

Service Opportunities for Service Unit 2

Girl Scouts of Rolling Hills Council (GSRHC)

Service Projects Manager 2006-2007

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Basic Service Information

- Girls may not earn money as Girl Scouts for another organization. (There were exceptions made for Tsunami Relief and for Hurricane Katrina but this is rare).
- **Service can only be counted once.** For example: If you are doing service for a badge (older girls) you can not count it as service toward any another requirement. This also applies to religious education or other award requirements.
- Service opportunities should focus on our local community where girls are actually directly involved. There are many good suggestions in this document and I'm sure you can come up with many others.
- If you have any good service suggestions not included here, or if you have corrections or updated information, please e-mail me the information any time and I'll add it to this list.

Track Your Troop's Total Service Hours

- **A report of your troop's total service hours for the year is due to the Service Projects Manager in June of each year. Start now and keep a running count to make both our jobs easier in June—please begin tracking this now!! This includes all service for badges, projects, bronze, silver, and gold awards, and our required service projects. This is the place you can track and report it all. Our Council receives funding based on the total service hours we perform throughout the year so this is very important to our bottom line.**

Required Service Projects for Service Unit 2

(Refer to Service Suggestions list below for more information on each project)

Each troop must complete at least 2 required service projects each year. Please be sure you sign off on the Service Project Manager's Master Chart when you complete these requirements. The chart will be available at all leader meetings and at the event drop-off times. To earn the Inchworm of Service you must participate in both of these required projects:

- **Hunterdon Developmental Center in November.** Bring your completed projects to the Leader Meeting on the 8th and we will deliver them for you. You can also choose another time of year to complete this project if you have an idea that works better at another time—say, planting flowers for their window sills—that works better in the early spring.
- **Flemington Food Pantry in April.** Conduct a food drive and bring your donations to our April leader meeting, or you can deliver them on your own.
- **Samaritan Homeless Interim Program (SHIP) in May.** *This is an alternative to the Flemington Food Pantry although many troops participate in both.* A sign-up sheet will be passed at the February Leader Meeting. The actual collection date for SHIP is May 16, 2007 from 3:15pm-3:30pm. For foods that freeze well you can prepare your donation earlier and deliver it frozen on the 16th.
- For more information on required projects visit <http://www.girlscouts-rh.org/serviceproj.htm>

Inchworm of Service Patch

- Minimum hours required: Daisy-5hrs, Brownie-10hrs, Junior-15hrs, Cadet-20hrs, Senior-25hrs. Service must be accumulated in one scouting year and may not be carried over.
- Submit your Inchworm Pre-order form (bottom of form) at the January Leader Meeting to the Service Projects Manager.
- In April or May have your Inchworm of Service Application (top of form) signed by the Service Projects Manager. You will take this form to the council shop after April 15 to purchase your patches.
- For additional information or to download an application/pre-order form, please go to www.girlscouts-rh.org/patches/inchworm.htm

Calendar of Annual Service Events 2006-2007

(Refer to the Service Suggestions list below for more information on each project)

November

- Hunterdon Developmental Center—Bring your completed projects to the Leader Meeting on the 8th and we will deliver them for you. You can also choose another time of year to complete this project if you have an idea that works better at another time—say, planting flowers for their window sills—that works better in the early spring. **Troop _____ will collect and deliver.**

January

- Inchworm of Service pre-order forms will be collected at the January Leader Meeting on 1/10. If you think your troop will qualify, complete the form and submit it so council will be sure to have patches available for you.

February

- Sign-up for the food items you will prepare or provide for the SHIP collection on Wednesday, May 17.

March

- Baby Bundles will be collected at the March leaders meeting on the 7th. Service Opportunity—we need a troop to volunteer to collect these items and deliver them to an appropriate organization. See me if you're interested. Troop _____ will collect and deliver.

April

- Food Pantry donations will be collected at the April leaders meeting. Service Opportunity—we need a troop to volunteer to collect these items and deliver them to the Flemington Area Food Bank. See me if you're interested. Inchworm of Service applications can be signed by me and taken to council after April 15 to purchase your patches.

May

- **SHIP donations are collected. You may prepare them sooner and deliver them frozen on May 16.** Service Opportunity—Troop 192 (Debbie Cerra) will collect and deliver the food for us.
- **I need your service reports by June!** Bring/send them in early before everyone begins summer and they are forgotten. Or, just e-mail the total number of hours, number of girls in your troop and the agencies served to me at tml2003@earthlink.net so I don't have to hunt you down during the end of the year craziness! I can also sign Inchworm of Service Applications.

June

- Last chance to submit your troop's total service hours for the year. As previously mentioned this is very important to our Council and the funds available to us. See "May" for information.

*****There are so many ways to serve our community and you will probably do much more than what is required. If you have any questions or additional service suggestions, please contact me by phone, email, or see me at a meeting.*****

Required Service-Ideas

Hunterdon Developmental Center This is a state run facility, which serves 640 adults with Developmental Disabilities 60 of which are in wheelchairs. There are a lot of opportunities to serve this worthwhile organization. Our contact at the center is Cathy Walker at 730-1320. Be sure to coordinate what you are planning with her.

They always appreciate: wash cloths, bibs (the size of hand towels), wheelchair bags (hang on the back of a wheelchair sized to fit a few notebooks). They especially like seasonal decorations that can be hung from the ceiling and on walls, collages, mobiles, small pillows, holiday decorations, or table napkins, center-pieces, and laminated seasonal placemats. For recreation they can always use cassettes and CD's, picture books, wooden puzzles with big pieces, shape games and even homemade musical instruments. Be sure to avoid small beads, glitter and glass items.

