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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Girl Scouts Collect Food for those in Need

Baltimore—Girl Scouts across the central Maryland region will once again be collecting food for over 456,000 Marylanders in need of food. On February 27, Girl Scouts will distribute food collection bags in their neighborhoods and communities asking everyone to participate in their annual “community helping community” event, Harvest for the Hungry. Their efforts benefit the Maryland Food Bank, an organization the Council has partnered with for the past six years to help its efforts to eradicate hunger in Maryland. Girl Scouts will distribute the food collection bags throughout the weekend and ask neighbors to put the filled bags on their doorsteps for pick-up on March 6 by a Girl Scout or Mail Carrier.

“I know that many of our neighbors are in need and could certainly use our assistance, remarked Traci A. Barnett, Chief Executive Officer of Girl Scouts of Central Maryland. Girl Scouts has participated in the Harvest for the Hungry campaign for the past 23 years. Last year 1,942 girls in 229 Girl Scout Troops participated in the campaign and collected 59,078 lbs of food. This year Girl Scouts hopes to double their collection efforts to help feed even more families. “It only takes 1.24 pounds of food to feed one individual,” Barnett noted. “This is an effort that everyone can help with; even if you can’t fill the bag, if you donate two or three non-perishable food items that can make a huge difference in someone’s life.” Girl Scout Troops all across central Maryland will appreciate your support of their efforts and thousands of families and individuals in need of food will benefit greatly from your donations.

The Maryland Food Bank has seen a 50% increase in the number of families and individuals in need of food over the last year. Of the 456,000 Marylanders who do not have enough food, 200,000 are children and 73,000 are senior citizens. Many of the people who are in need work full-time jobs or have been recently laid off, some of them are students in your child’s classroom, a member of your church/synagogue or are one of your elderly neighbors living just doors away.

Girl Scouts encourages families, individuals, businesses and organizations to support their 2010 Harvest for the Hungry campaign. If you did not receive a food collection bag, you can also make food donations at local area Safeway stores. On March 6 & 7 Girl Scouts will be collecting food at these Safeway stores: **Baltimore City**—5660 Baltimore National Pike, Boston Street, N. Charles Street and Harford Road; **Anne Arundel County**—Forest Drive, Housley Road, S. Ritchie Hwy., W. Central Avenue, Chapel Lake Drive, Mountain Road, Arundel Mills Blvd. and Benfield Road; **Baltimore County**—Reisterstown Road, Waltham Woods, Sweet Air Road and Belair Road; **Carroll County**—West MD College Drive, Ridgeville Blvd. and Londontowne Blvd; **Harford County**—Brier Hill Drive and **Howard County**—Montgomery Road, Harpers Farm Road, Cloudleap Court and Baltimore National Pike. For more information about Girl Scout’s Harvest for the Hungry campaign, visit www.gscm.org.

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Girl scouting builds girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place through experiences that encourage them to discover their potential and connect with others in their communities who inspire them to take action.

Where Girls Grow StrongSM