

# Honoring Our Dedicated Volunteers

Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024



**girl scouts**   
heart of michigan

112 Years of  
Girl Scouting

**Celebrating  
Leadership  
2024**



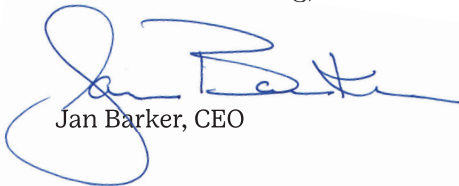
Dear Girl Scout family,

Thank you for joining us on this special day when we get to celebrate our incredible volunteers and all that you do to make Girl Scouting possible in the lives of girls. Margaret Mead, an iconic American anthropologist, once said, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” This powerful quote brings to light the significant impact that all of you as Girl Scout volunteers make in the world.

We all know that the world is a better place because of Girl Scouting. We see evidence of this every time a Daisy Girl Scout learns what it means to be friendly and kind, or whenever a Brownie Girl Scout takes that Brownie smile out and shares her joy with the world. We see more evidence every time a Girl Scout earns her Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award. More evidence presents itself every time a Girl Scout alum blazes a new trail and reflects on her Girl Scout experience as propelling her to that future path of success.

The world-changing impact of Girl Scouting would not be possible without our volunteers, who put in countless hours to give girls exceptional experiences. Thank you, volunteers, for all you do to make Girl Scouting possible. Girls’ lives, and the world at large, are better because of your dedicated service. We are thrilled to spend the day celebrating everything that makes you magical, and everything you make possible.

Yours in Girl Scouting,



Jan Barker, CEO

# 2024

## Celebrating Leadership

honoring our dedicated volunteers

### **Opening Flag Ceremony**

Mackinac Island Scout Service Program  
Troops 609 and 7901

### **Welcome**

Ina Germain, Chair  
Adult Awards Committee

### **Break for Refreshments**

### **Guest Speaker**

Katrina Parker

### **Remarks**

Jan Barker, Chief Executive Officer  
Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan

### **Recognition**

### **Remarks**

Dr. Janice Werbinski, Trustee  
Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Board of Trustees

### **Closing Flag Ceremony**

Mackinac Island Scout Service Program  
Troops 609 and 7901

# The 15 Outcomes of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience

Discover



Connect



Take  
Action



Leadership

1. Girls develop a strong sense of self.
  2. Girls develop positive values.
  3. Girls gain practical life skills.
  4. Girls seek challenges in the world.
  5. Girls develop critical thinking.
- 

1. Girls develop healthy relationships.
  2. Girls promote cooperation and team building.
  3. Girls can resolve conflicts.
  4. Girls advance diversity in a multicultural world.
  5. Girls feel connected to their communities, locally and globally.
- 

1. Girls can identify community needs.
  2. Girls are resourceful problem solvers.
  3. Girls advocate for themselves and others, locally and globally.
  4. Girls educate and inspire others to act.
  5. Girls feel empowered to make a difference in the world.
- 



# Board of Trustees



*Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan is governed by a dedicated Board of Trustees who work in partnership with our CEO and Chief Officers to ensure girls continue to enjoy and benefit from the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.*

Susan Thorman, Board Chair

Dan Liehr, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair

Georgia Fojtasek, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair

Tom Kuslikis, Treasurer

Casey Stevenson, Secretary

Laura Bell, Honorary Board Member

Pat Brasseur, Honorary Board Member

Tricia Cramer, Trustee

Larry Halman, Trustee

Barb Henton, Trustee

Kate LeFevre, Trustee

Jamie Lettow, Trustee

Janice Werbinski, Honorary Board Member



## Member Advisory Committee

*The Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Member Advisory Committee (MAC) serves as the connection between the Board of Trustees and the members. As such, MAC members serve as an advisory team providing policy input to the Board and operational input to the Chief Executive Officer.*

Renee Graham

Barb Henton

Kelley Hissong

Kate LeFevre

Katrina Parker

Jennifer Rudolph

Casmiera Thorman

Susan Thorman

### 2024 Girl Scout Volunteer Appreciation Day

THANK  
YOU



# Service Unit Managers



*Service Unit Managers make Girl Scouting happen in communities across Michigan. These key volunteers are the faces and voices of Girl Scouting, and they provide key leadership to volunteers on their administrative teams.*

