



Girl Scouts - Illinois Crossroads Council

Girl Scouts®
Where Girls Grow Strong™

It Worked for Us!

It Worked for Us! A place where troops/groups and service units can share their ideas, highlights, and successes. E-mail your contribution to webmaster@ilcrossroads.org.

Vernon Hills Brownies Help Local Hospital

In May, **Brownie Troop 3773** in Vernon Hills painted wooden cars as a part of a hands-on field trip to Home Depot. The finished cars, along with coloring books and crayons, were delivered to Condell Medical Center in Libertyville by co-leader Valerie Parker and five Brownie Girl Scouts. The donation was made to the hospital's Children and Teenage Center.

Cadette Girl Scouts in Buffalo Grove and Long Grove Make a Difference

Cadette Girl Scout Troop 908 in Buffalo Grove and Long Grove knew they had found their project for the Girl Scout Silver Award when they read an article about Mona Purdy. Mona is the head of Share Your Soles, a nonprofit organization dedicated to collecting new and gently used shoes to disadvantaged children all over the globe. Shoe collections took place throughout the month of May at local businesses and schools in Buffalo Grove, Deer Park, and Long Grove. The Buffalo Grove Theater encouraged donations by offering free tickets to their Saturday morning family film for every pair donated at their location. The girls cleaned and boxed the shoes and forwarded them to Share Your Soles.

Throughout the year, our troops found many creative ways to help their communities and their fellow Girl Scouts!

- ❖ **Brownie Girl Scout Troop 1764**, from Lincoln School in Mundelein, used the money they earned from the fall product activity to make bears at the Build-A-Bear store. The bears were then donated to the Mundelein Police Department, where they will be used by police officers to comfort children who are victims of accidents or other police calls.
- ❖ **Brownie Girl Scout Troop 1578** from Palatine Service Unit 651 decided to take part of their cookie profit and put it back into the community. The troop baked brownies for the PADS shelter at the Congregational United Church of Christ in Arlington Heights.
- ❖ **Daisy Girl Scout Troops 2371 and 2377**, Gurnee/Wadsworth Service Unit 711, found a creative way to donate to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund. They donated money from their allowances and the amount each girl gave was based on a formula that included the following: "Put in 5 cents for each doll you own, with a maximum of \$1.00 if over 20 dolls," "Put in 1 cent for each year of your age," and "Put in 1 cent for every petal on your tunic."
- ❖ Valerie Walker, Girl Scout leader and Mundelein AYSO VIP coordinator, recruited local Girl Scouts to participate in the VIP Buddy program. The program allows children with special needs to participate in soccer with the help of a "buddy," an assigned partner who assists them on and off the field. Before the season started, the girls were trained and matched with players who have disabilities, such as cerebral palsy, autism, Downs Syndrome, or hearing impairments. Some of the girls are using sign language to communicate with their player. The goal of the program is to integrate children with special needs into AYSO; but the program does more than just help the players. The

buddies and other volunteers increase their sensitivity to individuals with special needs, buddy relationships have the potential to develop into friendships, and parents of disabled children can relax and enjoy watching their child experience success on the playing field.

- ❖ **Brownie Girl Scouts from Troop 3022**, Hawthorn Service Unit 715, visited a Build-A-Bear store with their cookie funds and made 13 bears that were then donated to Condell Hospital's emergency room. The bears will be given to sick or injured children as a way to help ease their fears.

Local Parades

- ❖ **Oak Park Service Unit 806** Girl Scouts served as the color guard and led the Oak Park 4th of July parade with a balloon arch. The service unit received excellent publicity in the *Oak Leaves* newspaper for their participation in the parade and honoring their six outstanding leaders/volunteers. Service Unit Registrar Peggy Sinko says, "It's a great way to let everyone know we [Girl Scouts] are thriving in our communities."
- ❖ **Evanston Service Unit 610** created the winning float (youth division) at the Evanston Fourth of July parade. Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts were the Lead Color Guard at the front of the parade, and approximately 200 Girl Scouts rode on the float, marched in the color guard, walked, or rollerbladed the parade route.