

**PRESS RELEASE**



**Girl Scouts®**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Girl Scouts Work to Battle Hunger in Maryland**

**Baltimore**—Girl Scouts in central Maryland are doing their part to fight hunger in Maryland through the Harvest for the Hungry food drive-- a service project established by the Maryland Food Bank for local organizations as a means of ensuring continuous donations to the food bank. Girl Scouts participate in this program annually and have established a patch program that encourages girls to learn more about hunger in Maryland. Food collection bags have been distributed to Girl Scouts to gather canned and non-perishable foods for pick-up on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. In addition, postal carriers will be assisting with food collection efforts this year and will pick-up filled food bags that are left at the door March 4<sup>th</sup> through March 10<sup>th</sup>.

Through the Harvest for the Hungry Patch Program girls learn information and statistics about hunger in Maryland: 81% of Maryland households with children under the age of 18 are food insecure or at risk of hunger; 48% of adults benefiting from the food collected through the Harvest for the Hungry service project are high school graduates, and 20% have some level of higher education. Among households with adults over 65 years of age, 50% are food insecure or at risk of hunger.

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**Where Girls Grow Strong<sup>SM</sup>**

“These are alarming statistics,” Traci Barnett, CEO of Girl Scouts of Central Maryland stated. “That means that there are over 800,000 hungry people in Maryland. I am proud that our girls are pitching in to help make sure that there are resources to help them,” Barnett added.

Girl Scouts in central Maryland have been supporters of the Harvest for the Hungry program for many years. During the annual Cookie Sale, which takes place mid-September through December, troops donate Girl Scout Cookies to the Maryland Food Bank through the Gift of Caring project. Other projects include a food drive at the Columbia Mall in early March and a Can-tastic Event, which will take place on March 24<sup>th</sup> at the Catonsville United Methodist Church.

For more information, or to find out how you can support the Food Drive, contact Sherry Dowdell at 410.358.9711.

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Girl Scouts is the preeminent organization for, and leading authority on girls with 3.7 million girl and adult members. Now in its 95th year, Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place by becoming active and resourceful citizens.