

## Girl Scouts really do make the world a better place

The Los Angeles Times wrote a story in 2016 titled “Science proves it: Girl Scouts really do make the world a better place.” It said more than 300 Junior Girl Scouts in Northern California completed a number of energy conservation courses developed by Stanford University called Girls Learning Environment and Energy (GLEE) which educated and motivated them to action. Their follow-up to these courses included involving their parents in energy-saving actions and making meaningful, impactful energy-saving changes in their homes. Ultimately, Junior Girl Scouts and their families increased household energy-saving activities by as much as 49%, increased parents’ conservation behaviors by up to 12%, and reduced carbon dioxide emissions by an average of 170 pounds per year, per Girl Scout family. The entire program was a clinical trial run by Oregon State University’s School of Public Policy which published the study results in the scientific journal *Nature Energy*.

Here in New Hampshire, Gold Award Girl Scout Cassandra Levesque has made a similar and incredible accomplishment. Her Gold Award project, “Let a Child Be a Child,” inspired her to change the world for girls and women. After discovering the minimum age for marriage in New Hampshire was 13 for girls and 14 for boys, Cassie met with local lawmakers and worked to create a bill to raise the minimum age to 18.



Cassandra Levesque not only raised the minimum age for marriage to 16 in New Hampshire through her Gold Award project, she was also inspired by the experience to run for office. She filed to become the state representative for her hometown of Barrington. (GSUSA)

The issue garnered national attention and sparked conversation far beyond the borders of our council. Between 1995 and 2012, 323 girls and 46 boys under the age of 18 were married in New Hampshire. Not only were girls treated differently with respect to the minimum age of marriage; girls were disproportionately af-

ected by this law with more than seven times the number of minor girls marrying than minor boys.

The vote on the initial bill was killed by the New Hampshire House in March 2017 but Cassie did not give up. She went right back to work and, in May 2018, a compromise was reached with the passage of House Bill 1587 which raised the minimum age of marriage to 16 for both boys and girls. It was signed into law on June 18.

Though Cassie is happy with the progress, she said she still wants to see the age move to 18. Cassie’s grandmother and great-grandmother were both married in their teens into abusive situations, so the issue is also personal to her.

As part of her project, Cassie developed a patch program called “Advocacy: Be the Change” for Girl Scouts of all ages, and it opens with “Change starts with you! Discover how to step up, speak out, and be the voice for an issue you believe in. Complete activities...to learn how



Surrounded by family and supporters, Cassie and her project mentor, Rep. Jacalyn Cilley, watch New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu sign her bill into law on June 18, 2018. (GSGWM)



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## **For More Information**

To donate to Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains, visit: [girlscoutsgwm.org/Donate](http://girlscoutsgwm.org/Donate).

To learn more, contact the Advancement office by emailing [advancement@girlscoutsgwm.org](mailto:advancement@girlscoutsgwm.org) or calling 888-474-9686.

# Welcome to The Trailblazer



Dear friends,

Welcome to the very first issue of The Trailblazer, Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains' quarterly newsletter to our supporters and Alumnae Association members! I am excited for

the opportunity to share stories and news about the impact we are making in girls' lives through our leadership development programs. We see evidence of our value to girls and their families as more and more are getting outside and flexing their leadership muscles at camp, exploring the science of space, robotics, computers, and chemistry, and taking on challenges that help change the world around them for the better through Take Action projects and their Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award projects.

We are in our third year of membership growth despite a shrinking population of girls ages 5 - 17 and competition from the many other activities available to them. This is unique among Girl Scouts councils across the nation. We are proud of this and work very hard to provide relevant and impact-

ful programs and opportunities to the more than 10,000 girls we are serving throughout New Hampshire and Vermont.

You, our supporters and champions, are very much a part of our successes. You invest in our work, in these young women and in their potential, and your investment pays off every single day. Read about it in the stories about Gold Award Girl Scout Cassie Levesque whose project resulted in legislation raising the marriage age in New Hampshire and GSGWM Alumnae Association's service project to benefit at-risk girls in Haiti.

