girl scouts of central illinois

FALL 2021

PROMISE NEWSLETTER

Happy Fall, everyone! 2021 is finally “in the books” as they say, as our fiscal year at Girl Scouts of Central Illinois wraps up on September 30, 2021, and we look forward to the membership year 2022.

As we look back on the challenges of 2021, we must offer a huge THANK YOU to the faithful donors who assisted in making sure the courage-, confidence- and character-building continued. Through our donors’ continued ability to share their time, talent, and treasure, GSCI weathered the pandemic year well and was amply funded to continue serving girls across our 38 counties. Never before has that service been more needed as the pandemic has increased issues for girls across the country in the areas of increased obesity, climbing social and emotional crises, and increased learning loss due to remote learning. Girls whose families were struck hard financially by the pandemic were still served by the hundreds, as your generosity allowed us to financially assist a larger percentage of our membership than ever, exceeding that budget line item by double-digit percentages in order to ensure that no need was left unmet!

As the world begins to return to some small sense of normalcy, girls and their families are eager to continue with learnings from the Girl Scout pillars of STEM, financial literacy, life skills, outdoor education, and service to their communities. As we have toured the council meeting with Girl Scout families, community members, and donors, one message has resonated, which is that girls want and NEED to rejoin their troops, participate in Girl Scout programming, and get back out in the world with their Girl Scout sisters.

Whether you attended one of GSCI’s chef competitions where they created Girl Scout cookie-inspired desserts; contributed to one of our mail campaigns for Gift for Girls, Campership Assistance, or Back to School; donated to send cookies to our military and essential service workers; or supported the Great Girl Scout Give Back raffle, Tree-foil Jamboree, or girls@Art, know that your donor dollar made an enormous impact on the life of a girl in 2021! I invite you to continue that impactful giving in 2022 and say one more time, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! We appreciate you so very much!

Pam Kovacevich
CEO, Girl Scouts of Central Illinois

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Sisterhood and community service are at the heart of what it means to be a Girl Scout. And, like our Girl Scout Troops and our amazing volunteers, Girl Scouts of Central Illinois is always seeking new opportunities to give back to the communities we serve.

GSCI’s annual Operation Cookie Share events in Decatur and Springfield were yet again a huge success this summer! Partnering with Hickory Point Bank and Neuhoff Media as our primary sponsors for both events, we reached out to both communities and received a resounding response in sponsorships and public support. With great appreciation and care, we raised over $18,000 dollars, enabling us to send thousands of boxes of Girl Scout cookies to our military abroad and at home, as well as local frontline responders and healthcare workers.

Another 2021 GSCI project was in support of women in our communities. GSCI collected personal hygiene and non-perishable items, distributing them to women’s shelters within our region, including Austin’s Place in Champaign, Dove in Decatur, QUANADA in Quincy, Contact Ministries in Springfield, and a Girl Scout Gold Award project in Peoria - Emma’s Partial Pantry.









great Girl Scout Give Back

Great Girl Scout Give Back IS BACK: Win Up to $50,000

The Great Girl Scout Give Back is back! In 2020 from October 1 to December 12, Girl Scouts of Central Illinois (GSCI) presented its inaugural Great Girl Scout Give Back (GGSGB), a 50/50 raffle with 12 Days of Giving leading up to the grand prize winner reveal.

As a result, GSCI raised over $13,000 for the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE) and gave away 12 great giveaway packages. The second annual GGSGB runs October 1 through December 12, now with 13 days of cash giveaways, including an early bird drawing being selected the day before Thanksgiving and 11 days of cash prize giveaways leading up to the December 12 grand prize reveal.

Each $100 ticket equals one chance in the 50/50 Grand Prize Raffle (maximum 1,000 tickets sold) as well as one of the 12 Days of Giving cash giveaways. All winners will be notified via email and/or phone.

Get your tickets today at GetYourGirlPower.org. All proceeds benefit the GSLE.

$5 ON THE 5TH

In March for Girl Scouts' 109th birthday, Girl Scouts of Central Illinois launched a new monthly giving club called $5 on the 5th. Essentially, for a cup of coffee at one's favorite drive-thru, a $5 or more monthly gift goes a long way to jumpstart Girl Scouting for a girl.

