



girl scouts
of greater chicago
and northwest
indiana



**GIRLS CHANGE
THE WORLD**

**GIRL SCOUT
GOLD AWARD CEREMONY
MAY 19, 2018**



2018 Gold Award Ceremony

Refreshments

Presentation of Colors

Welcome

Arkayla Burkes & Jane Clark
Emcees

Leadership Remarks

Kathy Scherer
President and Board Chair

Nancy L. Wright
Chief Executive Officer

Words of Inspiration

Presentation of Awards

Arkayla Burkes & Jane Clark

Silver Award Announcement/Recognition

Closing Remarks

Retire the Colors



Emcees



Arkayla Burkes

Arkayla has been a Girl Scout for as long as she can remember and has earned the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. Outside of Girl Scouts, Arkayla is on the basketball team as well as the track & field team. She is also a member of her school's Scholastic Bowl Team, Tutor Club and Peer Mentor Program. She is also pleased to be your co-emcee this year as her younger sister receives her Gold Award.



Jane Clark

Jane is the chair of the Gold Award Committee. She is the vice president of member services for NationalLease, North America's largest full-service leasing organization, and has previously worked as a membership development director for Fox Valley Girl Scout Council. Jane has been a volunteer for several years and has served on the Adult Recognition Committee.




The Girl Scout Promise

On my honor, I will try:
To serve God and my country,
To help people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

The Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be
honest and fair,
friendly and helpful,
considerate and caring,
courageous and strong, and
responsible for what I say and do,
and to
respect myself and others,
respect authority,
use resources wisely,
make the world a better place, and
be a sister to every Girl Scout.



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

The time is now for girls to say, *My Voice Matters.*

Girls chase dreams. Girls champion issues. Girls change the world. You know firsthand that no girl has to wait to be great.

You have unleashed your power and realized your potential to create meaningful change, whether it's in your school, in your community, or even beyond walls and borders. You are using your voice and inspiring others to listen.

Through Girl Scouting, you have developed your ability to speak up for yourself and others, using your own style of leadership. You are passionate about issues that matter to you, and you take action to advocate and be a change agent. The world needs you, and you are answering the call.

Today you are recognized for earning the Girl Scout Gold Award—a level of accomplishment in Girl Scouting that very few people attain. Congratulations to each young woman from Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana who has earned this distinguished honor during the past year. You are proof that Girl Scouts builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

It is girls like you who will inspire and lead the Movement forward. We hear you, we see you, and we celebrate you today. As you continue to create your legacy of social impact, you have the Girl Scout community to support you along the way. Speak up. Stand up. Rise up. Your future is limitless!



Highest Awards by the Numbers

The statistics below are representative of the GSGCNWI fiscal year, which runs Oct. 1 – Sept. 30.

IN 2017

76 Girl Scout Seniors & Ambassadors



Earned the Gold Award

THROUGH



5,176 Hours of Service

TO



4,904 People

IN



82 Communities

WITH



3,223 Items Donated

1,100 Girl Scout Cadettes



Earned the Silver Award

1,178 Girl Scout Juniors



Earned the Bronze Award

SO FAR IN 2018

76 Girl Scout Seniors & Ambassadors



Earned the Gold Award

THROUGH



6,080 Hours of Service

TO



5,816 People

IN



76 Communities

WITH



4,248 Items Donated

876 Girl Scout Cadettes



Earned the Silver Award

1,380 Girl Scout Juniors



Earned the Bronze Award

Gold Award Scholarships

Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana thanks the generous donors who support our council's Gold Award scholarship fund. In the second year of this scholarship fund, 17 Gold Award recipients received a total of \$10,000 in college scholarships in honor of their commitment to making the world a better place.

2017 Scholarship Recipients

Kalpa Anjur

Carnegie Mellon University

Rhegan Graham

Emerson College

Kiersten Rasberry

Princeton University

Kavya Anjur

Johns Hopkins University

Elizabeth Hoffman

Butler University

Anne Stanislawski

Augustana College

Mariel Boden

McGill University

Emily Lamaze

Louisiana Tech University

Elizabeth Travnik

University of Notre Dame

Maggie Anne Brown

High Point University

Gillion Machota

Aurora University

Lauren Upshaw

Western Michigan University

Kara Coleman

New York University

Sara Mason

Elon University

Amber Zayed

Concordia University

Lauren Rae Constantino

Indiana University
Bloomington

Francesca Vena Pedersen

Fordham University

We are grateful to these donors who made gifts to the Gold Award Scholarship Fund in FY17 and FY18 YTD:

Sally T. Clair

William Coughlin

Christine Filer

Lee Helmer

Terri Holley

Vicki C. King

Terry Ann Nissly

Caitlin Padula

Juliette C. Romeo

Victoria Severson

Rachel Tanzer

Peggy Tuck Sinko

Mary Ann Tuft

Maryann Waryjas

Roycealee J. Wood

Learn more about supporting the scholarship fund by contacting Patricia Broughton at pbroughton@girlscoutsgcnwi.org or visiting girlscoutsgcnwi.org/scholarships. Named endowed scholarship opportunities are also available.

