

Danvers Girl Scouts receive Gold Awards

Danvers Girl Scouts Rebecca Kennedy, Lindsay McCallum and Katie Yeaton recently received their Girl Scout Gold Award pins 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.

Rebecca Kennedy's project, Information and Education, aimed at helping the St Joseph's Harvest of Hope Food Pantry in Salem reach new families and the community

by advertising the new location and programs offered. Kennedy worked with volunteers to update brochures and fliers in both English and Spanish showcasing the new program offerings. She also started a lending library and later a book drive to help stock the library continuously so that free books were available to the children of the families who use the food pantry. Kennedy was also able to start two more lending libraries at two local women's shelters. The result of her Gold Award will nourish not only the communities' bellies, but their minds also.

Lindsay McCallum's Gold project, Making an Inn a Home, worked with the Inn Between Shelter in Peabody to create and provide holiday programming for the children and mothers living in the shelter. McCallum created Christmas-themed activities as well as a gift and holiday decoration drive. Later, McCallum collected plastic eggs, art supplies and other materials to put on an Easter egg hunt and an activity day for the children. Before completing her proj-

ect, she worked with the directors at the Inn to allow and incorporate National Honor Society volunteers to conduct projects in the future as well as local Danvers Girl Scout troops.

Katie Yeaton completed her Gold Award with Operation Back-2-School, a project that addressed the needs of children entering the Danvers Public Elementary schools, as well as homeless children living at the Inn Between Family Shelter. Yeaton met with the Danvers' elementary school principals and discussed what supplies were crucial for the children to feel prepared and welcomed as they entered the classrooms. She then ran a Back-2-School drive and asked fellow Girl Scout troops, her high school marching band as well as friends and family for school supplies, such as backpacks, pencils and notebooks. Yeaton also volunteered her time at the Inn Between, where she worked with the staff to create a children's summer program, which consisted of arts and crafts, building a garden, photography and fun water activities.