Gift Wrapping-- help wrap Christmas gifts and also see a short video about the center. Register early as it's a very popular activity. Other holiday ideas include hosting a party, Christmas caroling or sponsoring (before Nov. 1) one or more residents by providing Christmas presents. You might also consider making Christmas centerpieces, placemats, banners or any other decorations that can provide a little cheer to the residents.

Create a "birthday party in a box" in a large Rubbermaid bin. You could decorate goodie bags and party hats and assemble them with plates, napkins party favors, cake mix etc. The box could also be decorated and you could even make a centerpiece, decorate cups or make fancy placemats or napkin rings.

Make stationary with rubber stamps for the residents. They like to send notes.

Activities at the center can include planting flowers, adopting a garden (including summer weeding) or hosting a cottage birthday party for 33 residents and anything else you might want to do.

Personal Care Drive-collect things like cosmetics, nail polish, soap, shampoo, disposable razors, toothpaste, etc.

Flemington Area Food Pantry- 110 Broad St. Flemington, NJ. 908-788-5568. Hours are 9am-12n Mon-Thurs. We will collect at the April Leader meeting or call and arrange a delivery time before you go.

Collect all types of non-perishable foods. Call if you'd like to do something specific below.

Adopt a Family-your troop can adopt a family. The troop can do various things for the family throughout the year. You will receive a wish list for Christmas presents and clothing sizes for the members of the family. The troop can also choose to provide holiday baskets for other holidays such as Thanksgiving, Easter, Valentine's day or Mother's day. You decide how much or how little you want to do.

Collect school supplies. You can collect school supplies over the summer and deliver them in August so they can be distributed in time for the start of school.

Halloween candy drive- Collect bags of Halloween Candy or other goodies and deliver them several weeks before Halloween.

Create Easter Baskets- A good source of items for the baskets is the dollar store. Your troop can decorate the baskets or include Easter crafts. All candy must be in its original packaging.

SHIP-87 East High Street, Somerville, NJ 08876-Tom O'Leary 908-725-3260 or 725-3025 We will provide enough food to serve 100 people a complete meal of entrée, salad, vegetables, starch, bread, p-nut butter, jelly, fruit, etc. A sign-up sheet will be passed at the February leader Meeting and the food will be collected the 3rd Wednesday in May 3:15pm-3:30pm at Round Valley Methodist Church parking lot. You can prepare sliced meat (ham, turkey, London broil, etc.) meat casseroles, potato, rice or macaroni dishes, fresh vegetable and fruit salads, dressings, and desserts. Use deep-dish aluminum 10"X12" pans for anything you make. Use this as cooking experience to complete a badge.

They are always in need of utensils wrapped in napkins. You can use labels to secure them imprinted with you troop number and service unit. Canned goods are always welcome and you can even go there with your troop to deliver your goods and help organize, sort and clean. Call and make arrangements first.

Assemble a "birthday party in a box". You could decorate goodie bags and party hats and assemble them with plates, napkins party favors, cake mix etc. The box could also be decorated and you could even make a centerpiece, decorate cups or make fancy placemats or napkin rings.

Food Drive-There are many different theme drives you can run. Having a theme makes it a little more fun. School Supplies (in Aug., or early Sept.), etc.), Kid's Food (canned ravioli, 100% juice, granola bars, etc.), Holiday Food (pumpkins at Halloween, eggs at Easter, candy canes or cookies at Christmas, etc.), Cleaning and Laundry Supplies, Breakfast Items (pancake mix, juice, muffins, etc.), Baking Items (sugar, cake mixes), and Baby Supplies (diapers, Desitin, formula). Another great idea is a wrapping paper/ribbon drive for wrapping holiday gifts

Baby Bundles This is a service project suggested by Council for the Girl Scout National day of Service in March that collects supplies for needy infants throughout New Jersey. This is listed under required because Council requests we participate.

You can purchase diapers, washcloths, formula, baby food, towels, teething toys, new infant clothing, receiving blankets, toiletries, wipes, bottles, etc.—no baby power, no glass.

You can also make something like blankets, bibs, etc. The Open Cupboard Food Pantry, Friendship Center for New Beginnings, and Women's Crisis Services would all appreciate these donations (See A-Z Service Ideas for contact information). You can also use any women's shelter or another organization that supports women with new babies. Visit <http://girlscouts-rh.org/babyb.htm> for information on baby bundles.

A-Z Service Ideas

Acorns Girls can collect acorns in a cap less one-gallon milk jug to be given to a state park. They will be planted, grown at the Forestry and Environmental Education Facility for 1 year and then planted statewide. Call Voorhees State Park at 638-6969 or Flemington Agway at 908-782-5413 for drop off times from September to October 30.

Adopt a Family Your troop can adopt a family from the Open Cupboard Food Pantry. The troop can do various things for the family throughout the year. You will receive a wish list for Christmas presents and clothing sizes for the members of the family. The troop can also choose to provide holiday baskets for other holidays such as Thanksgiving, Easter, Valentine's day or Mother's day. You decide how much or how little you want to do. Contact Jan Stalnaker 908-638-6007.

American Cancer Society's Relay for Life Event North Hunterdon High School- Relay For Life is a fun-filled overnight event designed to celebrate survivorship and raise money for research and programs of your American Cancer Society. During the event, teams of people gather at schools, fairgrounds, or parks and take turns walking or running laps. Each team tries to keep at least one team member on the track at all times. Volunteer opportunities range from assisting with the luminaries to assisting in set-up. Troops can also help a Team during the event with face painting, crafts, etc. This event is held in June. Check the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life web page at www.cancer.org/docroot/gi/gi_5_1.asp.