Wendy Atkins, SU 487, Howell

Amanda Atwood, SU 323, Ovid-Elsie

Jessica Austin, SU554, Bay County

Heather Balzer, SU 301, Corunna/  
Owosso/New Lothrop

Merri Bayard, SU 360, Webberville/  
Williamston

Brenda Breece, SU 533, Birch Run

Allison Catrell, SU 582, Isabella

Tina Cosineau, SU 692, Eastern  
Lenawee

Julie Davenport, SU 595, Midland

Terischa Dean, SU 457, Whitmore  
Lake

Christine Duffy, SU 330, Delta  
Township

Jodi Fuller, SU 309, Morrice/Perry

Deanna Gates, SU320, DeWitt

Jenni Glysson, SU462, Ann Arbor

Katie Goff, SU 322, St John

Jennifer Harms, SU 962, East  
VanBuren

Tamara Hart, SU 567, Iosco

Angela Heckel, SU 483, Brighton

Heather Hollister, SU 485, Hartland

Lisa Hosted, SU 569, West Branch

Susan Kinaitis, SU 341, Eaton  
Rapids/ Springport

Rebecca Lalk, SU 582, Isabella

Tonda Lobenhertz, SU 692, Easter  
Lenawee

Kelly Maharas, SU 804, Fennville/  
Saugatuck/Douglas/Hamilton

Heather McAllister, SU 981, St  
Joseph County

Mary McDonald, SU 670, Hillsdale

Crystal McGowan, SU 350, Mason

Rita McLaren, SU 512, Vassar/  
Millington/Mayville/Kingston

Miranda Murphy, SU 829, Portage

Jessica Nelson, SU 321, Laingsburg

Nicole O'Reilly, SU 572, Roscommon

Mandy Orlando, SU 800, South  
Haven

Mandy Orlando, SU 953, West  
VanBuren

Amber Orlik, SU 554, Bay County

Katrina Parker, SU 341, Eaton  
Rapids/Springport

Amanda Partin, SU 354,  
Stockbridge

Sara Reedy, SU 351, Holt

Amy Renshaw, SU 307, Byron/Durand

*Service Unit Managers, cont.*

Raquel Rimbach, SU 472, Dexter

Latrice Robbins, SU 537, Bridgeport

Tiffanie Robinson, SU 578, Clare

Jennifer Rudolph, SU 363, East  
Lansing

Jennifer Sahl, SU 474, Saline

Lindsay Schiel, SU 630, Irish Hills/  
Addison

Virtina Schrader, SU 651, Northwest

Tina Schumacher, SU 560, Arenac  
County

April Scott, SU 350, Mason

Kimberly Seaburg, SU 621, Grass  
Lake

Christina Sharpsteen, SU 577,  
Gladwin

Lauren Sickle-Vining, SU 810,  
Calhoun County

Heather Stewart, SU 512, Vassar/  
Millington/Mayville/Kingston

Renee Svetic, SU 535, Freeland

Mary Tate, SU 335, Grand Ledge

Cassie Tennant, SU 545, Gratiot

Debbi Thomas, SU 570, Rose City

Liberty Torrence, SU 320, DeWitt

Mykala Tucker, SU 335, Grand  
Ledge

Jenny Verlinde, SU 301, Corunna/  
Owosso/New Lothrop

Suzie Wilborn SU 352, Dansville

Sheila Wiitala, SU 370, Lansing

Emily Williams, SU 500, Heart of  
Lenawee

Jennifer Wykes, SU 640, Hanover  
Horton





# Adult Trainers



*Adult Trainers are selfless in sharing their valuable knowledge with new and experienced volunteers. Their work makes it possible for all girls to enjoy the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.*

Margaret Bales

Betty Bishop

Mary Beth Britton-Goff

Sally Cook

Melissa Decker

Christine Duffy

Kimberly Evans

Stacy Flynn

Joann Germinder

Renee Graham

Tamara Hart

Erin Hemenway

Marie Hernandez

Kelley Hissong

Jacqueline Jeffery

Gwen Juip

Wendy Kropp

Rosemary McMullen

Marjorie McRoberts

Kelsey Moberg

Cheryle Moberley

Karla Murphy

Toni Noakes

Nicole O'Reilly

Joanne Paddock

Crystal Parsons

Amanda Partin

Jan Radak

Stacey Seaver

Tara Shields

Cheryl Vosburg

Jan Whitcomb

*“If you want to touch the  
past, touch a rock.  
If you want to touch the  
present, touch a flower.  
If you want to touch the  
future, touch a life.”*



# Product Program Volunteers

*Product Program Volunteers are the cheerleaders, organizers, trainers, technical support, inventory controllers, business partners, marketing directors, and confidants in their communities. These amazing volunteers understand and embrace the idea of empowering troop volunteers and girls through our two product programs: Treats & Reads and Cookies. They motivate and celebrate troop successes in learning and practicing five main life skills: goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, and business ethics.*

