

The Magic of Girl Scouts





Dear Friends,

The pursuit of building courage, confidence, and character to make the world a better place requires a special kind of ambition. A kind where one's values align to form a deep, demonstrative commitment to the belief that all girls deserve the opportunity to reach their full potential. Girl Scouts was founded on this belief, and over 110 years later, it remains as important as ever. This is an empowering space for girls unapologetically to be themselves and embrace the magic of Girl Scouts.

In our council of over 30,000 youth and adult members, Girl Scouts engage in opportunities to develop vital life skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, healthy competition, and advocacy. No matter the experience, Girl Scouts in eastern Massachusetts are accepting challenges outside of their comfort zone to reach new heights.

While we made great progress with programs and activities, and membership growth and retention, in early 2022—nearly a year before the media caught wind—our organization was aware of the biggest crisis currently affecting our youth: mental health. We believe strongly in the importance of an all-girl, girl-led, and girl-friendly environment that Girl Scouts provides. Studies have confirmed the value of these safe spaces because they allow girls in crisis to feel comfortable speaking about sensitive issues and they feel less pressure to look or act a certain way. Every Girl Scout can **and should** feel secure knowing that they are joining an organization that will celebrate and foster their own unique identity.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to providing opportunities for Girl Scouts to be their authentic selves, because we know it is not always possible when they engage in activities outside of our organization. Through Girl Scouts, our youth members are introduced to STEM activities, outdoor experiences, transferable life skills, and are stewarded towards a path of entrepreneurship as they become the changemakers of tomorrow.

Thank you for supporting Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts and our action to create inclusion. Through your contributions we are able to support every Girl Scout by encouraging them to expand their knowledge and life experiences, and develop lasting ambitions.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Barbara H. Fortier *Chief Executive Officer*

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Deborah G. Taft Board Chair and President



Barbara H. Fortier *Chief Executive Officer*



Deborah G. Taft Board Chair and President



FRONT COVER TOP PHOTOS © MELISSA OSTROW

GSEMA is the 10th largest Girl Scout council in the USA, and the largest girl-serving organization in Massachusetts.





The Magic of Girl Scouts



Girl Scouts Soar in the Outdoors

Unplugged Adventures of a Lifetime

One of the greatest outcomes of a Girl Scout's outdoor experience, is that it is the ultimate safe space for them to explore healthy risks and to discover themselves. However, we recognize that cost may be the obstacle holding some families back from sending their Girl Scouts on the unplugged adventures of a lifetime. Last June, we welcomed over 200 Girl Scouts to experience the outdoors in true Girl Scout fashion. **Our signature Family Day at Camp (pictured above) and Community Engagement Encampment events are offered at no cost with free transportation to Girl Scouts from under-resourced communities.** Through ropes course challenges, archery, camp fires, s'mores, and sing-alongs, Girl Scouts and their families reveled in the unbridled joy of camp, for many of whom this type of outdoor environment is a rarity.

Girl Scout Program Pillar: Outdoors





At Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts, we are honored to steward and operate **six camp properties across eastern Massachusetts and New Hampshire**. Much of our council imprint provides coverage to urban landscapes, making a true outdoor camp experience all the more special for Girl Scouts.



"As a leader who had nine young adults attend, this was their first camping experience, first high ropes experience, first time building a fire, first time sleeping in a tent, first time sleeping in a sleeping bag so many firsts."

> -Lori Beverage, Community Engagement Encampment attendee



Hard Work Pays Off for Girl Scouts

CEO for the Day: Our Top Cookie Entrepreneur

The Girl Scout Cookie Program is a crucial part of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. When Girl Scouts participate in this time-honored tradition, they gain confidence, feel more connected to their community, and learn essential money management skills. **Girl Scout Ambassador April DeCastro from Lowell took these values to new heights when she sold \$26,000+ worth of cookies in a single cookie season.** April received several rewards as congratulatory tokens of her success, most notably her GSEMA takeover as CEO (pictured above). She had the opportunity to share some of her cookie-selling knowledge as she spoke with Barbara Fortier and went on a private tour of Camp Cedar Hill.