American Heart Association-Needs help with their Heart Walk in Bridgewater on Saturday, Oct. 7, 2006. Girls will help set up, distribute water, cheer on the walkers, etc. Contact Dana Finello, Special Events Coordinator at 732-348-3105

American Red Cross Friendship Boxes This is for the Hunterdon Red Cross 52 E. Main St., Flemington, NJ. 908-782-4121. Friendship boxes are 8"x3"x2" and get filled with health, educational and recreational items for children here and abroad. The boxes are available through the Red Cross. All items included in the boxes must be new. Try to fill each box completely so it doesn't crush in shipment. You decide what should go in each box, but suggestions for the boxes are:

Educational: Pencils, erasers, crayons or colored pencils, small rulers, small pads of paper or notebooks, stickers, pencil sharpeners, pens

Personal/Recreations: Yo-yos, balls jacks, small dolls, marbles, beads, harmonicas, whistles, kazoos, small puzzles, jump ropes, small toy cars, hair clips/ribbons

Health: Wrapped toothbrushes, toothpaste, wrapped hand soap, small pocket combs, adhesive bandages, wash cloths, pocket size tissues

Craft Items: Cards, finger puppets, small beanbags, blank greeting cards, bookmarks, postcards or photos of US, postage stamps

You can also do Trick-or Treating for the Troops-collect Halloween candy for the Troops, Smiles Overseas-write letters to military personnel, Blank Greeting cards-create a set of cards to send to military personnel for their personal use, Valentine's for Vets, TLC kits, Veteran's Day and Memorial Day cards, That's Entertainment Box-videos, cd's, Hugs and Kisses- send handmade Valentine cards with non-chocolate candy, Host a Blood Drive, Thank a Donor-making thank you cards for blood donors, Beat the Heat Safety Fans-create hand-held fans with hat safety tips, Help for Shelter Residents-assemble comfort kits for disaster victims. See me or call the Red Cross directly.

Baby Quilts-You can make ABC quilts for at-risk-babies. Contact ABC quilts at info@abcquilts.com and check out their web page at <http://www.abcquilts.com>.

Backpack Challenge- The Mom's Club of Annandale/Lebanon has a yearly drive to collect backpacks and duffle bags full of supplies for foster children in Hunterdon County. You can include: washcloths and towels, twin-size pillowcases and sheets, toothbrushes and tooth brush cases, hairbrushes, combs, hair picks, toiletries, batteries, headbands, hair ties, journals, cameras, pens, markers, pencils, pencil sharpeners, small pads of paper, erasers, pencil cases, coloring books, crayons, books, small toys, small stuffed animals, travel games, hats, gloves, baby items, socks, undergarments, and gift cards. The bags will be given to foster children infants to 18. If you make a full backpack be sure to label it with sex and age appropriate to the bag. Loose items can also be donated. The drive takes place annually in early fall. For more information or to donate call president Jill Kocmund at 908-730-8046 or Admin. VP in charge of community service efforts, Debbie Newcomb at 908-730-7797 or deborahnewcomb@earthlink.net.

Briteside Adult Daycare Center in Lebanon- The residents love to hear troops sing Christmas carols and Girl Scout songs (they love the chicken dance). Troops can also help them complete crafts and just simply bring a snack and chat about the badges and patches on their vests. Contact them at 908-236-9615.

Camp Bernie Clean-Up-Camp Bernie holds a spring and fall cleanup and is always looking for girls to come help and clean-up the camp. They will provide you with food and as a thank you they will allow you to stay overnight and participate in their program the next day. This is a great opportunity for Juniors and above. Troop 207 (my troop-Teresa Londino) did this and it was an excellent experience. For additional information contact Camp Bernie at 908-832-5315.

Cancelled Stamp Collection-Cut out cancelled stamps from letters received and mail to V.A.N.J.H.C.S, Voluntary Services, 151 Knollcroft, Lyons, N.J. 07939, Tel # 908-647-0180. or St. Judes Ranch for Children at 800-492-3562 www.stjudesranch.org PO BOX 60100, Boulder City, NV 89006-0100.

Care Wear-Sew Baby Items for Hospitals. There are many different things that girls can make for newborn infants at hospitals. There is more information, patterns, and a list of local hospitals and their needs at www.carewear.org

Christmas Caroling- Choose a local senior center or a few shut-ins in your neighborhood. Bring your troop caroling to bring good spirits to those who may be feeling down. Also try caroling in your neighborhood and call it Caroling for Cans. Collect canned goods to donate to a food pantry.

Clinton First Aid and Rescue- The Clinton First Aid & Rescue Squad is a nonprofit organization that provides pre-hospital Emergency Medical Services and Rescue Services to the Town of Clinton, parts of Clinton Township and Lebanon 908-735-4012.

Cooking- Girls love to prepare food as a team. You can put that desire to good use by preparing a meal for a family in need. Families with a new baby, a mom who broke a leg, someone who's been sick or is caring for a sick or elderly person. These families are not destitute but would welcome the support and caring a precooked meal can provide. Check with your local church's clergy or social concerns coordinator or the school nurse who should know of someone that would appreciate your effort. FYI-you can also earn a cooking badge simultaneously.

Daisy Discovery Day- This is a program at Dewitt for Daisies. Girls are needed to run a table as a troop or smaller group that teaches the Daisies a craft that would take 10 or 15 minutes. Because this is for Daisies you may need to do a lot of cutting in preparation for the day. A troop could even run it as their silver award where each girl runs a craft station or an individual could run it as their gold award. Contact council for more information.

Delaware River Basin Commission Water Snap-shot- Every spring in mid-April they look for volunteers to help measure the health and vitality of waterways in the Delaware River Basin—The Musconetcong River in Phillipsburg is the closest to us. They will send you a test kit with several different tests the girls can perform on the water. You will also analyze the results and complete a form that includes the data you collect. My girls loved this. Check out www.state.nj.us/drbc or call DRBC at 609-883-9500X260 for more information.

