

# Connections

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM GIRL SCOUTS IN THE HEART OF PENNSYLVANIA

girl scouts  
in the heart  
of pennsylvania



GSHPA Troops Rock the Mall!

## Celebrating 100 Years of Girl Scouts

A once in a lifetime experience, girls and volunteers from throughout our 30 county council have been busy celebrating our 100th anniversary! Honoring our past and looking forward to our bright future, Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors alike have participated and will continue to participate in local, regional, council-wide, state-wide and even nationwide 100th anniversary celebratory events.



Top: Brownie Troop 80855 from Chambersburg

Right: Brownie Troop 11357 from Mechanicsburg

### Tree Planting

Girl Scouts all across Pennsylvania joined together to celebrate our 100th Anniversary by planting more than 13,150 trees in the month of May! Of those, 4071 were planted by girls from GSHPA.



Troop 1616 from Manheim Twp, Lancaster County decorated car windows.



Junior Troop 70174 from Leola planting trees at Lancaster Labs.



SU 432 from Huntingdon County formed a flashlight trefoil at its 100th anniversary celebration.

### Rock the Mall

On June 9, 2012, more than 200,000 girls and adults attended the National Girl Scouts Rock the Mall event in Washington, DC.

### 100th Anniversary Gala Events



This fall, donors, alumnae, friends and adult members will have the opportunity participate in one, two or three 100th anniversary events. Mark your calendars now for all three and join GSHPA in honoring all of the generations, past, present and future that have and will be a part of the Girl Scouts' tradition.

- Wednesday, September 5 at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey
- Saturday, September 8 at the Mohegan Sun Arena in Wilkes-Barre
- Thursday, October 11 at the Nittany Lion Inn in State College

Look for your personal invitation to arrive in the mail soon!

**P2** Volunteer is honored with \$10,000 grant to benefit Outdoor Experience at GSHPA!

**P3** The newest Girl Scout Gold Awardees are honored at a special ceremony in Harrisburg.





## Leadership Update

Dear Friends,

A new study from the Girl Scouts of the USA Research Institute has done an excellent job of quantifying the positive life outcomes displayed by Girl Scout alumnae. Here is just a sampling of what the study confirmed:

- **Sense of self** - Of Girl Scout alumnae, 63 percent consider themselves competent and capable, compared to 55 percent of non-alumnae.
- **Volunteerism and community work** - Of Girl Scout alumnae who are mothers, 66 percent have been a mentor/volunteer in their child's youth organization, compared to 48 percent of non-alumnae mothers.
- **Civic engagement** - Of Girl Scout alumnae, 77 percent vote regularly, compared to 63 percent of non-alumnae.
- **Education** - Of Girl Scout alumnae, 38 percent have attained college degrees, compared to 28 percent of non-alumnae.
- **Income/socioeconomic status** - Girl Scout alumnae report a significantly higher household income (\$51,700) than non-alumnae (\$42,200).

We know Girl Scouts provides an experience that gives girls self-confidence and leadership skills. These numbers speak volumes about our impact and why so many people are celebrating the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouts right along with us.

There are more opportunities to celebrate and support the Girl Scouts coming up this year. Mark your calendars and register soon for one or more of our special Inspiring Generations dinner events:

<b>Hershey Lodge, Hershey, PA</b>	<b>September 5</b>
<b>Mohegan Sun Arena, Wilkes-Barre, PA</b>	<b>September 8</b>
<b>Nittany Lion Inn, State College, PA</b>	<b>October 11</b>

Speaking of celebrations, the overused word "awesome" can be appropriately applied to the gathering of 200,000+ Girl Scouts on the National Mall on June 9th. The unstoppable girl power that Juliette Gordon Low unleashed when she founded the Girl Scouts in 1912 was on full display at the national sing-along. We were glad to be part of this historic event along with several thousand other Girl Scouts from the Heart of Pennsylvania.

Finally, as we move into the second century of Girl Scouting, Girl Scouts of the USA has unveiled a new and exciting cause to create gender-balanced leadership in all sectors in one generation. What an important role Girl Scouting plays in meeting that objective. The initiative is called **ToGetHerThere** and we look forward to sharing more about it in future newsletters.

So many reasons to celebrate; so many reasons to look ahead with optimism and hope, but we can only do this important work with your continuing support of Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Kate Crowley  
Board Chair

Jane Ransom  
President & CEO

## Grant to Benefit GSHPA

Longtime Girl Scout volunteer Laura Weber was recently honored with a \$10,000 grant to benefit Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania. Laura received the grant after applying for the Exelon Energy for the Community Award program.

