



Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson Proudly Congratulates

Our 2015 Gold Award Recipients

Erynn Altabef Troop 2299, Briarcliff / Pocantico - *Gardening for Hunger*

Erynn utilized the community garden on her church grounds to plant vegetables and donate them to the Tarrytown food pantry providing nutritious food for the members of my community who cannot afford a healthy meal.

Rachel Appell Troop 40274, Tappan Zee - *Bring Back the Blue Bird*

Rachel's passion for the environment allowed her to develop an environmental program for younger children to learn about the endangerment of the Eastern Bluebird. During her events, participants made bluebird house and learned about endangered species to inspire others to take action.

Gina Arnold Troop 2084, Brewster - *Flag Holder Installation for Veterans at Old Southeast Cemetary*

Gina installed flag holders at veteran's graves in Old Southeast Cemetery so volunteers could more easily place flags on Bob Palmer Day, an annual tradition in the Brewster Community. After fundraising for the holders, organizing a team of volunteers, she also created a how-to pamphlet for others to replicate her project.

Caroline Barnes Troop 1244, Croton-on-Hudson - *Community Gardens Feed the Hungry*

Caroline partnered with Croton Community Gardens and the soup kitchen, Loaves and Fish, two local organizations, to complete her project. For over a year, she grew a variety of produce, and also collected donations from fellow gardeners and Croton residents. With these freshly grown crops, she helped the soup kitchen in Ossining prepare meals with recipes she collected.

Sheena Beck Troop 328, Washingtonville - *Anti-Bullying Project*

Sheena's project addressed the issue of bullying. She created awareness in the community by hosting events for children where she designed activities and created a video about bullying for other schools to use.

Ashlee Belkevich Troop 1566, Mahopac - *Springing into Action*

Ashlee has a great love for gymnastic and recognized that her school needed a new floor. She raised funds and organized the installation of the floor for future athletes to enjoy.

Samantha Besold Troop 390, Washingtonville - *Happy and Healthy*

Samantha's project focused on healthy lifestyle for middle school aged girls. She planned healthy activities for girls and fun game to get them moving. The girls in her program learned about the importance of self-esteem, and embracing themselves. She shared her lesson plans with teachers in West Virginia and a teacher in Acton, England.



Jenny Bott Troop 10363, East Fishkill - *Seniors with Technology*

Jennifer's project helped senior citizen use different types of technology to communicate with their families. She first had computers donated to a senior center and then coordinated high school volunteers to sit with seniors to help them use the technology.

Gabrielle Branciforti Troop 2887, Yorktown - *Barefoot Landing*

Gabrielle was inspired by discarded shoes in her community. Her project addressed international and domestic poverty, effects of waste in the form of discarded shoes on the environment, and the health hazards to those impoverished population who doesn't own a pair of shoe. She connected with an orphanage in Zambia, where she held awareness events and a shoe drive. She collected 1,500 pairs of shoes and hosted numerous awareness events.

Alexandra Brantl Troop 2611, Irvington - *O'Hara Nature Center and Irvington Woods/Trails Website*

Alexandra's project addressed the lack of pertinent information regarding Irvington Woods and O'Hara Nature Center. She created a website with photos, maps, videos, historical information, and nature center program information to allow the community to access information about Irvington Woods.

Nikki G. Brown Troop 1986, White Plains - *Foster the Arts in Youth*

Nikki's project gave underprivileged children the opportunity to be artists, get creative, and learn new skills. She brought in dedicated local artists to teach in her workshop. To add a global component, Nikki sent boxes of supplies to children in the Philippines who were affected by last year's typhoon.

Julia Burkley Troop 2809, Briarcliff / Pocantico - *Chimes for the Cottages*

For this project all about repurposing and beautifying, Julia took 50 recycled cans and transformed them into hand-painted wind chimes to hang around the Pleasantville Cottage Schools. Through art and music, they added a smattering of color to the campus.

Gabriella Cacciola Troop 1523, Tuck-East - *Adopt a Class*

Gabriella built a bookcase, donated books and made sit-upons to make a reading corner for a school in Poughkeepsie. She also was able to donate Christmas presents, winter apparel and fundraise for school supplies. Additionally, she connected the second grade class with an after school program in Yonkers where they were able to write letters to one another.

Nikiyah Caesar Juliette, Monroe - *Bouncing for Life*

Nikiyah created her project to deal with the issue of obesity in her community. She hosted a basketball clinic to share her passion for fitness and healthy living. She create healthy living pamphlet for participate to walk away with to keep them inspired.

Catherine Cain Troop 40384, Germonds - *Baptismal Scapulars for Babies at St. Francis Church*

Catherine's parish traditionally handed out handmade Baptismal Bibs to newly baptized babies, but this tradition was almost lost before she stepped in. To ensure this tradition could carry on, she created informational how-to packets and ran classes to teach others how to make them. She also shared the information with other local churches.