Dewitt Family Fun Day-On an early weekend in October each year is family fun day at camp Dewitt. Council is looking for troops to run booths for the day (11:00-3:00). Contact Marcia at council 725-1226 to sign up to run a booth. It is an easy and fun way to earn service hours. Marcia has many ideas for booths, but your troop may also come up with your own idea. Many especially enjoy creating craft booths. Patches are available for girls who participate.

Easter Baskets- Your troop could make Easter baskets for the food pantry. A good source of items for the baskets is the dollar store. You can decorate the baskets or include Easter crafts. All candy must be in its original packaging. Donate to any food pantry. Make arrangements ahead of time.

First Aid Squad- I am told that girls from other Service Units have helped clean the First Aid rigs. Contact your local first aid squad (or fire company) to see if they could use the girls' help.

First Saturdays-Third year Juniors, Cadets and Seniors are needed to organize and Lead Daisies and 1st grade Brownies in a simple craft and/or other Girl Scout activities that will last for two hours. The program is held at council. Contact Marcia at council 725-1226. Her e-mail is mcocozza@girlscouts-rh.org.

Fleming Castle Museum-The first home in the village of Flemington—a stop for travelers and the local gathering place for area residents in the 1700's. 5 Bonnell Street Flemington, NJ 08822 www.flemingcastle.com. Contact Janice Armstrong at 908-782-4607 or janarmstrong8@msn.com

Flemington Area Food Pantry- The pantry accepts and appreciates all food donations anytime of year. Girls can make special holiday favors for the children or for senior citizens that are clients of the FP. Bake cookies, cakes, or bread for distribution to the clients. Located at 110 Broad Street, Flemington, NJ 08822 908-788-5568.

Friendship Center for New Beginnings- An outreach to single mothers that appreciates and accepts most everything that is new, especially diapers in sizes 4/5/6. They look for help in sorting donations and will give your troop a tour of the facility. Located at 162 Main St., Flemington. Call Jeannie Avery at 908-806-4444 for more ideas.

Girl Scouting Beyond Bars-Sign up to make lunches for fellow Girl Scouts who have monthly meetings at the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility with their incarcerated mothers. The lunches should be made on the Friday before the Saturday meeting and delivered to the Service Center the following Saturday morning. The menu is always the same: 30 or (or less) individual lunches packed in paper bags, dry turkey and cheese sandwich on white bread, two juice boxes, one piece of fruit, a bag of chips or two cookies, a napkin, and one small jar of mayonnaise and yellow mustard. They also can use program materials such as a "craft in a bag". These can be made from extra craft supplies from your meetings, since they're often used to occupy the girls who finish other projects early. For more complete information go to <http://www.girlscouts-rh.org/gsbb/gsbintro.htm>

Girl Sports-Run a GirlSports event for girls 5 to 8 years old. This is a great activity for service time, leadership hours and could be a bronze, silver or gold award project. A GirlSport event uses a variety of games and activities to promote fair play, cooperation, skill progression, health and fitness. It can be one session or a series of sessions spread out over a number of weeks. Contact council.

Halloween Candy Drive-Collect bags of Halloween Candy or other goodies for the Open Cupboard Food Pantry.

Hay Bale Races-The Somerset Medical Center Auxiliary has a foot race every year at RVCC. They could use girls to be turn marshals, hand out water and man the refreshment tables after the race. It is usually a Saturday in early October at 7am. The race ends around noon. If you are interested you can contact them at 732-381-0318 for more info.

Heart Gallery of NJ-A non-profit organization dedicated to publicizing foster children's need to find permanent homes. They have several annual initiatives including the "Foster Their Hearts" Duffle Bag Campaign whose goal is to provide foster children with their own duffle bag or small suitcase filled with personal necessities like coats, scarves, gloves, hats, pajamas, undergarments, socks, toothbrushes, and personal hygiene items. The Holiday Campaign collects leftover Halloween Candy. Check their website for complete information and additional needs at www.heartgallerynj.com

Holly Trail Bake Sale-bake something for the sale and deliver by Dec 2, and also man the booth on Holly Trail day, Dec 3. Contact Kimberly Martino 908-735-4461.

Homesharing of Somerset and Hunterdon County- Matches people with room in their homes to people looking for affordable housing. They also stock a food pantry and provide fresh food packages for their clients at Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. You can sort and organize their stock, help prepare the Holiday food packages, run a book drive, run a socks and underwear drive—that is what their clients ask for as Christmas presents. They are very appreciative of anything you are willing to do. Contact Susan at 908-526-4663.

Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission-3 Chorister Pl, Flemington 908-788-1256, Donna Jensen
Need girl scouts to help count, sort and prepare packets for distribution to school age children throughout the county and other projects throughout the year. Would appreciate help from girls 10yrs old and up.

Hunterdon County Library Book Sale--A yearly fundraiser for the Hunterdon County Library held in the spring. They usually need volunteers in 6th grade and up to help at the book drop-offs to collect, sort, price, and help setup for the sale. Contact the Book Sale Chair: Maryellen Soldavin 996-4512 or marcnmel@msn.com. Dates for 2007 are Mar 17-Clinton, 24-Armory on Rt12, Mar 31-East Whitehouse, Apr 7-Clinton, Apr14-Armory. The actual sale is April 28 and 29.

Hunterdon County Park System- Girls may assist with spring planting of gardens, fall mum planting, garden maintenance-summer weeding, mulching, Christmas-decorating the Arboretum with greens, natural ornaments, assist with wildlife tree and other service opportunities. 1020 Highway 31, Lebanon, NJ 08833 Phone: 908-782-1158.