Entrepreneurship for Every Season

The Girl Scout Cookie Program isn't the only way that Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts can flex their entrepreneurial muscles! Starting in August of every year, interested Girl Scouts have the opportunity to participate in the Fall Product Program, where they can sell nuts, candy, and magazine subscriptions to fundraise for troop activities. **This year, 3,129 Girl Scouts participated in the Fall Product program, and troops earned a total of \$149,460.94 in proceeds.**



For the third time, Girl Scout Cadette Quintess Stokes-Scarlett from Nantucket was our Top Fall Product Entrepreneur. In 2022 she sold a remarkable 431 products, earning \$571.65 for her troop!

In 2022 customers purchased \$32,796 worth of fall product to donate to the Greater Boston Food Bank!



In 2021-2022, Girl Scouts in eastern Massachusetts sold

2,042,213 cookie packages earning an average of

\$1,052 for their troop to fund activities.

To celebrate their cookie selling success, Troop 62394 from Franklin went to MetroRock Gym for an overnight. The girls enjoyed rock climbing, a high ropes course, and movie-time on a big screen.



Girl Scouts Breaks Down Barriers

Hands-on STEM Opportunties

Early introduction to STEM is crucial for the development of our Girl Scouts as we aim to break down gender stereotypes perpetuated in science, technology, engineering, and math careers. We remain committed to the development of new, exciting STEM programming for all ages of Girl Scouts. It is through these activities that Girl Scouts are able to interact and engage in STEM in ways that are fun, approachable, and stimulate creativity.

Pictured above: Teen Girl Scouts work through solving a crime with an FBI evidence response team at our annual Career Academy. This program series introduces teens to careers in fields typically dominated by men, such as forensic science.



On April 30, 2022 we celebrated our 10th annual STEM Conference, and for the first time, welcomed our youngest members, Daisies and Brownies, to the event. Hundreds of Girl Scouts and over 30 local partners took over over Camp Cedar Hill for an exciting day of workshops and activities.





Girl Scouts Fosters Independence

California Dreamin'

When Girl Scouts travel, they are exposed to new cultural experiences and engage in important decision making with a sense of agency. Planning their own travel adventure helps them build courage, confidence, and lifelong skills like organization, time management, and how to work as a team to succeed when things don't go as planned. **In April 2022, Girl Scout Troop 66292 from Littleton flew across the country to complete a week-long adventure to southern California** (**pictured above**). Often splitting into two patrols to complete different activities of interest before coming together as a full group, these Girl Scouts had the opportunity to create their own path. From visiting Griffith Park and the Observatory, to strolling around Warner Bros. studios, to hiking in Joshua Tree National Park and the Santa Monica Mountains—these Girl Scouts learned skills that will last them a lifetime.

Medal of Honor Recipient: Samantha Hobbs

When Girl Scouts are regularly taking monitored risks in their troop activities, they are more likely to confidently and quickly respond in the event of real danger. Girl Scout Cadette, Samantha Hobbs, was enjoying an afternoon in her grandmother's pool when she noticed her younger cousin approach the edge of the pool to retrieve a toy. Samantha's cousin's foot become caught between the deck and the pool wall, trapping his head underwater. Samantha jumped into action by lifting Carter's head above water, while working to help free his leg before returning him to his mother waiting at the stairs. **Samantha's actions were recognized with the Girl Scout Medal of Honor (pictured below). This national award is presented to a Girl Scout only when they have shown presence of mind and true Girl Scout spirit in an emergency.**



The 1913 handbook, *How Girls Can Help Their Country*, lists two medals Girl Scouts could earn for meritorious deeds related to saving a life: The Bronze Cross and the Silver Cross. Today, Girl Scouts continue to earn Lifesaving Awards for these deeds.