Dana Calby Troop 1523, Tuck-East - *Planting for Progress*

Dana's created an after-school session for students to learn new ways and tricks for them to study productively. She also created pamphlet for other students on ways to productively study in order to great better opportunities.

Veronica Canada Troop 40711, Hempstead/Hillcrest - *Beautification of St. Anne Monument*

The Saint Anne Statue at her church is the one place where the community sits down to relax, and pray, but it was falling into disrepair. Therefore, Veronica replaced the statue, built additional benches, installed lights, and beautified the area.

Jennifer Chan Troop 2903, Kings Ferry - *The Lindsey Lion's Lab. Science Experiment Club*

Jennifer created the Lindsey Lion Laboratory Club to give others, especially girls, the opportunity and encouragement to cultivate a possible passion in one of STEM fields. Each week participants tried different hands-on science experiments and wrote their observations in hand-crafted journals.

Vivian Cheng Troop 40139, Deforest - *Pillowcases for Kids*

Vivian's project called Pillowcase for Kids was created to spread awareness about Domestic Violence. The children at The Center for Safety and Change created tie-dye pillowcases while learning effects of domestic violence and its impact.

Victoria Cicinelli Troop 2815, Yorktown - *Teen Driving Safety*

Victoria worked closely with Yorktown's Alliance for Safe Kids (ASK) to promote positive messages about driving safety. Victoria coordinated her town's annual Save a Life event and Community Day with ASK focusing on driving safety and tips for teens and their parents. Victoria also worked with a younger Girl Scout troop in her community and created a YouTube PSA to stop Texting and Driving.

Marissa Citarell Troop 10240, Fishkill - *Fishkill Historical Local Lure*

Marissa's project was created to bring the awareness to the importance of Fishkill role in the Revolutionary War. She worked with the local elementary school, historical society and Girl Scout Community in presenting the pivotal role Fishkill had in the Revolutionary War.

Angela Coco Troop 2671, Scarsdale-Edgemont - *Plan, Prepare, Practice - Safety for Success*

"Plan, Prepare, Practice~ Safety for Success," was designed to help children, ages 5-11, learn about the importance of fire safety, poison control, and emergency awareness. Through her family-friendly workshops, her informative booklets and magnets, as well as her popular Internet blog (with over 800 followers), Angela was able to reach hundreds of children and adults in person and countless more on an international level.

Susanna Cohen Troop 10496, East Fishkill - *St. Aloysius Technology*

Susan created an updated St. Aloysius Happy House Learning Center website that is more effective for families to use and to inform the community about events. She learned about computer coding and HTML which inspired her to host workshops to engage younger girl in computer skills.



Priscilla Cole Troop 2803, Somers - *School Gifts for Friends of Karen*

Priscilla recognized the needs of critical ill children and their families for essential school supplies. She hosted at Daisy Community event to raise awareness about Friends of Karen and with her funds she was able to provide much need school supplies for many families.

Suzanne Cole Troop 2811, Yorktown - *Pet Pantry*

Suzanne has always been dedicated to the cause of helping pets in need, so for her project she partnered with her local food pantry to set up a pet food pantry. She distributed cans and bags pet food once a month to people who attend. She has organized other troops in her area to collect and to continue to distribute food through the pantry.

Shannon Cover Troop 1432, Scarsdale-Edgemont - *Sports at West Hab*

Shannon's project improved children's health through sports while teaching children the importance of good sportsmanship by creating an afterschool program for elementary school children. She impacted children with fair play, enjoyable activities and promoting physical fitness.

Samantha Danko Troop 1528, Tuck-East - *Gardens of Hope*

Samantha's project goal was to educate others on how to live a nutritious, healthy, organic lifestyle, while learning how to beautify their community. She dealt with cleaning up an area at a local elementary school where she educated the children on how to plant and harvest a variety of vegetable and flowers which they were then able to consume with their families.

Megan DiLorenzo Troop 60047, Wendys - *Visit a Resident*

Megan organized and ran programs and events for elderly residents of Elant at Meadow Hill, a nursing home, in order to brighten their lives. Megan also interviewed each resident and made a framed biography for each telling their story.

Julia D'Innocenzo Troop 2854, North Salem - *Sharing the Game of Soccer*

Julia shared her love of soccer with those in need in her community. She collected and donated over 700 pieces of soccer uniforms and soccer equipment to the Hyde Leadership Charter School who, with her donation, was able to start a youth soccer program. Julia also ran soccer clinics introducing kids to the sport and teaching teamwork.

Erica Doering Troop 00142, Monroe – *Food for Thought*

Erica repaired the Monroe Sacred Heart Community Garden. She reinstalled garden beds, added organic material to the soil, rebuilt the gate, and built greenhouse garden tables. With the help of volunteers, she organically grew 147.5 pounds of vegetables and herbs.