Hunterdon Hospice- Hospice is a special kind of care designed to treat people in the final phase of a life-threatening illness. They can sometimes use administrative help and always welcome donations of decorated plastic drinking glasses, colorful flower bouquet for bedside table, patient kit which includes small soaps, shampoos, toothbrush, etc., small wrapped cookie bars, and Valentine or Easter hand-made greeting cards. Call Joyce Trunk at 908-788-6600. www.hunterdonhealthcare.org/services/home_care/hospice.asp

Hunterdon Interfaith Hospitality Network-Churches in Hunterdon County take turns housing homeless families. Here are some things you can do to help out. Collect Toiletries or collect school supplies, Prepare meals and bring them to the church, collect videos and board games.

Remember these are homeless children with very few possessions. One suggestion is to assemble small boxes or bags with small toys that a child can call his or her own. Suggestions for contents could include playing cards, yo-yos, jacks, silly putty, crayons, small cars, and jump ropes. Older girls might really appreciate a bag with nail polish and hair accessories. You might even include a fashion magazine!

The contact person for Interfaith Hospitality Network is Tammy LeBar (908) 782-2490. She can put you in touch with whichever church is hosting families when you want to volunteer.

Hunterdon Medical Center Volunteer-Girls who are 14 or older can volunteer their time at the Hunterdon Medical Center. Volunteers must attend an orientation and commit to work a minimum of 100 hours. There are also other service possibilities for younger girls so Visit <http://www.hunterdonhealthcare.org/services/volunteer.asp> or call (908) 788-6140 for more information.

July 4 Parade- Lebanon Borough- Coordinate our Service Unit marchers. Plan a theme and create a float, put together music and songs, or just do it simply by asking everyone to wear matching clothes and order little flags or hats for everyone to wear. Registration forms come from the parade committee to the service unit in the spring.

KIDS 2 KIDS Support Group at the Wellness Community of Central NJ in Bedminster- This is a new support group founded by Dawn Peragallo (leader of Junior troop 631). It is a program for children and adolescents ages 5-16 who have a parent with cancer. In a safe, nurturing environment, children will have the opportunity to better understand what is happening in their families and communicate feelings related to these events. Children will enjoy working together on creative activities supervised by trained professionals as parents meet with a licensed facilitator to discuss their concerns and learn techniques to help their children cope. Service opportunities for troops may include VCR/DVD and book drives, assisting the staff with prepping crafts for a meeting. If interested, please contact Dawn at 908-713-9586.

Lebanon Fire Department-The Lebanon Fire Department is interested in finding volunteers to help out with their monthly pancake breakfasts and other events throughout the year. Contact Carol Clark at 832-5469.

Libraries-Girls of all ages can volunteer at their local library or their school library. It is a great way to get service hours and libraries love to have the girls volunteer.

MADD of Hunterdon/Somerset Counties- Mothers Against Drunk Driving educates and raises awareness of the dangers of drunk driving. They can always use help with newsletter mailings—folding, addressing, stamping. Also, passing out balloons, give-aways, etc. at health fairs, help in distributing Red Ribbons for “ Tie One on for Safety” campaign, Cutting red ribbons and inserting them in mailings, attending Municipal Court hearings and trials where drunk drivers are answering DWI charges. Located at 150 West End Ave., Somerville, NJ 08876 call 908-526-4664.

Make a Difference Day-October 23 is Make a Difference Day. Any service that is done on or around that day can be reported to them. Register your idea before September 10 and you could win a grant or supplies to support your project! Go to <http://www.usaweekend.com/diffday/> for some terrific service ideas. This site also allows you to order "Make a Difference Day" patches for your troop. It's a great program so go do some service!

Mom's Club of Annandale/Lebanon-Has several community service efforts throughout the year including Backpack Challenge (see this list under backpack) and a Halloween celebration at Field of Dreams in Annandale. For more information and to check-out current needs and projects contact president Jill Kocmund at 908-730-8046 or Admin. VP in charge of community service efforts, Debbie Newcomb at 908-730-7797 or deborahnewcomb@earthlink.net

Mt. Carmel Group Home For Girls-This is a group home for girls of Native American Heritage who have been battered, neglected, or abused. They are collecting any items that a teenage girl would need. NO OLD CLOTHING. New items only. You can mail the items to:

Mt. Carmel Group Home for Girls
300 Mt Carmel Avenue
Gallup, NM 87301

Mr. Fixit-This is a program that has volunteers come to senior citizens to help with small in home repairs and yard work. They can use older girls to help with various household tasks such as gardening or leaf raking. Contact Ann L. at 788-1358 if you are interested.

NJ Special Olympics-This organization frequently needs volunteers. Their web site is <http://www.sonj.org>

Nursing Homes-Any you'd like to visit but I have used and heard of good results with:

Rolling Hills of Hunterdon Care Center, 16 Cratetown Rd, Lebanon, NJ 908-236-2011
Independence Manor, 188 Rt. 31, Flemington 908-788-4893

Suggestions for service include: Visit in Halloween costumes and trick-or-treat from room to room. Sing seasonal songs (remember the time you spend practicing the songs counts as service too), do a craft project, organize a Bingo game, or put on a talent show.

One Warm Coat-This is an organization that provides coats to needy people free of charge. If your troop would like to start a collection visit <http://www.onewarmcoat.org> and view the guidebook. Marcia at council is our coordinator for this service project.

Open Cupboard Food Pantry- Collect all types of non-perishable foods and deliver them anytime of year. Call if you'd like to do something specific like Adopt a Family, Halloween candy drive, supply clothing for their thrift shop, or if you want other ideas. 1 West Main St, High Bridge (in the same complex as the Chinese Restaurant next to the First Aid Squad. Jan Stalnaker 908-638-6007.