Thank you so much for your support and your belief in the Girl Scout Movement. Please share these stories with those around you. Follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn. Help us spread the word so that others will join you, join us, in supporting the next generation of women who are making the world a better place.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Tricia Mellor  
Chief Executive Officer  
Gold Award Girl Scout

## **Girl Scouts really do make the world a better place**

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to be an advocate in your community as you work toward making the world a better place."

The positive change achieved through Cassie's Gold Award project ripples far and wide. In September 2017, Teen Vogue, a magazine with a circulation of nearly one million mostly teen girl readers, featured in its News and Politics section a story about Cassie and her efforts as part of Wedlocked, the magazine's series on child marriage in the United States. Beyond the change in New Hampshire and the national discussion on the topic, this young woman is looking ahead to what she can do next, including running for office. She filed to become the state representative for her hometown of Barrington. This is a position

that opened with the retirement of Rep. Jacalyn Cilley, who assisted Cassie with her legislation. Cassie is a Gold Award Girl Scout who has made the world a better place and has empowered countless others to do the same.



Cassie and GSGWM CEO Patricia Mellor chat with WZID's Marga Bessette in May. (GSGWM)



Members of the Juliette Gordon Low Society pose at the Volunteer Celebration Luncheon. Back Row: Cynthia Cohen, Amanda Laclair, Jacie Crump, Candy Hamacher, Frank Manley, Cheryl Heneveld, Jennie Clarke, Tiffany Hammond, Tricia Casey. Middle Row: Tara Pacht, Debbie Drake, Robin Boyd, Pam Lyman, Emily Becker. Front Row: Linda Trust, Amy Lothrop, Tricia Mellor, Martha Manley. (GSGWM)

## GSGWM welcomes new members of the Juliette Gordon Low Society

The Juliette Gordon Low Society grew by leaps and bounds at our Volunteer Celebration Luncheon May 20 at Camp Farnsworth. Fourteen people stepped up to become members of this planned giving group. A total of 19 people have joined so far this year!

Last fall, at G.I.R.L. 2017, the National Council Meeting of GSUSA, the Founding Chair of the Juliette Gordon Low Society, Dianne Belk and her husband Lawrence Calder, challenged every Girl Scout council to stop up efforts to educate our supporters about planned giving and the long term benefits for the girls we serve now...and in the future. When we do this by September 30, 2018, and sign up new members to the JGL Society, our own council will earn a \$10,000 planned gift from Dianne and Lawrence! Friends of GSUSA, Erik and Eva Andersen, were further inspired to also pledge a \$4,000 planned gift to GSGWM should we do the same.

### About the Juliette Gordon Low Society

In March 1912, Juliette Gordon Low gathered just a few girls to begin the Girl Scouts. Juliette's outstanding leadership was matched by her stewardship when she converted the carriage house of her home into the first Girl Scout national headquarters, and she gifted the property to Girl Scouts in her will.

Juliette's bequest was the beginning of planned giving to Girl Scouts. In her memory, the Juliette

Gordon Low Society (JGLS) was established to thank and honor friends of Girl Scouting who choose to make Girl Scouts part of their legacies. These individuals seek to ensure that the future needs of girls are met by including Girl Scouts in their estate plans. This planning might include a will, charitable gift annuity, a trust arrangement, a real estate gift, or a life insurance policy.

### Benefits of Membership

When you join the Juliette Gordon Low Society, you will:

- be recognized locally by Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains (GSGWM) in our Annual Report and by Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) in its national listing,
- be an honored guest at special events and programs hosted by GSGWM and at a reception for all JGLS members nationwide hosted by GSUSA at its triennium National Council Sessions,
- receive a JGLS membership pin in honor of our founder, Juliette "Daisy" Gordon Low, and
- receive regular updates on how your support is helping to impact girls' lives throughout New Hampshire and Vermont.

If you have already included GSGWM in your plans, or were planning to do so, please contact Director of Advancement, Tricia Casey, at 888-474-9686 to let us know and to be counted toward the challenge!