Claire Donaldson Troop 2888, Yorktown - *Creating Tiles with Seniors*

Claire's project worked to bring local youth together with the elderly through art. With monthly "tile and smile" classes, everyone was able to not only create new memories but also from an intergenerational connection.



Kathleen Donovan Troop 2014, Somers - *Raising Awareness of the Endangered Wolf*

Kathleen's project addressed the lack of awareness for the situation of the endangered wolf. She created workshops, classroom activities, student information packets and a Facebook page called Endangered Wolves to shed light on the issue and encourage others to get involved.

Kaitlin Enright Troop 1031, Chappaqua - *Heroes of Hygiene*

Kaitlin's project addressed the importance of proper dental hygiene and the expense involved in attaining dental products. She worked with multiple organization to educate those lacking in dental hygiene as to its importance for physical well being and health as well appearance.

Melissa Esposito Troop 481, Goshen / Sarah Wells - *Hope Garden*

Melissa's project was to bring suicide awareness to teenagers. Melissa designed and built the "Hope Garden" to create a more hopeful environment in her school and assure her fellow students that there is always hope.

Sarah Falcone Troop 1325, West Lakeland - *Lend a Paw*

Sarah purchased a van for a local non-for-profit dog rescue, Recycled Paws Rescue, Inc. She fixed mechanical issues, renovated the inside, and decorated the outside with custom made Recycled Paws Rescue logos and stickers. They use the van to travel to and from adoption events, and to travel down south to rescue puppies and dogs from high kill shelters.

Theresa Fanelli Troop 1274, Lakeland East - *Math Olympiad*

Theresa addressed the importance of mathematics in today's society and helped women develop confidence in STEM fields by creating events and activities where students could have fun with math.

Allie Fischgrund Troop 1680, Ardsley - *Healthy Living*

Allie's project focused on the issue of homelessness and the lack of opportunities that homeless children have to learn about exercise and be active. She provided children at the shelter with opportunities to exercise and eat healthy while having fun with their friends

Jessica Flamio Troop 1523, Tuck-East - *Introducing Italian Culture to the Youth at the Library through Books and Oral Tradition*

Jessica's project addressed the declining emphasis on Italian culture for the youth of Eastchester and the enrichment of Italian literature in the children's section of the library. She collected Italian books and held events in her community library teaching them about Italian language, traditions and culture.

Caterina Florissi Troop 2809, Briarcliff / Pocantico - *Tutoring Underprivileged Children*

Caterina worked with local elementary and middle school teachers to create a free, ten-week tutoring program for underachieving and underprivileged children in my community. With recruited volunteers she met with students in grades 1-6 to help them with math concepts and problems. She created worksheets, games, and competitions to keep them engaged.



Isabella Florissi Troop 2809, Briarcliff / Pocantico - *Project Health - Healthy Eating for the Less Privileged*

Isabella obtained fresh fruit and vegetable donations from a local farmer's market and distributed the produce at a local soup kitchen. In creating Project H.E.L.P., she hoped to influence not only the eating habits of people who attend the Loaves and Fish Soup Kitchen in Ossining, but also those of their families, friends, and peers.

Emma A. Fogel Troop 2903, Croton-on-Hudson - *LoYo Project (Love Yourself)*

The LoYo project was a series of workshops for middle school aged girls addressing the issues of self-esteem and self-confidence—specifically in an effort to help improve these attributes in the girls. She had the participants playing games, talking about issues, and partaking in improve. She ran the workshops at her Middle School, the youth center, the library and a White Plains homeless shelter.

Amy Friedlander Troop 1719, Irvington - *Educational Materials*

Amy created over one hundred educational cards for three of the gardens at the O'Hara Nature Center. The cards are kept inside the nature center for visitor use with information on the maintenance required to sustain them, the types of plants and their characteristics, which animals they attract, etc. The cards also contain visual representations of the plants and plot plans of the gardens.

Chelsea Friedman Troop 1208, Carmel - *French Culture Club*

Chelsea created a French language and culture class to establish an interest of French in youth and supply them with a fun and educational activity. She hopes that they will continue to see the value of being global and learning other languages.

Caitlin Galvin Troop 10104, Pawling - *The Importance of Self-Esteem*

Caitlin's project highlighted the importance of self-esteem and how it affects your life everyday and ultimately your future. Her project also touches on stereotypes, gender roles, and media representation.

Faithe Gerol Troop 1529, Tuck-East - *A Walk through Eastchester*

Faithe wanted to inform people about the history that surrounded her town and show them that history could be exciting. She put together a children's book about the history of her town and wrote booklets of historical sites around her town, so people could find them and learn about them.

Kimberly Giancaspro Troop 2803, Somers - *Bat House*

Kimberly's "Bat House" project worked to prevent bats from entering people's home looking for shelter which can cause health hazards. She worked with volunteers to build and paint bat houses which were installed at Dean's Pond or given to younger Girl Scout troops to put up in their own communities.



