



Girl Scouts

**Minnesota and Wisconsin
River Valleys**

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Rochester Girl Scouts bring cheer to cancer patients

(St. Paul, Minn.) On average, cancer patients undergoing radiation therapy can receive nearly 30 treatments over six consecutive weeks, which places a tremendous emotional and financial burden on them and their families during what is already a challenging time, according to www.cancer.org. For their holiday community service project, Girl Scout Troop 40777 decided they could help bring some cheer in this poignant situation. The STUDIO 2B Girl Scouts (ages 11 to 17) baked 500 cookies, which they presented to patients and their families staying at the American Cancer Society's Hope Lodge in Rochester, Minn.

Their generosity is just one of the many examples of how members and staff of Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys help live their mission to "make the world a better place" all year long.

A newly merged troop, members each brought their own ideas and skills to the community service project, which served to help others and help the girls get to know each other better.

"I'm proud to see the girls reach out to the community and work together to make a difference in the lives of others," said Barb Erickson, Girl Scout Troop leader.

Frequent doers of good deeds, these Rochester Girl Scouts have made blankets for the Rushford flood victims, collected coats for those in need, sent cookies to soldiers overseas, and much more.

"Volunteering makes me feel good. It's great to be able to bring joy to others," said 12-year-old Girl Scout Becca E.

Likewise, River Valleys' staff is addressing basic needs in the community. They recently collected toiletries, clothing, and food for distribution throughout its jurisdiction: Twin Cities metro area, southern Minnesota, and western Wisconsin.

All items were donated to non-profit organizations whose missions support women, youth, and/or families, including: Bridging for Runaway Youth (Minneapolis, Minn.),

(more)

Where Girls Grow Strong.

Grace Place (Somerset, Wisc.), Harriet Tubman Center (Minneapolis, Minn.), Hope Center (Faribault, Minn.), New Horizons Crisis Centers (Redwood Falls and Marshall, Minn.), and Women's Shelter Inc. (Rochester, Minn.).

Over the last year, River Valleys Girl Scouts have participated in a conservatively estimated 500,000 hours of community service. By engaging in community service projects that help others, Girl Scouts demonstrate the organization's timeless values of courage, confidence, and character.

For more information how Girl Scouts help to make the world a better place, contact the Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys at 651-227-8835 or 800-845-0787, or online at www.girlscoutsrv.org.

About Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys

In partnership with nearly 16,000 adult volunteers, the Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys helps 49,000 girls each year—in all or portions of 49 counties in southern Minnesota and western Wisconsin—to discover new abilities, connect with new friends, and take action to improve their communities. Girl Scouts is the world's preeminent leadership development organization for girls, building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

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Editor's note: Photos and interviews available upon request.