

# 2005 – 2006 Gold Award Projects



## SU#1

**Kaitlin Farrell** – *Service Project Manager* – Advised 70 leaders in Service Unit 1 of service opportunities for over 600 Girl Scouts. Coordinated monthly service projects, and organized adopt-a-family and blood drive projects. Created an annual service project calendar for Service Unit website.

**Caitlyn Fleming** – *Quilts for Katrina's Kids* – Donated 20 quilts to Hurricane Katrina relief programs and organized “Make A Blanket Day” for Girl Scouts to make quilts to donate to affected children.

**Rebecca Foley** – *Creating Smiles One Doll at a Time* – Through soliciting donations and organizing troops to assist, 35 sock dolls were made and sent to children undergoing corrective facial surgery in third world countries through the non-profit organization, *Operation Smile*.

**Shannon More** – *Introduction to Band* – Taught a group of fourth grade Girl Scouts basic music principles. Helped them prepare for entering the band, making the transition into band easier and encouraging girls to remain in band.

**Michele Prostack** – *Friendship and Care Gift Bags* – Collected donations for gift bags and coordinated a volunteer visitation day and bingo game for 100 residents at the NJ Eastern Star Nursing Home in Bridgewater.

**Amanda Reichold** – *Pillows for Comfort* – Discovered a need for post-mastectomy breast cancer patients to have customized pillows for arm support, as well as emotional support. Acquired donations, designed pillows, coordinated and supervised construction, and managed distribution.

**Laura Scarano** – *Pet Supplies for Animals in Need* – Generated over 250 pounds of animal supplies for the Franklin Township Animal Shelter. Helped the shelter to provide a better quality of care while seeking adoptive homes for pets.

**Karolyn Szot** – *Girl Scout Promotional/Recruitment Video* – Filmed a video promoting the rewards of Girl Scouting and used it to recruit new Girl Scouts, showcasing events and activities in the Service Unit.

**Sarah Turkus** – *Camporee Coordinator* – Handled registration process and planning for annual Camporee weekend for area Girl Scouts and organized Try-Its and other activities for the weekend.

**Bessie Young** – *Clothing Those Without Homes* – Organized clothing drives to benefit a number of human service organizations. An entire family in Ghana, a newborn baby in Pennsylvania and clients at Fisherman's Mark in Lambertville have all benefited from this effort.

## SU#2

**Marissa Hynoski** – *Sensory Garden at Veterans Hospital* – Working with another Girl Scout, transformed a dreary courtyard at a local veterans' hospital by bringing in a variety of plants and painting the surroundings to add beauty.

**Jennifer Kaus** – *Sensory Garden at Veterans Hospital* – Working with another Girl Scout, transformed a dreary courtyard at a local veterans' hospital by bringing in a variety of plants and painting the surroundings to add beauty.

#### **SU#4**

**Elaine Lubaszka** – *Fun with Fashion and Food* – Hosted dinner and fashion show at Flemington Presbyterian Church to raise awareness and money to benefit victims of Hurricane Katrina.

**Kelsey Newborn** – *Women Helping Women: Building Homes with Habitat* – Partnered with Habitat for Humanity's Women Build initiative to address the issue of building affordable housing in the community. Implemented two workdays through a United Way grant and organized volunteers, workday projects and meals.

**Nichole Terese Opdyke** – *Honoring Hometown Heroes* – Helped welcome home a local soldier returning from service in Iraq and helped his family. Planned a parade float, made yellow ribbons, and threw a birthday party for the soldier's 8-year-old daughter.

**Victoria Opdyke** – *Father-Daughter Dance* – Organized a dance event for fathers and daughters to spend time together and learn how to line-dance.

**Kara Underhill** – *Helping Aids to the Auditory Learner* – Recorded audio tape study aids to help students who are falling behind in reading to better comprehend what they read and help them keep up in school.

#### **SU#5**

**Ariel Subourne** – *Locking into a Career Choice* – Organized a panel of women in various professions who spoke to young girls about achieving their future career goals, career options available to them, and balancing career and family obligations.

#### **SU#6**

**Michelle Caroppolo** – *Baskets and Backpacks for the Women's Crisis Center* – Working with another Girl Scout, solicited and collected donations from local schools and then filled baskets with personal care items and backpacks with school supplies for abused women and their children.

**Catherine Curry** – *Winter Cheer for Veterans* – Working with another Girl Scout, organized a coffee social for veterans and provided holiday decorations at a local veterans' hospital. Also made lap quilts to help keep residents warm in their wheelchairs.