Girl Scouts Make Lasting Change

Lifetime of Leadership

Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award Girl Scouts make a lasting difference in our communities and beyond. To earn these awards, a Girl Scout must first earn leadership awards and complete a community service project that reaches into their community. Then, they may research an issue they're passionate about and uncover its root case, connect with their community to develop a solution, and enlist a team to bring the project to fruition. Girl Scouts who earn these awards develop their confidence, seek challenges, and demonstrate planning and decision-making skills that prepare them for a lifetime of leadership. 60 Gold Award Girl Scouts

164 Girl Scout troops earned the Bronze or Silver Award

2022 GSEMA Gold Award Girl Scouts

Anisha Aggarwal Faith Alves Ailene Barry Emma Barry Sarah Baskin Kate Beauvais Brianna Bennett-Karshbaum **Rachel Burke** Claudia Castro Niharika Chawla Sabrina Cohen Abigail Coleman Alice Cook Maura Cronin Catherine Delorie Rachel Dodos Mary Dougherty Clara Eikeboom Katherine Faddis

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Mary Markis Lily McDonough Avery McStravick Mackenzie Morong Lydia Olivieri Marissa Parshley Harshini Pathivada Shruti Pokharna Natalie Rassiger Jessica Rigoli Fiona Ripp **Evelyn Sanford** Elizabeth Schneider Supria Shroff Audrey Smith Andrea Villalba Lauren Walker Lauren Williams **Caroline Witty Emily Worcester**

The Girl Scout Gold Award acknowledges each recipient's power and dedication to not only bettering themselves, but to making the world a better place for others.



BRONZE AWARD FEATURE Girl Scout Junior Troop 62407 from Littleton, MA earned the Girl Scout Bronze

Award for planning, making, and installing a bench and bat houses at Cloverdale Conservation Land. **Watch this troop in action!**

Oncology Colorology

Girl Scouts interact with the world around them through service projects and awardearning goals. The Girl Scout Silver Award is the highest award a Girl Scout Cadette can achieve, and is earned through sustainable acts of service. Inspired by and created through collaboration with their loved ones battling cancer, Girl Scouts Kassidy and Hannah created their Help and Healing coloring book to help those receiving chemotherapy to pass the time. Kassidy and Hannah connected with a local organization who awarded them a microgrant to produce 200 copies of their book and purchase 200 boxes of colored pencils for the patients to enjoy.





Mental Health Matters

Post pandemic, our country is amidst a mental health crisis and our Girl Scouts are feeling the effects. Girl Scout Ambassador, Sarah Liu, received a Gold Award Girl Scout National Scholarship for her work creating the Firefly Project: an initiative she designed to combat negative mental health stigma. Upon the completion of her Gold award, Sarah gathered 100 "End-the-Stigma" signatures, had 450 website visits, 50+ social media followers, and educated 115 children from 20 different youth groups across 12 states. These results more than doubled her original goals for the Firefly Project.



Pictured above: Ashland Girl Scout Troop 76017 earned their Silver Award by developing a Rain Garden to reduce flooding at a local school. Pictured below: Gold Award Girl Scout Massimina Hryckowian of Littleton (left) for reducing stigma of invidivuals with invisible illnesses and Gold Award Girl Scout Erin McEwan of Westford (right) for addressing the problem of single-use plastics.





Making a Difference in Girls' Lives

Our Volunteers Are Role Models

To deliver the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to nearly 20,000 Girl Scouts within our council, we rely on the tireless dedication of our volunteers. Studies conducted by the Girl Scout Research Institute have proven that having an active, caring adult in our youth members' lives makes them feel valuable and helps them to think critically about their futures. Girl Scout volunteers also benefit from the experience. 83% of Girl Scout leaders say they gain a sense of purpose volunteering with Girl Scouts and 90% of Girl Scout leaders feel they make a difference in the lives of girls. "My troop leader is not only a role model and major influence on my life, she is like a second mom."

