

# In Your Honor

Girl Scout Gold Award 2022-2023

## Girl Scout Gold Award

Gold Award Girl Scouts are rock stars, role models, and real-life heroes. How do they do it? By using everything they've learned as a Girl Scout to help fix a problem in their community or make a lasting change in their world.

The Girl Scout Gold Award expresses a girl's special commitment to herself, her community, her world, and the future. To be eligible to earn the Girl Scout Gold Award, a girl must be a registered Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador. For the 2022-2023 school year, 119 Girl Scouts from Northeast Texas earned the Girl Scout Gold Award.

It takes a minimum of 80 hours of intensive work for a girl to complete the prerequisites for the award, develop a plan, and complete the project. The award focuses on the interests and personal leadership journey of each girl. The project fulfills a need within a girl's community (whether local or global), creates change, and has the potential to be sustainable. This is more than a good service project. It encompasses organizational, leadership, and networking skills.

Girls who earn the Girl Scout Gold Award display more positive life outcomes than non-Girl Scout alumnae. These include positive sense of self, life satisfaction, leadership, life success, community service, and civic engagement. Other findings from the report include the following:

- Gold Award Girl Scouts have had more leadership experiences.
- Gold Award Girl Scouts feel they have had success in their lives because of the unique experiences they had in Girl Scouts.
- Over 90% of Gold Award Girl Scouts attributed their success in life to Girl Scouts. They also said that they could not have had access to the same experiences anywhere else.



The Mark of the Truly Remarkable.

## The Girl Scout Promise And Law

The Girl Scout Promise and Law are shared by every member of Girl Scouting. By pledging to exemplify the Girl Scout Promise and Law, each Girl Scout is committed to making the world a better place.

#### **Girl Scout Promise**

*On my honor, I will try* to serve God\* and my country to help people at all times, and to live by the Girl Scout Law.

### **Girl Scout Law**

*I will do my best to be* honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I say and do, *and to* respect myself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout.

\* Members may substitute for the word God in accordance with their own spiritual beliefs.

## 2022-2023 Recipients

Anya Aggarwal Madelynn Alonzo Nicole Alvarez Devika Amalkar Maia Margo Anchia Alyssa Anderson Vyasini Arun Deeya Bachani Kathleen Bartel Saara Bidiwala Mary Borkowski Eva Braasch **Claire Brady** Hannah Buford Maya Burks Julia Burnham Grace Campbell Alexandra Castaneda Jacqueline Causey Paarvi Chand Manha Chaudhry Ashley Chen **Emily Coleman** Margaret Coleman Maya Comisar Zooey Cooley Jordan Crum Aspen Cunningham Diya Damodaran Maya Dandekar **Piper Davison** 

Grace Dorward Julianna Dublin Anna Malyn Dudley Hallie Blair Dudley Caroline Dunn Caleigh England Caitlyn Fabre Molly Fagelman Jane Bailey Feinstein Grace Fermaglich Mia Galvan Alyssa Glasgow Jane Goldberg Vinathi Golkonda Emma Graham Ashley Gray Lila Griffith Ashna Haiderali Maddison Haney Sumehra Hannan Breena Hira Abigail Hjelm Davi Hopkovitz Mercedes Horton Laura Hudson Aidan Hull Sahiti Inaganti Olivia Isabell Melissa Jacob Prisha Jain Jenna Johnston

Michelle Kabugu Megha Kalvakota Deeya Kameshetty Sahib Kaur Alhena Kerawala Sienna Lawson Sophia Lohr Sumehra Mahmud Anika Mathur Celena McFarland Colleen McKenzie Zeeya Merchant **Rebecca** Myers Anna Norris Erin Paul Shriya Peddapuram Audrey Pierce Adithi Rallapalli Shreya Rastogi Sarah Rios **Caroline Rippel** Rylee Risdon Abby Rogers Baani Sandhu Ananya Sankaran Rabiya Sayeed Emaan Shah Simali Shah Misha Shariff Kaaviya Shenbaharaman

**Rachel Shepard** Nikita Shori Abby Short Jessica Silverberg Elisabeth Smith Anushka Sridhar AnneMarie Stammreich Lillianne Stanford Sydnee Stephens Medha Sundar Rajan Meenakshi Sundar Rajan Natalie Tan Sriva Tellakula Arden Twiss Sahithi Uppalapati Leela Vegesna Suma Vegesna Imara Vidhani Aleeza Virani Shreya Vishwanath Kendall Washington Sarah Whaley Erica White Sarah Williams Anna Winslow Jenna Young Savannah Zasa

## Gold Award Scholarships

**The Betty Richardson Girl Scout Gold Award Scholarship** was established in honor of former Tejas Council President Betty Richardson to encourage girls to remain in Girl Scouting, as well as to help girls reach their full potential as women through higher education.

The **Ericsson STEM Scholarship** was established by Ericsson to ensure equitable participation of girls in the STEM leadership pipeline, enabling Girl Scout Gold Award recipients to receive sustained funding for their college experiences in a STEM major.

#### To be eligible for a scholarship, the recipient must:

- Be registered with Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas and be an active member of the organization.
- Be a resident of Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas' 32-county jurisdiction at the time of the award.
- Be a Girl Scout Gold Award recipient.
- Be a high school graduating senior.
- Be accepted into an accredited institution of higher learning.
- For the Ericsson STEM Scholarship, Girl Scouts must plan to graduate college in a STEM major.

The scholarship selection committee considers the applicant's academic and GPA record in high school; participation in Girl Scouting; leadership experience; community involvement/work experience; essay; and letters of recommendation.

GSNETX is deeply grateful for Ericsson's investment in Gold Award Scholarships, which makes the world a better place by bringing essential resources and support to girls in our community and paving the way for a girl-led future.

If YOU would like to invest in the Girl Scout Gold Award Scholarship Fund in honor of your Gold Award Girl Scout or family member, please mail your donations to:



**Donations may be mailed to:** Girl Scout Gold Award Scholarship Fund Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas P.O. Box 797447 Dallas, TX 75379-7447



## **Anya Aggarwal**, *Beautiful Body Through Beautiful Mind – Inside and Out!*

Girl Scout Troop 6470. Anya designed and implemented a science camp that focused on hands-on activities with human body systems and positive body image messages built-in throughout. The camp was delivered using a team of volunteers to Dallas ISD WT White Feeder Elementary Schools through a collaboration with United to Learn. Some of the areas students learned about were neurons, DNA, heart valves, cell membranes, and gene traits. They focused on healthy habits and choices relating to food, exercise, sleep, and misconceptions about body image. She also created a binder of how-to materials for the program to be replicated by United to Learn. Anya will graduate from The Hockaday School in 2026.

#### Madelynn Alonzo, Cardinal Closet

Girl Scout Troop 4749. Madelynn identified the need for personal hygiene products, snacks, and small microwavable meals for students in her high school. To address this need, Madelynn and her team painted, organized, and stocked an easily accessible cabinet located in the library. The new Cardinal Closet allowed students to focus more on their schoolwork and less stressed about issues outside of school by knowing these new resources existed. To ensure the closet remained stocked, a QR code was placed on the closet for students to contribute additional supplies. The Family, Career and Community Leaders of America chapter will maintain the closet going forward. Madelynn will graduate from Pottsboro High School in 2025.

#### **Nicole Alvarez,** *Awareness Through Beautification – Exotic Cat Sanctuary*

Girl Scout Troop 1241. Nicole collaborated with In-Sync Exotics; an exotic cat rescue sanctuary located in Wylie. Her goal was to beautify the sanctuary surroundings with gardens filled with native Texas plants. Nicole and her volunteers prepared three garden beds and planted a variety of flowering plants. She also included educational info-graphic plaques for the beds. She created a flyer about the sanctuary and gave presentations to several Girl Scout troops about the sanctuary and her Gold Award project. Nicole provided the sanctuary staff with detailed information about the plants and their care to maintain the area. Nicole will graduate from Wylie High School in 2023.

#### Devika Amalkar, Crochet for Cancer

Girl Scout Troop 1530. Understanding how the emotional toll of losing one's hair can impact a cancer patient's mental health, Devika wanted to bring comfort and boost morale to those navigating chemotherapy. After hearing that the Baylor Scott & White Medical Center in Plano needed chemo caps, Devika presented at numerous crocheting groups to solicit their expertise and receive donations. She also hosted seminars where individuals were taught crocheting basics and how to crochet a simple chemo cap. Her efforts generated over 100 caps to share at the hospital for distribution. Going forward, several of the crocheting groups will continue making hats through Devika's promotional efforts. Devika graduated from Allen High School in 2022.

## Maia Margo Anchia, Narrated Books for Children with Cancer (Virtual Story Time)

Girl Scout Juliette. Maia collaborated with Children's Health Hospital, Seacrest Studios, and the Dallas Public Library to provide high quality recorded narrative books for pediatric patients. These patients often feel isolated and stressed while in the hospital or receiving treatment. Maia worked with professional librarians to select appropriate material and then she and her volunteers recorded close to 100 books in both English and Spanish. The project also created a permanent connection between the hospital and the library for children to receive electronic services. The media library will be maintained, and new book recordings will continue using Maia's template. Maia will graduate from Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in 2024.

## Alyssa Anderson, <u>STEMuses Career Expo</u> for Middle School Girls

Girl Scout Troop 257. Alyssa's project focused on inspiring 5th to 8th-grade girls to maintain an interest in STEM careers. Alyssa planned and implemented a career expo with 13 executive women across a variety of STEM professions such as radiation, oncology, engineering, chemistry, patent law and food science. With support from volunteers, Alyssa hosted the 30 Dallas area middle school girls with a keynote speaker, panel, and round table discussions. She also created a recap video so additional girls can benefit from the sessions. Alyssa started a non-profit organization called STEMuses to continue holding similar events and offer scholarships for girls in STEM. Alyssa will graduate from The Hockaday School in 2024.