Julie Abe, SU 831, Branch County

Kelly Alexander, SU 483, Brighton

Joy Andres, SU 487, Howell

Stephanie Asip Leavitt, SU 361,  
Okemos • SU 363, East Lansing

Tamika Banks, SU 543, Ypsilanti/  
Lincoln • SU 462, Ann Arbor

Merri Bayard, SU 360, Webberville/  
Williamston

Dawn Carmody, SU 351, Holt

Sarah Cichon, SU 692, Eastern  
Lenawee

Chris Contri, SU 800, South Haven  
• SU 953, West Van Buren

Leanne Curtin, SU 341, Eaton  
Rapids

Terischa Dean, SU 457, Whitmore  
Lake

Christine Duffy, SU 330, Delta  
Township

Kimberly Evans, SU 330, Delta  
Township

Tammy Farler, SU 651, Northwest

Megan Fiero, SU 533, Birch Run

Chelsea Flores, SU 600, Heart of  
Lenawee

Shannon Fritz, SU 805,  
Otsego/Plainwell/Allegan/Martin

Jodi Fuller, SU 309, Morrice/Perry

Deanna Gates, SU 320, DeWitt

Karen Green, SU 595, Midland

Lori Hall, SU 512, Vassar/  
Millington/Mayville/Kingston

Maribeth Harger, SU 350, Mason

Tamara Hart, SU 567, Iosco

Michelle Hatfield, SU 600, Heart of  
Lenawee

Jeani Hesse, SU 804, Fennville/  
Saugatuck/Douglas/Hamilton

Chris Holbert, SU 630, Irish Hills

Jeanette Holm, SU 962, East  
VanBuren

Lisa Hosted, SU 569, West Branch •  
SU 572, Roscommon

Mary Ellen Huetteman, SU 474,  
Saline

Erin Hutchinson, SU 582, Isabella

Cassandra Jackway, SU 362, Haslet	Christine Schweigert, SU 322, St Johns
Sharon Jaimes, SU 690, Addison/Hudson	Frank Seaburg, SU 621, Grass Lake
Kate Jimenez, SU 630, Irish Hills	Christina Sharpsteen, SU 577, Gladwin
Kelsey Kelly, SU 323, Ovid-Elsie	Megan Smith, SU 577, Gladwin
Sarah Kemp, SU 343, Bellevue/Olivet	Beth Sparks-Jackson SU471, Chelsea
Kristen Kerns, SU 476, Milan	Pam Spurbeck, SU 582, Isabella
Mary Kersche, SU 350, Mason	Krista Story, SU 321, Laingsburg
Beth Kribs, SU 524, Frankenmuth	Renee Svetic, SU 535, Freeland
Jennifer Legner, SU 554, Bay County	Cassie Tennant, SU 545, Gratiot
Laura Lince, SU 324, Bath	Debbi Thomas, SU 570, Rose City
Devayne Lloyd, SU 370, South Lansing	Renee Tillmon, SU 981, St Joseph County
Carolyn Lowery, SU 472, Dexter	Angela Wellman, SU 364, Fowlerville
Brenda McDowell, SU 353, Leslie	Christine Whetstone, SU 307, Byron/Durand
Crystal McNett, SU 595, Midland	Suzie Wilborn, SU 352, Dansville
Susan Oleary, SU 422, Plymouth/Canton	
Jennifer Peckham, SU 507, Caro/Reese	
Nichole Petrie, SU 640, Hanover Horton	
Weese Pope, SU 458, PHL	
Sherrie Reese, SU 831, Branch County	
Latrice Robbins, SU 537, Bridgeport	
Tiffanie Robinson, SU 578, Clare	
Stephanie Satoh, SU 351, Holt	
Patricia Schriner, SU 352, Dansville	
Tina Schumacher, SU 560 Arenac County	

*“Volunteers don’t get paid, not because they’re worthless, but because they’re priceless.”*  
*-Sherry Anderson*



# Gold Award Mentors Committee

*The Gold Award Mentors Committee advocates for Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold awards in their local community. This group of dedicated volunteers monitors girls through all aspects of earning their Girl Scout Gold Award. In addition, they assist with the delivery of Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award trainings across the council and guide new mentors.*



Delayne Bassett

Katie Brewer

Jackie Bucsi

Allison Collins

Ina Germain

Renee Graham

Lori Hall

Jacqueline Jeffery

Mary Ann Jenkins

Sara Olson

## The Girl Scout Rose

In celebration of Girl Scouting's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Girl Scout Rose was developed by Eugene S. Boerner, a member of the Rhode Island Rose society. That rose no longer exists but the organization it celebrated lives on.

In memory, a single yellow rose is given by Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan to celebrate the life of beloved friends and volunteers when they pass.