2018 Gold Award Recipients

Grace Ashby

T.E.C.C Little Library

My Girl Scout Gold Award project involved serving the students and staff at Trinity Early Childhood Center, as well as the surrounding Naperville community. In order to do this, I recognized my love for reading, and decided to build a Little Free Library and install it in front of the TECC building.

Rachelle Banks

Connecting Kids with Medical Grants

This program seeks to reach teachers and parents of kids who may benefit from medical grants by raising awareness of UHCCF grants and Oliver® and Hope® books and materials that help fund the grants.

Elizabeth Bassett

Girls with Hammers

I created a build day event called Girls With Hammers for teen girls to become inspired by women professionals in STEM, be encouraged to get involved in STEM, get hands-on experience with power tools and build a bee house for the Glen Ellyn Park District. The bee house they built was installed in Churchill Park along with an educational sign I created to teach park visitors the importance of protecting solitary bees. By addressing the loss of habitat for pollinators and encouraging girls to be bold when working towards their future, my project benefited native Illinois bees, the Glen Ellyn community and teen girls in Glen Ellyn, Downers Grove, Hinsdale and Westmont.

Maegan Bauer

Gaga Ball Pit

A gaga ball pit is an eight-sided octagon used to play a modified version of dodge ball; it is portable and people can control when they take it out. The pit I built is stained for weather conditions and is easily assembled by using the eight sides. It is housed at the Hospitality House Youth Development Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota and it will be used to benefit the children's social interactions with their classmates.

Anna Breitbarth

Cuddles for Foster Children

For my Gold Award project I wanted to help children going through the foster care system. I was able to see that children go into new homes with nothing but the clothes they are wearing. I wanted to give them something to use as comfort. With my project, I made blankets to give to foster children.



Natalie Brown

Camp GOLD

Camp GOLD addressed the loss of academic skills (reading and math) during summer break in Greenwood School in Waukegan, Illinois. For several weeks each summer, I ran a camp for elementary kids to help keep them from experiencing the effects of Summer Slide. During each camp week, the children had the opportunity to participate in reading, writing, and math activities. I will continue the camp with my own efforts, as well as train junior high school students to promote the camp in the future.

Elizabeth Buksa

Pass It On

I worked with girls in 7th and 8th grade to help them get ready for high school volleyball. I provided a skills clinic and two-day tournament to help improve their level of play. I was able to pass on volleyball equipment to the six schools that attended. Through concession sales and entrance fees, I was able to make enough money to upgrade my high school's net. The winning team received T-shirts.

Elizabeth Burdiak

The Wonder of Words

The goal of my project, "The Wonder of Words," is to help elementary-aged students who are struggling with reading and literacy and aid their process of learning. In order to achieve my goal, I made word packets of simple words that make up about sixty percent of the English language. These packets were inspired by the same ones that I once had as a child and I thought that reviving their use by donating them to those who didn't have the resources could help the struggling children to learn in a quick yet efficient way.

Arianna Burkes

Mason Beehive Project

In recent years there have been concerns about the environmental impacts of pollinator decline as it relates to fruit crops and other plants. Fostering agricultural pollination through mason beekeeping within communities could help the environment. I built a mason beehive for the Birches Assisted Living community and taught the seniors how to care for the mason bees.

Jenna Cappel

Water Bottle Filling Station Installation at Munster High School

By raising money and awareness on plastic pollution in town and around the world. With enough donations three automatic water bottle filling stations were installed in Munster High School to help reduce, reuse and recycle and transition from plastic to reusable water bottles.



Cameryn Cobb

Staying Afloat: Water Safety

My project addressed the issue of keeping kids safe in and out of the water. Multiple parents told me my session was a good refresher on water safety and inspired kids to be safe around the water.

Katherine Constantine

Shirt Protectors for Students

My project is to create shirt protectors for a special education school. This is to assist children who tend to make a mess on themselves.

Izzy Cox

Decorating with Diversity

I wrote and taught a curriculum made up of eight workshops for elementary schoolers, which focused on exploring various concepts of diversity as expressed through workshop discussions and various media of art, at an after-school program in my community. After the workshops were over, I worked with the teachers and students at the program to assemble a quote that represented what the students had learned through the workshops. The quote was used to create a collaborative art project made up of canvas letters, each painted by a student from the program, which was displayed for two months on an art wall in the community. I also presented a copy of my curriculum, complete with resources and data from surveys taken before and after the workshop series, to the teachers at the after-school program in order to facilitate the teaching of my lessons in the future.

Caroline Crawford

Soaps for Smiles

I asked my community to collect their unused travel sized toiletries and drop them off in strategically placed drop boxes. With the help of a younger troop, I organized the toiletries, put together bags for people in a homeless shelter and delivered them to a Chicago homeless shelter. My hope is to make their lives a little more comfortable.

Sarah Deffenbaugh

Buddy Bench to Build a Better Tomorrow

To work against bullying and promote inclusion, I built two buddy benches to go on the playgrounds of two different schools. I visited the schools and gave a presentation to each about the buddy bench and the importance of friendship. With each school, I left a binder so the program will continue for years to come.