#### Vyasini Arun, Kids Kick Back

Girl Scout Troop 6796. Vyasini's project aimed to brighten the spirits of hospitalized children. Recognizing how hospitalized youth need activities to keep them engaged, Vyasini worked with hospital staff to select appropriate options. With assistance from volunteers, Vyasini created themed packages to distribute monthly to child cancer patients at Children's Hospital in Plano. Packages included items like coloring pages and arts and crafts that fit a monthly theme. Vyasini shared a digital copy of all the materials at both the hospital and with the National Honor Society at her school so that people looking for ways to volunteer could replicate her project. Vyasini will graduate from Lebanon Trail High School in 2023.

#### Deeya Bachani, Music Education

Girl Scout Troop 4632. Deeya's project provided exposure and education of the many benefits of percussion music to 70 elementary school students at the Holy Cross Lutheran Church summer camp. Her goal was to encourage students (especially girls) to consider studying percussion in band. Deeya recruited six other female volunteer musicians to assist with the weeklong camp. Deeya developed the curriculum that focused on the basics of drumming, rhythms, and theory, and presented tutorial videos for the students. She also provided supplies, tutorial materials and her curriculum to schools who partner with United to Learn, for the camp to be repeated. Deeya will graduate from Greenhill School in 2023.

## Kathleen Bartel, Art Wall

Girl Scout Troop 5443. Kathleen's project addressed mental health in young children at Vogel Alcove, an organization that provides services for children and families experiencing homelessness in Dallas. Realizing how art and art therapy can help instill self-confidence in children, Kathleen and her volunteers created an outdoor art wall. The art wall is equipped with various art templates and free play space for children to express their creativity, decompress and self soothe. In addition to the art wall, her project will be sustained by the curriculum, instructions, and articles about art therapy she shared with the teachers at Vogel Alcove. Kathleen will graduate from Booker T. Washington High School in 2025.

## Saara Bidiwala, ARTE (Advocacy for Refugees through Education)

Girl Scout Troop 647. Saara partnered with the Texas Muslim Women's Foundation to support refugee schoolgirls. Recognizing the education gap refugee children may face due to fleeing war-torn countries, Saara and her volunteers created tailored lessons to provide STEM education and help the girls adjust to the Texas education system. Her goal was to expose refugee girls to STEM subjects early in life to promote increased representation of women in STEM careers. Through her project, Saara aimed to empowered refugee girls to pursue their dreams in a new country. The program will be continued using Saara's curriculum at the Texas Muslim Women's Foundation. Saara graduated from Greenhill School in 2022.

#### Mary Borkowski, Bringing Joy through Sensory Toys

Girl Scout Troop 4903. Mary's project benefited autistic children within the community. After seeing how sensory toys help her autistic brother, Mary decided to create sensory toys for local youth and organizations serving the autistic community who lacked the financial resources to purchase them. With support from volunteers, Mary made 107 sensory items to donate to various community organizations for distribution. Items included marble mazes, manipulation mats, weighted lap pads, and sensory blankets. Additionally, Mary created a YouTube channel where she shared tutorials on making her sensory items, hoping to inspire others to carry out a similar project. Mary will graduate from Ursuline Academy of Dallas in 2024.

#### Eva Braasch, Santa Fe Trail Mural

Girl Scout Troop 1281. Eva partnered with the Friends of the Santa Fe Trail to beautify a graffiti covered mural on the Brookside Bridge Trail entrance in East Dallas. Eva's goal was to encourage people to explore and enjoy the Santa Fe Trail by making the area more inviting. Eva and her volunteers covered the existing graffiti and designed new lettering using a variety of patterns and bright colors. Each letter was then hand painted and spelled out "Welcome to the Santa Fe Trail." They finished by applying an anti-graffiti coat to the mural. A community ribbon cutting ceremony was held to introduce the new mural. Eva graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in 2022.

#### Claire Brady, Outdoor Learning Center

Girl Scout Troop 790. Claire's project supported the preschool children at Plano Family YMCA. Recognizing how children with access to outside learning opportunities are healthier, happier, and do better academically, Claire created an Outdoor Learning Center for the preschool program. Along with her volunteers, Claire power washed, painted, and sealed learning activities on the YMCA's outside area to facilitate child development learning. Paintings included an alphabet caterpillar, colors, and faces with emotions and feelings. Over 200 preschool students will benefit by engaging with the Outdoor Learning Center annually. The area will be maintained by the school with instructions Claire created. Claire graduated from Lebanon Trail High School in 2022.

#### Hannah Buford, Shall We Dance

Girl Scout Troop 3352. Hannah's project supported senior citizens looking to preserve and improve their physical and mental wellness through dance. With the help of her volunteers and guidance from physical therapists, she created safe dance-based fitness routines with a special focus on mobility and balance. Each routine included modifications for viewers who may need to use a walker or stay seated in a chair. She taught classes locally, provided DVDs and video links to local care facilities, and posted the videos online so they can be used by at-home viewers and other nursing homes, assisted living facilities, memory care facilities, and senior living communities indefinitely. Hannah will graduate from Trinity Christian Academy in 2023.

#### Maya Burks, Moving in the Right Direction

Girl Scout Troop 6796. Maya and her volunteers built a safe walking trail in Reed Arkansas in memory of her grandmother. The trail was designed to promote exercising in a scenic area to help residents develop healthy lifestyle habits. Maya worked with the town council to ensure the trail and flower garden met all needed criteria. She then purchased and planted all the flowers and established the trail. She also created a committee, the Reed Revitalization Movement, to maintain and add to the trail and garden. Maya will graduate from Centennial High School in 2023.

#### Julia Burnham, Playground Beautification and "Bee" Healthy Campaign

Troop 7272. Julia's project provided support for the school community at Trinity Leadership Public School. Julia and her volunteers refurbished the aging playground equipment by prepping and painting the slides, swings, and jungle gym with the school's colors. She donated new playground activity equipment like jump ropes and chalk. Julia designed and created a colorful bulletin board display next to the school cafeteria to educate the students about healthy eating habits and good food choices. Julia also made YouTube videos for the school on the topics of playground safety, bicycle safety, first aid at home, and choosing healthy meals. Julia will graduate from Midlothian Heritage High School in 2023.

#### Grace Campbell, The Egg Basket

Girl Scout Troop 6216. Grace addressed food insecurity in her community by working with the Saint John the Apostle Catholic Church food pantry to increase fresh food options. She established a relationship with the Tarrant County Master Gardeners and the pantry, providing them a place to donate their surplus fresh produce. She then purchased more chickens for the church school 4-H Club to provide additional eggs. She also encouraged the community to designate the food pantry on supermarket programs, to fill the gap when produce is dormant. The food pantry will continue the new relationship with the Master Gardeners and the 4-H Club to access fresh produce and eggs. Grace will graduate from Guyer High School in 2023.

### **Alexandra Castaneda**, *Comfort Bags: Supporting the Mental Well-Being of Teen Girls in Foster Care*

Girl Scout Troop 539. Alexandra's project supported teenage girls in the foster care system. After realizing foster youth are four times more likely to experience mental health issues, Alexandra collaborated with Community Partners of Dallas (CPD), which supports the work of Child Protective Services. With her volunteers, Alexandra created 100 comfort bags of handwritten cards, blankets, fidget toys, journals with inspirational quotes, water bottles, and feminine hygiene products. She also created awareness in her community about this issue. Alexandra provided CPD with digital and print resources so that volunteers can replicate her comfort bags. Alexandra will graduate from the School for the Talented and Gifted in 2023.

#### Jacqueline Causey, iSchool of Lewisville Engineering Day

Girl Scout Troop 3533. Jacqueline's project focused on educating middle schoolers about STEM fields, problem solving, and experimentation by planning and implementing an Engineering Day at her school. Working with her volunteers, she solicited professional speakers from different engineering disciplines, created team building projects for class competitions, and arranged for judges to review the results. Students had the choice of four experiments – a bridge, drink carrier, jump rope or a balloon racer to work on. The event showed the participants that engineering could be fun and encouraged them to pursue STEM disciplines. Due to the success of the event the school will support it annually going forward. Jacqueline will graduate from iSchool of Lewisville in 2023.

#### Paarvi Chand, Redecoration of Children's Room

Girl Scout Troop 2990. Paarvi collaborated with the Re-creation Outreach Center at Metro Family Services in Garland. Paarvi and her team of volunteers renovated the Children's Room at the facility. A large sunshine mural was painted generating a much brighter and more welcoming space. Benches were added along with plantar boxes that were built and filled with colorful flowers. Paarvi created awareness about the facility as she held a toy drive. She also designed puzzle and coloring books for the children to use while their parents were receiving services. The facility will maintain the space and replace the activity books as needed using her template. Paarvi will graduate from Frisco Memorial High School in 2024.

#### Manha Chaudhry, La Esperanza

Girl Scout Troop 647. Manha's project supported newborns in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Children's Medical Center. After learning blankets are a constant need in a NICU unit to help simulate a mother's womb, Manha created 100 blankets with volunteers to give to families at the hospital. She also created awareness about the NICU, explaining its function and how people can support newborns by making a website and formal presentations. Her website includes directions for making the blankets so that her project can be replicated. Manha graduated from Richardson High School in 2022.

#### Ashley Chen, Germinate and Educate!

Girl Scout Troop 2742. Ashley collaborated with Heritage Farmstead Museum to provide educational materials for their visitors and to refurbish a small cemetery. Ashley and her volunteers researched native Texas plants, bees, and butterflies and created two colorful and educational nature identification guides, one for spring and one for summer. Visitors at the Museum can access the guides via the QR codes on signs placed around the Native Prairie Garden and creek areas. Ashley and her volunteers constructed and painted an historically accurate fence for the cemetery and cleaned and refurbished the gravestones. The staff at Heritage Farmstead Museum will maintain the signs and cemetery. Ashley will graduate from Lebanon Trail High School in 2023.