## Save the Date

### Farnsworth Weekend

September 7-9, 2018

Camp Farnsworth, Thetford, VT

Farnsworth Weekend, held at Camp Farnsworth, is an energizing and informative weekend. Workshops, training, and outdoor activities including hiking, swimming, and archery, are all on deck. You can also come to simply relax and have fun. The weekend is open to all registered adult Girl Scouts and girls in grades 10-12. Not currently a registered member? Adults may attend as long as they register as a Girl Scout adult member. For more information, call 888-474-9686.

### G.I.R.L. Expo

October 13, 2018

NH Sportsplex, Bedford, NH

The G.I.R.L. Expo focuses on "everything exciting for girls" including hands-on activities, STEM, Outdoors, and Take Action interactive zones, exhibitors, fun workshops, live stage shows, raffles and more! Tickets will go on sale later this summer and the event is open to the public. If you, your company, or someone you know would like to be a part of G.I.R.L. Expo, contact us to learn about all the ways you can participate! Learn more by visiting [girlscoutsgwm.org/GirlExpo](http://girlscoutsgwm.org/GirlExpo).

### Young Women of Distinction

November 2018

The Young Women of Distinction event honors girls who have earned our highest awards, including the Girl Scout Gold Award. We honor the Go-Getters, Innovators, Risk-Takers, and Leaders who stand out and show how Girl Scouts changes the world! Alumnae who are highest award recipients are invited to join us and be honored as well.



# Discover, Connect, Take Action:

## GSGWM alumnae celebrate success of Dress A Girl project

In October 2017, the Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains Alumnae Association was launched and, in November, its first service project was announced. We partnered with Dress a Girl Around the World, a campaign of Hope 4 Women International which is committed to bringing dignity to women around the world. The Dress a Girl campaign provides simple dresses to at-risk and impoverished girls in 82 countries around the world. Donations and dresses sewn through our project were shipped to Jeremie, Haiti.

At information sessions throughout New Hampshire and Vermont, Dress a Girl Ambassador Jackie Dewey shared that recipients of the dresses live in deplorable conditions, often in missions and abandoned by their families. Pastors at the missions have reported that girls clothed in the new, sturdy garments are better protected from violence, abuse, and human trafficking. Dress a Girl labels are sewn on the front of the dresses which show that the girls are cared for by others.

On February 22, 2018, World Thinking Day, over 500 dresses were donated by alumnae, volunteers and girls across New Hampshire and Vermont. It was evident that each dress was made with thought and care, decorated with buttons, ribbons and other creative touches. Dresses, toys, undergarments, and blankets continue to arrive at the Bedford Service Center and it



Girl Scouts pose with dresses they made and donated. (GSGWM Photos)

is estimated that nearly 1,000 dresses will be donated as a result of this effort.

Several Girl Scout troops took the service project a step further and researched the culture, living conditions, and events that have created such dire circumstances for girls in Haiti. Girl Scouts presented their research at Girl Scout events and taught others how to sew dresses for the project. Troops collected toys, made dolls, and wrote notes to the girls in Haiti. Receiving blankets were made for newborns when project participants learned that babies usually come home wrapped in newspaper.

GSGWM Alumnae and Donor Relations Officer, Linda Trust noted that “Girls, volunteers, and

alumnae alike took this project to heart, taking pride in knowing that they truly helped to make the world a better place for the girls in Haiti.” For more information about Dress A Girl Around the World, visit <http://www.dressagir-laroundtheworld.com/> or contact Jackie Dewey at [dressagirlsmaine@gmail.com](mailto:dressagirlsmaine@gmail.com)

Now that we have wrapped up the Dress A Girl service project, we are looking for input for other service projects we can tackle. Please submit suggestions for service projects, large and small, to Alumnae and Donor Relations Officer, Linda Trust, at [advancement@girlscoutsgwm.org](mailto:advancement@girlscoutsgwm.org).



Girls in Haiti show off the dresses they received.



In addition to dresses, girls also made dolls and collected toys, receiving blankets, and other items.



