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Message to the Membership . . .

The economic downturn has affected not just Wall Street. Like many Girl Scout councils in the United States, Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson is not immune to the challenging economy.

Over the past week we have had to make some very difficult business decisions to ensure that we end the fiscal year in a strong position. We have had to reduce staff, not open camp Birch Ridge due to extremely low registration, and “go more green” than ever to reduce mailing and shipping costs, along with other belt-tightening efforts.

While this has been a year fraught with transitions such as continuing to manage the re-alignment, dealing with the loss of a CEO and welcoming an Interim CEO until a permanent one is appointed, we know that in spite of these challenges you are doing your VERY BEST to serve MORE girls with MORE options. On behalf of the board of directors, we can't **THANK YOU** enough!!

Let me reassure you that the reduction of staff and other budgetary efficiencies will not impact the quality of service to our membership and MOST importantly, the more than 30,000 girls and 14,000 volunteers in our Hudson Valley communities.

Just as our country, Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson will emerge from the recession STRONGER and better able to serve our members. After all, in our 97-year history, the Girl Scouts have survived numerous recessions and one great Depression. We definitely plan to do it again.

In the spirit of Girl Scouting . . .

Anna May Wiede, President
Board of Directors