**Kimberly Kopin** – *Girls Lacrosse Pre-Season Winter Workshop* – Ran a basic-skills lacrosse workshop for local girls in grades 3-8 that included a sports equipment collection for items to donate to children in Louisiana who were affected by Hurricane Katrina.

**Victoria Stankus** – *Stories Just for You* – Worked to improve library in pediatric wards of local hospitals by adding donated books, cassette tapes, and tape players so that children recovering from illness or injury could be better entertained and occupied.

**Meghan Stanski** *Winter Cheer for Veterans* – Working with another Girl Scout, organized a coffee social for veterans and provided holiday decorations at a local veterans' hospital. Also made lap quilts to help keep them warm in their wheelchairs.

**Gretchen Surhoff** - *Baskets and Backpacks for Women's Crisis Center* – Working with another Girl Scout, solicited and collected donations from local schools and then filled baskets with personal care items and backpacks with school supplies for abused women and their children.

**Rachel Tressito** – *Installation of Laundry Area for Samaritan Homeless Interim Program (S.H.I.P.)* – Helped secure reduced-cost appliances and installed a washer, dryer and shower for homeless clients at S.H.I.P. in Somerville.

## **SU#7**

**Bonnie Autenrieth** – *Joust Read Renaissance Fair* – Together with another Girl Scout, organized a Renaissance-themed fair to promote and attract teens to participate in the Bernardsville Public Library's summer reading program.

**Emily DelloRusso** – *Meadow Habitat Demonstration Garden* – Helped the New Jersey Audubon Society make a demonstration garden at the Sherman-Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary in Bernardsville in an attempt to inspire others to create natural habitats and more green spaces in New Jersey.

**Rachel Donohue** – *Princess for a Night* – Collected more than 125 new and gently-used prom gowns for girls who could otherwise not attend their prom due to the tremendous cost. Dresses were distributed through Catherine's Closet in Newark.

**Mary Flood** – *Joust Read Renaissance Fair* – Together with another Girl Scout, organized a Renaissance-themed fair to promote and attract teens to participate in the Bernardsville Public Library's summer reading program.

**Margaret Sutton** – *Woodland Garden* – Cleared invasive species and restored and planted a woodland garden with native plants to conserve a bird and wildlife habitat at the Sherman-Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary in Bernardsville.

## **SU#8**

**Joanna Aliprando** – *Raising a Seeing Eye Puppy* – The ultimate goal of the project was to raise a dog capable of assisting a blind person. The project also included presentations to younger troops, introducing them to the dogs and teaching them about guide dog service.

**Kristen Cantwell** – *Everyone Belongs-France* – Project consisted of educating Brownies on a foreign country's culture, language and contributions. Organized and implemented two, two-hour programs with five stations to educate nearly 50 children.

**Teresa Gerhard** – *The P.U.F.F. Project* – Benefited People for Unwanted Feline Friends, an adoption group dedicated to finding homes for unwanted cats and kittens. Involved socializing cats, collecting donations, and participating in weekly adoption days, while hoping to eventually place all animals with a loving family.

**Clara Hunt** – *Costa Rican Badge Project* – Used photographs from a trip to Costa Rica to encourage families here to be more grateful for the material possessions they have. Worked with younger girls to earn Camera Shot and Ecosystem badges, while bringing attention to Costa Ricans' plight and collecting supplies for poor families there.

**Julia Kester** – *Bridge of Books Donation* – Organized, led and conducted a book drive to collect books for underprivileged children in New Jersey. Delivered 30 boxes with 2,535 books counted and sorted by age groups.

**Kristin Marino** – *McAuley Prom and Activity Day* – Organized all aspects of holding a Hollywood-themed prom for older students of the McAuley School for Exceptional Children and a circus-themed activity day for the school's younger students.

**Courtney Slack** – *Backpacks 4 Learning* – Collected and distributed school supplies and backpacks for a school in Jersey City to better prepare less fortunate students for academic success.

## SU#8

**Laura Stark** – *K.I.D.S.S. Lessons-Kids in Disabled Situations Swim* – Initiated a non-profit swim program for children with physical and/or mental disabilities. Organized instructors and taught swim lessons.

## SU#9

**Theresa Hanntz** – *Impletmenting a Long-Term Program* – Instructed fellow students how to plan and run a long-term program, while implementing her own five-week educational program. Created a procedure checklist; including dates, times, meeting locations, agenda items, guest speakers, volunteers, participant recruitment, and parents' meeting.