Muskaan Dhiman

Save the Sea Animals and Scenery

My project is about promoting environmental awareness and convey the negative effects of littering in different forest preserves, beaches, and lakes in my community. Along with friends and family, I went to these places in my local area multiple times throughout the year and cleaned up any litter that I saw. Unfortunately, many people who come to Big Bend Lake throw their trash on the ground and never clean up so this lake usually contains a high level of garbage and debris. I coordinated with my National Honor Society sponsor to create a community service opportunity for NHS students at my high school. The event was called the North Branch Restoration Project where we cut down trees that were dead and harming the environment as well as picking up and throwing away any trash that we saw at the site in an appropriate place. For the sustainability portion of the project, I created a short film about the severity of littering and what kinds of harmful effects it can have on the environment as well as animals that live nearby lakes and beaches.

Lauren DiPietro

The Hungry Dollar

My project, The Hungry Dollar, has become a resource for healthy food on a budget for the people using the MBT Food Pantry. My project uses the food most commonly found in food pantries and converts it into healthy, beautiful food for not a lot of money. The Hungry Dollar strives to become a widely used and helpful resource for everyone.

Arianna Drechsler

Food Pantry Cookbook

I have created a cookbook that is tailored specifically to the needs of low-income families. My “Food Pantry Cookbook” provides delicious, healthy, and affordable food options to customers at Loaves & Fishes Community Services, located in Naperville, IL. This cookbook features ingredients that are commonly found in food pantries across the United States, and thus, these recipes have provided families in need with means to turn the food items in their homes into healthy and homemade meals.

Catherine Drosch

Project Playground

For my project, I undertook the task of reconstructing the playground at my church, the Presbyterian Church in Orland Park. With its exposure to weather and time, it had simply worn down and turned into a hazard for children at play. I oversaw that the playground was torn down and revamped with safety as a top priority.



Lindsey DuBose

Project Hopeful Homes

Project Hopeful Homes is a non-profit organization that raises awareness on the issue of homelessness. Through this project, I have collected generous donations of hygiene products and donated them to Wayside Cross Ministries Lifespring Center. Upon completion of this project, I was able to educate my school and community on the issues of homelessness and how to reduce it.

Samantha Fountain

Romona Elementary School's Free Little Library

For my Gold Award, I designed and constructed a Free Little Library for Romona Elementary School. I worked with the school to construct by hand an accessible library for their students and other members of the community to use at any time. With the books now replenished by their Green Team club, my Gold Award project will help to provide books to the community children of all backgrounds for many years to come.

Amaris Garcia

Seasonal Care Bag Project

The Seasonal Care Bag Project was started to address homelessness and strengthen the bond between people in local communities. Donations of seasonal items (such as hats, gloves, scarfs for winter and sunblock, water, wipes for summer) were collected and gathered to be distributed in areas with a high homeless population, within Chicago. In addition to providing for those in need, the Seasonal Care Bag Project brought over 20 people together and taught the value of working together to making the world a better place, one step at a time.

Kaitlin Gaynor

Transfer the Tunes: Music Matters

My project addressed the severe loss of band students in the transition between middle school and high school. My Gold Award project resulted in a 15-percent increase in band retention between middle school and high school. I completed this through executing two middle school band transition nights, creating a 5th grade private lesson program for 60 students, creating a music department video and painting a wall mural with a musical theme outside our music department.



Lauren Glynn

Daybreak Shelter Children's Corner

For my Gold Award project, I decided to build a Kids' Corner at my local homeless shelter. To complete this task, I hosted a book drive at my high school and collected over a thousand books. At home, I color coded each of the hundreds of books by age group, and I constructed three homemade bookshelves to place the books in. On move-in day at the shelter, my team and I set up the painted shelves, books, and several pieces of furniture. To sustain the Corner, I spoke with the entire staff of Daybreak and provided them with a binder about my project. In addition to the Children's Corner, I also donated 75 backpacks that I had purchased with leftover funds from my project.

Denise Gomez

Little Bibs: Big Impact

Donations of T-shirts and towels were recycled to make baby bibs for a women's clinic in Chicago. Volunteers helped to cut, measure, and sew the materials. This organization supports expecting mothers who are in need of financial, medical, and emotional support.

Megan Hann

Help Respectfully Retire Worn American flags

Each and every American citizen has a fundamental responsibility to do their part to honor our American flag. This can include its display but also its retirement when its useful life is through. From soliciting input from citizens of Tinley Park, I learned that people really were uninformed about HOW to dispose of a worn American flag but also WHERE to take it. By making it easy for them to go to logical and available locations throughout Tinley Park, I think we have done our part to show our patriotism and support the education of Americans in our corner of the world.

Allena Healy

Spreading the Positivity

My Gold Award project was to make patients and families in hospitals feel as welcomed, supported, and optimistic as possible. I made creative inspirational cards that I hope will touch people's hearts, and revive them during stressful times. I also made birthday cards so that patients feel the comfort and attention they deserve on their special day.