#### Emily Coleman, You Have to Know to Grow

Girl Scout Troop 4905. Emily's project renewed the garden at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church. Emily and her volunteers replaced the rotting raised flower beds with new galvanized metal beds. They also planted native perennial plants and pollinators to support the local ecosystem using plants that can survive both the Texas hot summers and cold winters. In addition to revamping the garden, Emily created educational worksheets for the church's connected school to incorporate the garden into its STEAM curriculum. A local group will maintain the garden and the school will use her curriculum going forward. Emily will graduate from Highland Park High School in 2024.

## **Margaret Coleman,** *How Cycles Promote Sustainability in both Nature and Industry*

Girl Scout Troop 257. Margaret's project educated youth on the importance of cycles in the context of sustainability. Margaret and her volunteers partnered with the Dallas Arboretum to design and install an engaging exhibit for youth using zoetropes, spinning mechanical animations, for permanent installation at the Arboretum. The zoetropes used examples in nature such as the life cycle of a bee or plant to illustrate how nature's cycles promote sustainability. Margaret also gave presentations to Arboretum visitors who visited the Children's Adventure Garden using the zoetropes to promote the importance of sustainability and how it could relate to decisions made by industry leaders. Margaret will graduate from The Hockaday School in 2024.

#### Maya Comisar, Port Pillows: Pillows That Ease the Ouch

Girl Scout Troop 3796. Maya partnered with Medical City Plano and Texas Oncology Plano to create port pillows for breast cancer patients. After watching her mother survive stage 4 breast cancer, Maya created port pillows to prevent irritation of the port and surrounding area which make everyday activities like riding in a car and administering needed medications easier. She and her volunteers crafted over 100 port pillows with inspirational notes for breast cancer patients. Maya made an instructional video, and the Plano Sewing Center has linked her video to their website to replicate her project. Maya will graduate from Plano West Senior High School in 2024.

## Zooey Cooley, Zooey's Melanoma Project

Girl Scout Troop 4810. Zooey's project focused on skin care awareness and melanoma prevention after she lost her grandfather to the disease. With help from volunteers, Zooey hosted a paddle board event at Bluet SUP, an outdoor experience center on Lake Lewisville. Zooey educated and encouraged the community to wear sunscreen for skin protection while passing out swag bags filled with sunscreen, lip balm, hats, and other goodies. The event provided a link to the Melanoma Research Foundation for donations to help prevent melanoma. To continue promoting sunscreen use before water activities, Bluet SUP plans to utilize Zooey's posters, stickers, and reminders. Zooey will graduate from Argyle High School in 2024.

## Jordan Crum, White Oak High School Health Fair

Girl Scout Troop 7495. After recognizing that many of her peers were not living a healthy lifestyle, Jordan planned and implemented an on-campus health fair that attracted 420 students. Jordan, with volunteer assistance, invited community partners to host interactive booths, including the police department's drunk driving simulation, UT Tyler Health Science Center's demonstration on the effects of smoking on the lungs, and Walmart Vision Center's free eye exams. Students learned the importance of healthy eating and exercise, how to handle mental health issues, and the danger of drugs. She then provided the school with an instructional guide and contact information to make health fairs an annual event. Jordan will graduate from White Oak High School in 2023.

## **Aspen Cunningham,** *Bird Oasis Water Feature & Educational Materials*

Girl Scout Troop 1. Aspen's project enhanced living conditions for native and migratory birds at Tyler State Park. The previous bird oasis could not be maintained, leaving the birds without water, and forcing them to find alternatives. With the help of volunteers, Aspen constructed a new bird oasis to provide the birds with a reliable water source. The new sustainable water source is solar powered with battery back-up, much deeper and away from park predators. She also created a bird-watching booklet that highlights common birds, food sources, and nesting areas that will be used with state park visitors. Aspen will graduate from Cumberland Academy High School in 2024.

#### Diya Damodaran, Homegrown

Girl Scout Troop 3154. Diya collaborated with students at McKinney Montessori Preschool to provide them with hands-on experience in understanding the origins of their food. With the help of volunteers, Diya created a permanent garden at the school. Diya planned and then hosted several sessions where children could learn about different types of fruits and vegetables, how vegetables grow, how to identify healthy and nutritious food, and get first-hand experience outside as they learned to care for the plants. The students also received take-home kits to grow produce including easy recipes. The school will maintain the garden and use supplies and materials Diya left as needed. Diya will graduate from Plano East Senior High School in 2024.

#### Maya Dandekar, Creating Awareness at McKinney Roots and Surrounding Food Pantries

Girl Scout Troop 1218. Maya designed a multi-faceted project that focused on the needs of McKinney Roots and food pantries within the community. She and her team scripted, filmed, and edited a video to educate volunteers on the greenhouse and hydroponics program at McKinney Roots. She then worked with one of McKinney Roots affiliated food pantries creating recipes and recipe bags for use with donated vegetables harvested and provided to the pantry. A diaper drive was also held for another pantry and a handout about baby food safety was designed for pantry clients. Her materials and video will continue her project going forward. Maya graduated from Lovejoy High School in 2022.

### Piper Davison, Corinth Community Dog Park

Girl Scout Troop 6216. Piper's project focused on building a dog park in the city of Corinth. Recognizing the need, Piper surveyed residents and then presented her findings to city council officials. Her presentations resulted in the dog park being added to the city's Master Plan. Piper and her volunteers spent almost three years planning and promoting the park to make it happen. Money earning projects, including bench and tree sponsorships, and a brick campaign were conducted to meet the park's building requirements. Many in-kind donations were utilized for items like walkways and fencing. The dog park was designed to meet city specifications so that it can be maintained by the city indefinitely. Piper will graduate from Ryan High School in 2023.

### Grace Dorward, Cards for Change

Girl Scout Troop 2769. Grace's project focused on increasing voter participation in young adults by creating an awareness campaign for youth just becoming eligible to vote. Grace and her volunteers designed birthday cards that inform students as they turn 18 about registering and the importance of voting. Grace provided Cistercian Preparatory School with 100 birthday cards to share with students. This streamlined method of sharing voting registration information will empower the school to educate students on this issue in a convenient way. Her materials have been shared with a digital copy, a video, and a packet of materials for the school to continue using going forward. Grace graduated from The Hockaday School in 2022.

### Julianna Dublin, Help on a Shelf

Girl Scout Troop 1489. Julianna's project addressed the issue of hygiene poverty, particularly at her high school. She created awareness in her community, explaining that not all people can afford basic hygiene supplies that most take for granted. Working with volunteers and her school staff, an area was designated for items such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, feminine products, and dental care for students to access. The area has filled a need at the school and become a permanent program. The National Honor Society and the Wednesday Study Club will maintain the area and hold donation drives as needed. Julianna graduated from Jacksonville High School in 2022.

#### **Anna Malyn Dudley,** *Playground Inclusion Program for Non-Verbal Communicators*

Girl Scout Troop 903. Anna's project targeted the difficulty that non-verbal children have in communicating with verbal children. She worked with principals in six elementary schools in the Denison and Pottsboro School Districts to assist the 2,500 students on those campuses with this issue. Anna purchased 30 large bilingual communication signs with various pictures on them, including children's activities, playground equipment, facial and hand expressions. Anna and her volunteers installed five permanent signs on each of the six campuses. The signs will encourage non-verbal students to point to a picture or word as a way of communicating with verbal students or adults. Anna will graduate from Pottsboro High School in 2023.

#### Hallie Blair Dudley, Celebration Monarch!

Girl Scout Troop 903. Hallie's project benefited residents at Celebration Senior Living, an assisted living community in Denison, Texas. After learning the community desired to add a butterfly garden to its courtyard, Hallie stepped in to support the vision. With assistance from volunteers, Hallie planted a garden with drought resistant butterfly-attracting flowers. Hallie also presented to residents about the certified monarch waystation and the monarch migration patterns. Her goal was to create something beautiful for the residents to enjoy, improving their mental and emotional health. The assisted living community has agreed to maintain the garden and highlighted on its website as a featured amenity. Hallie will graduate from Pottsboro High School in 2023.

#### Caroline Dunn, Community in Schools

Girl Scout Troop 2445. Caroline provided support to the Community in Schools (CIS) organization at Lake Highlands High School. CIS operates the Wildcat Den, a community pantry that provides personal care items, food, and clothes to those in need. Caroline and her volunteers began by discarding expired food items and cleaned up the pantry by organizing the shelves and clothes. She worked with the school's PTA to create an Amazon Wish List for pantry donations and created an inventory spreadsheet to manage inventory. Caroline with her volunteers also created media campaigns for donations. To keep donations going, Caroline coordinated continuing rotating donation campaigns with several student groups. Caroline will graduate from Lake Highlands High School in 2023.

#### Caleigh England, Take Me Home Pet Rescue

Girl Scout Juliette. Caleigh's project focused on reducing the number of homeless animals in the community. Caleigh leveraged research to increase pet adoption rates with the Take Me Home Pet Rescue organization. She and her volunteers sewed 200 pet bandanas to encourage pet adoption. She also led a donation drive for needed items to give to the organization. The facility's storage shelves were reorganized to increase efficiency. An informational pamphlet about adoption was written and a pet-themed mural was painted to make the facility more welcoming during adoption events. The organization will continue to use the pet bandanas and pamphlet at adoption meet and greets. Caleigh will graduate from iUniversity Prep in 2024.

#### Caitlyn Fabre, Construction Tactile Sensory Wall

Girl Scout Troop 6688. Caitlyn's project educated children on career opportunities in construction while also championing community awareness about Sensory Processing Disorder. With support from volunteers, Caitlyn created an interactive sensory tactile wall for Longview World of Wonders to expose children to various materials used by construction workers. Additionally, Caitlyn taught local youth about her experience with Sensory Processing Disorder and guided creative workshops. She also spoke about painting, building circuits, building, hammering, and architectural work involved in construction projects. She created a YouTube channel with videos to increase global reach and encourage others to replicate her project. Caitlyn will graduate from a home school program in 2023.

