

The Girl Scout Quilt

Being in Girl Scouts* is like making a quilt. First, we gather together the cloth – our girls – from different origins and cuts of materials. Some are shy, unimposing – like pale pastels.

Others are dizzy patterns of vibrant color.

We must bind them together, matching their sameness, blending their uniqueness.

The thread of Girl Scouting is strong.

Our own hands must be steady and sure, patiently making each stitch small and even.

Until – finally – the quilt is finished, with a background of the Girl Scout Promise and Law and a thick padding of love and understanding.

And though each patch is different, together they are strong, beautiful and warm;

And the seamstress can be proud.

– Author unknown

*This poem was slightly altered for use in this report. It was originally written to say "Being a Girl Scout leader..."

The Girl Scout Mission

To build girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place.



The Winning Proposition for the Girl Scout Movement

Girl Scouting is a unique girl-only place where a girl finds:

1. **Courage** by exploring new adventures;
2. **Confidence** by discovering her abilities;
3. **Character** by shaping her values;
4. **Connections** by friendships with other girls;

And, where a girl returns those gifts by **making the world a better place**.



2006 Annual Report

Girl Scout Council of Greater Essex and Hudson Counties

Cynthia Lepre Barnes, President

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West Hudson: 653 Kearny Avenue ~ 201-991-2446

GSCGEHC is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit organization.

The Girl Scout Council of Greater Essex and Hudson Counties is a contemporary volunteer-led organization serving over 9,000 girls throughout 37 diverse communities in all of Essex and Hudson Counties, as well as Summit and New Providence in Union County. Key services are provided by over 2,300 adult volunteers who lead nearly 700 troops, along with numerous programs and services to reach all girls. As the most diverse council in New Jersey, and through the support of area funders including six United Ways, GSCGEHC serves nearly 8.5% of all girls age 5-17, with membership representing all races, ethnicities, religions, and socio-economic backgrounds.

Communities Served by GSCGEHC

ESSEX COUNTY

Belleville
Bloomfield
Caldwell
Cedar Grove
East Orange
Essex Fells
Fairfield Township
Glen Ridge
Irvington
Livingston
Maplewood
Millburn

HUDSON COUNTY

Montclair
Newark
North Caldwell
Nutley
Orange
Roseland
Short Hills
South Orange
Verona
West Caldwell
West Orange

UNION COUNTY

Bayonne
East Newark
Guttenberg
Harrison
Hoboken
Jersey City
Kearny
North Bergen
Secaucus
Union City
Weehawken
West New York



Girl Scouts.

GIRL SCOUT COUNCIL
OF GREATER ESSEX AND
HUDSON COUNTIES



Building girls
of courage,
confidence and
character...

...who make the world a better place.

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to provide this report on the 2006 year for the Girl Scout Council of Greater Essex and Hudson Counties.

The fabric of 2006 was woven from both successes and challenges. New community partnerships, continued expansion of programs for girls, several successful large-scale events, substantially increased revenue from special events, and the sale of Camp Kalmia were highlights of the year. Challenges included staff turnover in the membership department, which contributed to a decline in membership. With the strength of our Girl Scout threads, we have used those challenges to strengthen our council, forming new programmatic collaborations and bringing new energy and ways of work to our communities.

Our council is proud to celebrate several milestones:

- Our 9th Annual Juliette Low Golf Outing was successfully completed in partnership with Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council, bringing additional financial success and the beginning of a strong relationship;
- Mad Science, Day of Empowerment, the Newark International Festival, and Salsa, Sabor y Salud were examples of programs that served hundreds of girls with the support of several community agencies – demonstrating the critical value of collaboration;
- Increased numbers of "episodic" volunteers including high school and college students, corporate volunteers and others add to our strong base of troop leaders and other volunteers who make the Girl Scout experience possible;
- The creation of the Camp Kalmia Trust Fund, resulting from the sale of the camp, will provide additional funds for outdoor program for girls for years to come, adding to the financial strength of the council.



Janice C. Lilien

Cynthia L. Barnes

- Our core mission-related activities continued, with strong troops, a variety of alternate pathway opportunities for girls, camping activities, and programs to meet every girl's interests.

As we begin the road to realignment, our Girl Scout quilt will take a new shape, joining with the volunteers and girls from our sister councils. Together we will strengthen Girl Scouting, creating a new council that will combine the best that each of us will bring to the table. We invite you all to join us in the creation of this exciting new design, continuing to build girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Janice C. Lilien Cynthia Barnes



Our girls come from different origins and cuts of materials.