*Yellow roses symbolize  
friendship, joy, and caring.  
A bouquet of the sun-filled  
blossoms signals warmth,  
gladness, and affection.*



# Volunteer Day Camp Directors



*Volunteer Day Camp Directors/Co-directors coordinate the staff and finances of Service Unit day camps so that hundreds of girls may have an amazing experience.*

## **Juliette's Dream Day Camp**

PJ Rasmussen

## **Maybury Day Camp**

Heidi Vacca

Jenny Weaver

## **Midland Day Camp**

Jill Dougherty

## **Sunny Woods Day Camp**

Betty Melrose

Debbie Srock



# Scout Service Program Directors

*Mackinac Island Scout Service Program Directors oversee two troops that Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan takes to serve the State of Michigan on Mackinac Island each summer. The girls spend their time performing flag ceremonies, guiding tours, doing service projects, and more.*

Mackinac Island Scout Service Program 609  
Brenda Coleman, Director

Mackinac Island Scout Service Program 7901  
Alexandria Jeffery, Director



# Friends of Our Camps



*The Friends of Camp committees are dedicated groups of volunteers who help girls learn and grow outdoors at our Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan camps. Friends of Camp groups' main job is to help keep camp full and well cared for. They are instrumental in coordinating girl programs, assisting with maintenance projects, and trainings as needed.*

## **Friends of Camp Linden**

Abby Baum, Chair

Kara Gavin, Marketing Liaison

Renee Graham, Base Camp/Team Communications Liaison

Kelsey Moberg, Girl Council Liaison

Joanne Paddock, Service Liaison

Skylar Peggie, Camp Maintenance Liaison

Renee Svetic, Girl Council Liaison

Miranda Werner, Chair

## **Friends of Camp Merrie Woode**

Sally Cook, Resource Member

Cheryle Moberley, Resource Member

Jodie Mrak, Fund Development Liaison

Tara Shields, Maintenance Liaison

Cheryl Vosburg, Chair

Jan Whitcomb, Marketing Liaison

## **Friends of Camp Wacousta**

Jaclyn Barcroft, Membership Liaison

Christine Duffy, Chair

Kim Evans, Outdoor Adventures

Deanna Gates, Marketing Liaison

Dan Zay, Community Advocate





# Catholic Committee on Scouting

*The purpose of the Catholic Committee on Scouting is to provide guidance, vitality, and leadership in the development of the spiritual emphasis of Girl Scouting to all Catholic Girl Scouts. The committee seeks to serve all Catholics involved in scouting whether in parish troops or troops not chartered to Catholic organizations.*

Jennifer Kramer

Diocese of Lansing Catholic Committee on Scouting

## Guest Speaker

### **Katrina Parker**

Katrina volunteers her time with Girl Scouts as a troop leader for two troops, as Service Unit Manager, as a member of the Member Advisory Committee, and as an archery instructor. Katrina believes in continuing education, and always looks for opportunities to learn more. She believes in the girls in her troops, and encourages them to make their own choices and work together to learn from one another. As a co-Service Unit manager, she works with her team to provide valuable feedback, and is well-known as a exceptional mentor. Katrina continues to advocate for Girl Scouts as a member of the MAC, and her feedback is incredibly valuable as we continue to work to support our Girl Scout community. We appreciate her dedication to our Girl Scout mission.



# Girl Scout Years of Service Pin



*The Girl Scout Service Pin is given at five-year anniversaries to volunteers who are registered and active members in any of the Girl Scout or Girl Guide Associations. Today, we honor those who have served Girl Scouts for 25 years or more.*

## **40 Years of Service**

Jenni Glysson

Linda Shultes

## **30 Years of Service**

Kathryn Cartwright

Wendy Kropp

Doris Low

## **25 Years of Service**

Tonya Peterson

Krystal Prince

Joni Reimann

Roberta Somerville

Kristen Wurm

Katy Watson

*“You give but little  
when you give of your  
possessions. It is when  
you give of yourself  
that you truly give.”  
-Kahlil Gibran*



## Volunteer of Excellence Award

*The Volunteer of Excellence Award recognizes those volunteers who have contributed outstanding service while partnering directly with girls in any pathway to implement the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE) through use of the National Program Portfolio, or who have contributed outstanding service in support of the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Key Priorities for girl and adult members.*

Heather Balzer, Lansing

Jamie Mears, Lansing

Brenda McDowell, Lansing

Mary Tate, Lansing

Christy Trepanier, Kalamazoo

*“Wherever there is a  
human being, there is  
an opportunity for a  
kindness.”*

*-Seneca*

# Friend of Girl Scouting - *Regional Level*



*The Friend of Girl Scouting Certificate recognizes community and business partners who support Girl Scouting at the local or service unit level.*

Ann Lacasse, Jackson Region

BlackDog Coffee, Lansing Region

Cody Waters, Jackson Region

George Long Elementary School, Jackson Region

Hardings- Parchment, Kalamazoo Region

Hardings Woodbridge, Kalamazoo Region

Kensington Hotel, Ann Arbor Region

MECWARF VFW Post 5319, Kalamazoo Region

Michener Elementary School, Jackson Region

Napoleon Lions Club, Jackson Region

Ransom Library, Kalamazoo Region

Salvation Army (Pearl St.), Jackson Region

Showspan, Lansing Region

Tim and Sharon Saville, Ann Arbor Region

TLC Community Credit Union, Jackson Region

Vicksburg Library, Kalamazoo Region

Warner Elementary School, Jackson Region

Willard Library, Kalamazoo Region



## Friends of Girl Scouting - *Council Level*

*This certificate and plaque recognizes community and business partners who support Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan at council level.*