## SU#12

**Julia Jacobson** – *Operation Smile Awareness* – Gave presentations to troops about *Operation Smile*, an organization that sends volunteer doctors to impoverished countries to perform cleft lip and palate surgeries. Collected more than 3,000 toothbrushes from troops and dentists to bring on mission to Jordan.

**Hillary Stires** – *Knitting for the Community* – Knitted and donated 12 scarves for clients at Samaritan Homeless Interim Program in Somerville.

## SU#13

**Dana Bradley** – *Health Kits for Women and Children* – Secured donations and organized volunteers to assemble kits filled with personal care items to distribute to women and children in need.

**Jamie DeNizio** – *Coaching Youth Soccer* – Using knowledge of game, acted as head coach of a recreational girl's soccer team. Used leadership and patience to teach and guide a group of girls through the basics of soccer while also teaching them important life skills.

**Samantha Hayden** – *Tote Bags for Parents of Cancer Patients* – Stuffed tote bags with donated items to help ease the stay for parents of children being treated at the Institute for Children with Cancer and Blood Disorders.

## SU#14

**Juliana Calligaro** – *Thank-A-Donor* – In response to community blood shortages, organized, coordinated and publicized a blood drive at local firehouse.

**Casey Casterline** – *Bears for Wellness* – Joined local hospital's junior volunteer program and spent time visiting pediatric patients. Also collected and donated new teddy bears to children who were hospitalized.

**Danielle Corsi** – *Operation Zoe* – Trained with two Labrador retrievers to earn therapy dog certification and traveled to nursing homes and hospitals to brighten patients' days. Also held information sessions for younger girls to volunteer with therapy dogs.

**Julianne Costello** – *Luna the Moon* – Designed and sewed stuffed toys for traumatized children and donated the toys to charities including hospitals, police departments and homeless shelters.

**Kristin Cupido** – *Adding Color to Our Lives* – Created a safer, appealing yard for the children of Agape House in Somerville. Added mulch, flowers, plants and a birdhouse to bring color and natural beauty.

**Amanda Lange** – *The Food Connection* – Organized a program for girls to learn about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle. Provided examples of diets, samples of food and tips for eating healthy.

**Meghan O'Brien** – *Reading for a Brighter Future* – Created "Reading Buddies" for children who have trouble reading. The project consisted of a book and a copy of the book on tape to foster reading skills at home, in addition to the classroom.

## **SU#14**

**Skylar Roehl** – *Nature Trail* – Helped to encourage return of native species of birds being driven from their habitat by building and installing a series of birdhouses on a nature trail to attract the birds and for the community to learn and enjoy.

**Jaclyn Roth** – *Bundles of Joy* – Hand-sewn bags filled with essential items were donated to single parent mothers to help provide women and their children with essentials.

**Ashly Skolky** – *Learning to Make a Healthy Meal on a Low-Cost Budget* – Researched nutritious and low-cost foods, prepared menus and cooked healthy meals for two nights for homeless clients at Agape House in Somerville. Also supplied handouts to families on nutrition and the Food Pyramid.

**Cara Touretzky** – *Bringing Books to Life* – Recorded books onto CDs for the Eisenhower School library to assist students who have trouble reading and promote literacy.

## **SU#15**

**Alyssa Jordan Constad** – *Temple Har Shalom's Library Organization* – Installed computerized program that catalogues, categorizes and tracks borrowed books at temple's library. As a result, the library's manual, inefficient system was improved and the library is better utilized and enjoyed by members.

**Jill Crenshaw** – *Touché Fencing Workshop* – Introduced Junior Girl Scouts to the growing sport of fencing. They earned the Junior Sports Badge through a series of hands-on activities using foil, epee and sabre.

**Laura Decker** – *Girl Scout Self Defense* – Organized three sessions of a 90-minute class covering the basics of self defense in an effort to help girls protect themselves.

**Nina Galasso** – *Operation School Supplies! Ready, Set, Learn!* – Collected and donated school supplies to the Martin Luther King Youth Center in Somerville and provided tutoring and crafts for the children.

**Amanda Richards** – *After-school Theater Arts Enrichment Program* – Through seven hour-long after-school sessions, taught students basic theater terminology, introduced them to the theater business, and furthered their knowledge of the craft in a fun atmosphere without pressure of a final performance.

**Kristen Tamburro** – *Teaching Sunday School* – In response to a shortage of Sunday School teachers, planned and taught lessons using hands-on Bible curriculum at Bridgewater United Methodist Church for the 2005-2006 academic year.

## **SU#17**

**Irene Ann Beam** – *Baskets of Hope* – Beautiful gift baskets were made for cancer patients of all ages and personalities to receive on their first day of cancer treatment at local hospitals and cancer centers.