Operation Blessing- Create disaster relief kits to provide basic toiletries people that have lost everything. Fill 1-gallon size Ziploc bags with a NEW washcloth, hand towel, bar of soap, comb, fingernail clipper, pack of dental floss, toothbrush, travel size toothpaste, travel size shampoo, small packet of tissues, small package of adhesive bandages—these must all be NEW and unused items. Send to: Disaster Relief Kits, Operation Blessing International, 977 Centerville Turnpike, Virginia Beach, VA 23463. For more information go to www.ob.org/programs/disaster_relief/projects/disaster_kit.asp

Operation Christmas Child-This is a program where volunteers put together a shoebox filled with small gifts, which are then sent to children who are in desperate situations around the world. Boxes can be wrapped or decorated so that the top can be opened. You may want to enclose a letter and a self-addressed envelope. Perhaps you'll get a note back! Visit www.samaritanspurse.org for more information.

Operation Shoebox-Support US armed forces personnel deployed overseas as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Collect suntan lotion SPF45 or higher, bug spray, chap stick, feminine products--including sports bras--all sizes, ear swabs, small packets of laundry detergent, bug wipes and bug strips, wipes-travel size, razors, toilet paper, eye drops, spices, tea bags, coffee, small drink mixes, clothes line and clothes pins, snack food, hard candy, gum, writing paper, pad, pencils, pens, batteries-any size, calling cards. Contact Rod Hirsch executive director of the Reporter Newspaper at 908-575-6684 or www.nj.com/reporter

Pedals for Progress-This is a program that collects bicycles and delivers them to third world countries to provide people with a personal form of transportation—this is especially appreciated in third world countries where having your own transportation may make the difference between being able to work or not. They are located in High Bridge and their number is 908-638-4181. Website: www.p4p.org

Printmaking Council of New Jersey-The Printmaking Council of New Jersey is looking for Cadet and Senior Girl Scouts to help with their programs. They need people on the weekends and during the summer. They hold printmaking classes for Girl Scouts and other groups. They are located on 440 River Road in Somerville. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Stephanie at (908) 725-2110

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Updates at <http://www.girlscouts-rh.org/serviceproj.htm>

Project Linus- Project Linus is an organization that collects “blankies” and other handmade baby things for infants and ill children. They are located in NJ and need quilts and stuffing donated. You can also donate craft supplies. Go to <http://www.blankiedepo.org> for more information and patterns. They have a program where they come to your meeting and help you make a 45 minute quilt-mural to hang in hospitals. Materials and instructions are provided including a 15 min. presentation on the benefits and personal satisfaction acquired through youth volunteering.

Raritan Valley Community College Theater- Learn to usher for the RVCC weekend children’s performances. Receive hands-on training and a tour of the theater. Then return on the weekend and usher the first show, watch the performance, and usher the second show. This is a lot of fun and the girls really enjoyed it. Contact Cindy Alexander 908-526-1200x8801.

Ronald McDonald House-Your troop can collect the tabs off beverage cans for Ronald McDonald House of Southern New Jersey. Ronald McDonald House is a home-away-from-home for families whose children are suffering from serious illness or injury. They collect the tabs because they’re made of pure aluminum and they get between 35 and 50 cents per pound. You can drop it off at the House if you collect fifty pounds. 609-966-HOME (4663). If you don’t collect fifty pounds, then deliver them to the Clinton McDonald’s as they will take any amount, any time.

School Supplies-The Open Cupboard Food Pantry in High Bridge is always in need of school supplies. If your troop did not collect school supplies over the summer, perhaps they could collect some at your troop’s organizational meeting before school starts. Just remember to get them to the Open Cupboard Food Pantry before school starts, so they can be distributed in time for the start of school.

Service Unit Leader Meetings-Older troops are needed to baby-sit at the SU leader’s meetings each month from about 7:15pm-9:00pm. Sign up by contacting me at any time. We are offering baby-sitting in order to get better leader attendance and to help make the room quieter. Teresa Londino 908-713-9217.

SHIP-The Samaritan Homeless Interim Program provides meals for homeless people in Somerville and surrounding areas via their mobile soup kitchen and their facility located at 87 East High Street, Somerville, NJ 08876. You might consider having your troop make some casseroles—lasagna, baked ziti, macaroni and cheese, franks and beans, sliced ham, chicken, roast beef, etc. Please place in 10”X12” deep-dish aluminum trays. They also appreciate side dishes, salads, dressings, bread, fresh fruit, peanut butter (4-5 jars), jelly (2-3jars), and desserts.

You can support their SHIP’s Galley and Mobile Soup Kitchen by providing: 60 sandwiches in individual brown bags marked: HC-Ham & cheese, B-Bologna, TF-Tuna, T-Turkey, A-American cheese, and 20 sandwiches of PB&J marked PJ. Each bag should also contain a piece of fruit, a juice box, and a snack item like chips, cookies, a donut, etc. and a napkin. Make the sandwiches dry as mustard and mayonnaise are added later—You can also supply a jar of each.

They also would like younger girls to decorate place mats and make centerpieces for their holiday meals (Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, and Easter Sunday). When you decorate your place mats make sure they are not too small (bigger than 8 1/2 x 11 is better) and don’t put your names on them. They should have a holiday theme. You can drop these off directly at their location in Somerville.

SHIP is always in need of utensils wrapped in napkins. Wrap a plastic knife, fork and spoon in a paper napkin. You might consider using mailing labels printed with troop number and a message to hold the napkin closed.

To find out more and make arrangements to deliver your food, contact Tom O’Leary at (908) 725-3260 or 725-3025.

“Sight Night”/Eyeglasses-There is a campaign called "Sight Night" where children ask for old eyeglasses and sunglasses when they are out trick-or-treating. The glasses will go to people in countries that cannot afford eyeglasses like Mexico, the Philippines, Thailand, and Morocco. You can bring the glasses to a Lens Crafters store or to a Lion’s Club location. If you are interested in participating in "Sight Night" call 1-877-605-4242 or visit <http://www.sightnight.org>. This activity doesn’t need to be restricted to just Halloween. Eyeglasses can be collected any time of the year.

