlhood." From using solar energy to make s'mores, to playing "poisonous frog" with other girls, the Girl Scout program gave her an opportunity to connect with others in her community in a safe, fun learning environment.

The outreach program, offered right at Kenisha's front door, cost her nothing and girls were excited knowing they could expect the outreach team to be waiting at the neighborhood's community room with a snack and lesson each day when they got off the school bus. Kenisha is so thankful for everyone who supports Girl Scouts. She says, "Without your help we wouldn't be able to participate because if we had to pay, I might not be able to go to the Girl Scouts."



It's a Family Affair

Rihamna and Krystyna both joined Girl Scout Troop 2128 as Daisies. The sisters embraced the Girl Scouts. Over the last two years the two sold more than 1,600 boxes of Girl Scout cookies. Still, it wasn't enough to participate in the Girl Scout Camps they wanted to attend. You came through. With financial assistance the sisters attended a traditional Girl Scout Camp and one specialty camp each. Rihamna learned computer programming and robotics during the FIRST LEGO League Basics camp. Krystyna had an out of this world experience during our inaugural Astronomy Camp held at the Challenger Learning Center. As a result of sharing their stories and experiences at camp their cousins have become Girl Scout campers. Rihamna has now reached the Cadette level and Krystyna is a proud Junior.

Philanthropy



Daisy in Full Bloom

Meet Sophia. Sophia is a 2nd year Daisy Girl Scout from Fort Jackson Troop 860. For two years Sophia has been a part of the Daisy Power Project. The Daisy Power Project is essential to Kindergarten and First graders in South Carolina. The statewide adult illiteracy rate is nearly 15 percent and the project's objective prepares girls for reading success by engaging them in fun literacy-oriented activities.

Sophia not only threw herself fully into the program and activities that the Daisy Power Project offers, this past summer she received a scholarship, possible because of the Daisy Power Project grant that is funded by the United Way of the Midlands. She was able to attend the Summer Surge Camp offered by Tutor Eau Claire. This camp offered an intense learning session that helped Sophia develop strategies and skills to succeed socially and academically.

Now, Sophia can often be found singing some of the songs that she has learned, she has developed the courage to read aloud amongst her peers, and has developed a recognizable confidence.

Camps are about more than S'mores

Sarah looks forward to summer all year long. For years, Camp Mary Elizabeth in Spartanburg has been a getaway for her. She bikes, hikes, swims and cooks with friends who have become family. Her mother says she wouldn't be able to send Sarah to camp if it weren't for the financial aid available through the Girl Scouts Campership Program. Sarah's mother also shared something else. The biking, the hiking, the swimming, and cooking are all incredible, but the bonds created with the other campers and the counselors are everlasting.

This past summer, on the last day of summer camp, the counselors that Sarah has known for years gave her a backpack filled with school supplies. They knew Sarah's parents wouldn't be able to afford them. Because you give to Girl Scouts, Sarah's summer camp experience is lasting through the school year.

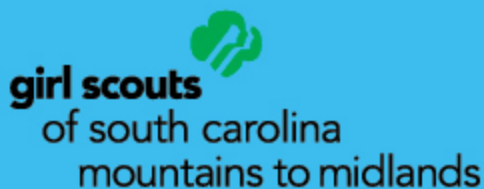


These are incredible examples that show your investments not only change the lives of girls, but enrich our communities, our nation, and our world.

In 2016, as you consider your New Year's resolutions, I ask you to continue this work with us. This year resolve to invest in the lives of even more girls like Kenisha, Rihanna, Krystyna, Sophia, and Sarah. Together, we can ensure that all girls in our region have courage, confidence, and character.



by Kim Hutzell
President/CEO



Mailed from the
Greenville Service Center
Five Independence Pointe, Suite 120
Greenville, SC 29615

Non-profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Greenville, SC
Permit #436

SHARE YOUR NEWSLETTER: Let others in your community know about Girl Scout opportunities for girls and volunteers. When you are finished with *Leadership Line* or if you receive more than one copy, take it to the medical office, school gym, salon, or other places you visit. Thank you!

GET OUT! @GSSCMM SUMMER CAMP

**All girls are welcome.
Register now while sessions are still
available - it's not too late!**

Engage in the Girl Scout Leadership Experience! Girl Scouts of South Carolina - Mountains to Midlands welcomes girls entering grades 1st-12th to spend time at summer camp this year. They will create memories, make new discoveries, develop lifelong friendships, build self-esteem, and learn new skills in a safe and supportive environment. The encouragement of caring and trained adult staff along with great outdoor experiences provides challenges, a sense of accomplishment, and most importantly, FUN!

Visit www.gssc-mm.org for camp details and registration!