### **Patterson-Bryant, Inc.**

We have been lucky enough to work with Anissa, N.Z. Bryant, and the Patterson-Bryant team since 2021. They handle issues, situations, and meetings non-stop, and always with a happy and generous heart, and provide full support and incredible customer service. They have shown professionalism, dedication, wisdom, and made everyone at GSHOM feel like we are their most important client and the priority- always having GSHOM's back by being our strongest advocates. In effect, through their commitment to service, they have become a member of the GSHOM family.

*Nominated by Mariela Rua*

### **Townsquare Media**

Townsquare Media works with the Communications Team on our digital media marketing campaigns throughout the state. Our partnership began in 2021, and they have lent their expertise to leveraging all the tools at their disposal to spread the word about Girl Scouting. The team at Townsquare, specifically Kathi Kirkland and Alixandra Jyawook, care deeply about the mission of Girl Scouts, and they met with us monthly to learn about how we are progressing towards our goals. Townsquare Media always succeeds in rising to the occasion of what we hope to accomplish and always brings new ideas and software to the table to go above and beyond what we wish for. They believe in the power of Girl Scouting, and they are willing to support our organization in our critical mission.

*Nominated by Brenna West*

# Green Heart Pin



*The Green Heart Pin recognizes an individual's exemplary service by supporting the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Key Priorities, by promoting the mission of Girl Scouting or by building the presence of Girl Scouting in one or more Girl Scout Service Units through sustained and significant involvement for a period of five or more years.*

## Melinda Perez, Jackson

Melinda is an asset to the Addison Girl Scout team. She stepped up to be the service unit manager, helps with recruitment efforts in the area, and plans events for girls in the area to attend. She works to ensure Girl Scout traditions are an active part of the events in the area. Melinda can always be relied on to be a helping hand; she's always ready to jump in and help. Melinda made a positive impact in the Girl Scouts community and we are grateful for all she's done.

*Nominated by Monica Bristol*



## Girl Scout Appreciation Pin

*The Girl Scout Appreciation Pin recognizes an individual's exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience in one Girl Scout Service Unit within Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan jurisdiction, and is separate from service previously awarded.*

### Amanda Partin, Lansing

Amanda has been a Troop leader and Service Unit Manager for 5 years. Amanda cares deeply, both about providing an excellent experience for her girls, but for the entire service unit. When COVID hit and several troops disbanded, Amanda wasted no time putting a plan into action. She mobilized the remaining leaders and consolidated the meeting schedules so that no leaders were left without support. Amanda is always on top of recruitment and supporting the volunteers. She plans and executes service unit meetings with ease. When fall comes, Amanda has already gotten coverage for open houses, arranged the recruitment event, and knows which troops have openings. Any girl who wants to participate in Girl Scouts is welcomed with open arms.

Amanda lives and breathes the fundamental Girl Scout Experience. Her troops regularly have outdoor experiences, are girl-led, and participate in product sales. She is constantly checking in with the volunteers to make sure they're having a good experience. She has no problem driving to the office to pick up orders and materials for other troops, and regularly attends council service unit meetings.

*Nominated by Leann Schaefer*

### April Nachtigal, Kalamazoo

April has been nominated for the Appreciation Pin for her commitment as a troop leader who engages her troop consistently in girl led activities by giving them space to grow, learn and explore. April is also a reliable, dedicated volunteer who willingly steps up to assist in a variety of ways beyond the troop level. She and her troop have helped the Communications team with various projects and events to promote Girl Scouting, among them the Girl Scout Advantage podcast where they shared the power of their Girl Scout story and the ways the 15 Outcomes of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience shaped their lives. This podcast reaches hundreds of people each episode and helps to spread the word about how powerful Girl Scouting can be. April is invested in the Girl Scout mission and she is a tireless volunteer who is very deserving of the Appreciation pin.

*Nominated by Brenna West*

## Chris Contri, Kalamazoo

Chris a former Leader in the Chicago-Michigan Council, became active with GSHOM in 2018. She is a Juliette Mentor for her daughter and Service Unit Product Manager for not just one but two service units. Chris drives an hour one way, to help with the sorting of products and rewards. Not only does she do that, she is the first one to offer to help at the Regional Center. She is known for being a “breath of fresh air” for staff and volunteers.