Alysha Henrichs

Water Table for Park District

The Naperville Park District runs a nature based preschool where nature is used to foster curiosity and facilitate learning. After learning the preschool director wished to add to their students outdoor learning experience, I decided to build a water table and ramp. This year alone 60 kids will have the opportunity to utilize my project.

Kaitlyn Hogan

Native Plant Butterfly Garden and Bird Habitat

Using the existing garden area on the north side of Saint Paul Episcopal Church in northwest Indiana, I planted and maintained a butterfly garden and bird habitat area. All plants are native to Northwest Indiana and are plants that would attract native butterflies and birds. The bird habitat area also includes birdhouses and there are also garden stepping stones in the butterfly garden.

Emma Ismail

Beauty Packages for Patients

For my project, I created beauty packages to give to hospitalized teenage girls. My goal was to give these packages to the girls in hopes that it would boost their self-esteem and show them that no matter what they went through, before or after being in the hospital, they are still beautiful. It would also hopefully give them something to pass the time and make their stay in the hospital a little more enjoyable. Eventually, my project developed into supporting Lurie Children's Hospital's "Patient Prom" by donating the makeup and dresses needed to give the girls a true prom experience.

Nicole Jen

Landscaping Around the Girl Scout Bridge in Heritage Park

I revitalized the landscape of a historical site in Munster. By freshening up structures in the landscape as well I created a beautiful place for the town to walk and admire in the Park.

Zahra Jumani

#ProjectMyFuture

The transition from junior high to high school can be a tumultuous one, and #ProjectMyFuture works to educate and mentor soon to be high school students so that they may have a smooth transition to high school. Prospective students got the opportunity to preview classes that they would take freshmen year, and interact with the respective teachers first hand. #ProjectMyFuture is an event for middle school students to plan and prepare for high school, and have the knowledge to be successful their future pursuits.

Joan Karstrom

Fighting the Decreasing Population of Bees in the Chicagoland Area

My project addressed the issue of the decreasing population of bees. I created bee houses and educational posters to inform the public of how important bees are and their issues. I worked with Iron Oaks to house and continue the maintenance of the bee houses and maybe even build more in the future.



Emily Kellogg

Keep Gurnee Clean

I started an anti-litter campaign in my community called Keep Gurnee Clean. Keep Gurnee Clean is all about stopping the litter problem in my community through education, action, and sustainability. My goal has been to encourage people to think before they litter and pick up debris they see as they walk. I'm accomplished my goal by hosting litter pick-up events, where volunteers come to help clean up trash along the four main Gurnee trails.

Alexandra Kells

From the Closet to the Pantry

I petitioned my Girl Scout troop, service unit family and friends to donate old unwanted T-shirts. I then modified the T-shirts and sewed them into reusable bags. These bags were then donated to a food pantry to be used instead of paper or plastic bags.

Mary Kennelly

Coloring for Kids

At Loyola University, there is a pediatric medical assistance van for underprivileged kids in the Chicago land area. In my project I brought art supplies to the van which are then distributed among the kids that they service. Since the van helps 40,000 kids each year, I gave them lots of coloring pages as well as drawing supplies that can stay at the van for the kids to use when they are being treated. I also created a website with all of the coloring page designs that I made so that they can print off more or receive them from others who print the pages out.

Genevieve Kyle

Bounce Back Kits - Siblings

For my project I worked alongside Bounce Children's foundation, and assisted in the creation of their Bounce Back sibling kits. These kits are given to families that have chronically ill children, but instead of being given to the ill children they are given to their siblings. The kits contain activities, notes of encouragement and other materials and they serve as a reminder that even though there are times when a family is apart, they are always together.

Olivia Lamberti

Phoenix Flourishes

My project aided the children's program at a domestic abuse shelter. By organizing their craft closet, putting together 25 themed snacks, read-aloud books, and crafts, and connecting the program to my school's chapter of the National Honor Society, I ensured that the program could be sustained for years to come. Additionally, I put together a pamphlet to help other service-minded students learn about the importance of cultural sensitivity in charity work.

Jasmine McClendon

Keyword: Creativity

The goal of my Gold Award project was to provide an inspiring and functional space for low-income children to have the opportunity to create and express themselves through arts and crafts. I worked with the Boys and Girls Club of Lake County to improve their art program and art room. The Boys and Girls Club of America is an organization that provides after-school programs for kids ages 6 to 18. Improving their art program consisted of multiple art supply drives, the creation of 20 art workshop boxes, and cleaning, organizing, and decorating the art room at their main center. I donated furniture to make the room more functional and led a painting workshop for the kids at the center.

Julia Meister

Connecting Through Theater

I helped develop and implement the pilot program for an acting class through the West Suburban Special Recreation Association (WSSRA). The class ran for eight weeks and explored different improv activities and communication exercises for teens and adults with special needs. At the end of the eight weeks, I compiled a binder to serve as a curriculum guide for WSSRA if they decide to offer the program again.