### **Molly Fagelman,** *Comfort Fidget Blankets for People with Alzheimer's*

Girl Scout Troop 1281. Molly's project supported community members with Alzheimer's at Juliette Fowler Communities, a senior living provider in Dallas. Through watching her grandmother navigate her Alzheimer's diagnosis and work with a fidget blanket, Molly recognized the blanket provided her grandmother with a source of calm and relief. Molly and her volunteers created fidget blankets for residents at Juliette Fowler Communities to provide additional comfort and help ease anxiety commonly experienced by Alzheimer's patients. The Kindness Club at her school will continue to aid in the creation of more blankets going forward. Molly graduated from The Greenhill School in 2022.

## Jane Bailey Feinstein, Science at Vickery Meadow Summer Reading Academy

Girl Scout Troop 3217. Jane Bailey's project supported the Vickery Meadow Summer Reading Academy youth. After recognizing that students struggled to maintain English-speaking skills during the summer, Jane Bailey stepped in to assist. With support from volunteers, she created a STEAM-based science camp, with hands-on activities, that allowed students to practice their English skills while learning about science. Camp topics included holograms, refraction, craters, and phases of the moon. The camp helped students stay on track with their learning and avoid the loss of progress over the summer break. She designed a website with her lessons and resources for the camp to be replicated going forward. Jane Bailey will graduate from Greenhill School in 2024.

#### Grace Fermaglich, Blooming with Joy

Girl Scout Troop 4689. Grace's project benefited senior residents at The Legacy Willow Bend retirement community. Knowing that senior community members may feel lonely amidst the pandemic with limited ability for guests to visit, Grace lifted their spirits by sending flowers. With support from her volunteers, Grace created 125 floral arrangements for distribution at The Legacy Willow Bend. She delivered flowers five different times over the course of her project. Grace designed a website and a project plan she shared with her floral design teacher to inspire other students interested in carrying out a similar project. Grace will graduate from Frisco Memorial High School in 2023.

### Mia Galvan, Bells Will Ring

Girl Scout Troop 700. Mia's project focused on her school's handbells which needed repair and teaching the dying art of playing the handbells to students. First Mia researched and presented information to several of her district's music directors to enlist their support. Her presentation convinced one director to award her a \$4,000 district grant to repair the bells. With volunteers' support, Mia repainted the choir room and hosted handbell and music theory workshops. Mia also taught members of her church choir to play handbells. Mia created a presentation summarizing how she secured funding to encourage others to undertake similar projects related to music awareness and participation. Mia will graduate from Irma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School in 2023.

#### Alyssa Glasgow, Women in Collin County History- "Canning with Viola"

Girl Scout Troop 5234. Alyssa's project focused on preserving the impact women have had in history. After researching historical information on Collin County, Alyssa chose one woman, Viola McGee, to highlight. With support from volunteers, she created an exhibit for the Collin County Farm Museum to honor Viola and her contributions. Alyssa also made a video published on the museum's YouTube page on canning applesauce, inspired by the works of Viola. With more focus on food preservation through her project, the museum has added in person classes on canning. Alyssa will graduate from McKinney Boyd High School in 2023.

#### Jane Goldberg, A Fresh Start

Girl Scout Troop 4689. Jane's project created an improved donation processes and awareness for Refresh Little Elm. This organization provides youth in the Frisco and Little Elm area with individual pre-packaged bags of essential hygiene products. After learning that the nonprofit would benefit from a new organizational system to sort donations, Jane researched and designed new options. With support from volunteers, Jane added shelving and storage bins to streamline the organization's sorting process. She also created an informational video for the organization on how to support it or receive help. Her video is highlighted on the organization's website. Jane will graduate from Reedy High School in 2023.

#### Vinathi Golkonda, Music for Memory

Girl Scout Troop 7204. Vinathi's project supported individuals at The Heritage at Twin Creek's memory care center. Recognizing how exposure to music helps stimulate the brain and encourage memory improvement and morale, Vinathi coordinated frequent musical performances and social opportunities for the memory care residents. After presenting to 10 classes of band, choir, and orchestra students, Vinathi recruited over 50 peers to join her efforts. During COVID, Vinathi and volunteers shifted by recording videos of performances for the memory care residents. The student volunteer group will continue the musical performances going forward. Vinathi graduated from Allen High School in 2022.

### Emma Graham, Traveling Canvases of Positivity

Girl Scout Troop 4905. Emma's project goal was to spread positivity at the SPCA shelter. She selected four inspirational quotes to display on canvases, painting watercolor backgrounds and using calligraphy lettering. The "Traveling Canvases of Positivity" will be displayed around the shelter and at adoption events. Emma continued her positivity theme with a digital flyer to educate pet owners on keeping their pets healthy and happy. She also made snuffle mats, dog rope toys, cat hiding houses, and coordinated a donation drive. She provided an instructional binder to the shelter to replicate her project as supplies are depleted. Emma will graduate from Highland Park High School in 2024.

## Ashley Gray, Nutrition Education for Middle School Aged Children

Girl Scout Troop 1530. Ashley's project educated middle school children on the importance of nutrition. Realizing that some children may lack knowledge regarding healthy eating, Ashley partnered with Faith Lutheran School to host workshops on how to live a healthy lifestyle. With support from her volunteers, Ashley created an interactive presentation to inform children about healthy eating habits. Topics included learning about antioxidants, hidden sugars, sleep health, and building a balanced meal. Her project will be sustained by the website and YouTube video she created that highlights information taught in her lessons. Ashley graduated from Allen High School in 2022.

## Lila Griffith, Equine Therapeutic Obstacle course for Victory Riding Center

Girl Scout Troop 3630. Lila's project supported veterans experiencing PTSD and other trauma-related issues. Lila and her volunteers created an outdoor equestrian obstacle course at Victory Therapy Center for people to gain confidence and learn to manage stress as they rode the course. The course was designed so that it could be ridden six different ways, delivering new stimulation for the people and horses every time it is used. She created awareness on this issue at her service unit and a disability workshop talking about the benefits of equine-assisted therapy. Victory Therapy Center will maintain the course using materials she provided. Lila will graduate from Enlightenment Homeschool Classical Academy in 2023.

### Ashna Haiderali, Refugee Outreach

Girl Scout Troop 227. Recognizing how many people may not understand the challenges refugees face daily, Ashna partnered with DFW Refugee Outreach Services to create an awareness campaign. She focused on educating youth at Hebron High School by explaining what it's like for a refugee in a new country, the issues they face, such as getting a driver's license, and used real life examples. Ashna and her volunteers also coordinated a donation drive for refugees. Donated items included journals, undergarments, toiletry kits, and feminine hygiene products. The GirlUp club at her high school will use her presentation annually to generate discussion and empathy. Ashna graduated from Hebron High School in 2022.

#### Maddison Haney, Town Picnic Area

Girl Scout Troop 3792. Maddison created a greater sense of community by building a new family friendly picnic area in Shady Shores. She attended many meetings with the city council, the city's Beautification committee, and the Corp of Engineers to ensure that the area met all requirements and would be supported by the city. She spoke to many local organizations and Homeowner's Associations to get sponsorship for the project. Maddison and her team then assembled and installed picnic tables and benches, fishing line disposals, and trees for the area. The city will maintain the area for all to use. Maddison will graduate from Texas Connections Academy Houston in 2024.

#### Sumehra Hannan, Depression Awareness

Girl Scout Troop 968. Sumehra educated the community about recognizing and coping with depression. Acknowledging how childhood depression rates are increasing worldwide, especially after the pandemic, Sumehra and her volunteers created an awareness campaign for youth and parents to teach about mental health issues and how to find support resources. Through her project, Sumehra shared her presentations with over 100 individuals in various community groups, defining depression symptoms, ways to cope, and attempting to remove the stigma surrounding this issue. To increase her global reach, Sumehra donated stress balls and books on mental health to her local library. She made an educational YouTube video about depression to spread continuing awareness. Sumehra will graduate from Independence High School in 2025.

#### Breena Hira, Bicycle Safety

Girl Scout Troop 4632. Breena created awareness and educated kids in her community about bike safety. She designed bike safety, rules of the road, and bike repair workshops and hosted them for hundreds of participants at several elementary schools and the public library. The workshops covered how to use hand signal signs, riding in busy traffic, wearing the right clothes and helmet, simple bike repairs, and what to do in an emergency. She also installed a bike repair stand at a development that the property managers will maintain. Her plans will be used to hold more workshops in the community. Breena will graduate from Coppell High School in 2023.

#### Abigail Hjelm, "Get Up, Get Fit!"

Girl Scout Troop 143. Abigail's project focused on teaching elementaryaged children the importance of nutrition, fitness, and overall health. With support from her volunteers, Abigail created a week-long camp for local youth to share about healthy eating and exercise. At the camp, Abigail organized interactive games and activities to keep the campers on their toes. She also taught them how to prepare healthy snacks and shared the importance of having a healthy heart and teeth. By using the skills they learned at camp, they will be able to integrate healthy habits, communication, and team building into their lifestyles going forward. Abigail will graduate from Sachse High School in 2023.

#### Davi Hopkovitz, Technology Time with Davi

Girl Scout Juliette. Davi's project educated the elderly on how to connect with loved ones using technology. Understanding how seniors living in senior communities were particularly impacted by isolation during COVID, Davi created opportunities to connect with friends and family virtually. Davi and her volunteers created tutorial videos for residents at The Legacy Senior Communities to explain how to use iMessage, FaceTime, Gmail, Zoom, food and grocery apps, photos, and Instagram. She also taught classes on operating one's iPhone. The seniors gained new technology skills and a positive attitude as they learned something new. The videos are on the community's internal server for future reference. Davi graduated from Yavneh Academy of Dallas in 2022.

#### Mercedes Horton, Art Therapy for Sisterhood Shelter

Girl Scout Troop 1281. Mercedes' project supported women at The Sisterhood Program at Austin Street Center, a homeless shelter in Dallas. Using art therapy as a healthy outlet for self-expression and relieving stress, Mercedes hosted several art therapy sessions for the women in The Sisterhood Program. She and her volunteers collected coloring books, markers, and pencils to share at her sessions helping the women to learn about the benefits of coloring. She also made presentations in her community to discuss the value of art therapy. The youth group at her church will continue bi-annual supply drives and therapy coloring sessions at the shelter. Mercedes graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in 2022.