– Girl Scout Cadette

Volunteer Recognition Honorees

On May 6, 2022 we held our annual Volunteer Recognition Celebration at Camp Cedar Hill, honoring the following individuals for their exceptional service.

APPRECIATION PIN

Katherine Allen Sniffen Kathleen Allen Maureen Alterio Deborah Burkhart Kameela Coleman Amy Cosimelli Heather Coughlin **Danielle Frappier** Christine Garner Ali Haas **Carol Herre** Jennifer Jagolinzer **Tiffany Kudravetz** Calista Maharaj Jessica Mangan Jennifer McAveeney Erik Meyer-Curley Amy Mulrooney Evelyn Pasquarello Amy Percoskie Nicole Piche-Nicholas Erin Price Carol Rohall Ali Schmelzle Kendra Thyne

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TEN YEAR SUSTAINED SERVICE Susan Walker

HONOR PIN

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RED ROSE AWARD

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THANKS BADGE

Heather DeProfio Andrea Falcone Elli Goeke Jane Lundquist Monique O'Connell

THANKS BADGE II Jane Puffer

HELEN STORROW HERITAGE AWARD Tricia Tilford

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Concord/Carlisle Service Unit Easton Service Unit Lincoln Service Unit Littleton Service Unit Marlborough Service Unit Quincy Service Unit

"Watching girls try new things, overcome their reservations, and explore all the world can offer them is inspiring. I love having a front row seat to watch the leaders of tomorrow, build their confidence and skills."

- Monique O'Connell, Girl Scout Volunteer

GSEMA Volunteer Committees

While volunteering with a Girl Scout troop is the most common experience for adults, there are many more opportunities to serve on council-level committees. We are grateful for the following committee volunteers who work to advance Girl Scouts' mission through fundraising, governance, and youth programming initiatives at Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts.



GIRL SCOUT MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Lori Beverage Janet Coombs Lynn Cutter Francine Edwards Elsie Eigerman Lola Furtado Roberta Green Brenda Hodgkin Peg Juppe Dee Kricker Ruth Leiby Pat Leverone **Clare Livak Betty MacKenzie** Nancy Marshall Amanda Miller Maj-Britt Moreton Sandy Publicover Kal Ricker Lesley Sneddon Lu-Ann Souza Stacy Spies Tricia Tilford Val Wilcox Holly Williams Elizabeth Woyke

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TEAM RUN LIKE A GIRL SCOUT COMMITTEE (ASICS Falmouth Road Race) Diane McLoughlin, Team

Captain

GSEMA REGIONAL COUNCIL DELEGATES

(as of September 30, 2022)Tammy Berardi Marie Carver Jennifer Coombs Laurie Corbett **Diane** Culhane Rachael Fusco Aida Gennis Nicole Haberman Wynelle Hummel Li Jen Lin Amy Kelly Susan Kohlman Catherine Leblanc Heidi Lebrón Patricia Leverone Cathy Lewis Susan Lussier **Rita Lyons** Calista Maharaj Ann Mark Keri Mascagni **Kimberly Matz** Sarah Moe (Ray) Jessica Murphy Debra Nearing Carolvn Palmer Sandra Publicover Suzan Rilev Jessi Robinson Lisa Silletti Lindsay Tomlinson Judith Wilchvnski Jennifer Williams Donna Yang

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YOUTH NATIONAL COUNCIL DELEGATES

Tarene Cunningham Cecilia Geyer Nici Montina Nina Montina Madelyn Yang

Fiscal Year 2022 Donor List

thank for your

Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts gratefully acknowledges the individuals, corporations, foundations, and community partners who gave generously to ensure that every Girl Scout continues to have the opportunity to discover her passions and talents, try new things, and participate in activities to which she may not otherwise have access. This listing reflects all cash gifts, pledge payments, and in-kind donations recorded during fiscal year 2022 (October 1, 2021–September 30, 2022).

support!