Girls, volunteers, and alumnae alike took the Dress-a-Girl project to heart. Annika Galus, a girl member, shows off some of the dresses she made.



# Thank you to our partners

We are so grateful that this year Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains has been awarded a number of generous grants, all of which have allowed us to strengthen and grow the many leadership programs we offer girls across New Hampshire and Vermont. As a pioneering leader in STEM, BAE Industries Inc. this year joined with GSGWM as a vital partner in providing innovative STEM programming to local Girl Scouts. With BAE's support, we were able to make investments in our many diverse STEM activities, such as new coding and engineering badges, Hour of Code events, FIRST Robotics teams and more.

Support from our foundation partners has also allowed us to undertake some exciting capital projects. With investments from the Rosamond Thaxter Foundation and the Samuel P. Hunt Foundation, we were able to complete a large-scale and critical capital project at Camp Seawood, located in Portsmouth. This project, which involved the construction of a new and environmentally friendly subsurface disposal system, addressed immediate needs that allow us to serve more girls on the Seacoast and ensures a positive future for Camp Seawood by adding new program space. Mascoma Savings Bank Foundation provided support for capital projects being done at Camp Farnsworth, GSGWM's resident camp located in Thetford, Vermont, including a new dining hall, revitalized aquatic area, multi-purpose winterized bunkhouse, and increased program space.

Another exciting capital project for which we continue to raise funds is the Leadership Development on Wheels program. Grants from the RJ Finlay Foundation and Parker Nelson Foundation will put a state-of-the-art mobile program van on the road, fully retrofitted to deliver the breadth of Girl Scout programming across our 24-county service territory. The Leadership Development on Wheels programs will reach girls of all geographies, backgrounds, and socio-economic statuses with leadership programming, a daunting task for a diverse target population and a consistent challenge for our organization.

Breaking down barriers to service is a key strategic priority for GSGWM, and our foundation partners have been instrumental in helping us to do this important work. National Life Group Foundation and Citizens Bank Foundation have



National Life Group Foundation and Citizens Bank Foundation have partnered with GSGWM for outreach troops. Here, the girls from the Gossler Park Outreach Troops in Manchester, NH, show off their new uniforms and Governor Chris Sununu's proclamation for National Cookie Weekend in February. (GSGWM)

partnered with us to deliver Girl Scout programming to some of our communities' most at-risk and vulnerable girls through outreach troops in after-school settings.

Another way we continue to break down barriers to service is through our Girl Assistance program, which provides financial support for girls who would otherwise not be able to participate in Girl Scouting. The Barker Foundation this year has provided key support for this program, investing in financial assistance for Hillsborough County girls who can request the funds for summer camp tuition, membership assistance or program supplies.

Several partners have committed to GSGWM's primary initiatives: Leadership Development Programs, Outdoor Adventures, Fund-a-Girl and STEAM Programs.

## STEAM

- Elektrisola, Inc.
- Green Mountain Concert Services
- National Center for Women & Information Technology

## Outdoor Adventures

- Fidelity Investments
- Girl Scouts of the USA
- Green Mountain Concert Services
- Highland Mountain Bike Park, Inc.

## Leadership Development Programs

- Baker Newman Noyes
- Bugden Solutions, Inc.
- Green Mountain Concert Services
- JDSCC, Inc.
- J. Edgar Group, PLLC
- Kellogg's - Little Brownie Bakers
- Manchester Millyard Realty LLC
- Meredith Village Savings Bank
- The Hubbell Foundation

Finally, this year we continue to raise support for our Unleashing Her Potential Campaign, a comprehensive, multi-year, \$1.5 million fundraising effort, which encompasses capital expenditures alongside program support. Among our partners in this effort, we are grateful for the support of the Richard Eaton Trust, the Mary Louise Billings Trust, the Fuller Foundation, DCU for Kids, Liberty Mutual, Café Services, Inc., and TW Designs LLC. The timing of these grants has been critical, with GSGWM securing a \$50,000 matching gift challenge, requiring us to raise \$200,000 for the campaign before September 30, 2018. We have currently raised \$186,000 and are continuing to grow momentum as the end of the fiscal year approaches.