#### Laura Hudson, Assisting Students in My Community

Girl Scout Troop 2739. Laura worked with Deaf Education teachers to provide flashcards for in class instruction. Since American Sign Language is a visual language, deaf education students often need help connecting the sign to the English word. Laura and her volunteers created flashcards to offer the students a method to overcome this problem. Each flashcard showed a picture illustrating the word, the typed out English word, and a description of the signed word. Laura also tutored students to test the flashcards and adjusted them as needed. Laura gave the flashcard templates to over 10 ASL teachers to continue the project. Laura will graduate from Plano Senior High School in 2023.

### Aidan Hull, Little Bearcat Theatre

Girl Scout Troop 5410. Aidan's project benefited the preschool students at St. Monica Catholic School in Dallas, Texas. Recognizing how creative play is a significant component in helping young children develop language and social-emotional skills, Aidan created a puppet theatre to support learning. With help from her volunteers, Aidan assembled puppets and a stage, supplied extra materials to make more puppets, and shared a Google Drive with resources and instructional videos. Her goal was to provide teachers with tools to implement puppet learning activities with their preschoolers and add it to their ongoing curriculum. Aidan will graduate from Bishop Lynch High School in 2024.

#### Sahiti Inaganti, MyNance

Girl Scout Troop 6796. Sahiti's project promoted financial literacy for students at her high school. Understanding the importance of establishing a financial background at a young age, Sahiti partnered with a club at her school to host engaging financial literacy courses. The courses made learning about finance fun and relatable to youth by covering daily money management, how to avoid financial scams, and the importance of early investing. With support from her volunteers, Sahiti hosted 7 classes with 10-15 students each throughout the school year. The school's Business Professionals of America club has agreed to incorporate her lesson plans into their club meetings in future school years. Sahiti will graduate from Independence High School in 2023.

#### **Olivia Isbell**, Art That Impacts

Girl Scout Troop 5410. Olivia addressed the lack of access to arts education in lower resourced communities. Knowing that children develop imagination and creativity through art, Olivia partnered with Brother Bill's Helping Hand to host an art camp for children in kindergarten through second grade. With support from her volunteers, Olivia planned a three-day art camp for approximately 25 kids. Activities included watercolor painting, paper crafts, and drawing. She also coordinated a backpack drive for all camp attendees to have a new backpack for the upcoming school year. Olivia provided additional supplies and instructional videos for the kids to continue their new love of art. Olivia will graduate from Ursuline Academy of Dallas in 2024.

#### Melissa Jacob, Community Disaster Emergency Preparedness

Girl Scout Troop 340. Melissa's project educated members within the Kemp and Mabank communities on how to respond if confronted with a natural or man-made disaster. With support from her volunteers, Melissa assembled and distributed disaster preparedness kits to various community partners, including a senior citizen center, an animal shelter, and a homeless shelter. In addition to the kits, Melissa presented her learnings to community groups explaining what items were needed in an emergency kit and what to do in different types of disasters. Her project will be sustained by the emergency preparedness videos she recorded with recommendations on how to respond to a disaster. Melissa will graduate from Mabank High School in 2025.

#### **Prisha Jain**, *How Well Can You Map the 50 United States*

Girl Scout Troop 6551. Prisha collaborated with Montclair Elementary in Garland to paint a large United States map with highlighted names of the states and capital cities. She and her volunteers then created an interactive game with fun facts for each state, cultural perspectives, economic opportunities, and key landmarks for the students to play. The game provided a way for the students to learn in a non-traditional way about the United States. Teachers at the school will continue using the map and game Prisha made and paint was left with the school for touch-ups as needed. Prisha will graduate from Plano East Senior High School in 2023.

## Jenna Johnston, Making Helmets More Inclusive

Girl Scout Troop 9000. Jenna observed while working as a Tejas Rider that girls with certain hairstyles often had difficulty finding a helmet to fit them properly. Jenna designed a survey and the results from over 70 leaders confirmed this problem. Jenna's project focused on educating girls and parents about this safety issue. She designed a flier with suggested hairstyles suitable for standard helmets. She created an educational website and YouTube video and created awareness at presentations. Jenna also spearheaded a letter writing campaign to helmet companies. The informational flyer she created will be used by GSNETX as part of the camp preparation for caregivers going forward. Jenna will graduate from a home school program in 2023.

#### Michelle Kabugu, Stitch by Stitch, Mind by Mind

Girl Scout Troop 5234. Michelle collaborated with two senior facilities to create fidget blankets. At the first facility, Towne Creek Retirement Housing Foundation, seniors learned how to make fidget blankets to donate to the second facility, Harbor Chase. Michelle and her team taught the seniors why fidget blankets were helpful for dementia and Alzheimer's patients as they made the blankets. The project provided a platform for the Towne Creek retirement seniors to interact and make a difference locally. Michelle left instructions, where to buy supplies, and connected the retirement facility to the care facility for the project to continue. Michelle will graduate from Richland Collegiate High School in 2023.

## **Megha Kalvakota,** Self-Defense and Martial Arts Principals for the Deaf

Girl Scout Troop 2601. Megha's project focused on providing accessibility in the deaf community regarding self-defense and martial arts. While most individuals can see a martial arts demonstration and follow movements to learn new skills, Megha recognized how the deaf community would benefit from having an interpreter present. With support from volunteers, Megha arranged for a martial arts seminar and included an American Sign Language interpreter. The participants learned the technical moves to protect themselves as well as gained confidence and discipline. She recorded additional sessions for community distribution and shared them on the Texas Association of Shotokan Karate website for broader reach. Megha graduated from Plano West Senior High School in 2022.

#### Deeya Kameshetty, Fleece Before Freeze

Troop 8001. Deeya collaborated with the Farmers Branch Adoption Center to provide support to increase adoptions. Working with her volunteers, Deeya created 107 blankets in various sizes and 130 cat and dog toys for the animals at the shelter. Deeya designed two educational pamphlets for first time dog and cat owners to teach them the basics of owning a pet. She coordinated a donation drive to collect much needed items for the shelter. Deeya also filmed a YouTube video with instructions on how to make the pet toys so that shelter volunteers can continue to provide toys for the animals as needed. Deeya will graduate from Heritage High School in 2024.

#### Sahib Kaur, Project Afghan Sikhs

Girl Scout Troop 790. Sahib's project increased community awareness about religious persecution. After recognizing how Sikhs in Afghanistan are suffering under Taliban rule, Sahib decided to take action. She interviewed Afghan Sikhs to gain a greater understanding of their experience. Afterward, Sahib presented her findings to the community and prepared letters for listeners to send to Congress. She also presented her research at a webinar alongside Punjabi University professors. With her efforts, over 150 letters were sent to local legislators, encouraging them to grant refugee status to Afghan Sikhs. Her videos, webinar, and letter writing campaign will sustain her project. Sahib will graduate in 2023 from Imagine International Academy of North Texas.

#### Alhena Kerawala, Flow for Healthwork

Girl Scout Troop 181. Alhena founded a HOSA Chapter at her high school. HOSA is a student-led organization that promotes careers opportunities in healthcare. To spark interest in healthcare at a young age, Alhena worked with three club officers she recruited to plan meetings, seek club members, and amass volunteers for various projects. Under Alhena's leadership, HOSA volunteers supported multiple blood drives and a bone marrow research project, coordinated first aid and CPR certifications, and hosted a service project for healthcare workers. The HOSA chapter will continue using the by-laws and procedures Alhena put in place going forward. Alhena will graduate from John Paul II High School in 2023.

### Sienna Lawson, Community Games Space at Evergreen at Arbor Hills

Girl Scout Troop 3310. As a frequent volunteer at Evergreen at Arbor Hills retirement community, Sienna noticed the communal game room and the outdoor activity areas needed to be refreshed and made more welcoming. With support from volunteers, Sienna repainted the game room, including adding an art exhibit and interactive wall games. She restocked the area with all new games for the residents to use. She also created an outdoor game area to encourage the residents to engage in additional physical activity in an outdoor setting. She then held a reveal party to introduce the new areas and encourage more socializing. Sienna graduated from a homeschooling program in 2022.

### Sophia Lohr, Checkmate!

Girl Scout Troop 4696. Learning that the high school that she was about to enter did not have a scholastic chess club, Sophia set the goal of creating one. Sophia worked to get the club approved, found a sponsor, coach, and promoted the new club throughout the school and on social media. The after-school club was started giving the students a way to improve their confidence, memory, and academic performance, think strategically and enjoy competing as a team all by playing chess. The club has also reached out to other schools to plan tournaments to grow the program. The club will continue using the constitution, by-laws and officer roles designed by Sophia and her team. Sophia will graduate from Guyer High School in 2024.

#### Sumehra Mahmud, Reinvent Yourself

Girl Scout Troop 968. Sumehra's project supported girls in their tweens and early teenage years by encouraging them to live a healthy lifestyle. Recognizing how young girls may face academic, social, and mental challenges, Sumehra and her volunteers led a two-week workshop to help instill the girls with a renewed sense of confidence, self-esteem, and positive outlook. To augment her workshops, Sumehra incorporated guest speakers, including a fitness trainer, licensed therapist, cardiologist, and yoga instructor into her curriculum. The girls gained new life skills to relieve stress, eat healthy, and build positive relationships. Her informational brochure and YouTube video will continue her program. Sumehra will graduate from Plano West Senior High School in 2025.