Lisa Miller

Natural Hair is Good Hair

My project focused on raising awareness for the scrutiny of black women's hair. Stigmas created by media can steer black women away from wearing their hair natural. I hosted workshops with young girls encouraging them to be confident in themselves and not be pressured by society's standards. I also hosted workshops with older kids of different backgrounds to help them understand the difficulties black women go through with their hair. I created a Facebook group for anyone to join and spread positivity and inclusivity for female beauty.

Natalie Mun

Health and Well Being Program

For my project I led exercise and overall wellbeing sessions at a women's shelter in North Chicago. I was able to work with girls aged 12-17. Each meeting was about an hour and a half, one hour for fitness and a half hour for discussion. I hope I was able to teach the girls important life lessons, in addition to instilling good habits.



Amber Nagaraja

Paracord Bracelets for Our Troops

My project aimed to raise awareness of the hardships U.S. troops face when they are deployed in addition to supplying them with a bracelet for practical purposes. The bracelets show moral support and, when unraveled, can be used for things like tourniquets, shoelaces, fishing lines, etc. The local AFJROTC sent volunteers to help make the bracelets, and later on I shipped them to an organization that would send them to deployed troops, Operation Gratitude.

Tricia Nicholson

Conant's 1st Annual Prom Dress Closet

My project established Conant High School's first successful Prom Dress Closet in 2017. Over the course of three days, I partnered with the administrative staff at Conant to collect formal wear in exchange for raffle tickets that allowed students to go to prom for free. The dresses were then made available for low-income students to take as needed. The Prom Dress Closet will be available for the coming years for more people to benefit from and add to.

Natalie Ostrow

Little Free library

My project is to put a little free library in our community park. I want to knock out literacy in children.

Aliza Panjwani

Blood Donation Saves a Nation

My Gold Award project involved setting up a blood drive in my religious institution in order to solve the problem of convenience, the main reason why many do not bother to donate blood on a regular basis. My project promoted working as a community for a good cause, highlighted the growing need for blood in our society, and make it more likely for participants to look for opportunities outside of the mosque to help those in need receive and use the blood that will ultimately save their lives.

Abby Parch

Scrapbook Stories

I worked with a Sunrise Senior Living facility to meet some residents. I interviewed residents at the facility then helped them compile the information. Then I helped them put together a scrapbook and decorate it.

Nicole Peterson

Antioch Tour Guide

The issue my project addressed was the out-of-date information on the town of Antioch. I addressed this by researching to find the new updated information and put it in a simple format that would make it easier to understand. It benefited the Lakes Region Historical Society and the town.

Radoslava Pribyl Pierdinock

Lending Library

With my community's support, I created a library for pre-school to 1st grade students at St. Catherine and St. Lucy-Sienna, a Catholic school serving low-income families in the Austin neighborhood. I collected donations of books, paint, rugs, bean bag chairs, rocking chairs, pillows, stuffed animals, games, book bags, and craft supplies in order to transform the room into a welcoming space for the children. I painted Hungry Caterpillar murals on the walls, decorated book bags, and created reading spaces filled with beanbags and cozy rugs. My biggest project was organizing and collecting books in a way that the students would be able to easily have access to choosing a book that interested them and creating a system that allowed the students to be able to take the books home.

Daniela D. Pope

IncludeME

IncludeME focuses on spreading a message of compassion and empathy to today's youth who do not suffer from stuttering so that they can help their stuttering peers feel included and understood. Teaching children compassion at a young age can influence them to be empathetic adults. I have written a children's book entitled "Kitty has a Secret" that gives the newest generation an opportunity to learn by example and apply the skills given to them through the narrative to include and empathize with their stuttering peers. "Kitty has a Secret" can be found on my website, in local preschools and libraries, with babysitters, and with local speech therapists with further information and tips to educate people about speech impediments.

Madeline Wilson Reese

Mad Scientist Camp

I organized and led a summer science camp for 3rd-5th graders at Benton House in the Bridgeport neighborhood of Chicago. Through hands-on experiments, the campers learned about five different areas of science: chemistry, biology, physics, astronomy, and meteorology. I also taught the kids about careers and famous scientists in each field of study.



Katie Roberts

Libraries for Juvenile Justice

My project addressed the lack of books available to children in poorer neighborhoods. I worked with a judge in juvenile court to place bookcases outside of her courtroom to provide both adolescents and adults in the courthouse with free books. I did this by building bookcases with my high school swim team, collecting donated books from community members, and partnering with a local non-profit dedicated to providing books for underprivileged children.

Kellie Rohrer

Supply Our Future

Through Supply Our Future I collected donations of school supplies from various organizations and delivered them to a low income Chicago Public School. I also provided pamphlets to the students with information on where the cheapest supplies were sold and when the best time to buy them is.

Sydney Ruchala

Fairy Garden

I made a Fairy Garden at Plicher Park for everyday uses along with their annual Fairy Fest. From cleaning up the 50 foot area I was given, to building and painting birdhouses to even making the fairies. The best part about my project was having some Girl Scouts help me make the fairies out of wooden close pins and fake flower petals.