Somerset County United Way -Coordinates many service projects in our area. Two annual fall programs include Youth Make a Difference Day where groups, families and individuals are invited to help a local nonprofit agency with a one-day volunteer project. Projects are offered on a first-come first-served basis. Projects take place in mid October at nonprofit agencies throughout central New Jersey. Typical

projects may include helping with office tasks, food drives, light landscaping, assisting with arts and crafts projects and more. All youth/youth groups must be chaperoned by an adult. Check their website for a list of agencies and their needs. The other fall project is National Family Volunteer Day usually held in November of each year. Contact Yvette Choma at 908-253-6513 or yvchoma@uwscty.org. Their address is P.O. Box 6835, Bridgewater, N.J. 08876. For general information on other events, reach them at 908-725-6640, Fax: 908-725-5598 or www.SomersetOnline.org for much more information.

Theme Basket-Council needs a basket from the Service Unit for a raffle at the Dewitt Family Fun Day, if your troop would put the basket together, the Service Unit will pay for the expenses (around \$50). The Family Fun basket is due to council around October 1 each year. Let me know if you want to make a basket and what your theme will be. I have to let council know, so they can avoid duplication. Theme examples from previous years include: The Orient Express, Tea Time, Dinner & a Movie, Kid's Crafts, Going on a Picnic, Fall gardening, Game Night, Holiday Decor, Tools, Photo Time, Bath Time, Barbie, Scrapbook Memories, Pizza Night, Coffee Time, Mexican Fiesta, A Rainy Day, Muffin Making, and Desserts.

Thinking Day-Our service unit usually has an event around the middle of February nearly every year. You can run the entire program and select a theme, date, location, etc and offer space to troops who will each create a booth to go along with your selected theme. This requires an early start and lots of advance planning but is a well-attended and much enjoyed event for our Service Unit. Contact the service unit manager.

TLC Angels-This is an organization for creating handmade items for preemies, infants and children in need. Visit www.tlcforangels.com for more info. They choose 4 hospitals each year to receive their donations. One of the recent hospitals was St. Joseph's Hospital in Patterson NJ. They have lots of suggestions for crafts including projects for children. See <http://tlcforangels.tripod.com/kids.html>. One of the "kids" projects is a get-well card that can be printed from the Internet and then decorated. Once you have completed a project, there is a certificate to print out making the girls "TLC Cherubs". For the less "crafty" troops they suggest an "Angel Cache" which is a box filled with stuff for the mom and baby - see <http://tlcforangels.tripod.com/TLCbox.htm>

The Valerie Fund-The Valerie Fund provides state of the art centers for children who have cancer or other blood disorders. They would like you to collect small toys and such for the children such as bubbles, small toy cars, paddleballs, small stationary supplies, nail polish, cute hair accessories, cute hats, disposable cameras etc. You could also put together tote bags to keep the newly diagnosed children and their siblings entertained during their first hospital stay. These should contain items such as coloring books, crayons, small toy cars, small stuffed animals, craft sets, small dolls, small puzzles, activity books, hand puppets and other things they can keep busy with. You can visit their web page for more information www.thevaleriefund.org or call 1-800-8valeri.

Troop Sponsor Thank You—Each Troop should provide some type of annual service for their Troop Sponsor—this is for the location where you have your meetings. You can offer to clean-up flower beds and plant new flowers or some other service they may need—just ask what they can use help with. One of our troops held their meetings at a church and every year they hosted a "coffee Sunday" to thank them. They baked and provided juice and coffee for the church members.

Whitemore Wildlife Sanctuary-Can always use help with planting of their bird and butterfly gardens and building birdhouses, trellises, benches, etc. Located at 7 Rockaway Rd Oldwick. Contact Judie McGrory at 908-439-0022x724

Woodlands Wildlife Refuge- A non-profit, charitable rehabilitation facility dedicated to the care and release of orphaned and injured wild animals. The staff and volunteers at Woodlands are well trained in animal care and are involved in educating New Jersey's human residents about their wild neighbors' habits and habitats. Located in Alexandria Township, Hunterdon County they handle 400-500 native wild animals each year. The ultimate goal of our facility is the release of healthy well functioning animals. They give a great tour of the facility. They may need volunteers and they are always looking for donations of supplies. Contact Tracey at 730-8300. They are located about 5 minutes past Wal-Mart. Their website is <http://www.woodlandswildlife.org>.

Women's Crisis Services-Woman's Crisis Services supports women and their children who are unsafe in their own homes to get out quickly to a safe house they operate in Hunterdon County. One time they were looking for donations of art supplies and T-shirts for a therapy program for children who have witnessed or been affected by domestic violence. They collected white T-shirts in various sizes (children through adult) and art supplies - markers of any kind, paint brushes, pencils and any other creative medium such as glitter glue. Another time a troop collected supplies for anger management bags. Call them and they will gladly give you more ideas of things the girls can do. They are very friendly and it is a great program.

Here is their current wish list: laundry detergents and dryer sheets, cleaning supplies including Lysol, bathroom cleaner dish soap, sponges, dishwasher detergent etc., case of paper towels, case of toilet paper, aluminum foil, plastic wrap, wax paper, seal able baggies of all sizes, air

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fresheners, Band-Aids, hair combs and brushes, deodorant for boys and girls, nail polish, remover, make-up, snack foods (e. fruit snacks, granola bars, microwave popcorn, etc.), 100% fruit juice drinks, canned coffee, school supplies including; backpacks, notebooks, notebook paper, black ink pens, rulers, pencils, elementary school tablets, crayons, etc., date books, alarm clocks, gift certificates for; gasoline (ask at the desk how to obtain these), Jiffy Lube, women's bras. ShopRite, fast food restaurants, and BJ's gift cards and prepaid phone cards. Reach them at 47 East Main Street, Flemington, NJ 08822 at 908-788-7666.

