

GIRL SCOUTS

Project earns scout's honor

Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts is proud to announce Burlington Girl Scout Jessica Villalta-Santana received her Girl Scout Gold Award pin at a ceremony at the Holiday Inn & Suites in Marlborough. The event was attended by family, friends and Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts' CEO Ruth N. Bramson and Board President, Peggy Stevens.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award that a Girl Scout can achieve. The Gold Award is something that fulfills a need within a girl's community whether local or global, creates change, and is something that becomes ongoing. The project is more than a good service project—it encompasses organizational, leadership, and networking skills.

Only about 5 percent of all Girl Scouts earn this award each year.

Jessica Villalta-Santana's "Packs for Kids" project gathered and distributed 120 backpacks full of supplies for children in Haiti through her church group. Villalta-Santana worked with members of the National Honor Society to decorate and organize the backpacks. She also worked with children at Kingdom Kidz, the Burlington Public Library and the after school program at Mount Hope School to organize a letter writing portion to the project.

In addition to asking the children to write letters, Villalta-Santana made a poster and presented to the children to bring awareness of the hardships faced by the children and people of Haiti. She also posted videos on YouTube.com, the National Honor Society website and the Patrick Larkin's Principal Blog, to education the public on her project,



Jessica Villalta-Santana recently received the Girl Scout's highest honor. COURTESY PHOTO

by describing the work that still needs to be done to help the survivors of the earthquake. The backpacks were distributed to several orphanages and a school.

In order to bring the project full-circle, Villalta-Santana asked that the Haiti team videotape their experience there to be shared with all who donated and participated in the project. Her hope is that people who view the video on the multiple circuits it was posted will join in the effort to continue the project until there is no longer a need.