*Nominated by Christine Elliott*

## Crystal McNett, Saginaw

Crystal McNett is an indispensable figure within the Midland area 595 service unit, known for her leadership and dedication to the Girl Scouts. Not only does she lead a large, multi-level troop in Sanford, Michigan, but she also organizes significant service events and oversees cookie training, logistics, and sales. Her unwavering commitment has greatly enriched the Girl Scout experience for countless members, boosting morale and engagement. Crystal's recent role as cookie manager showcases her proactive approach to revitalizing the service unit post-COVID-19, actively recruiting both girls and adult volunteers. Her tireless efforts extend beyond her troop, as she coordinates various community events and provides invaluable support to leaders and volunteers alike. Crystal's inclusive and supportive demeanor fosters a thriving Girl Scout community where girls feel empowered to grow and seek guidance. Her dedication to the Girl Scout mission is evident through her selfless actions and unwavering support for the organization. Crystal McNett truly embodies the spirit and values of Girl Scouts, making her a deserving recipient for recognition and appreciation within the community.

*Nominated by Robin Stottlemeyer*

## Grace Moreno, Jackson

Grace Moreno hails from the Blissfield area. She has been in Girl Scouting for well over fifteen years. Grace has been the Service Unit Treasurer for Area 692 for the last several years and has been instrumental in organizing and running the Area Encampments. She leads two troops in Blissfield and is a fantastic and enigmatic leader. Because of her involvement in the community, she was able to increase membership in local troops. During the pandemic, Grace merged her area with the Blissfield Service Unit. It was Grace's idea to do an area encampment since Blissfield had done one annually with much success. Since then, it has become one of our area's favorite traditions. Grace's connections have ensured that the area uses their resources wisely so that money goes farther, and they are able to do more for the girls. She founded a t-shirt company that makes the encampment shirts, helps organize area skating events, and so much more.

*Nominated by Monica Bristol*

## Janet Morgan, Lansing

Jan is the Grand Ledge Service Unit Team Treasurer, and she is also the leader for Troop 30435. Not only has Jan been working with this troop, this is her second time around as a leader. Jan had the wonderful opportunity to lead her daughter all the way through Girl Scouts, but now she is taking her granddaughter on this wonderful journey. Jan has given the opportunity for Girl Scouts to continue to grow, in the community of Grand Ledge and has helped the new leaders learn all about the traditions in Girl Scouts. She helped with Investiture/Bridging event, Halloween Bash, consistently looking for new things to help the Service Unit and her troop. For several years, she has helped the girls love to learn about nature and the environment, share their amazing experiences, learn to make a difference in their communities and have lots of fun along with making new friends! Along with Jan's help, the girls are always counting down to their next adventure in their "Girl Led" processes. Maybe it's part of a STEM project or maybe it's getting outside or helping the community. She has also been such a team player for the Service Unit and other Teams hosting events and taking the lead. She is constantly encouraging and supporting the leaders in the entire Service Unit Team. Jan has mentored the leaders with new experiences that show how the exciting world of Girl Scouts can be while relating to them that the girls are at the center of everything we do.

*Nominated by Rayanna Demello*

## Jenny Verlinde, Lansing

The Appreciation pin is recommended for Jenny Verlinde given her 7 years of service as a co-leader of a very active, community oriented, multi-level, girl led troop. In addition, Jenny served first as secretary and then as co Service Unit manager of SU 301. She not only works well with girls but she also works well with adult volunteers. Jenny is always prepared for meetings and makes all volunteers feel welcomed, valued and informed. For the last 4 years Jenny has also volunteered as a Unit Leader and Assistant Unit Leader at Sunny Woods Day Camp. She has helped campers appreciate the value and beauty of learning and having fun in the outdoors. Jenny brings her enthusiasm and positive approach to all aspects of her Girl Scout involvement.

*Nominated by Debbie Srock*

## Katrina Parker, Lansing

In 2018 Katrina began as a Leader, now has a Cadette Troop plus a Brownie Troop. Her Troops are Girl-Led and very active including, doing Journeys, camping trips and to the 2023 Girl Scout National Council Session in Orlando. Katrina is also a Co-Service Manager where her organizational skills are used. As well she is very supportive and encouraging for the "sisterhood" of Leaders. Plus, Katrina is on the Membership Advisory Committee (MAC), where is very supportive and active.

*Nominated by Jaclyn Barcroft*



## Kristen Perrine, Lansing

Kristen Perrine, a dedicated Girl Scout troop leader for nearly a decade, is truly deserving of the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Appreciation Pin. Despite relocating her family over 100 miles away, Kristen remains actively involved in the Holy/Diamondale service unit, embodying the Girl Scout mission of surpassing outreach goals. She hosts engaging troop meetings, contributes fresh ideas at leader gatherings, and organizes beloved service events like roller skating parties and recruitment drives. Kristen's troop consistently excels in cookie sales, with her leadership fostering community involvement and empowerment among the girls. Notably, she orchestrated a memorable East Coast camping trip, showcasing her commitment to providing enriching experiences. Kristen's tireless dedication extends beyond her troop as she actively participates in area meetings and fundraisers, demonstrating her passion for the Girl Scout community. Her innovative approach to scouting, coupled with her selfless contributions, makes her deserving of the Appreciation Pin. Kristen Perrin's unwavering commitment and inspirational leadership have positively impacted both her troop and the broader service unit, making her a fitting recipient of this honor.