Girls were served through traditional troops, groups, Council and alternate pathway programs.

- Across the council's 37 communities, 9,040 girl members were served by 2,329 volunteers. Girls were served through 685 troops, and a variety of alternate pathway programs.
- "Girls Safe and Strong" continued to serve girls in public housing communities in Jersey City, Hoboken, Union City and Newark. With activities ranging from "Imagine Mars," a NASA-created science curriculum, to "Baby Think It Over" for teens, 339 girls gained new skills that will help them succeed personally and academically.

2006

Friendship is the most common Girl Scout knot.

Girls of all ages enjoy the friendship afforded through girl-togetherness.

• Several "Girl Scout holidays" and popular events brought girls together across the jurisdiction. Newport Mall and Livingston Mall hosted Girl Scout Thinking Day and Birthday celebrations, with over 100 members participating in each, along with shoppers and visitors to the mall. "The Wizard of Oz" was the featured selection at the first Girl Scout Day at the Movies at the Historic Loew's Theatre in Jersey City, and 268 girls and their families saw the film on the "big screen." Scout-a-rama was a day filled with arts, crafts and badgework for 155 girls, and Ovalfest engaged 151 girls in outdoor activities.

• Studio 2B workshops offered girls ages 11-17 the opportunity to explore topics of interest to teens in an informal atmosphere. 61 girls participated in 5 workshops: Parks Matter, Express It, Looking In/Reaching Out, Take Charge, and College 101.

If Girl Scout thread is strong, then volunteers are its fibers.

Volunteers and devoted adults further our Girl Scout mission.

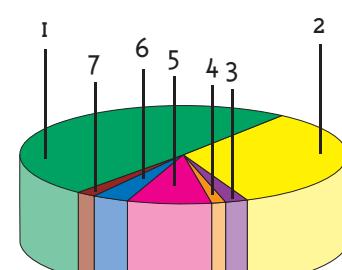
- 1400 volunteers received training in troop leadership, outdoor program, first aid, service team positions, and enrichment topics. Training was delivered in 35 communities by a total of 30 staff and volunteer trainers.
- 50 members of the council's alumni association, the Order of the Evergreen, continued to enjoy a variety of social and service opportunities.
- Troop leaders provide ongoing leadership to girls, serving as role models and informal teachers. Joining them in service to girls were 111 "episodic" volunteers – college students, young professionals, high school students, corporate volunteers, and other men and women who helped the council through program leadership, committees, office assistance, and hands-on work at the council's camps.

Girl Scout Council of Greater Essex and Hudson Counties Annual Report 2006

INCOME

1. Total Donations	1,712,626
2. Total Product Sales	1,156,366
3. United Way Allocations	73,441
4. Council Shop Sales	50,409
5. Camping and Program Fees	290,443
6. Investment Return & Interest Income	120,742
7. Other Income	65,423

3,469,450

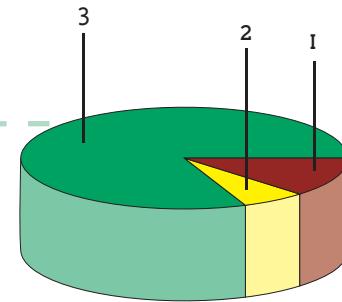


Total Income

EXPENSES

1. Management & General	270,228
2. Fund Raising/PR	134,952
3. Program Services for Girls	1,739,850

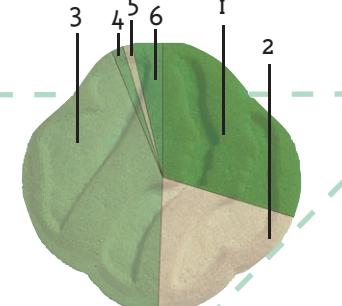
2,145,030



How the Cookie Crumbles

Where Cookie Money Goes

1. Cookie Company	435,887
2. Troop Earnings	302,000
3. Troop Services/Council Programs	635,111
4. Girl Assistance	21,000
5. Property Maintenance	15,000
6. Support Services	50,000



Product Sale Benefits

Girls benefit from our annual cookie program activity and nut/candy sales. They generate funds to support field trips, special projects and other troop activities. Girls also learn valuable skills such as goal setting, teamwork, money management and more.

Council Shop

The shop is not only open during regular business hours and the first Saturday of every month, but remains open prior to some scheduled evening training sessions so that new leaders can purchase handbooks and other Girl Scout materials. The shop is also brought to volunteers once a year when it travels to the Newark and Jersey City Resource Centers for a day.

In preparing this report, every effort has been made to ensure that there are no omissions or other errors.