**Kimberly Bergen** – *Disaster Relief to the Children of Hurricane Katrina* – Together with another Girl Scout, collected new and gently-used clothing and personal products for displaced children and families affected by Hurricane Katrina to be distributed by The Star of Hope organization.

**Dana Rozalyn Bonnell** – *Costume Shop* – Addressed the issue of the disorganized and inefficient costume room at Hillsborough High School. Cleaned and made room functional, sorted costumes and repaired shelving to benefit theater department.

## **SU#17**

**Alexandra Bostwick** – *Krafts for Kids* – Together with another Girl Scout, collected and donated craft items for children at the Somerset Home for Temporarily Displaced Children so they could learn and play. Also implemented a donation system throughout local schools and communities.

**Breanne Cascio** – *Winter Family Festival* – Organized winter craft event for special-needs students and their families. The children were able to make crafts, dance and play games while their parents socialized.

**Cara Christ** - *Disaster Relief to the Children of Hurricane Katrina* – Together with another Girl Scout, collected new and gently-used clothing and personal products for displaced children and families affected by Hurricane Katrina to be distributed by The Star of Hope organization.

**Kaycee Coleman** – *Blankets for the Needy* – Bought, made and collected blankets and supplies and delivered items to the agencies that serve people in need.

**Krista Coleman** – *Art Night* – Organized an event that exposed Brownie Girl Scouts to different art media and allowed them to earn badges, sparking their interest in art.

**Stephania Davia** – *Krafts for Kids* – Together with another Girl Scout, collected and donated craft items for children at the Somerset Home for Temporarily Displaced Children so they could learn and play. Also implemented a donation system throughout local schools and communities.

**Sarah Drozd** – *The Gift of Sight* – Collected eyeglasses and cleaned, repaired and classified them by prescription before delivering them to Lens Crafters and Lions Club volunteers.

**Jamie Kampf** – *Used Scrubs Donation for Third World Countries* – Collected used scrubs to be worn by medical personnel delivering health care in third world countries. Scrubs were also used to make baby clothes and were worn by village men working in the fields.

**Lauren Laessig** – *Interfaith Hospitality Network* – Coordinated volunteers to host and feed homeless families temporarily living at Trinity Church in Princeton while looking for housing and employment. Recruited new volunteers, ran volunteer training sessions, attended meetings, and worked directly with families.

**Stacy Nicole Lewis** – *A Bag of My Own* – Organized collections for donations of duffel bags, backpacks and basic toiletries for children in New Jersey's foster care system. Many of these children have nothing but a garbage bag to transport their belongings when moving between foster homes.

**Celia Maccini** – *Girl Scouting Beyond Bars (GSBB) Softball Clinic* – Held a softball clinic for girls in GSBB to learn basic softball skills. The girls had a chance to exercise, learn something new and have fun all at the same time.

**Casey Maxwell** – *Everyone Belongs: Navajo Nations* – Held a badge night for girls teaching them about the Navajos. Created a program box for Council and collected clothing and toiletries for Navajo girls living at the Mt. Carmel Indian Reservation.

**Kaitlyn Meyer** – *Bundles of Blankets* – Made and collected donated blankets to give to the Women's Resource Center. Children will be able to take their blankets with them when they move on.

**Janina Pescinski** – *Hillsborough Earth Day Fair* – Ran a community event to educate citizens about the environment and promote basic conservation. Informational displays and hands-on activities taught more than 100 attendees about how they can make a difference.

## **SU#17**

**Angela Sargiotti** – *Project Inspiration: Food for America* – Increase community awareness of the non-profit organization “Food for America.” Also helped identify an appropriate candidate to benefit from the organization’s Project Inspiration initiative, which gives financial help to families of disabled and special-needs children.

**Krista Shea** – *Summer Teaching Program for Children with Disabilities* – Worked at Hillsborough Summer School program. Assisted teachers, played games and developed activities to help children with disabilities maintain their academic skills for the upcoming school year.

**Carly Smith** – *Quilts for Kids* – Made and donated six baby quilts to the Resource Center for Women and their Families in Hillsborough. The quilts are designed to comfort the children coming from households where domestic violence was present.

**Christina Staszcyk** – *Decorating a Room* – Created a relaxing environment for developmentally disabled clients and residents at the same-day procedure unit at Woodbridge Developmental Center.

## **SU#18**

**Amy Austin** – *Pictures from the Past* – Improved the appearance of Merwich Rehab Hospital in Princeton by creating a display using photographs from residents’ pasts. Also made decorations and decorated the hospital for Halloween.