*Nominated by Sara Reedy*

## Laura Smith, Kalamazoo

Laura Smith come to us from the Kalamazoo Regional Office where she is a staff member. She can be found working in the retail shop, customer service, and the product program. She is an asset that goes beyond these tasks. This year, she opened the store to coincide with reward pick up on a Saturday. She went out of her way to deliver to a Girls Scout who was unable to travel. For over six years, she has gone above and beyond her work hours to make phone calls, answer questions related to the product program, and makes time to help every department with tasks. She accomplishes all of this with a smile on her face. Because of her dedication, she has assisted many girls and troops to meet and accomplish their goals.

*Nominated by Susan Prichard*

## Lindsey Schiel, Jackson

Lindsey is being nominated for the Appreciation pin due to her dedication as a very effective Service Unit Manager in the Irish Hills area. She supports recruitment events such as open houses and information tables. She consistently supports new leaders by attending their first meetings and serving as an available, knowledgeable mentor throughout the year. Lindsey is great role model for girls and adult volunteers and has taken an active role in setting and attaining Council girl and adult goals. Lindsey is also the leader of a multi-level troop, teaching them Girl Scout traditions and assisting them in earning badges, developing community projects and setting product sales goals. Her troop supports SU events but also organizes a large World Thinking Day event for the entire Service Unit. Lindsey consistently goes

above and beyond to offer meaningful Girl Scout opportunities to Girl Scouts in the Irish Hills Area.

*Nominated by Monica Bristol*

### Shannon Fritz, Kalamazoo

Starting as a Daisy Leader in 2018, Shannon now has a Troop of 20 Girls, in grades K through 8TH. The Troop is very active and Girl Led, including hosting Thinking Day Events and even a Lock-In that were very well attended by other Troops in the area. Her Girls will have many wonderful memories of camping including a trip to Mackinac Island. Following Shannon's example, the Girls have grown and bonded. She not only hosts the cookie cupboard she hosts the treats cupboard for her area.

*Nominated by Sally Cook*

### Shannon Moran Losee, Kalamazoo

Shannon Moran Losee from Troop 90819 is being recognized with the Appreciation Award by Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan for her exemplary service and dedication to providing a supportive Girl Scout learning experience. Leading multilevel troops and never hesitating to accommodate aspiring Girl Scouts, Shannon actively engages her troop in various community service projects and activities, including annual toy drives, food drives, and building projects. She organizes camping trips, art classes, and educational sessions on homesteading, fostering a well-rounded Girl Scout experience. Shannon's efforts extend beyond Marcellus, with trips to Otsego and celebrations honoring Juliette Low. She actively recruits new members and keeps families informed through a Facebook group she created for her troop. Shannon's commitment has provided invaluable opportunities for girls in Marcellus, instilling leadership skills and fostering personal growth. Her dedication reflects in the badges earned and the character development of the girls. Shannon's selfless devotion to the Girl Scouts and their families makes her a deserving recipient of the Appreciation Award, enriching the lives of those she serves.

*Nominated by Sally Cook*

### Tina Schrader, Jackson

Tina hails from the Jackson area. She is currently the Service Unit Manager for SU651, and a troop leader. She came to Girl Scouting when her niece wanted to join scouting. Renee has worked hard to instill the values and skills that tell others what it means to be a Girl Scout. Tina works hard and sets a good example for girls and adults. She lends her expertise to recruitment events. Tina has even incorporated girls into her troop when an adult leader was not available to continue with them. Tina offers stability to girls who need that soft place to land in their uncertain lives. She has made scouting their refuge.

*Nominated by Monica Bristol*

## Wendy Atkins, Ann Arbor

Wendy has consistently provided leader meetings, trainings, and encouragement and support to all leaders in Howell, Michigan. She has helped with recruitment efforts, helped new troops set up bank accounts, and more, all with a smile. Wendy has been a beacon of Girl Scouting in her community for decades and exemplifies what it means to go above and beyond. She has made herself available to new and seasoned volunteer alike, and supported all the new troops and leaders through their first meetings. There is no way to adequately measure the positive impact Wendy has made in her community, nor the countless lives she has changed for the better over the years.

*Nominated by Joy Andres*



“This knot is woven in friendship true,  
And interlaced with memories too,  
Of friendship found and shared by two,  
The ties time and miles can’t undo.”

Awardees each receive a friendship knot in honor of their dedication to Girl Scouting.