During the whole month of March, everyone who joined by making a $5 or more monthly donation for a minimum of 12 months received a Girl Scout Partner lapel pin to proudly show ongoing Girl Scout support. They also received a complimentary ticket to one of our five signature events across our council.

Now through October 31, in honor of founder Juliette "Daisy" Gordon Low's birthday on Halloween, we offer these same perks for all new members. It's a Daisy of a deal. Join online at GetYourGirlPower.org/special-events or contact Stacey LaFeber at 217-693-4723.

$5 on the 5th is an exclusive monthly giving club that helps to provide the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to girls across central Illinois. Join today to make small gifts add up to make a BIG impact in our community!

Every Girl Scout goes above and beyond to make a difference in her community and the greater world. The skills and experiences she gains along the way set her up for special recognition through the Gold, Silver, and Bronze Awards. Girl Scouts' highest award, the Girl Scout Gold Award, is the mark of the truly remarkable – proof that not only can she make a difference, but that she already has. Girl Scouts in grades 9-12 who earn the Gold Award tackle issues of need and concern in their communities to drive lasting change. Last year, eleven exceptional Girl Scouts within our council earned their Gold Awards, completing sustainable projects to serve their communities now and in the future.

Please join us in recognizing:

Alyssa Bivens – Bartonville, IL
Alyssa increased green space and introduced an outdoor classroom for Crittenton Centers, a local non-profit organization serving at-risk families.

girl scouts gold award

Brooklyne Duleak – Springfield, IL
Addressing awareness issues and support for people with disabilities in the community and school district, Brooklyne started a school spirit week and competition, along with providing educational tools for students.

Kaden Howard – Bloomington, IL
For children whose local art programs may have been cut due to a lack of funding, Kaden led a team that created instructional videos and crafts accessible through YouTube channels and a dedicated educational website.

Stacy Lantz – Germantown Hills, IL
The benefits of engaging with horses inspired Stacy to create four creative and strong obstacles to be used indoors and outdoors for equestrian training for girls of all ages at Camp Tapawingo.

Rylan Lindley – Mt. Pulaski, IL
In order to inspire her fellow classmates to unplug, fall in love with reading, and offer creativity, Rylan designed and fashioned a large mural in the public library where children's programs are held, drawing students, local children, and community members to the library to encourage reading and the arts.

Grace Meyer – Quincy, IL
Being wheelchair bound, Grace noticed when her Girl Scout troop gathered at camp, she could not get close to the activities around the fire ring. She raised over $20,000 to create concrete pads with fire rings, benches for her fellow campers, a concrete trail through the woods to access the pads, and a sidewalk with solar lights leading to the nearby water spigot.

Emma Michael – Pekin, IL
Addressing the issue of poverty and a need in her community, Emma gathered volunteers to open a local pantry in collaboration with a local thrift store owner.

Alexandra Plavec – Peoria, IL
Collaborating with Make-A-Wish Foundation, Alexandra researched and created a blog that included instructional craft videos with supply lists for children who have severe illnesses, so they could pass the time isolated at home or in the hospital with a creative pastime.

Katrina Powers - Homer, IL
To create accessible and engaging STEM materials for students in her school district, Katrina created a Science Center in her local library. Addressing topics like coding, magnetics, and geology, STEM kits can now be checked out and taken home. Over 25 science books and a 3D printer were also added.

Leslie Rapp – Franklin, WI
Due to inadequate funding and lack of access to hygiene supplies, students of the Wakpala School District were unable to properly take care of their bodies. Leslie created 168 hygiene kits that were distributed to students throughout the year to educate on the valuable life skill of self-care and provided products to keep their body clean.

Chloe Schonert – Washington, IL
To create a more positive student body, support students, and provide a positive means of dealing with stress, Chloe took on a school locker room revitalization project at her local high school.

Local United Ways and generous grant funders go above and beyond to make a difference for our communities. Because of these partners, Girl Scouts throughout central Illinois are able to develop into leaders and change-makers, to dream and do big things, building brighter futures for us all.