YMCA North Hunterdon Senior Center—They serve over 1200 seniors per year in the north end of Hunterdon County including seniors from Califon, Tewksbury, Lebanon Boro, Lebanon Twp, Hampton, Glen Gardner, Annandale, and Clinton Twp. Would love to have girls visit and do crafts, sing songs, play games, or most any other idea you may have. One troop will be making “Stone Soup” at the center for their monthly Soup Luncheon. Located at 285 County Rd. 513, Glen Gardner, N.J. Call Beth Wolfmayer at 908-638-6515

Animal Related Projects

Hunterdon County SPCA--One of only two non-kill animal shelters in the state of New Jersey. They are willing to accept **all** animals. Of course they have dogs and cats, but they have birds and a barn for farm animals. They even had a few horses for a while! They are located at 576 Stamets Road, Milford, NJ 08848 and their number is 908-996-2525 to determine their current needs.

Operation Happy Sock-creates and delivers catnip toys to homeless cats in animal shelters and foster homes. Make simple toys by stuffing catnip and polyester fiberfill the toe of a sock and tying a knot at the ankle. For stressed-out cats stuck in strange surroundings, w whiff of catnip can be very therapeutic, and a big fluffy Happy Sock is the feline equivalent of a cuddly teddy bear. Contact Martha Powers at happysock@cox.net or 703-383-9003 and ask for your “Operation Happy Sock Info Kit”.

Seeing Eye Dogs-The Dog Guide School is looking for puppy lovers to raise Seeing Eye dogs. The school raises dogs to be Seeing Eye dogs for the blind. The puppy-raisers would be responsible for teaching the puppy basic obedience, exposing it to different situations, and giving it lots of love. The puppy would be with the puppy-raiser for an 18-month period before it begins its seeing-eye-dog training. The school will pay for all veterinary bills and provide a monthly allowance. For more information call 973-539-4425. Although this is not a project for an entire troop, it might make a terrific project for a Silver or Gold Award.

Somerset County United Way—Look for their National Family Service Day in early fall (usually early November). Attend as a troop and provide service for a number of organizations looking for help on the spot. Also, other varied service opportunities exist with new suggestions and needs regularly posted on their website at www.somersetonline.org

Somerset Hills Handicapped Riding Center-S.H.H.R.C is a center for mentally and/or physically handicapped people. S.H.H.R.C. provides therapy in the form of horseback riding. This is a great way for older girls (14 or older) to get service. You can volunteer to do one or more days a week for two to three hours. No horse experience is needed. There is a mandatory training session where you will learn how to tack up horses, assist the riders, and what to in case of an emergency. They also have annual events such as a horse show and a Ride-a-thon that could use volunteers. Younger girls might be interested in stuffing envelopes for their fund raising events. They also have a summer camp called Camp Cold Brook where older girls can volunteer for a week at a time. S.H.H.R.C is located in Oldwick on Rt. 517. Their office number is 439-9636.

Somerset Regional Animal Shelter-Kitty Bandana-Take a regular bandana, fold it in half on the diagonal and cut. Turn the edge under twice and whipstitch the entire length. Use stick-on velcro (that way if the animal is wearing the bandana and gets caught on something, the Velcro will pull off so the animal doesn't get hurt. Contact them at 908-725-0308 for other ideas. They will give the girls a tour of the shelter.

Hunterdon County United Way—Look for their National Family Service Day in early fall (usually early September). Attend as a troop and provide service for a number of organizations looking for help on the spot. Also, other varied service opportunities exist with new suggestions and needs regularly posted on their website at www.uwhunterdon.org/volunteer.htm

Meeting Quickies

Meals-on-Wheels Bags-These are a great thing to do if you have a little extra time during a meeting or just need something easy to do. You can pick up the paper bags from the meals on Wheels location in the Allerton Methodist Church at Allerton Rd and Rt. 31. Call before you go to be sure they have bags on hand. 908-735-7024. Only one side of the bag should be colored - no glitter or glue please. Meals-on -Wheels brings lunch/dinner to shut-ins who would also appreciate other craft items. Consider making napkin rings, holiday cards, place mats, or Christmas Tree Ornaments.

Campbell Soup Labels- Both PMGS and SRS in Clinton Township collect Campbell soup labels. The schools receive a cash reimbursement for the labels submitted and there are large collection bins in the entrance of each school. You can have your girls cut out the center panel of each label if you have some extra time at a meeting and this will help the ladies who run the program. Just bring your scissors and go to it.

Color-a-Smile- They collect crayon drawings from school children that they distribute to nursing homes, hospitals, meal-on-wheels programs and individuals. Younger girls can download and color bright and cheerful drawings for this organization that distributes 2000+ drawings every month to their clients (color one side of the paper only, do not write get well wishes, do not use paint, glue, or glitter, and sign the front of the drawing with your first name and age.) Mail to Color-A-Smile, PO Box 1516, Morristown, NJ 07962. If you have any questions you can call them at (973) 540-9222 or visit their web page www.colorasmile.org

Service Project Websites—more ideas

Make a Difference Day every 4th Saturday of the month www.usaweekend.com/diffday/index.html

Kids Care-service project ideas for kids www.kidscare.org/kidscare/index.htm

Bottles of Hope-a service project to support cancer patients <http://bottlesofhope.org>

Locks of Love-makes natural hair wigs for cancer patients www.locksoflove.org

Youth Volunteer Corps of America www.yvca.org

Humane Society of the US www.humaneteen.org

www.forgirlsandtheirdreams.org/difference.htm

Read to Feed-an int'l service project designed for children <http://www.readtofeed.org>

www.volunteersolutions.org