Emily Giordano Troop 1026, Brewster - *Healthy Eating and Sustainable Food*

Emily worked with 2 nursery schools to plan and plant gardens. This included soil testing and building the box for the gardens on site for both schools. She also partnered with Cornell Cooperative extension to facilitate educational sessions on Healthy eating. She created packets and audiovisual tools for the parents and children which she later presented to a younger Girl Scout troop.

Heather Marie Goettel Troop 10012, Hyde Park - *Recording the Past for the Future through Cemeteries*

Heather photographed grave stones and created a web page so that people around the world could locate old family stones.

Jacqueline Groccia Troop 2516, Tuck-East - *Promoting Self-Esteem in Underprivileged Teens*
Jacqueline promoted self-esteem in teen girls. She worked with and mentored girls through the Miss Westchester Pageants and Operation Prom, helping them become confident in their own skin. She also helped promote safe prom nights, and having the strength to say no to negative influences by creating brochures for High School guidance offices.

Samantha Hardinge Troop 10243, Arlington - *Restoring Donation Shed*

Samantha's project fixed up and beautified the donation shed at Dutchess County SPCA. She wanted to create a more welcoming presence for people delivering their denotations as well as a safer environment for the employees and volunteers there.

Kayleigh Hartnett Troop 1304, Orgeon - *Cemetery Restoration*

Kayleigh's project addresses decrepit state of Adam Corners Cemetery. She coordinated volunteers, restored monument stones, removed trees, and landscaped the cemetery.

Lily Harty Troop 2611, Irvington - *Irvington Trails Video Project*

Lily channeled her aptitude for and interest in filmmaking to make a series of short, online videos highlighting the O'Hara Nature Center and its unique programs. In addition, the videos highlighted many interesting aspects of the Irvington Woods and the nature in Irvington itself. The videos were well-received and are used to educate citizens of Irvington about the amazing resources surrounding them.

Katherine Rose Hawthorne Troop 2746, Chappaqua - *The Write Stuff*

Katherine hosted writing workshops for teens because she believes writing can be a creative outlet for expression and for stress reduction in a population under stress and in transformation. Katherine also interviewed many esteemed authors from around the country and published a book sharing their thoughts and advice for aspiring writers.

Gabrielle Heffernan Juliette, White Plains - *The Church Yearbook*

Gabby created the Church Yearbook as picture documentation of her church to showcase their spirit. She spent countless hours photographing and interviewing members of the congregation to gather the content before formatting the book and getting it printed and shared.



Jacqueline Hennelly Troop 40295, Deforest - *Communications 101*

Jacqueline created pamphlets with commonly used words to facilitate the learning of English for non-native speakers. Her booklets are being utilized by One to One Learning in Nyack, the Salvation Army, Good Shepard, and the Early Childhood Center. She also hosted an event at One To One Learning promoting literacy.

Marie Henning Troop 2014, Somers - *Raising Awareness of Student Drivers*

In an effort to cut down on road rage, Marie created magnets for high school students to put on their cars to warn other drivers that the person driving was learning and to be patient and take caution. She also spent time working with Senator Ball's Youth committee to promote awareness and speaking to students at her school about safe driving practices.

Cecley N. Hill Troop 1749, Yonkers - *Save Up*

Cecley's project promoted the concept that financial stewardship provides a solid platform for strong leadership. To do so, she conducted workshops for females, ages thirteen to eighteen, and provided them with an introduction to the concept of financial stewardship. By creating simulated consumer activities, and developing an instructional website in English and Spanish, females within her local and global communities have acquired the knowledge to begin planning long-term financial goals and sustainable futures.

Gretchen Hintze Troop 2803, Somers - *Creative Writing Club*

Gretchen's Creative Writing Club was inspired by her love of writing and worked to help other students find their talent and start writing more. The club provided a creative space for students to spark ideas, work through writer's block, and to learn from each other.

Claire Houston Troop 10446, East Fishkill - *Fishkill Supply Depot*

Claire ran events for children at the Fishkill Supply Depot to introduce them to the role it had in the Revolutionary War. The kids who attended made tricorne hats & period paper dolls, played Revolutionary War children's games, watched reenactments, and participated in a mock archeological dig. The boxes Claire built for the dig were donated to the Fishkill Historical Society for their future use.

Jessica Iazzetti Troop 375, Goshen / Sarah Wells - *Camp Braeside Dormitory Refurbishment*

Jessica wanted to create a more welcoming space for the children at Camp Braeside. For her project she redid the flooring, painted walls and ceilings, and filled the forms with books and games for the children to use.

Allison Joers Troop 60023, Saugerties - *Musical Memories*

Musical Memories addressed the issue of memory loss among the elderly population. Allison impacted residents of The Family Lodge with her gift of music to remind them of what they used to listen to when they were young and to possibly provide some "music therapy" to improve brain function.