Donors

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\$100,000+

United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley

\$50,000-\$99,000

Anonymous Massachusetts Afterschool Partnership Suffolk

\$25,000-\$49,999

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We have taken great care to ensure the accuracy of this report, and offer our sincere apologies for any errors or omissions. Please contact Annie Garmey at agarmey@gsema.org to make us aware of any desired changes. Thank you!

Corporate, Government and Foundation

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UP TO \$999

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Donor Spotlight: National Grid

This year, we were very grateful to engage National Grid as a corporate partner to support Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts' outdoor engagement programming. Youth need the outdoors more than ever as it offers long-lasting mental health benefits including social emotional learning, problem solving skills, and appreciation for the environment.

Our partnership with National Grid supported all pathways of outdoor programming—badge completion for Girl Scout troops, camp skills days, April Vacation Adventures at Camp Cedar Hill, our annual Girl Scouts Love State Parks weekend, and, of course, summer camp! Additionally, all summer camp attendees received an exclusive National Grid outdoor adventure patch! Our Girl Scout youth members weren't the only people that benefited from National Grid's generous donation. Their funding allowed us to train volunteers on outdoor experiences, which allows participants to conduct fun, safe outdoor activities with their troops.

The funding from National Grid went above and beyond program funding. In August, National Grid sponsored our annual Golf for Girl Scouts tournament. At the end of September, 50 of National Grid's employees visited Camp Cedar Hill in Waltham as part of their "Grid for Good" service program to complete a fall clean-up of tidying trails, laying gravel, and sprucing cabins up for autumn camp events.



Donor Spotlight: Tricia Tilford

Tricia has devoted her time and resources to Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts in her recent and demanding role as GSEMA Board Chair and President, and as a very generous donor. Tricia, who always thinks about how to engage others, offered an exciting \$50,000 challenge to match gifts made during the 29th Leading Women Awards, which was quickly met-and exceeded! In recognition of Tricia's contributions, she was presented the Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts Helen Storrow Heritage Award for her philanthropy and efforts to preserve our vast Girl Scout history. We are so thankful for Tricia's commitment to making a difference in the lives of Girl Scouts across eastern Massachusetts.



"Like many of you, I am a Girl Scout alum. I followed in the footsteps of my mother and grandmother. Along the way, my life was immeasurably enriched with unique opportunities for leadership, travel, friendship and fun... My story is not unique—in fact, an overwhelming number of Girl Scout alums say that their participation in Girl Scouts set them on a path of achievement, connected them to something bigger than themselves, and helped them develop their passions and interests."

–Tricia Tilford

GSEMA's Helen Storrow Heritage Award is named after Helen Osborne Storrow, a prominent American philanthropist who was born in 1864. She was one of the first leaders of Massachusetts Girl Scouts and had the vision and resources to make a Girl Scout camp at Cedar Hill 100 years ago.

Donors

Individuals

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• Daisy Circle (3+ years of consecutive giving)

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Golf for Girl Scouts

The summer sun was shining and the birds were chirping for our second annual Golf for Girl Scouts tournament at the Pinehills Golf Club on Monday, August 15, 2022. This tee-rific event brought together 130 golfers on the course, and 20 Girl Scouts on the green for an introductory golf lesson from the pros. With generous donations from our donors, sponsors, golfers, and Gold Sponsor P&G Gillette, this event raised over \$90,000 to support Girl Scouts in eastern Massachusetts.

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Falmouth Road Race

This year marked Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts' third year participating as a charity partner of the ASICS Falmouth Road Race's "Numbers for Nonprofits" program. Fourteen runners came together for Team Run Like a Girl Scout, and raised over \$21,000 for GSEMA. Our team enjoyed a great day of running and comradery on the seven-mile route from Woods Hole to Falmouth Heights. We are very grateful for their dedication and support of our mission.