## GSGWM Alumnae Association

Membership in the GSGWM Alumnae Association is open to any adult who is, or ever has been, a registered member of Girl Scouting. Each of us has a story to tell and memories to share. The Alumnae Association is a way to reconnect with old friends, while supporting this generation of girls as they become Go-Getters, Innovators, Risk-Takers, and Leaders!

Membership is free and benefits include:

- Opportunities to meet, network and have fun at alum events,
- Opportunities to participate in service projects to benefit both GSGWM and our communities,
- Informative, enriching events and workshops, and
- Provide discounts and benefits exclusive to members of the GSGWM Alumnae Association.

To join, please visit [girlscoutsgwm.org/Alumnae](http://girlscoutsgwm.org/Alumnae) or call 888-474-9686.

## 110th Anniversary of Camp Farnsworth

Summer of 2019 will mark Camp Farnsworth's 110th anniversary! We would love to hear stories of your Camp Farnsworth experiences, either as a child or adult. Please send your stories and pictures to [advancement@girlscoutsgwm.org](mailto:advancement@girlscoutsgwm.org). If you want to be kept informed of the plans, or even help with the planning, please drop us a line at the same email address. Stay tuned for details on the big celebration!

# Unleashing Her Potential: Campaign and challenge update

Launched in 2016, the Unleashing Her Potential campaign is a multi-year, \$1.5 million comprehensive campaign to raise support for programs and capital projects and to grow our capacity to reach and serve our growing membership in ways that meet the needs of girls and volunteers today and in the future. To date, GSGWM has raised more than \$700,000 for the UHP Campaign!

You can see some of the investments we made during the first phase of the campaign at Camp Farnsworth in the new bunkhouse, pool, and climbing wall and the improvements in the dining hall.

During the second phase, we have continued to raise support for capital (i.e. infrastructure improvements at Camp Seawood) and programmatic initiatives (i.e. Leadership Development on Wheels, STEM programs, etc.) through grants, major gifts, and friends and family of GSGWM. We are committed to sustaining the investments we are making for our girls and volunteers.

In September 2017, one of our own Girl Scouts families challenged the GSGWM Board of Directors and membership to raise \$200,000 (\$100,000 by December 29, 2017 and \$100,000 by September 30, 2018) for the Unleashing Her Potential Campaign. When we do, they promised an additional \$50,000 to the campaign, supporting leadership development programs for girls. We met the first goal in December and now we are closing in on the finish line with just \$15,000 to go to earn the full \$50,000 challenge gift!

Supporting our Unleashing Her Potential campaign provides girls with meaningful, innova-



Unleashing Her Potential funds programming in many initiatives, including STEM. Here girls compete at the FIRST Tech Challenge. (GSGWM)



Through Unleashing Her Potential, improvements have been made to GSGWM camp properties. The climbing wall at Camp Farnsworth was completed in the first phase of improvements. (GSGWM)

tive leadership development programs and help transform our camp properties so we can help girls flex their leadership muscles, try new and exciting experiences, and explore the wonders of nature. Through increased diverse programming in science, technology, engineering, arts, and math, the over 10,000 girls we serve in New Hampshire and Vermont will have extraordinary opportunities for exploration and self-discovery: engaging with one another, building confidence, and developing critical skills.

Our ability to serve these critical wants and needs—and empower girls—depends heavily on our supporters: the volunteers, donors, partner corporations, and community-minded foundations who believe that girls have unlimited potential, and that Girl Scouting is the best way for girls to tap into that potential.

Please consider making a gift, or even a multi-year commitment, that will give every girl in our council an opportunity to realize her full potential. With your support, Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains can make important outdoor and leadership experiences possible for thousands of girls throughout our council...and earn \$50,000!

Special thanks goes to the many who have given and who continue to support this effort. Together we are making a meaningful, positive, and impactful difference in the lives of over 10,000 girls throughout New Hampshire and Vermont every single day.