Hannah Johnson Troop 594, Washingtonville - *Experience of a Lifetime*

Hannah helped Shining Star Orphanage for the blind and visually impaired children in China. She provided adapted educational materials to teach the children English to improve their chances of adoption. She also created a box filled with sensory items for young children to play with to improve their social and motor skills.

Nora Jones Troop 2271, Pleasantville - *Joy at My Sister's Place*

Nora worked with My Sister's Place to address the needs of the women and children at the shelter. Nora improved their library, providing resources in both English and Spanish which, will not only improve the children's reading level, but also provide opportunities to share in the joy of reading with their kids.

Alyssa Kamrowski Troop 571, Warwick - *Fighting Off the Flu (and Other Sickneses too!)*

Alyssa created a health awareness video for children that used puppets to educate them about simple methods to keep them healthy during the cold and flu season. She recruited the help of local puppeteers and a film major to help me create this video. She then distributed it, along with hand-drawn coloring sheets, to the infectious control nurse at her local hospital, and to a local elementary school where it can be shown to children during the day.

Rachel Katz Troop 1680, Pleasantville - *The Reading Program*

Rachel introduced reading and the exploration of books to children that had faced problems in their home life and to children without access to books. She ran a bi-monthly interactive Reading Room program with the children of Hope's Door.

Alexandria Kleinschmidt Troop 1272, Lakeland East - *Senior Scene 2014*

Alexandria's project addressed the need for senior citizens to be active and be socially engaged amongst their peer and with younger people. As part of this project, she hosted a dance for over 200 seniors at a local senior center with a committee of volunteers.

Katie Kopac Troop 40274, Tappan Zee - *Helping the Hearing Impaired*

Katie raised awareness of the hearing impaired in her community, both at school and around her hometown. She held workshops about American Sign Language for younger scouts, made YouTube videos available to the public, hosted an ASL movie night, and fundraised for a PA Amplifier for a local library so that children with hearing disabilities can participate during read-aloud sessions.

Marianne Krieger Troop 481, Goshen / Sarah Wells - *Project AED*

Marianne's local club didn't have an AED machine so she purchased and donated one along with a unit of First Aid supplies. She then ran a series of informational workshops on AED Machines and Good Samaritan Law.

Alyssa M. Kuehner Troop 16, Goshen / Sarah Wells - *Swingset at St. John's*

Alyssa worked with church leadership, parents, and the Archdioceses of New York to get permission for, design, and build an age appropriate play space for the students at St. John's Catholic School in Goshen. She also spent time with the Kindergarten student there getting their feedback and introducing them to safe and friendly play.



Kathryn Latimer Troop 315, Florida - *Inspiration Loves Warmth*

Inspiration Loves Warmth address the issue of homeless. Kathryn made blankets and created a how-to video to teach others about creating warmth for the homeless.

Nikki Lin Troop 2263, New Rochelle - *Summer Writers*

Summer Writers is a project that is directed at improving middle schooler's writing abilities, as well as their foundational knowledge of English. Nikki hosted weekly workshops at her local library, where they created their own writing portfolio so they would have a head start on their next school year.

Savannah Maas Troop 571, Florida - *Sewing Eagles*

Savannah created a sewing club to inspire fellow student to be charitable and create a sense of community. Her club created 40 dresses which were sent to Africa.

Allyson Alva Macci Troop 2348, Kings Ferry - *Navigating the College Search and Application Process*

Allyson designed a program to better educate tenth and eleventh grade high school students about when and how to look for, and begin to apply for college. Her workshops involved college freshmen and high school seniors who shared their experience and gave advice to the younger students.

Madeleine Mahoney Troop 2263, New Rochelle - *Crafty Seniors*

Madeleine started a weekly arts and crafts program at the Apple Rehabilitation center. To do so, she planned, organized, and taught residents the steps of various crafts and activities. The weekly projects were selected to provide stimulation, to maintain coordination, and to exercise their brains in a fun and creative way.

Danielle Maraia Troop 1173, Mount Pleasant - *Help a Child in Need*

Danielle created a party for girls based on the "Let's Move" initiative by USA Gymnastics. Attendees brought a toy donation which she gave to children in selected hospitals.

Olivia Marino Troop 2854, North Salem - *Oral Health Care Instruction in the Underprivileged Community*

Olivia taught basic dental care and the impact of dental hygiene on overall health in both English and Spanish to the underprivileged population at the ARC food pantry in Danbury, CT. She also distributed over one-hundred dental care bags and developed bi-lingual dental brochures.

Emily Mathios Troop 40384, Germonds - *Let's Dine Safely! A Gluten Free Dining Guide to Rockland County*

Inspired by her own journey with Celiac, Emily created a gluten free dining to Rockland County, highlighting places that offer foods that were prepared safely for someone with a gluten intolerance or Celiac Disease. She also ran activities teaching younger girls about allergies, educated restaurant management and chefs about the importance of gluten-free options, and distributed her informational brochures at the Colin Leslie Walk for Celiac Disease.



