



Welcome to the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan (GSHOM) Donor Newsletter! In our quarterly newsletter, we share inspiring stories from local Girl Scouts and highlight how your support is making a meaningful difference for girls throughout our council.

As girls across our 34 counties embark on another year of learning, adventure, and leadership, your generosity ensures they have the resources and opportunities to thrive. Thank you for being a vital part of their journey!

Stay tuned for quarterly updates to see the impact of Girl Scouting!

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## Cass City Girl Scouts Give Back

Girl Scout Troop 50557 from Cass City delivered meals in their local communities with big smiles and even bigger hearts.



During the girls' troop meeting, they learned about the importance of community service and food insecurity. The troop voted to use their Girl Scout Cookie proceeds to go shopping to purchase meals for families in need. The troop purchased and donated eight full meals to the Tuscola County Department of Human Services.



We want to give a big Girl Scout shout-out to one of our amazing long-time partners, Michigan State University Federal Credit Union (MSUFCU)! For multiple decades, MSUFCU has collaborated with local girls, adult volunteers, and employees at Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan.

Arianna Ridderbusch, MSUFCU's VP of Community Impact, shared: "MSUFCU is proud to be a longstanding partner of Girl Scouts. We believe in investing in opportunities that empower youth, and we are grateful for the important work Girl Scouts does to build confidence, leadership, and life skills in young people across our communities."

Many MSUFCU employees were Girl Scouts themselves, and they love sharing how those early experiences helped shape who they are today. Hearing former Girl Scouts talk about finding their voice, learning to lead, and gaining confidence through participation is always meaningful for them. It is a reminder that the impact of Girl Scouts lasts a lifetime, and that is what makes this partnership so special. MSUFCU understands the

importance of financial literacy for the next generation of girls and offers programming opportunities to girls and adult volunteers. They stand behind the saying that every girl deserves the opportunity to be a Girl Scout regardless of their family's financial barriers; they support our Financial Assistance Fund. They offer Girl Scout Troop bank accounts and support our adult volunteers in their banking needs for their troops. You can find Girl Scout Cookie Booths at their various locations, making the cookie experience even richer. Plus, they offer safe and secure spaces for troops to meet and gather, along with a space for larger Girl Scout events.

Lyah VanSickle, Chief Development Officer at Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan, states "Michigan State University Federal Credit Union focuses on collaboration centered on meeting the needs of our communities and our members. They focus on people before profits, and this makes Michigan State Federal Credit Union a gem for our local communities."

They back Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan wholeheartedly, and we couldn't be more grateful for their support and partnership!



*Join us for EmpowHER  
Night with the K-Wings  
March 7 at 4:30 PM!*

Celebrate the strength, leadership, and impact of women in sports and our community during **EmpowHER Night with the K-Wings!** This special evening is dedicated to empowering the next generation, making it the perfect outing for the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan and their families. A portion of all tickets sold comes back to support GSHOM! Purchase your game day tickets [here](#).

## GSHOM x Target Circle

We're a **Circle** participant  
and here's how you can vote for us.

-  1 Choose My Target
-  2 Tap Cast votes
-  3 Find us & vote

We are honored and excited to announce that we have been chosen to participate in a special charitable giving campaign sponsored and funded by Target. And you have the chance to help direct a portion of Target's donation to GSHOM!

Now through March 31, 2026, vote for GSHOM through the Target Circle program to help determine how Target's donation will be divided up. Find out more about Target Circle here: [www.target.com/circle](http://www.target.com/circle)

We're asking our supporters to help us make the most of this incredible opportunity. Every vote counts to help us receive a portion of the available Target funds as we continue our mission to build up girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. Make sure your account is set to a Target location within our 34 counties, and Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan will appear as a voting option!

Don't forget, as you earn more votes, you can keep voting multiple times during the campaign!

Thank you for your support, and we encourage you to share your support for us (and your thanks to Target) on social media throughout the voting!

### Gold Award Spotlight: Evelyn



Evelyn's idea for her Gold Award project originated from her time as a camper at Camp Linden, where she realized that restoring the benches by the waterfront was something she wanted to do and was desperately needed.

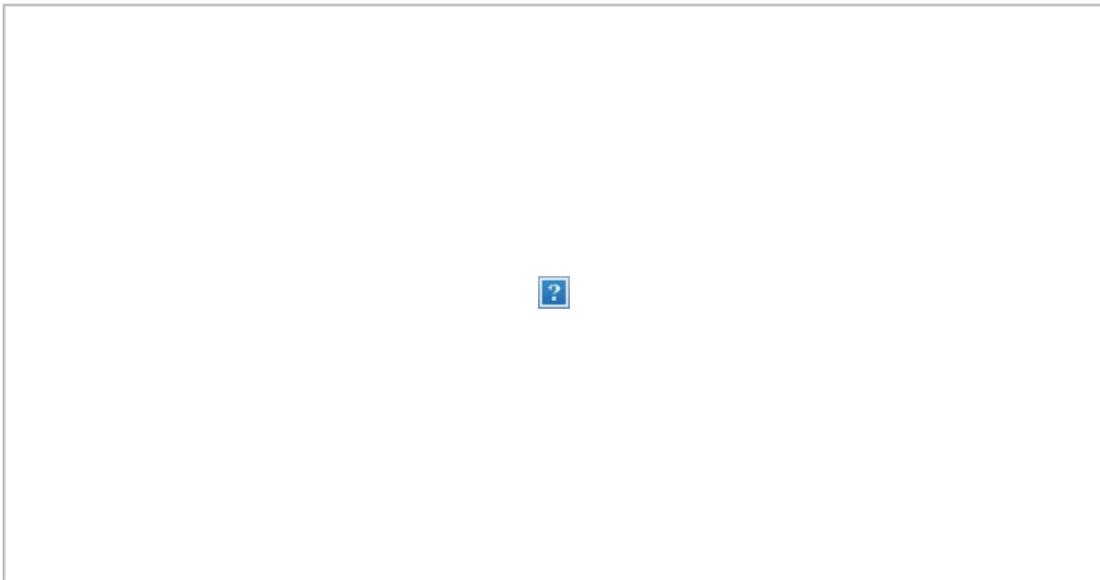
The team she organized replaced all the old and rotted benches by the waterfront with brand-new, higher-quality benches that will last much longer. Evelyn's team also removed an old bulletin board and created a new "Welcome to Camp Linden" sign for the camp's parking lot! Now, campers have a place to take a picture together in front of the sign and enjoy the magical waterside, participating in songs by the evening campfire.