Sydney Scepkowski

Sunsibility: A Teen's Guide to Sun Safety

My Gold Award project was designed to educate tweens and teens about skin sun safety, especially the importance of consistently wearing sunscreen or ultraviolet protective clothing. I designed an original graphic novel and fun, unique rack cards, which I distributed to local pools and rec centers. These cards included important information for my target audience, such as how to read sunscreen labels. Finally, I presented my project to seventh and eighth grade students and a middle school Girl Scout troop.

Allyson Serbick

Local Lost and Finds

For my Gold Award I asked local schools and churches to donate their lost and found items for my cause. Often times lost and found items are thrown out. Instead of throwing the items away I collected, then washed and dried these items. The local charities are in need of specific items, so I took these items and sorted them then redistributed them according to the different needs of the charities. I spoke with two different groups and educated them on the values of reusing, and one of these groups is carrying on my project next year.

Kareena Shah

Children's Multipurpose Room for Family Service Shelter

The purpose of my Gold Award project was to aid in the safety, creativity and education of young children. The shelter I chose is a safe haven for women and children. The space I redesigned was the multipurpose room from infants to teenagers. Providing a safe environment for the children was my number one priority.

Ambika Singh

Healthy Bites = Healthy Life

I met with 3-5 year olds, who are enrolled in my school's daycare center, and organized activities/information sessions so they can learn about the importance of foods. The aim of my project was not to tell these kids what specific foods they should eat, but instead educate them about what food has that is so important to our bodies. Each meeting we would focus on one certain vitamin/mineral and talk about the foods associated with that mineral. I would also organize crafts for them to do and an activity that would involve them making a snack.

Hannah Slater

St. Jude Butterfly Garden

We built a butterfly garden at my church to provide a home for the butterflies and other pollinators. In doing so, we also provided a "living lab" to the students at the school there. Together, the butterflies and students will work together to provide a much better ecosystem and increase mutual awareness by getting the kids to think beyond just themselves.

Mia Spina

End the Silence on Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is a very sensitive topic for almost everyone to talk about. I wanted to break this stigma and bring awareness of how important it is to understand this issue. In doing so, I created a website that features a video, which portrays situations that a victim of domestic violence might experience. I hope that my video speaks for itself and people pass it along.

Savannah Stevens

Compelling Girls to Pursue S.T.E.M.(CGPS)

I designed a way to keep young girls interested in stem. I first made girl friendly LEGO engineering notebooks, then presented to them with fun science/S.T.E.M. experiments, and finally let them learn at home with my website.



Emily Stood

Happy Hands Preschool Room

The project consisted of refurbishing a classroom at Happy Hands Methodist Preschool and working with teachers to keep up DCFS standards. Within the classroom that was the main part of my project, toys and furniture were gathered and repaired when needed, in order to create a new classroom in line with standards and available for the surplus of students enrolled. I also helped clean out the classrooms of the other teachers to set up for a successful school year in line with DCFS standards, which mainly consisted of working with others to clean furniture and empty storage cabinets.

Sarina Tajuddin

My Future, My Story

My project addressed the issue of many girls being unsure about what career they wanted to pursue. While a lot of young women say they want to go into medicine and healthcare, they aren't aware of the full scope of career options that are available to them besides the well known professions (pediatrician, surgeon, cardiologist). As a result, girls go into college planning on taking the premed route without knowing exactly where that route will lead and what their future career will consist of. My project aims to help spread education and information about these various careers and help people interested in medicine learn more about career options and what responsibilities, struggles, and advantages these options hold.

Susan Tatelli

Epinephrine Readiness for Teens

My Gold Award project focused on educating everyone - especially teens, who are at the highest risk for fatal anaphylaxis - about the importance of what I termed "Epinephrine Readiness:" recognizing the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis, knowing how and when to administer epinephrine, and ALWAYS carrying two epinephrine auto-injectors. I used my video, called "This is What I Know," as the cornerstone of my Gold Award project curriculum, with the goal of teaching about the importance of Epinephrine Readiness. "How to Stay Alive - Take Two" became an important piece in my Epinephrine Readiness training. For my Gold Award project, both videos were followed by a survey to assess impact.



Abbey Testin

Kitchen Lab

After restoring an unusable kitchen space at my grade school with new paint, tables, stools, basic kitchen tools, and organization, I created an enrichment program for students to learn more about science, art, and math in the kitchen. I brought the family and consumer sciences curriculum to my grade school so that they could begin learning basic life skills at an earlier age. The space can grow into a future hands-on classroom for students to learn about science, nutrition, etiquette, and many more beneficial skills.

Kira Thomas

Architecture of the City of Aurora, IL

I created a photographic book of historical architecture in the city of Aurora, IL. My focus was to document the buildings as they are today because there are no current photos of these buildings existed. My project is part of the archives at the Aurora Historical Society.

Trinity Thomas

The Need to Read: Exploring the World Through Books

Discrepancies in literacy is an issue I addressed while developing this project. During this project, children were able to discover a love for reading. They were introduced to various activity lessons about caring for other people.