GSCI would like to thank this year's supporters, which include:

Ameren Illinois
Community Foundation of Central Illinois – Opportunity Fund
Community Foundation of Central Illinois – Women's Fund Success Grant
Community Foundation of East-Central Illinois – John L. Franklin Endowment
Elizabeth S. Baker Trust
Girl Scouts of the USA
Hanson Family Fund of the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln
Illinois Prairie Community Foundation
Iroquois Federal Foundation
Jacksonville Children's Foundation
Jacksonville Youth Engagement Program
Junior League of Champaign-Urbana
Junior Welfare Association of Decatur
Marion Gardner Jackson Charitable Trust
Mary Helen Roberts Trust
Michelmann Foundation
Orange Krush Foundation
Paul & Norma Schaumburg Charitable Trust
Peoria Academy of Science
Quincy Noon Kiwanis
Quincy Service League
Samantha Otte Youth Opportunity Fund through the Community Foundation Serving West Central Illinois & Northeast Missouri
Springfield Rotary Foundation
State Farm Foundation
Tracy Family Foundation
T.S. & Juanita Ballance Foundation
Woods Foundation

United Way

Bureau County United Way
Danville Area United Way
Eureka Area United Fund
McDonough County United Way
Menard County United Fund
Prairieland United Way
Streator Area United Way
United Way of Adams County
United Way of Brown County
United Way of Central Illinois
United Way of Decatur & Mid-Illinois
United Way of Decatur & Mid-Illinois – DeWitt County Community Investment Process
United Way of Greater St. Louis
United Way of Kankakee & Iroquois Counties
United Way of Livingston County
United Way of Logan County
United Way of Schuyler County
United Way for Spoon River Country

Happy 80th Birthday, Camp Kiwanis!

Happy 80th Birthday, Camp Kiwanis! On October 12, 1941, Camp Kiwanis in Mahomet, IL, was dedicated originally as a cabin on a site set in a 7-acre wooded tract, thanks to a generous gift from the Champaign-Urbana Kiwanis Club in December 1940.

Across the octet of decades, it has expanded to a 55-acre forested camp facility adjacent to Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve and the American Heritage Museum. Located 12 miles from Champaign, it features three lodges. Environmental education, creative arts, canoeing, and archery are highlights of the programs offered at the ACA-accredited camp.

Plans for Camp Kiwanis were first discussed 20 years earlier before the formal dedication, with a tag day held to begin a trust fund. Over 7,300 days and 1,100 hours donated by 70 union laborers later, Camp Kiwanis celebrated its special day. The dedication included an open house; group singing led by former leader and camp counselor Miss Colleen Kirk; and a color guard procession led by Troop 18 of (Urbana) Webber school. A pageant, “The Blessings of the Home,” also was presented by Troop 1 of South Side school.

To mark such a remarkable milestone, on October 9, 2021, Girl Scouts of Central Illinois will host a 1940s-themed, two-session program for Girl Scouts, troop leaders, and volunteers. Activities include exploring the camp and trails via a scavenger hunt; learning what to pack for camp with GSCI’s historian Amy Robison; performing a flag ceremony; singing Girl Scout songs from the 1940s; and, of course, roasting a classic s’more on the campfire.

In addition to the great assistance from historian Amy Robison, present-day Kiwanians will be on hand to help with the program, coming full circle to turn plans into action. The club has donated time, talent, and treasure to further enhance Camp Kiwanis into the gem it is today. No doubt about it, we couldn’t have done it without them, and still holds true today.



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of central illinois

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United Way

Facebook.com/GirlScoutsofCentralIllinois

@GSCentralIL

GetYourGirlPower.org

Customer Care 888-623-1237

Great Girl Scout Give Back:

Tickets: On sale beginning Oct. 1, 2021
Early Bird Drawing: November 24 for $500
Daily Drawings: Dec. 1-11 for $100 each
Grand Prize Drawing: Dec. 12, 2021

Alumnae Tea events:

March 2022. Locations and times TBD.

girls@ART:

May 2022

Desserts First Peoria:

May 7, 2022

Diamonds and Desserts Bloomington:

May 19, 2022

The Great S'more Mud Run at Camp Tapawingo:

August 13, 2022

Cookies and Cocktails Springfield:

September 2022

Diamonds, Desserts, and Distinction Champaign:

September 2022

Diamonds and Desserts Decatur:

September 2022

SAVE THE DATE