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Girl Scout Gold Award presented to 88 Western New York girls

Buffalo, NY - The Girl Scouts of Western New York held the annual Girl Scout Gold Award Ceremony on Sunday, June 7, distributing the Girl Scout Gold Award to 88 recipients at Salvatore's Italian Gardens in Depew.

The Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest honor in Girl Scouting, represents a culmination of leadership skills, career exploration and community service by Girl Scouts ages 15-18. The Gold Award is earned by less than 6 percent of eligible Girl Scouts nationally. Projects displayed on Sunday represented more than 5,720 cumulative hours of community service in nine counties of Western New York. Girls were charged to select their own cause, with projects addressing the environment, childhood obesity, homelessness, and education.

Special guest Mary McLean Wilson delivered the keynote speech about leadership, community service, and goal setting to more than 290 guests. "You have been able to use your leadership skills...to bring people together to impact your community," Wilson said, "Ralph (Wilson) and I congratulate you." Mrs. Wilson concluded her speech with the announcement that she and husband Ralph would contribute two \$1,000 scholarships annually to the Girl Scouts of Western New York for distribution to girls who earn the Girl Scout Gold Award.

In addition to the prestigious Gold Award, the Girl Scouts of Western New York also distributed the Kimberly A. Welsh Scholarship, the Hans & Charlene Schoenenberger "Golden Opportunity" Scholarship, and the Girl Scouts of Western New York Educational Scholarship to nine girls for their achievements.

For more information on how to join, volunteer, donate, or reconnect to Girl Scouts of Western New York, visit <http://www.gswny.org>.

About Girl Scouts of Western New York

Girl Scouts builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. Girl Scouts of Western New York serves 25,000 girls in Erie, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Genesee, Livingston, Niagara, Monroe, Orleans, Wyoming counties. The council's administrative headquarters is located in Buffalo. Program and service centers are located in Batavia, Niagara, Rochester, and Jamestown. For more information on how to join, volunteer, or donate, call 1-888-837-6410 or visit www.gswny.org.



Courage, Confidence and Character