#### Anika Mathur, Substance Abuse in Teenagers

Girl Scout Troop 2607. Anika's project increased youth awareness about alcohol and drug abuse. Intending to educate teenagers on the perils of drug and alcohol addiction, Anika partnered with Boys & Girls Clubs to share information on this topic. With support from volunteers, Anika presented to approximately 50 teenagers at various Boys & Girls Clubs in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex about the effects of substance abuse and addiction. She covered substance abuse, outlined the dangers, causes and effects of addiction, and talked about making smart life choices. Anika created an informational pamphlet and recorded her presentations to share with Boys & Girls Clubs for future use. Anika will graduate from Centennial High School in 2023.

#### Celena McFarland, Everyday Enrichment Education

Girl Scout Troop 1319. Celena's goal was to improve the lives of animals at the Caldwell Zoo in Tyler, Texas, while limiting landfill waste. After researching the benefits of animal enrichments and how they can be made from decommissioned fire hoses, Celena worked with the Smith County Fire Department to create an ungulate-shaped four hoofed animal fire hose enrichment toy for the lions. The toy gives the lions active stimulation like being in their natural habitat. Instructions on how to use decommissioned firehoses to make animal enrichment toys have been shared on social media and with other fire departments and local zoos to replicate this project. Celena graduated from Van High School in 2022.

#### **Colleen McKenzie**, Fast Fashion

Girl Scout Troop 3796. Colleen's project addressed the environmental effects of fast fashion by educating community members about its impact. In learning the fashion industry generates a significant amount of pollution and waste, Colleen was inspired to create awareness about this issue with peers. She presented to over 10 different groups and created YouTube videos on this topic for global reach and to continue her educational outreach. To augment her project, Colleen also collected 400 articles of clothing to donate. Her goal was to inspire others to reduce their environmental impact by purchasing modestly and recycling clothing to mitigate clothing waste going into landfills. Colleen will graduate from Plano West Senior High School in 2024.

#### Zeeya Merchant, Operation Code

Girl Scout Troop 181. Zeeya's project educated children about coding. Recognizing how coding is becoming an increasingly valuable skill, Zeeya introduced first through fifth-grade students to Python and its application in the world. With assistance from volunteers, Zeeya coordinated a two-week coding day camp at Rock Hill High School summer camp. The children participated in hands-on activities like making a binary name bracelet and sequencing using a maze. In addition, Zeeya sent a newsletter to the parents to keep them informed about what the kids were learning. She also created a website and a binder to share with the school to host similar camps in future years. Zeeya will graduate from Rock Hill High School in 2024.

### **Rebecca Myers,** *Improvement of Artistic and Outdoor Activities for AFIL DFW Residents*

Girl Scout Troop 3905. Rebecca's project provided recreational activities to individuals diagnosed with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Rebecca partnered with the Association for Independent Living (AFIL) to augment the organization's art room and outside activity space. With her volunteers' support, Rebecca constructed outdoor games and a storage box to house all activities. Rebecca also reorganized the art room, installed a whiteboard, built a bookshelf, and led a rock painting workshop with residents. Her project will be sustained by the activity binders she created with ideas and instructions for future art projects the organization will lead. Rebecca graduated from Hebron High School in 2022.

### Anna Norris, Nice Place for a Safe Space

Girl Scout Troop 259. Anna's project benefited children at the Boys & Girls Club of Frisco. Anna remodeled multiple rooms and augmented supplies within the facility to create a safe space for the over 400 youth who attend the club. Along with volunteers, Anna collected hundreds of books to improve their literacy program, provided 18 iPads with games, and organized the art room. She also orchestrated carpet and electrical installations, furniture donations, new lighting, fresh paint, and facility cleaning. Anna gave the Boys & Girls Club a guidebook with instructions to make any future modifications or updates as needed. Anna will graduate from Plano West Senior High School in 2023.

#### Erin Paul, Crocheting Hats of Joy

Girl Scout Troop 4623. Erin's project addressed the lack of necessary hospitality and emotional support that terminally ill children receive, especially in third world countries. After visiting Solace Charities, an organization in India that supports children with long-term illnesses, Erin noticed many children covered their heads with ill-fitting scarves to hide the effects of chemotherapy. With support from volunteers at many workshops, over 150 hats were crocheted for terminally ill children. She talked to school clubs, seniors, and others in the community about childhood cancer at each workshop. She also created a YouTube video showing how to make crochet hats and left how-to manuals at Solace facilities to continue the project. Erin will graduate from Hebron High School in 2023.

## **Shriya Peddapuram,** *Educating Mothers on Pregnancy Health in Developing Countries*

Girl Scout Troop 187. Shriya's project supported soon-to-be mothers by educating them on healthy eating habits. Partnering with the Tejas Hospital in India, Shriya and her volunteers created a software app in 3 languages for expecting mothers with personalized food recommendations to follow. The app helps doctors advise expecting mothers on diets designed to increase certain vitamin levels based on each person's individual health history. Additionally, Shriya traveled to India to implement the software and teach the hospital staff how to modify and maintain the app as needed. Shriya will graduate from Independence High School in 2023.

#### Audrey Pierce, Sensory Walk

Girl Scout Troop 5443. Audrey's project supported preschoolers at the Vogel Alcove learning center. Vogel Alcove provides services for children and families experiencing homelessness in Dallas. After learning about the benefits sensory tools can provide children who have experienced trauma, Audrey helped children engage in different feelings through their sense of touch. With her volunteers, Audrey built a sensory walk from various materials, including pipes, rocks, rope, wood, and turf. The new walk encourages the students to be outside and clear their heads before returning to the classroom. The teachers have incorporated the sensory walk into their lessons and will continue its use. Audrey will graduate from Ursuline Academy of Dallas in 2025.

#### Adithi Rallapalli, Working With Water

Girl Scout Troop 3828. Adithi's project increased youth awareness about swimming and water safety. After learning 4,000 youth drown in the United States annually, Adithi and her volunteers led swim education sessions at over 20 Dallas Recreation Centers to combat this issue. Adithi educated nearly 600 youth through her efforts and provided informational pamphlets to 1000 additional community members. She used presentations, videos, and activities to promote interactive learning. Discussion topics included recognizing a safe swimming environment, leveraging equipment to promote safe swimming, what to do in case of drowning, and saving distressed swimmers. Adithi provided her curriculum to Dallas Aquatics to continue her program. Adithi will graduate from Plano West Senior High School in 2023.

#### Shreya Rastogi, Mental Health Matters

Girl Scout Juliette. Shreya's project focused on raising mental health awareness and providing teenagers with tools to improve their mental health on their own. Recognizing the stress and anxiety that teenagers are feeling, she and her volunteers educated nearly 200 teenagers in her community by presenting mental health seminars. The seminars covered the signs of mental health issues, how to approach others that exhibit those signs, how people can better their mental health, and instructions to make fidget toys. The seminars also included information on lifestyle options and exercises to relax. The Girls Up club will use her website and presentation materials to continue her project annually. Shreya will graduate from Coppell High School in 2024.

#### Sarah Rios, Cheer for All

Girl Scout Troop 2445. Sarah took her passion for cheerleading and planned and implemented a cheer camp. Inspired by a Best Buddies conference she attended, she made sure that the camp was set in a non-judgmental environment for anyone to try a new sport or activity. Sarah and her volunteers worked to develop a cheer routine that could be taught to interested youth of all abilities. The participants gained skills, learning in a supportive and upbeat environment, and showed new self-confidence as they performed in front of an audience. The cheer camp will become an annual tradition for the high school cheer squad using materials Sarah provided. Sarah will graduate from Bishop Lynch High School is 2023.

#### Caroline Rippel, Music Wall at Vogel Alcove

Girl Scout Troop 5443. Caroline's project supported Vogel Alcove, an organization that provides services for children and families experiencing homelessness in Dallas. Together with her volunteers, Caroline created a music wall for children to explore their creativity and musical ability in a safe environment. By having access to the music wall, the children at Vogel Alcove will gain the opportunity to discover a new passion for music. In addition to the music wall, Caroline also provided documentation on how to create her project and shared extra instruments with the organization for future use. Caroline will graduate from Ursuline Academy of Dallas in 2025.

#### **Rylee Risdon**, *Grow Your Senses*

Girl Scout Troop 4023. Rylee collaborated with Evers Park Elementary school to reclaim an overgrown area of raised beds and create a sensory garden. The focus of the garden was to provide an outdoor classroom for students to explore and experience new mediums. The garden was designed as a quiet area for special needs children to calm down, for younger students to learn about their senses, including sight, touch, and smell through plants, and for older students to learn about how to plant and care for a garden. Rylee also furnished lesson plans for the teachers to facilitate classroom and outdoor learning. Rylee will graduate from Denton High School in 2023.

### Abby Rogers, Steps in the Right Direction

Girl Scout Troop 2445. Abby collaborated with Buckner Shoes for Orphan Souls to create awareness about the need for shoes for youth and adults. Locally and around the world, many individuals cannot work or go to school because they do not own shoes. Abby spread the word using flyers, social media, and presentations at her school and in her neighborhood. Her efforts yielded almost 250 pairs of shoes. She and her team built and decorated a box designed to resemble a large shoe box to use for the donations. The box is mobile and will be used by Buckner as a drive through drop off donation site. Abby will graduate from Bishop Lynch High School in 2023.

#### Baani Sandhu, Mental Health Education Social Media Videos

Girl Scout Troop 4643. Realizing how some teens may not know where to turn for mental health support, Baani educated local youth about available resources. With volunteers' support, Baani created social media videos for the Grant Halliburton Foundation that highlight information on body dysmorphia, depression, OCD, and other topics. The videos encourage teens to seek help and provide additional resource information which Grant Halliburton will use in local school presentations in the metroplex. Baani's videos have been placed on the Grant Halliburton Foundation's website and her classmates will continue curating mental health TikToks to add more content. Baani will graduate from The Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science in 2023.

#### Ananya Sankaran, Talk to the Hand

Girl Scout Juliette. Ananya's project brought attention to the lack of American Sign Language education being offered at Heritage High School. Her goal was to encourage the school administration to consider ASL as an official class offering. Aiming toward this goal, she and her volunteers created an ASL club where members learned basic ASL skills including ground-level phrases, the alphabet, numbers, words, and fingerspelling. They also gained knowledge of deaf culture from Collin College faculty and the Deaf Action Center staff. The club additionally provided school supplies for the first annual DAC back to school bash. The steering committee Ananya put in place will maintain the club going forward. Ananya will graduate from Frisco Heritage High School in 2024.