Nora Tucker

Fun for Firefighters

My project addressed the problem of firefighters working in high-stress environments without a way to relax during their days. They are frequently in the fight-or-flight stage and full of adrenaline which can be unhealthy when prolonged over long periods of time. As a result, my volunteers and I made Giant Jenga and Baggo/Cornhole games that I donated to local firehouses. The goal of these games is to help firefighters calm down and de-stress during their days, as they are never able to fully relax since they never know when they will be called into action.

Nicole Tzioufas

Lights Camera Action

My Gold Award project exposed young children ages 5-12, to performing arts and theater throughout our community. In my project, I taught children what it is like to be in a production along with integrating and learning how to develop team work and confidence skills in themselves not just as actors, but as young girls. Finally, I also introduced children throughout the community to the performing arts who has never been involved in putting on a production to spread awareness and attention to the Arts in the Lake Forest Community.



Gina Velino

Bean Bags for Little Friends

Building the bean bag games allowed and will continue to allow the students at Little Friends to learn everyday life skills. These skills include patience, encouragement, and teamwork, but are not limited to these skills. The games will also help the students interact with their families more and participate at events.

Laura Virgilio

Makerspace Collaborative Learning

My Gold Award project was involved with Makerspaces and collaborative learning. My project goal was to try to increase elementary school students' communication skills and work with real world applications while developing their flexibility and creativity in learning.

Kyra Washington

The Spirit of Giving

My project, the Spirit of Giving, is about showing others how to give back to the community. A problem I noticed is that teens are not giving back to others as much as they could. The point of my project was to show teens the different forums available to give back through, and hopefully if they found one they enjoyed, they would continue to go.

Allison Winter

Take a Shot- Diabetes Pen Pal Program

The Diabetes Pen Pal Program is a website that was put together while working with the American Diabetes Association to form a place for diabetics, along with their friends and family, to get in contact with each other and exchange helpful tips. The website I created is takeashot.info. This website includes a page on who we are, links to other helpful diabetic websites, tips for diabetics and friends/family, and a blog that will be updated with memorable stories that are sent to me by people viewing my page. In order to get in contact with each other, they must click on the forums tab, register, then chat!



**Brown Owl and Troop 21186
congratulate Madeline and Lisa!
We love you & are SO proud of you!!**



Congratulations, Madeline!



From Brownie to Gold Award Girl Scout -
We could not be prouder of your amazing
accomplishments! Love you! Mom & Dad

Congratulations, Lisa!



From Brownie to Gold Award Girl Scout - I could not be more proud of your amazing accomplishments!! Love, Ms. Reese

Dear Madeline, Congratulations on pursuing and achieving the highest and most prestigious honor in Girl Scouts! You started with an idea,



developed a plan, and executed it all while keeping its sustainability for your community in mind.

We are so proud of your determination and huge heart for helping others and can't wait to see where your bright future takes you! Love, Aunt Suzie & Uncle ET

We are so very proud of our granddaughter!! You have always given 110% to everything you do.



Onward and upward,
Madeline!!

Love you,
Papa & Grammy



Susan -- We are proud of your Epinephrine Readiness curriculum, which has saved lives through food allergy advocacy, education and training.



SILVER AWARD

How to Stay Alive (In Three Seconds) Take Two
Taking the Fear Out of Epinephrine



<http://bit.ly/2ABcZQn>



GOLD AWARD

This Is What I Know
Because no one plans to have an anaphylactic reaction



<http://bit.ly/2pgzzlU>

70,000+ views on YouTube
1,500+ people trained in person

Feedback about Susan's Epinephrine Readiness curriculum:

This is not only a brave act, and a brilliant idea, but a service to food allergy education.

If you know someone with food allergies (and you do), watch this video.

I'm going to share Susan's video on my timeline and use it at future trainings.

I use Susan's videos every year to train my children's teachers.

You start looking better almost straight away! I wish everyone was taught how to use these in schools -- whether it's for yourself, or a bystander -- they're so simple and save lives day after day.

Just got my EpiPen...and I really wasn't sure what to expect...This video was very helpful!

Thank you for sharing your experience! I just showed your video to my eight year old...He's still a little afraid but your video helped him a lot.

As a parent and a pediatric allergist, everyone should watch Susan's videos.

I had my 11 year-old daughter (multiple food allergies, Mast Cell disease) watch this video. She was super happy to see somebody else hesitate before the injection too. It made her feel more normal.

Thank you for sharing your powerful and important story with the world!

Many support group leaders across the country shared these videos, which show confidence and strength and allow others to see that while food allergies are life-threatening, they do not have to define you.

This video helped me save my friend's life.



CONGRATULATIONS!!!

**CAMERYN LAUREN
COBB**

CLASS OF 2018

We are so proud you completed Daisy to Ambassador Girl Scouts

Bronze, Silver & Gold Award Recipient

Love.....Mom, Dad & Kaden

Congratulations Lauren DiPietro!