Meagan McCarron Troop 1325, West Lakeland - *Build Program Space at Camp Combe*
Meagan's project addressed the lack of program space and play space at her local summer camp. She built a large patio area to accommodate 10-24 campers at any given time. Her play area had an impact on over 500 campers during the 2014 season.

Kiera McCarthy Troop 2949, North Salem - *Helping the Hungry (and Homeless)*
Kiera's project, Helping the Homeless and Hungry, was to create a sustainable midnight run program with the youth group at her church. She organized a relief mission supplying food, clothing, and toiletries to the unsheltered homeless population on NYC streets.

Mary J. McCartney Troop 10496, East Fishkill - *Hearts of the Father Outreach Orphan Home, Old Ningo, Ghana*
Mary J. created internet safety awareness and computer education courses for Hearts of the Father Outreach Orphan Home in Old Ningo, Ghana. She also shared her courses with a local Brownie Troop in her area. Her program provided children and adults with much needed computer literacy education.

Katherine McDermott Troop 479, Warwick - *The Buzz About Biology*
Katherine created an educational program for young children demonstrating the importance and impact of honey bees on our ecosystem.

Sara Rose Monahan Troop 1879, New Rochelle - *Flutes for Fun*
Sara Rose's "Flute for Fun" project addressed the lack of music education available to students who could not afford private instruction. She offered free classes for a local elementary school, and worked to provide those who needed it with instruments.

Julia Mulry Troop 1165, Pleasantville - *Building a Bridge*
Julia started the Peer2Peer Mentorship Program to encourage learning. This program facilitates friendships, promotes inclusion and acceptance, and encourages participants to thrive in school.

Kimberly Nagl Troop 2263, New Rochelle - *Glenwood Lake Community Trail*
Kimberly's "Glenwood Lake Clean Up", was a trail restoration project aimed at reclaiming and reconnecting two trails. She had to remove brush and establish washed out trail. Her project help people in her community reconnect with nature and encourages outdoor recreation.

Nicole Nagura Troop 2944, Bedford/Byram Hills - *Creating Japanese Culture in American*
Nicole created a lesson plan and taught a wide age range of people about Japanese culture. She taught basic Japanese phrases, and did traditional crafts. She also taught Japanese people about American culture.

Michelle O'Bryan Troop 10302, East Fishkill - *Project Math*
Michelle created a Math Carnival for elementary school children to address the fact that American children are lagging in mathematics. For the event, she developed fun activities with prizes to encourage to kids to get involved in the subject.



Bridget Owens Troop 40330, Pearl River - *Community Garden*

Bridget started a community garden to help supply local food banks and soup kitchens with fresh fruits and vegetables. Her garden serves as a prototype showing how cheaper, healthier food can be obtained through growing.

Christiana Palillo Troop 40139, Deforest - *Hats for Helping Hands*

Christiana organized Girl Scouts in both New York and Texas to knit hats for Helping Hands of Rockland County. She created a Project Box for each community she worked with including supplies, an instruction manual, and the address of where donations should be sent. In total she collected 102 knit hats.

Priyanka Patel Troop 1680, Ardsley - *Project Go Green*

Priyanka started a recycling program at her temple for paper, bottles, cans, and cardboard. She replaced all styrofoam dinnerware with biodegradable paper projects. Priyanka also educated her temple and local community on go-green practices.

Shivani Patel Troop 78, Cornwall - *Stop and Play*

Shivani's project had two goals – the first was to increase fitness levels of youth in her community, and the second was to provide unemployed individuals easy access to appropriate and professional wear for job interviews. She created informational packets on the importance of staying active and healthy, made presentations to young Girl Scout troops, and hosted a fitness event at Sportsplex. At the event and throughout the project, she collected clothing which she then donated to local organizations.

Caroline Pennacchio Juliette, Briarcliff / Pocantico - *Finding Your Way*

Caroline's project, Finding Your Way, involved the creation and installation of approximately 150 trail signs throughout Rockefeller State Park and Preserve coinciding with the updated park map. She chose this project to expand park reach, promote health and fitness in individuals of all ages, and to ensure the safety of individuals within the park, and to prevent individuals from becoming lost.

Jennifer Pezzolanti Troop 1195, Valhalla - *A New Weightroom*

Jennifer increased Valhalla Viking spirit by renovating the volleyball and basketball team's locker room at her school. Renovations included painting, wall decals, the framing of jerseys, and a new audio system.

Christine Phelan Troop 412, Monroe - *Tools for SAT Success*

Christine worked with teachers at her high school to coordinate and run free SAT-prep workshops. She also established a resource center at MWHS which contains gently used preparation books for the SATs, ACTs, and AP tests, and created a brochure with helpful hints on taking the SAT and other standardized tests.

