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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

Girl Scouts Collect Food to Fight Hunger in Maryland

Baltimore—Girl Scouts in central Maryland have already begun their efforts to collect 35,000 pounds of food for the council's annual Harvest for the Hungry campaign – a campaign that collects food to help feed 50,000 people in central Maryland who rely on emergency food programs to put food on the table. The Girl Scouts Harvest for the Hungry campaign—which partners with the Baltimore Area Boy Scout Council, runs February 28 through March 7. Troops will do a neighborhood door-to-door distribution of food bags throughout the week. On bag collection day, March 7, the bags will be collected and taken to designated collection points or local food banks. In addition, Girl Scouts will be collecting food at Safeway food stores Friday March 6 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday March 7 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. (to find a participating Safeway store near you visit: www.gscm.org). Campaign kick-off events will take place on March 6 at 11 am at the Maryland Food Bank and that evening at the Anne Arundel County Food Bank.

Girl Scouts has been involved with the Harvest for the Hungry campaign since 1987. While the official campaign lasts a week, Girl Scouts in central Maryland collect food for local food banks all year long. In December Anne Arundel County Troop 1088 worked with their community to collect enough food to feed 120 families. In addition, during the annual Girl Scout Cookie Sale, which runs September through mid-December, many troops donate cookies to their local food banks as part of the Girl Scout Gift of Caring project. "Community service is the cornerstone of Girl Scouting," noted Traci A. Barnett, GSCM CEO. "Helping to fight hunger and provide food for those in need is a wonderful way for girls to take action in their community and feel good about their contribution," she added. Girl Scouts of Central Maryland is so committed to this project they developed a patch program that encourages girls to learn about hunger in the state of Maryland and to participate in this worthy cause. For more information about Girl Scouts' Harvest for the Hungry campaign, contact Sherry Dowdell, sdowdell@gscm.org.

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Girl Scouts builds girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. Girl Scouts of Central Maryland serves 30,000 girls in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard counties providing programs and activities that allow them to Discover, Connect and Take Action.