## Girl Scout Thanks Badge

*The Thanks Badge honors an individual whose ongoing commitment, leadership, and service have had an exceptional, measurable impact on meeting the Key Priority goals of Girls Scouts Heart of Michigan or the entire Girl Scout Movement and is separate from service previously awarded.*

### Cheryle Moberley, Kalamazoo

Cheryle has served GSHOM in many capacities including Troop Leader, Trainer, Service Team Member, committee member and more. Her commitment to girls through troop and camp interactions is truly remarkable and her influence is wider still through her dedication to the GSHOM Training Team where she works to teach and mentor adult volunteers. Cheryle lives the GS leadership model. Whether she is working with girls or adults, she leads by example with enthusiasm, proficiency, and purpose. Her work with the Friends of Camp initiative is critical to ensuring that GS Camp continues to be an option for future girls and the camp experience continues to be intentionally, profoundly impactful. Her circle of influence is far reaching and her ongoing long-term commitment, leadership and service have had an exceptional, measurable impact on the delivery of mission related goals through the entire council.

*Nominated by Sally Cook*

### Daniel Liehr, Kalamazoo

Dan is nominated for the Thanks Badge as a respected member of the GSHOM Board of Trustees, having served as a trustee, Treasurer and now 1st Vice Chair. Dan has consistently demonstrated exceptional qualities in each of the roles he has taken on by providing insightful guidance, valuable experience and common sense as well as a great sense of humor. Dan always attends meetings well prepared and knowledgeable about the issues at hand. He skillfully engages the Board and staff to inspire and empower them to reach the best decisions for the Council. Dan's ongoing dedication, leadership and support have been incredibly valuable to GSHOM.

*Nominated by Mariela Rua*

### Kate LeFevre, Kalamazoo

Many people start volunteering when a friend invites or refers them to staff. GSHOM reached out to Kate in 2014 and invited her to serve on our Board of Trustees. Kate accepted, and the role of Trustee, then became Vice

Chair, and in 2018 she became Chair of the Board of Trustees. As Chair she made it a priority to travel to each of the GSHOM Regional Centers, getting to know Staff. She traveled to GSUSA to attend New Board Chair training. When the pandemic hit, it didn't stop Kate, she continued her lead GSHOM into new ways of supporting Girls, Volunteers and Staff to "push past their comfort zones" and provide some normalcy. Kate attended the 2020 National Council Session (NCS), it was a NCS as no other had been, as it was not held in person it was virtual. Kate made sure the Girl Delegates were able to fully engage in the NCS sessions. Her service also includes Membership Advisory Committee, and continues to volunteer as a Trustee on our Board of Directors.

*Nominated by Mariela Rua*

### Matthew Bates, Kalamazoo

Matt has been the Chief Financial Officer of the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan (GSHOM) for the past 22 years, overseeing various functions including the organization's camps, finance, and information systems. He has been instrumental in constructing rock climbing walls and facilitating activities like archery and slingshots. Matt's dedication extends to training volunteers and implementing new ideas such as introducing blacksmithing for older girls. Known for his meticulousness and commitment, Matt is described as everyone's brother, always ready to take on additional responsibilities and provide support. Under his leadership, the team at GSHOM has become united, dedicated, and collaborative. Matt's exemplary work ethic and service mindset have earned him respect from staff, board members, and volunteers alike. He has successfully steered his department through challenges while fostering growth and maintaining organizational success. Matt's unwavering dedication to the Girl Scout movement serves as an inspiration to all involved with GSHOM.

*Nominated by Jan Whitcomb*



## Girl Scout Thanks Badge II

*The Girl Scout Thanks Badge II is presented to a Girl Scout adult volunteer who is a previous recipient of the Thanks Badge. Their service continues to impact the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan council or the entire Girl Scout Movement in extraordinary ways, and is the highest adult honor in Girl Scouts.*

### Renee Graham, Saginaw

Renee is the chair of the Member Advisory Committee. She serves as the liaison between GSHOM members, the executive staff, and the Board of Trustees. Renee is an advocate for Girls Scouts and works with volunteers to better understand their concerns and in turn voices those concerns to the staff and the board members. In her dealings with people, she is honest and kind especially when there are difficult conversations to be had. Renee is driven by her passion for Girl Scouting and what this organization stands for. She is an excellent communicator and provides honest feedback especially when communicating about sensitive issues. Renee exemplifies her integrity in communication to provide the best she can for GSHOM in promoting their mission of quality, consistency, and diversity for all girls.

*Nominated by Brenna West*

*No person was ever honored  
for what he received. Honor  
has been the reward for what  
he gave.”*

*-Calvin Coolidge.*



Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Adult Awards Committee

We thank the members of the committee for their diligence and service to Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan and fellow volunteers.

Ina Germain

Joann Germinder

Barb Henton

Carol Middel

Jan Whitcomb

Mackinac Island Scout Service Program  
Troops 609 and 7901



*“The unselfish effort  
to bring cheer to others  
will be the beginning  
of a happier life for  
ourselves.”*

*-Helen Keller*