**Kristen Cousino** – *Discussion Group and Collection Drive* – Organized a discussion group that allowed high school students to openly discuss sensitive and topical subjects in a comfortable environment of their peers. Also held a collection for hats and gloves to be donated to people living on a Navajo Reservation in New Mexico.

**Caitlin Erchick** – *Building Bridges* – Collected school supplies for children in Iraq to be distributed by U.S. troops serving there.

**Megan Fortgang** – *Habitat for Humanity Site Host* – Along with two other Girl Scouts, worked with Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity to create the Youth Site Host Program to encourage more teenagers to volunteer with Habitat. Acted as site host at weekly construction days. Recruited teenage volunteers from Somerset and Hunterdon county schools, youth groups and Girl Scouts through mailings and presentations.

**Julia Hadinger** – *Fun Fall Field and Game Days* – Ran a six-week series of game days at a local park for special-needs children that gave them an opportunity to play sports and have fun while interacting with other children.

**Jennifer Heil** – *Reading Fundamentals* – Organized a literacy program in Trenton with elementary school students that included spending time together reading and collecting and donating school supplies.

**Kathleen Hopkins** – *Science Olympiad B Team* – Organized a program that allowed students to explore and appreciate science and learn about teamwork.

**Emily Hyncik** – *Girls Sports and You: Perfect Together* – Organized a program featuring four-time Olympian Joetta Clark Diggs as the keynote speaker. The program emphasized fitness and healthy eating, and introduced girls to sports team opportunities, as well the importance of being part of a team.

## **SU#18**

**Brittany Internoscia** – *Working with Girls with Communicative Disabilities and Educating Others* –Used the Focus On Abilities Patch to educate younger Girl Scouts about social acceptance for their peers with communicative disabilities. Also encouraged girls with disabilities to join Girl Scouting.

**Caitlin Librizzi** – *Human Rights Awareness: Locally and Globally* – A multifaceted effort to educate and involve people in human rights efforts locally and globally through a school-wide food drive, community clothing drive and a workshop given on genocide awareness.

**Krista Magid** – *Habitat for Humanity Site Host* – Along with two other Girl Scouts, worked with Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity to create the Youth Site Host Program to involve more teenagers with Habitat. Acted as site host at weekly construction days. Collected gardening equipment, plants and seeds for gift baskets that were presented at each homes' dedication.

**Caitlin O'Donnell** - *Habitat for Humanity Site Host* - Along with two other Girl Scouts, worked with Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity to create the Youth Site Host Program to involve more teenagers with Habitat. Acted as site host at weekly construction days. Collected housewarming gifts and created a mosaic of artwork from Girl Scout troops, to welcome the families to the new homes.

**Darielle Rocca** – *Environmental Survey* – Worked with the Environmental Commission of Montgomery Township to create and distribute environmental surveys in the township newsletter and in the high school. Tallied results, distributed prizes, and presented findings to the town.

**Dana Santye** – *Playhouse for Habitat for Humanity Children* – Secured materials, supervised volunteers and construction of playhouse, and donated this safe playhouse to a Habitat for Humanity family.

**Laura Schafer** – *Bundles of Joy* – Collected, cleaned, organized and donated baby items to a local shelter that helps pregnant women suffering from the effects of alcohol or drug dependencies, homelessness, domestic violence and emotional problems.

**Kaitlin Taft** – *Clothing and Toy Drive for Haitian Children* – Collected and donated clothing and toys for children living in Haitian orphanages.

## **SU#19**

**Allison Beck** – *Sunshine Bags* – Held a collection for donations of toys, games and other items to fill activity bags to keep sick children occupied during their stay at Hunterdon Medical Center.

**Laura Beidelman** – *Community Service Campfire Night* – Organized a campfire night where Girl Scouts made various crafts and donated items for organizations in the community.

**Christiane Darby** – *Operation: Tennis Court Reconstruction* – Worked to get approvals to resurface rundown public tennis courts in Delaware Township. Approached township committee with project and presented proposals, sought grant funding and contractor bids.

**Julie Foster** – *Activity Kits for Hospitalized Children* – Collected donations to assemble activity kits to entertain sick children at St. Peter's Hospital in New Brunswick.

**Peggy Naples** – *Multilingual Trumpet and Saxophone Lessons* – Developed music lessons in English and Spanish and recorded them on CD to help the students and music department of an inner-city school. Also made corresponding booklets for the ease of following along with the CD lessons and fun T-shirts.