#### **Rabiya Sayeed,** *Raising Awareness About Physical Health Opportunities for Refugees in DFW*

Girl Scout Troop 3326. Rabiya's project educated refugees in Dallas about healthcare opportunities. Appreciating how a language barrier may deter individuals from seeking health care, Rabiya partnered with the ICNA Relief Clinic to educate its patient community. Rabiya worked with volunteer translators to script, record, and edit videos in English, Spanish, and Arabic. The videos covered topics such as locations of free healthcare, contact information, and the application process. She presented her findings to the ICNA Relief volunteer team to share the resources with the clinic's patients. Her videos have been posted to YouTube and the ICNA Relief website. Rabiya will graduate from Brighter Horizons Academy in 2023.

#### Emaan Shah, Resource Center for Refugees

Girl Scout Troop 647. Emaan's project supported refugees who have recently arrived in the United States. Working with ICNA Relief, a Muslim non-profit organization focusing on self-development, education, outreach, and social services, she created an online registry, organized donations, and then set up a new resource center at ICNA Relief's office. She and her volunteers assembled all the furniture, desks, and other materials that were included to make the room usable. The new resource center, designed to cater to case management, educational classes, and refugee and supportive services, will be an invaluable asset for ICNA Relief to continue to serve their clients. Emaan will graduate from Richardson High School in 2025.

### Simali Shah, Fold for Hope

Girl Scout Troop 4643. Simali's project was twofold. She located a homeless shelter, Mosaic, and with a team, worked with children teaching them origami to decorate a Christmas tree. The tree was then adopted by a company to provide resources to build a water well in a needed area. The children learned a calming skill, folding origami into ornaments, but also had the opportunity to make a difference by creating something that supported a world need, the water well. She created a club at her school, working with Paper for Water, to continue the project annually. Simali will graduate from Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science at University of North Texas in 2023.

#### Misha Shariff, Decoding Careers

Girl Scout Troop 968. Misha's project aimed to inspire and educate youth about diverse career opportunities. Upon realizing that many of her peers were unsure about their future career paths, Misha took the initiative to help them by conducting interviews with various community members from different professional backgrounds. She interviewed a pilot, a life coach, a chef, a nutritionist, a nurse, a lawyer, and an entrepreneur. Each person described a typical day in their profession and the fundamentals of their job. Misha, with the assistance of her volunteers, then edited and posted the videos of her interviews on Frisco Masjid's YouTube channel for ongoing community-wide distribution. Misha will graduate from Independence High School in 2025.

#### Kaaviya Shenbaharaman, "Mobile" Pre-K Kits for Homeless Shelters

Girl Scout Troop 8861. Kaaviya worked with several homeless shelters to provide bi-lingual educational materials for pre-K students using their shelters' services. Kaaviya and her volunteers created "mobile" pre-school kits, adhering to TEKS standards, with flashcards, worksheets, and hands-on activities, all in a reusable format. The kits contained instructions for both the children and families, as well as facility staff on how to use the resources. Information on federal programs open to pre-K children was also included for parents to consider. Each shelter has links to her materials and syllabus to restock the kits as needed. Kaaviya will graduate from Plano West Senior High School in 2024.

#### Rachel Shepard, Seizure Awareness

Girl Scout Troop 3961. Rachel's project raised awareness about seizures. Drawing from her personal experience, she shared her story to help others recognize seizure symptoms and how to take-action if needed. She and her volunteers created the first student-led initiative in Lewisville ISD to support seizure awareness by designing and hanging posters in November for seizure awareness month. Rachel published a book titled "My Seizures Don't Define Me" which is available on Amazon, as well as the Carrollton and LISD libraries. Additionally, Rachel made over 100 purple blankets to distribute to patients at Medical City Health Systems. The awareness will continue through the posters, book, and social media accounts she created. Rachel will graduate from Hebron High School in 2023.

#### Nikita Shori, Introduction Safety with Newly Adopted Pets

Girl Scout Troop 4632. Nikita focused on educating families of newly adopted pets on the proper way to assimilate their pet into their new surroundings. Working with the City of Coppell Animal Services, she created three educational brochures, covering safe and efficient dog and cat care and how to facilitate safe family pet introductions. Nikita hosted workshops and set up a booth at Coppell's Market to educate the public, giving presentations and distributing her brochures. She and her volunteers also made 200 dog toys and coordinated a donation drive for the shelter. Her brochures will continue to go home with newly adopted pets. Nikita will graduate from Coppell High School in 2023.

#### **Abby Short**, *Longview Glass Recycling Program*

Girl Scout Troop 1015. Abby's project fulfilled the critical need to expand and increase the availability and convenience of glass recycling containers for the citizens of Longview. Partnering with the city and Longview Mall management, Abby designed a centrally located permanent station at the mall with six new secured bins for easy glass recycling drop offs. Abby led a team of volunteers to cut, sand, and assemble the new bins and created a comprehensive educational video about glass recycling and its importance. She created awareness about the new recycling program and educated her community using presentations, social media, and city websites. Abby graduated from Pine Tree High School in 2022.

# Jessica Silverberg, Building a Welcome Garden

Girl Scout Troop 1230. Jessica collaborated with Temple Beth Shalom to create a welcoming garden space for visitors and members of the congregation. Jessica's goal was to create an organic garden using native Texas plants that would be drought resistant and would also attract bee and butterfly pollinators. She and her volunteers cleared away weeds and debris and then prepared the area with fresh soil and compost. A wide variety of Texas plants and decorative rocks were added. Jessica delivered an educational presentation for Sunday school classes to teach children about organic gardening and then had the children add more decorative rocks to the garden. Jessica will graduate from Grand Prairie Fine Arts Academy in 2023.

### Elisabeth Smith, Gaga Ball Pit

Girl Scout Troop 4687. Elisabeth's project created a gathering space for church members within the Rejoice Lutheran Youth Group. The youth group members have always enjoyed playing gaga ball but have historically used collapsible tables to build a makeshift gaga ball pit. Recognizing a need for a permanent structure, Elisabeth and her volunteers built a gaga ball pit to help bring the youth group closer together. She also provided an instruction book with the gaga ball game rules. Her project culminated in a community wide gaga ball tournament. The congregation will maintain the gaga ball pit as needed going forward. Elisabeth will graduate from Rock Hill High School in 2023.

### Anushka Sridhar, Sparks – Smart PARKinson's Strap

Girl Scout Juliette. Anuska collaborated with the Dallas Area Parkinson Society and FrontEnders Foundation to educate about vibration therapy. This therapy is a new approach to Parkinson's disease, which does not currently have a cure. She researched and designed a non-invasive vibration strap for Parkinson patients to use to mitigate physical tremor hand symptoms. Anushka and her team then built 25 straps to be donated to patients and monitored for results. She also wrote a tutorial brochure about the benefits of this therapy and how to build and maintain the strap. The results from the test group were successful and Anushka published a paper and has applied for a patent for this device. Anushka will graduate from Plano East Senior High School in 2024.

# **AnneMarie Stammreich**, *Break the Silence*

Girl Scout Troop 403. AnnMarie educated her community on human trafficking and ways to mitigate future trafficking occurrences. AnneMarie and her volunteers created an awareness campaign to help combat this worldwide crime. She designed stickers and flyers and then reached out to community businesses to share this information. Each business received a package of information about the issue and stickers to put up sharing the National Trafficking Hotline. Keeping the issue in the forefront has the most promise to make a difference. In addition to her campaign materials, her project will be sustained by her website and social media pages that provide information about mitigating human trafficking. AnnMarie graduated from Wakeland High School in 2022.

# **Lillianne Stanford**, *Preventing Skin Cancer in Teenagers Through Education and Awareness*

Girl Scout Juliette. Lillianne's project educated the community about sun exposure, tanning beds, and UV rays. Since one in five Americans develop skin cancer in their lifetime, Lillianne wanted to lower the statistic by partnering with Dallas Lutheran School's health classes. She and her volunteers designed a curriculum and video covering how to stay safe in the sun, when to wear sunscreen, and tanning bed dangers. She also raised awareness of this issue at a local Fourth of July parade and handed out sunscreen. Dallas Lutheran School has incorporated Lillianne's video into its curriculum for viewing on a biannual basis. Lillianne graduated from Dallas Lutheran School in 2022.

#### Sydnee Stephens, Labeling For Success Without Stress

Girl Scout Troop 2244. Sydnee partnered with the Cedar Hill High School Culinary Department to help cooking classes run more smoothly. Understanding the frustration culinary students experience when items are out of place, Sydnee created an organizational plan for the school's kitchen. With support from volunteers, she cleaned and organized the pantry, cooler, freezer, and racks. She also made labels to indicate where items should be returned to after each use and maps with placement guides. The newly organized kitchen will streamline future classes, as students and staff can quickly locate needed items and know where they belong after use. Sydnee graduated from Cedar Hill High School in 2022.

### Medha Sundar Rajan, Achieve and Receive

Girl Scout Troop 4643. Medha's project focused on Bhutanese refugee children in Dallas. Her objective was to help them achieve their educational goals using a partnership with SEWA International, a Hindu faith-based nonprofit. After learning the SEWA Dallas Chapter needed a website to showcase its scholarships to local students, Medha and her volunteers designed, coded, and tested a custom-built website. To create the scholarship website, Medha learned to code in PHP, CSS, HTML, AJAX, SQL, and Javascript. The SEWA Youth Group will maintain and continue developing Medha's platform to support future students pursuing scholarships and educational opportunities. Medha will graduate from Uplift North Hills Preparatory in 2023.