Troop 41214 Libertyville, Illinois



Lauren conducted a project she dubbed the "Hungry Dollar" that focused on ensuring that low-income families are able to make nutritious, cost-effective meals for their families. She volunteered at a local food pantry to understand what types of food were available and what people did not use. She also volunteered at the after-school center connected to the pantry to understand the children from the families. Lauren also devised recipes from the food pantry items and made info sheets that contained the recipe, cost-per-serving and nutrition information. Lastly, she did "how-to" videos on to make the recipes on a YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0v7hGgWKTUhSpwg6hzu8sA/videos>



Congratulations
Gold Award Girl Scout
Trinity
We are proud of your
accomplishments

PhotoGrid

Allena, adorable wonderful you, keep soaring and remember to give back.

We love you dearly. Mom and Dad



Congratulations to Girl Scout Troop 70564 Plainfield Illinois on achieving your Gold Awards!

Together since kindergarten- Sydney Scepkowski, Sarah Deffenbaugh, and Lauren Glyn.

We are proud of you! Love your parents



Congratulations

on receiving your

GOLD AWARD

Muskaan Dhiman

Save the Sea Animals and Scenery

Denise Gomez

Little Bibs: Big Impact

Allena Healy

Spreading the Positive

**We are proud of you. Good luck
in all your future endeavors.**

Service Unit 405



Congratulations!



You did it, Daniela!



FPO
Files at Printer
with Diane



Eternally Proud, Mom & Dad



Dear Megan,
 If I could give you one thing in life, I would give
 you the ability to see yourself through my eyes.
 Only then would you realize how special you
 are to me. Congratulations on this tremendous
 accomplishment. So proud.

♥♥ I love you,
 Mom



Emily,
 You did it!
 Congratulations on earning the
 Gold Award!!
 We are so proud of you!
 Love, Mom, Dad and John

Congratulations, Girl!

FPO
 Files at Printer
 with Diane



From your Biggest Fans - Family #2



Alysha,
Congratulations!
Love, Mom



Congratulations



**K
Y
R
A**

We are so proud of your many accomplishments. Your compassion, strength, intellect, perseverance and spirit is what we all love about you. Continue to follow your dreams and make a difference. We love you.

Mom, Dad and your YSFC Family



Arianna

We are so proud of you and the things you've accomplished so far. We know you'll continue to grow and succeed in life. Be K.G.H. and God will continue to bless you.

Love Mom, Dad & Sis

Congratulations Catherine Hope, We are so proud of you and all your hard work. Always remember "You are stronger, than you see, braver than you believe and smarter than you think you are."
A.A. Milne

Love, Mom, Dad, Logan and Joel



Join GCNWI's Gold Award Committee and Mentor the next Gold Award Girl Scout!



A Girl Scout earns her Gold Award only with approval by the Gold Award Committee. We are a volunteer group looking for community leaders (of any background) willing to interview, mentor and advise Girl Scouts earning their Gold Awards. We provide all training necessary to take on this volunteer role. Join this fantastic group of volunteers and share your talents with Girl Scouts!

Contact Gwen Tulin, Manager of Highest Awards at gtulin@girlscoutsgcnwi.org or call 312-912-6355

Congratulations to the 2017-2018 Gold Award Girl Scouts!!

In need of some fun summer plans?

Join us for the 12th year of Camp CEO, the premiere leadership camp for Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors!



For more details and information on Camp CEO, visit www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org and click on 'For Girls'.

Contact Annie Gilmartin at agilmartin@girlscoutsgcnwi.org or 815-651-2715 with questions.

A Gift That Never Expires

Believe in the power of **G.I.R.L.**

Become a **Lifetime Girl Scout Today.**

Transform leadership in action as you support and stay connected to the largest leadership development organization for girls in the world! Join Girl Scouts as a lifetime member today, and make an enduring pledge to believe in the power of every **G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader).™**

Lifetime membership dues are \$400. A young alum lifetime membership, at the reduced cost of \$200, is offered to anyone 18 years to 29 years old who was a girl member at any time during her childhood. Giving the gift of lifetime membership is the perfect way to express your admiration for a graduating Girl Scout.

Log into your family account through our council website at www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org to register your daughter or yourself for lifetime membership, or send an email to our registration help desk at reghelp@girlscoutsgcnwi.org.

Visit girlscoutsgcnwi.org to become a lifetime member of Girl Scouting's global sisterhood.



The Corinne Jeannine Schillings Foundation

The **Corinne Jeannine Schillings Foundation** is dedicated to preserving the memory of Corinne Schillings. Corinne believed strongly in higher education for women and in learning about various cultures through the study of languages.

Scholarships to Study a Foreign Language are awarded by the Foundation to **Girl Scout Silver** or **Gold Award** recipients who plan to pursue, or are currently pursuing, a college major/minor in foreign language. Each recipient receives \$1,500, and the scholarship may be renewed for a maximum of four years.

The Foundation also awards Scholarships to Study Abroad, providing \$1,000 for **Silver** or **Gold Award Girl Scouts** studying abroad, irrespective of their college major/minor.

For additional details and downloadable applications visit us on the web at:

www.cjsfoundation.org

*"Like the evergreen...
she is always awake
and watching over us."*



Gold Award Committee

Thank you to our committee members who support Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors through the process of earning the Girl Scout Gold Award.

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Thank you also to our sponsor, Karen Schillings,
for her contributions to today's event.



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