



Girl Scouts®

Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson, Inc.
www.girlscoutshh.org

NEWS

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GIRL SCOUT COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP LUNCHEON TO HONOR NEW YORK LIFE FOUNDATION AND ALISON BERGMAN

Pleasantville, NY — The **New York Life Foundation** and dedicated volunteer **Alison Bergman** of Ardsley will be recognized for their support of Girl Scouting at the third annual **Community Partnership Luncheon** of Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson, Inc., Wednesday, March 10, at Abigail Kirsch/Tappan Hill in Tarrytown. Chairing the luncheon is **Sandra Nagler**, vice president of Tele Vue Optics, Inc., Chester, NY.

Tickets for the luncheon, which begins with a reception at 11:30 a.m., are \$130. To attend, or for more information, contact Mary Ellen Hoffman at (914) 747-3080, ext. 239. Proceeds from the luncheon help to provide program opportunities for girls throughout the Girl Scout council's seven-county jurisdiction.

The **Leadership Award** will be presented to the New York Life Foundation in recognition of its years of support in helping the Girl Scouts develop programs to enhance girls' self-esteem and in providing volunteers for projects such as a closet make-over for older girls and a toiletries drive for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The Foundation has not only worked with Girl Scouts in the Hudson Valley region, but has also provided program grants on the national level to Girl Scouts of the USA. Accepting the award will be **Marlyn Torres**, assistant vice president/senior program officer, New York Life Foundation.

Alison Bergman, the 2010 **Humanitarian Award** recipient, has coordinated Operation Cookie Drop since its inception in 2002. Through the years this volunteer-driven program has sent over 174,000 donated boxes of Girl Scout cookies to US military personnel deployed overseas as well as those recuperating in stateside hospitals. Active with the Girl Scouts for over 18 years, Bergman also mentors a troop of special needs girls begun as a Girl Scout Gold Award project by her daughter Betsie in 2001.

A special presentation at the luncheon will be the awarding of the **Medal of Honor**, a national Girl Scout lifesaving recognition, to **Kerry Fitzgibbon**, a Girl Scout Senior from Yorktown Heights who saved another girl from drowning this past summer. The award will be presented by **Harriet Edelman**, national board member of Girl Scouts of the USA, formerly with Avon, Inc.

More

About the New York Life Foundation

Inspired by New York Life Insurance Company's tradition of service and humanity, the New York Life Foundation has, since its founding in 1979, provided more than \$130 million in charitable contributions to national and local nonprofit organizations. Through its focus on "Nurturing the Children," the Foundation supports programs that benefit young people, particularly in the areas of mentoring, the establishment of safe places to learn and grow, educational enhancement opportunities and childhood bereavement. The Foundation also encourages and facilitates the community involvement of employees, agents, and retirees of New York Life through its Volunteers for Life program.

About Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson, Inc.

Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson serves 32,000 girls and more than 15,000 adult volunteers throughout seven counties in southeastern New York State: Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester. Its central administrative office is in Pleasantville, with regional offices in Middletown, New City, Pleasantville, and Poughkeepsie. For information about joining, volunteering, or making a donation to Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson, Inc., contact (914) 747-3080 or visit www.girlscoutshh.org.

About Girl Scouts of the USA

Founded in Savannah, Georgia, on March 12, 1912, Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) strives to build girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. Accordingly, GSUSA continues to be the world's pre-eminent organization for, and leading authority on, girls, with a membership of more than 3.7 million girls and adults. The organization is looking forward to celebrating its 100th anniversary in two years.