Sarah Quade Troop 137, Middletown - *Pride in America*

Sarah painted murals in the JROTC room at her high school to increase pride in America. She worked with a team of student artists to sketch out, transfer, and paint the designs.



Johanna Ramm Troop 1696, Hastings-on-Hudson - *Libraries for Sick Children*

Johanna worked with the Maria Fareri Children's hospital to address the issue of literacy of children with long-term hospitalization or terminal illness. She held a large-scale book drive and donated well over 1,000 books to the hospital. She also hosted educational workshops at her local library to encourage reading.

Megan Rea Troop 60032, Saugerties - *Fantastic and Cozy Fleece Blankets*

Megan made fleece blankets for cancer patients, individuals who are homebound, and nursing home residents. She taught Girl Scout troops and members of her church how to make them.

Lizzie Riley Troop 1719, Irvington - *Where We Live - A History of Irvington for Children*

Lizzie created a pamphlet for children about the history of Irvington, detailing its historical sites and figures. It is currently available for pickup at the Irvington Historical Society, and there are plans to get in on display in the village's public library. She also held a dress up activity in which children dressed up in costumes which were leftover from high school musicals to initiate interest in her informational pamphlet.

Bronwen Roshong Juliette, Nyack / Valley College - *Maizie and Me, Dos*

Bronwen educated children on taking proper care of animals by creating lesson plans and hosting a series of workshops at a few local libraries.

Tiara Roy Troop 40429, West Nyack - *Build a Library!*

Tiara built a library for an underprivileged school in Kerala, India. This school lacked the funding and facilities to provide textbooks, encyclopedias, storybooks and classroom supplies for their students. Through book drives, monetary donations, and fundraising, she was able to build a newly furnished library with a variety of books for grades K-7.

Bethany Rudolf Troop 2014, Katonah-Lewisboro - *Raising Awareness for our Military Currently Serving*

Bethany hosted workshops to write thank-you letters to soldiers, and collected items to send to active military personnel.

Gabriella Salvatore Troop 1432, Scarsdale-Edgemont - *PAW's Pet Pantry*

Gabriella refurbished the laundry room at Pet's Alive including painting a mural, putting up signage, installing shelves, and creating an organizational system.

Emily Sammartino Troop 2680, Port Chester / Rye Brook - *Canterbury Grief Group*

Emily created a support group for teens going through emotionally difficult times to provide a safe space for dealing with and finding support for grief. One project the group worked on was creating grief bears, which were sewed from items of clothing from a loved one who had passed away. The ideas for coordinating and running a group, as well as a how-to guide for creating the bears, has been shared with other boarding schools.

Sabrina Schaefer Juliette, Spackenkill - *Crocheting*

Sabrina created a team of volunteers to crochet 50 hat and scarf combinations. She also created a video teaching others how to make these items and donate them to local homeless shelters.



Tiana Christine Schippa Troop 2746, Chappaqua - *Trail Mix*

Tiana's project provided alternative learning experiences for elementary school children in the hopes of making learning more fun and interactive. For her project, she created an outdoor learning space so students could learn about gardening, nature, and sustainability.

Sara Schmitt Troop 2014, Yorktown - *Everyone Deserves to Have a Birthday*

Sara believed that every child deserved a birthday celebration, but she found that often time children affected by pediatric cancer, do not have this opportunity. She ran a variety of community events, fundraisers, and informational sessions to raise awareness for Friends of Karen and the stresses of childhood cancer. She coordinated volunteers to put together supplies for over 100 birthday celebrations which were then donated to families in need.

Selin Selman Troop 2263, New Rochelle - *Murals of Hope*

Selin brightened up her local soup kitchen by using old materials to create a large eye-catching and welcoming mural. She also ran an art workshop for youth in the community and the created pieces are also being displayed in the food kitchen.

Kalila Adir Shapiro Juliette, Scarsdale-Edgemont - *Give Peace a Chance*

Kalila worked with 3rd – 6th grade girls to promote themes of peace and problem solving. She created lesson plans and workshops which she ran with students of various elementary schools, and then shared with other Girl Scouts to create a ripple effect of peace. She also planned and ran a Day of Peace in Scarsdale.

Kara Shaughnessy Troop 500, Florida - *Hope for Life*

Kara built 58 white wooden crosses to be displayed on the fence at St. Stephen's Parish in Warwick in honor of those lives who were lost to abortion. The crosses and banners will be displayed every May and October, the month of Holy Mary and Respect Life month.

Marie Simpson Troop 1329, Yorktown - *Project Piano - It's Never too Late to Start*

Marie worked with senior citizens who never had the opportunity to learn to play an instrument and taught them how to play piano and read music. She also organized young musicians in her community to come together and put on a performance for the home. The goal was to not only teach piano skills, but to use music to bridge the gap between the elderly and her own generation.