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Leading Women Awards

On Thursday, March 31, 2022, Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts' Leading Women Awards returned for the 29th year after a pandemic-induced hiatus. This year's event was held both virtually and in-person successfully raising over \$254,000 for the organization. With a room of nearly 400 supporters we honored three amazing Leading Women: Carol Geremia of MFS Investments Management, Deborah Jackson of Cambridge College, and Karan Dyson of P&G Gillette; recognized three accomplished Girl Scout Ambassadors: Alondra, Lauren, and Quinn; and presented Suffolk with the Corporate Changemaker Award. Attendees were also able to listen to an insightful conversation about the ways in which Girl Scouting can help to create a better tomorrow in a fireside chat moderated by New England Cable News host, Sue O'Connell.



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If you should be listed as a member of the Amy Brewer Society, please contact Torey Johnson at tjohnson@gsema.org.

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The Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts Friendship Circle recognizes a group of donors who support Girl Scouts through monthly, recurring gifts. Learn more about joining at gsema.org/friendshipcircle.

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"Monthly giving is a great way to provide consistent support and show my long-term commitment to Girl Scouting. I encourage all of our donors to set up a monthly gift and join our Friendship Circle."

-Linda Schuller



A former Board Member, Linda Schuller co-chairs the Friendship Circle with current Board Member Nina Ferrari. In addition to being a monthly donor, she is a Juliette Gordon Low Society Member, serves on the Development Committee, and is a former Troop Leader from Belmont. She works for Simmons University and is an incredible asset to GSEMA through her service.

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Juliette Gordon Low Society



The Juliette Gordon Low Society recognizes individuals who support Girl Scouting through their own planned giving. It is said that "writing a will is a gift of love." In reality, no matter our current age or financial means, even a small amount of planning ensures that our final wishes are honored, and makes it easier on our family and friends. Through the Juliette Gordon Low Society, a planned gift (of any amount or percentage) can also benefit the

leadership development for girls that Girl Scouting provides.

If you are thinking about creating or updating your estate plans, GSEMA is fortunate to be able to offer resources and this service at no charge. Members are honored annually and presented a Juliette Gordon Low society pin, an acknowledgement that their forethought and legacy will benefit girls for generations to come. Please email **legacy@gsema.org** with any questions or for more information about the Juliette Gordon Low Society.

We are grateful to the following members of the Juliette Gordon Low Society whom we can honor, both named and anonymous.

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We have taken great care to ensure the accuracy of this report, and offer our sincere apologies for any errors or omissions. Please contact Annie Garmey at agarmey@gsema.org to make us aware of any desired changes. Thank you!



In Memoriam

The following donors gave in memory of the individuals whose names are listed in italics.

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How We're Funded

Our funding comes from five primary sources.



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Charitable donations from individuals, corporations, foundations, and other partners



Product Program

Proceeds from Girl Scout Cookie and Fall Product Programs



Retail

GSEMA store proceeds from badges, uniforms, gifts, supplies, and merchandise



Programming Fees Participation fees for camp, events,

and other programs



Other Income

Investments and miscellaneous revenue

Your Contributions Make a Difference



Financial Overview

Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts, Inc. Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets for the Year Ended September 30, 2022

OPERATING REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT:

Product sales, net	\$6,617,175
Program service fees	3,446,464
Contributions	1,337,956
Investment return appropriated for operations	605,000
Net merchandise sales	375,465
Interest, dividends and miscellaneous revenue	145,944
Total operating revenues and other support	12,528,004
OPERATING EXPENSES:	
Program services	9,631,395
Supporting services	2,480,507
	12,111,902

Changes in net assets from operations	416,102
Non-operating activities	(664,998)
Changes in net assets	(248,896)
Net Assets, beginning of year	23,375,484
Net Assets, end of year	\$23,126,588



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.

GSEMA is able to provide the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to thousands of girls across eastern Massachusetts thanks to the generosity of our donors, members, and volunteers.

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.



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