Thanks to Evelyn's unwavering passion for improving Camp Linden, campers will be inspired by these phenomenal improvements



for years to come.

Visit Camp Linden this Summer to see her project in person!



You are a vital force in empowering girls through Girl Scouts. Join us at the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Cookie Bake-Off Benefit as local chefs transform Girl Scout Cookies into extraordinary dishes just for you. Be part of our Bake-Off Benefit. Your participation creates meaningful opportunities for girls in our community. Together, let us inspire change with every delicious bite!

**Wednesday, March 4, 2026**

**Radisson Plaza Hotel at Kalamazoo Center**

**100 W. Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo, MI**

Girl Scouting transforms girls' lives through personal growth and leadership development. The sponsors of the Girl Scout Cookie Bake-off Benefit are making a powerful impact by ensuring that every girl has the opportunity to participate in this invaluable program, equipping them with skills for a brighter future. All proceeds support Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan, empowering girls in Financial Literacy, Entrepreneurship, STEAM, Leadership, Life Skills, and Outdoor Adventures. Together, we are creating a future filled with confidence and endless possibilities for our girls.

[Get your tickets today!](#)

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## **Cookie Season is going strong!**

Girl Scouts across our council have been starring on local TV and radio stations promoting Girl Scout Cookies "Behind the Box!" Girl Scout Cookies are an important part of girls developing financial literacy and having fun! Keep your eyes and ears open!

Girl Scouts learn the Five Essential Skills when they sell cookies!

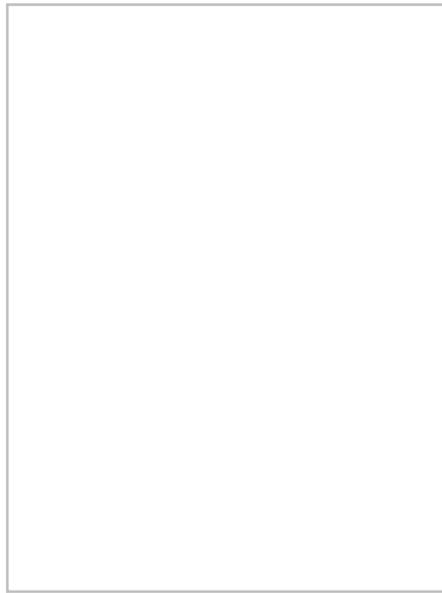
### **1) Goal Setting**

Girl Scouts learn how to set goals and create a plan to reach them.

### **2) Decision Making**

Girl Scouts learn to make decisions on their own and as a team.

### **3) Money**



Girl Scouts sell cookies multiple different ways including going door-to-door with paper order forms, and hosting local cookie booths. With so many ways to sell, girls are gaining a comprehensive knowledge of running their first business. From product control to financing to distribution, the Girl Scouts learn it all first-hand.

## Management

Girl Scouts learn how to create a budget and handle money.

## 4) People Skills

Girl Scouts find their voice and build confidence through customer interactions.

## 5) Business Ethics

Girl Scouts learn to act ethically, both in business and in life.

Don't know where to find cookies? No worries! Check out our link to find a cookie booth near you!

[Find cookies near you!](#)



## Kendra Scott Gives Back

To support Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan, shop at the Eastwood Towne Center Kendra Scott store between 1:30 PM-3:30PM and mention their organization at the cash wrap to donate 20% of your purchase!

Can't make it in? Shop online at [kendrascott.com](https://www.kendrascott.com) with code GIVEBACK-MICHIGANGS to help contribute! The code will be live at 12 AM on February 28 until 11:59 PM on March 1st!

## INTRODUCING EXPLOREMORES

Meet Exploremores™—a delicious new addition to the Girl Scout Cookie lineup! These rocky road ice cream inspired sandwich cookies celebrate the spirit of exploration while supporting Girl Scouts' journeys in STEM, entrepreneurship, and leadership.



## Planned Giving

Is now the time for you to consider establishing a will or trust? **Absolutely!**

Without a plan, state laws will delegate the distribution of your assets after your passing, and these laws often exclude charitable organizations from being beneficiaries.

Imagine the impact you could make by naming the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan as a beneficiary in your will or living trust. You have the flexibility to define your gift in various ways—whether it's a specific dollar amount, a portion of your estate, the remainder after fulfilling other gifts, or even the entirety of your estate if your designated heirs are no longer living.

By including the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan in your estate planning, you are not just securing your legacy but also empowering future generations of girl leaders. If you want to learn more about how you can make a meaningful difference through planned giving, please don't hesitate to contact Lyah VanSickle, our Chief Development Officer, at [lvansickle@gshom.org](mailto:lvansickle@gshom.org) or 517-742-4707.

Your support can create lasting change!



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