Girl Scout Troop 4643. Meenakshi's project helped Bhutanese refugee children in Dallas improve their educational status. After learning that many children in the SEWA International community sought tutoring and that many individuals were willing to tutor, Meenakshi developed an efficient structure to connect students to tutors. With volunteers she recruited for their expertise, Meenakshi designed and coded a website for students and tutors to be matched. Trial versions were run to ensure the website paired the students and tutors easily. Offerings included math, writing, reading, and SAT preparation support. The website will continue to be further designed with the goal of becoming part of the Dallas SEWA website. Meenakshi will graduate from Uplift North Hills Preparatory in 2023.

#### Natalie Tan, Teaching Others to Succeed

Girl Scout Troop 3796. Natalie's project connected less resourced students to tutoring opportunities. Knowing many students struggled academically amidst online classes during COVID, Natalie created a club at her school, Teaching Others to Succeed. Pairing over 60 Plano East Senior High volunteers and elementary and middle school students, Natalie provided 1:1 virtual tutoring to 40 students in math, reading, writing, STAAR testing, science, and history. The program gave the high school students service hours and the opportunity to hone their leadership skills and the younger students improved their focus and grades. The club will continue going forward and possibly expand to other Plano ISD schools. Natalie will graduate from Plano East Senior High School in 2024.

#### Sriya Tellakula, Hands On Healing

Girl Scout Troop 2607. Sriya's project supported children in the hospital by providing them with activities to express their feelings through music. Identifying that music therapy can offer an emotional outlet and support those navigating challenging times, Sriya and her volunteers created a music therapy program for children at the Children's Medical Center of Plano. Her activities included a music-themed word search, an exercise to keep the beat of the music, and a listening activity to promote relaxation and reflection. She used a public platform called Nearpod to promote global reach and give the hospital continuing access to her materials. Sriya will graduate from Plano West Senior School in 2023.

# Arden Twiss, Outdoor Eating and Program Area PLUS!

Girl Scout Troop 1485. Arden's project benefited community members at the Re-Creation Outreach Center (ROC), a community center in West Garland. After learning the ROC needed an outdoor eating space to accommodate COVID-19 protocols, Arden and her volunteers sourced, painted and placed ten picnic tables. Afterward, she took her efforts inside by providing a fresh coat of paint for a 75-foot hallway and painting a mural. Arden's goal was to provide a welcoming environment for ROC patrons coming to the facility for needed resources. The ROC will maintain the updated areas. Arden graduated from Berkner High School in 2022.

#### Sahithi Uppalapati, Chem-a-holic!

Girl Scout Troop 4643. Sahithi's project addressed the continuing gender disparity in STEM fields by planning and implementing a workshop for middle school girls to learn about different STEM careers and opportunities. Using make-up as a springboard, she and her volunteers created activities that explained the science behind beauty products. Girls made bath bombs and lip balms involving chemical reactions and learned about skills needed to be a scientist. The workshop was meant to encourage girls to consider STEM as they selected classes in the future. All information needed to replicate the workshop was left with Seeds2Stems for the future. Sahithi will graduate from the Texas Academy of Math and Science in 2023.

### Leela Vegesna, QR for Canines

Girl Scout Troop 6551. Leela partnered with the Murphy Road and the Allen Animal Shelters to provide education and services to these facilities. Leela researched and developed a comprehensive website on canine care, with information on food, toys, training, health care, and community resources. She worked with volunteers to design and build an outdoor obstacle course for the Allen Animal Shelter to provide agility exercise to shelter dogs. Leela also led participants in toy making workshops, creating 100 toys for the shelters and coordinated a donation drive. Her website and the obstacle course will be used by the shelters into the future. Leela will graduate from Plano East High School in 2023.

#### Suma Vegesna, Mental Health in Adolescents Post COVID-19

Girl Scout Troop 2607. Suma's project helped teenagers who exhibited signs of stress heightened by normal childhood anxiety. Suma partnered with the local Boys & Girls Club and Plano Children's Hospital to support 80 kids. At the Boys & Girls Club, Suma and her volunteers conducted art therapy sessions and coordinated a presentation with a licensed therapist. Suma, her volunteers, and the Plano Art Therapy Association also created 40 kits with toys and coloring books for children with behavioral health concerns at Plano Children's Hospital. Her materials will be used to replicate more items as needed. Suma will graduate from Plano West Senior High in 2023.

# **Imara Vidhani**, Sensory Walkway for Special Abilities of North Texas

Girl Scout Troop 4930. Imara designed and with her team built a sensory walkway for the Special Abilities of North Texas, an agency that supports adults with special needs. Imara wanted to support special needs adults like her own older brother. The walkway provided opportunities for the participants to hone balance, fine and gross motor skills, mobility, visual, and hearing skills as they used it. It also helped to stimulate cognitive development through problem solving and decision making. The facility will maintain the walkway, replacing stones or other materials as needed. Imara will graduate from Hebron High School in 2025.

#### Aleeza Virani, Mental Wellness Club

Girl Scout Troop 181. Aleeza's project supported her peers at Carroll Senior High School. Recognizing how high school students may struggle with mental health, Aleeza formed a Mental Wellness Club to discuss mental health issues and social stigma surrounding them. At club meetings, she and her volunteers addressed mental health issues and led club dialogue on ways to handle stress. This dialogue helped to reduce the stigma around mental health and gave the club members higher comfort levels as they navigated conversations and school stresses with their peers and family. The club will continue meeting using her guidelines and mentorship. Aleeza will graduate from Carroll Senior High School in 2024.

# Shreya Vishwanath, Kits for Kids

Girl Scout Juliette. Shreya's project provided relief to patients at Children's Medical Center. Many volunteer programming efforts for youth, such as arts-and-crafts and story time, were suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic leaving the patients bored and stressed. With the help of volunteers, Shreya created activity kits to improve the patients' mental health in the hospital. The kits included activity books, fun socks, and a bag to personalize. She founded a club at her school to sustain her project by providing a steady volunteer base to create additional activity kits. Shreya will graduate from Highland Park High School in 2023.

# Kendall Washington, Elderly Declutter Best

Girl Scout Troop 2922. Kendall's project focused on working with the elderly on decluttering and organizing their homes. She and her volunteers assisted those who needed to prepare their homes for sale or for moving to a new location. A survey was completed by the homeowner and then the team organized what was to stay and what was to be thrown out or donated. The team then cleaned portions of the home as needed. Kendall also made a pamphlet for the homeowner with suggestions on how to stay organized and how to dispose of expired food and medicine. Kendall will graduate from Bishop Dunne High School s in 2023.

# Sarah Whaley, Hanging with Melissa United Methodist Church

Girl Scout Troop 3968. Sarah's project created additional opportunities for community members to connect during COVID-19. After learning that Melissa United Methodist Church would benefit from a new youth gathering space to accommodate social distancing, Sarah took action. With help from volunteers, Sarah designed and installed a hammock village to hold small group meetings. She also weeded and mulched the area to create a welcoming environment and encourage being outdoors. The church will maintain the area that will continue to provide a place to relax, worship and connect with nature. Sarah graduated from Little Elm High School in 2022.

## **Erica White**, *"Growing" Something Bigger Together*

Girl Scout Troop 3796. Erica's project educated local youth on the importance of sustainability and the ecosystem by creating a sensory garden at the St. Andrew Methodist Church to promote environmental education. She and her volunteers turned recycled tires into painted flowerpots filled with flowers, built vegetable garden beds, constructed two music walls and benches, and installed a rain barrel. She developed a curriculum where the children learned how to maintain various vegetables and plants, adapt to seasonal weather changes, and use their senses of different textures, smells, and tastes. The students and the church will maintain the area and continue the curriculum program annually. Erica will graduate from Plano West Senior High School in 2024.

#### Sarah Williams, Hands-only CPR in the Community

Girl Scout Troop 8725. Sarah's project educated the Garland community on the importance of hands-only CPR. After learning that 90% of the 300,000 cardiac arrests in the United States are fatal, Sarah partnered with American Heart Association and the Garland Fire Department to provide hands-only CPR awareness. With her volunteers, Sarah created CPR SWAPS, personal first aid kits, informational videos, and children's games that she distributed. She presented her materials to many different aged groups, hoping to inspire more people to become CPR certified. Her materials will continue to be used in her Garland community going forward. Sarah graduated from Richardson High School in 2022.

# Anna Winslow, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas

Girl Scout Troop 2445. Anna designed a project to encourage youth literacy at the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Dallas. Anna and her volunteers planned and constructed a book nook with games and donated books. The area was painted and rearranged to make room for the new bookshelves, which were built and bolted to the wall. Next, the area was decorated with bean bag chairs, a rug, and hand-painted art. Once the space was completed, Anna hosted several book club sessions for the kids. The Boys & Girls Clubs will maintain the area using instructions Anna provided. Anna will graduate from Woodrow Wilson High School in 2023.

# Jenna Young, Dynamic Doodles

Girl Scout Troop 7204. Jenna's project aided school-aged children in La Mosquitia, Honduras. Jenna partnered with Send Hope, a nonprofit that sends aid to La Mosquitia, to augment its care package donation program with educational and hygiene items. Jenna and her volunteers collected over 1000 needed school supplies and hygiene products. She also created over 100 educational bilingual activity workbooks and craft bags for the children. The workbooks will be used to welcome the children back to school in the fall and foster a positive learning environment. The Allen High School Key Club will maintain her project by continuing to create kits for the children in La Mosquitia. Jenna graduated from Allen High School in 2022.

# Savannah Zasa, Holiday Blankets for Children's Hospital

Girl Scout Troop 7718. Savannah's project helped to brighten the spirits of hospitalized children and their families during the holiday season. Savannah had been hospitalized during the holidays as an infant, so her family had first-hand knowledge of this situation. Holding workshops to talk about her mission to make this time easier, Savannah with her volunteers, created 105 holiday-themed blankets for the youth at Children's Hospital of Dallas. The blankets had many different themes and had a handwritten message attached. She also made a YouTube video explaining the process to share with the hospital staff and others to carry on her project. Savannah will graduate from Shelton in 2025.

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