Samantha Sinon Troop 2944, Bedford / Byram Hills - *Project Facebook*

Samantha's project aimed to help seniors at the Atria become computer literate and comfortable using social media to connect with family and friends outside of the center. She focused on teaching them how to use Facebook, e-mail, and Skype. She organized a group of youth at her church who will continue the educational process.

Alyssa Sollazzo Troop 351, Monroe - *Restore, Repair, Repaint; Lifesize Outdoor Statues*

Alyssa restored, repaired, and repainted a series of precious statues for her Parish. She coordinated with the Art Guild and National Art Honor Society at MWHS to create a team of skilled artists to do the work.



Emily Spadavecchia Troop 40640, Germonds - *Home, Sweet Home*

Emily beautified the property of the Ramapo Housing Authority in order to raise the pride residents would be able to take in their home. As part of the project, she removed overgrown bushes, worked with landscape companies to provide a better layout, and planted new greenery. She also planned and ran an Earth Day event for Junior Girl Scouts.

Ellen Spillane Troop 1389, Yorktown - *Cuddle Against Cancer*

Ellen's "Cuddle Against Cancer" project sought to extend mindfulness about cancer and to bring comfort and the security of knowing someone cares to patients. Ellen and a team of volunteers made teddy bears for children with cancer which were given to Maria Fareri Children's hospital for distribution.

Inga Squillace Troop 315, Florida - *Elizabeth Gorshack Scoreboard*

Inga worked with her local recreational board to erect a scoreboard at a local sports field dedicated to a friend and teammate. She ensured the board runs on green power.

Rachel Stein Troop 10496, East Fishkill - *Seeing is Caring*

Rachel raised awareness and promoted volunteerism for Guiding Eyes for the Blind; an organization that raises Guide Dogs for visually impaired people. For her project, she became a puppy raiser and gave presentations on her experience to over 400 people. She also worked with volunteers to donate over 20,000 sheets of prepared newspaper to Guiding Eyes, providing their kennel with 3 months' supply.

Eliza Sullivan Troop 2851, North Salem - *Bully is No Joke*

Eliza created anti-bullying curriculum based on the NY State Law . She then presented each lesson to local 6th and 7th grade teachers and posted the lesson plans to an online blog so they could be accessed by anyone looking to incorporate the materials into their classroom.

Claire Teahan Troop 1523, Tuck-East - *The Eagle Impact*

Claire created The Eagle Impact program at Eastchester High School in order to unite the school's sports community and use their impact to bring awareness and support to different causes. Through Eagle Impact, she challenged and guided student athletes to take the teamwork skills and dedication that they learn from their sport as well as the respect that they earn from their peers and return it in the form of service to their community.

Jordan Tessler Troop 2815, Yorktown - *Sisters in Senegal*

Jordan's project addressed the unequal status of women throughout the world. She developed a program for young women in Dakar, Senegal and in her own community to identify leadership attributes and female role models in their communities. The girls took pictures of their role models and wrote about them, and when these were finished she create a bilingual book - the official language of Senegal is French - to display their work and compare different cultures.

Nicole Vitale Troop 40627, Nanuet - *"Students Advocating Meals" (SAM) Club at Nanuet HS*

Nicole created Students Assisting Meals (S.A.M.s) Team - a group at the Nanuet High School who works in partnership with Meals on Wheels and Magnolia Meals. They're focus is raising awareness for these causes and assisting their mission in the local community.



Belinda Melanie Vuto Troop 2486, Brewster - *Tilly Foster Patch Earning Program*

Belinda developed a sustainable Patch Earning Program for Muscoot Farm in Somers to bring awareness to the local beauty in the community, and to teach youth about the animals and the history of the Farm.

Madeline Ware Troop 1432, Scarsdale-Edgemont - *Keep Calm and Draw On*

Keep Calm and Draw On, addressed the problem of stressful environments and situations for families in a local homeless shelter. Madeline created murals with children in the shelter so that they could be proud of their own art which is now prominently displayed. Her art workshops also gave children time to relax and a safe, creative means for expression.

Jennifer Weisberger Troop 1501, Yorktown - *Bracelets for Bonding*

Jennifer created over 150 bracelets with the help of her community which were shared with patients at Northern Westchester Hospital. The idea behind "Bracelets for Bonding" is so patients feel strong and connected to their loved ones during their time of need.

Lisa Weissburg Troop 215, Woodbury - *St. Patrick's Medical Mission*

Lisa's project addressed the issue of insufficient medical care in the northwestern region of the Dominican Republic. She worked with Island Impact Ministries to organize and lead a week-long medical mission trip. She created a team of one doctor, seven nurses, six chaperones, and ten teens who travelled together to the Dominican Republic to set up free mobile medical clinics. Supply drives and fundraisers resulted in our bringing over 1,000 pounds of medical supplies to the Dominican Republic.