Per Laura's request, the \$10,000 will go toward improvements to the outdoor experience and camp properties throughout the GSHPA council. "Since I was a girl, the experience of Girl Scout Camp was something that has always stuck with me," said Laura. "It's what got me hooked on Girl Scouting, and anything I can do to help make sure today's girls can have that experience, I am more than happy to help."

Laura is a Senior Chemist for GENCO East at Three Mile Island in Middletown, PA, an affiliate of the Exelon/PECO Corporation. Laura has been involved in Girl Scouts for more than 31 years, eight as a girl and 23 as an adult volunteer. She was honored at the Exelon Energy for the Community Awards Luncheon in Philadelphia on May 2, 2012. GSHPA President and CEO Jane Ransom and GSHPA board member Katie McGinty accompanied Laura to the event. "We can't thank Laura enough for her commitment to Girl Scouts and for earning this award for GSHPA," Ransom said. "We encourage all our volunteers to inquire within their own places of employment to see if their employers offer similar programs to assist them in their volunteer services."



Laura Weber and GSHPA board member Katie McGinty are pictured at the Exelon Energy for the Community Awards Luncheon.



Picture left to right: Bishop Joseph McFadden, Betty Roksandic, Maggie Cole, Mary Noel "Gus" Stenberg, Chris Dougher, Angela Soto Hamlin.

## Girl Scout Gold Awards

GSHPA would like to congratulate the newest recipients of the coveted Girl Scout Gold Award. On Saturday, June 23, 2012, 72 Girl Scouts from our council joined the ranks of many honored young women by receiving their awards.

The Girl Scouts Gold Award is the highest honor in Girl Scouting and the most prestigious award Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors can earn. It stands for excellence and leadership and demonstrates a Girl Scout's special commitment to herself, her community and her future. Recipients must complete several activities covering career exploration, leadership skills, community service and specialized interest projects, followed by a comprehensive project selected and designed by the recipient based on her skills and interests.

After months of hard work, all 72 recipients who earned the notable award between April 2011 and April 2012 were honored during an elegant luncheon at the Wildwood Conference Center in Harrisburg, PA. The event included displays from numerous Girl Scout Gold Award projects and a keynote address by Darragh Friedman, former Gold Award recipient and one of 10 current National Young Women of Distinction recognized by Girl Scouts of the United States of America. During her address, Friedman urged her fellow awardees to continue their great work.

"Do not think for a moment that your ability to do good things in your community and world is unnecessary now, in fact, you are all far from ever halting our mission to 'make the world a better place.'" said Friedman. "I urge you all to continue to stay in touch with the contacts you've made while working on your project, to build up the credibility you've earned and always take pride in the affiliation you have with Girl Scouts to keep moving and shaking and turning the world upside down in order to make positive change."

"This event serves as a great reminder of what Girl Scouts is all about," said Kate Crowley, GSHPA board chair. "This award stands for excellence and leadership. Today's girls are tomorrow's leaders and it is an honor for us to recognize those who have worked so hard to earn the Girl Scout Gold Award."

GSHPA would like to thank all of the sponsors who made the event possible, as well as GSHPA Service Unit 258 Seven Bridges in Cumberland County for leading the flag ceremony.

For a full listing of this year's Girl Scout Gold Award recipients and their projects, please visit our Web site at [www.gshpa.org](http://www.gshpa.org).



2012 Girl Scout Gold Awardees at the Wildwood Conference Center in Harrisburg.

## Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg Honors Volunteers

On June 4th the Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg honored five Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania volunteers during a recognition dinner for Catholic Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and Campfire. Bishop Joseph McFadden presented awards to all five.



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## Circle of Friends Members

By joining the Circle of Friends, individuals who make annual gifts totaling \$1,000 or more become a part of a select group of leadership donors who are deeply committed to helping today's girls become tomorrow's leaders. We thank the following members of the Circle of Friends for their generosity.

### ***Bridge to the Future Society: Individuals who contribute an annual gift of \$2500 or more.***

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- \* Kate Crowley
- Harlan and Sara Hannigan
- Martha Heist
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- \* Heidi Nicholas
- \* Jane Ransom
- \* Natalie Smith

### ***Golden Friends: Individuals who pledge to contribute \$1000 - \$2499 per year for 3 years.***

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*\*Denotes charter member  
of Circle of Friends*