

PRESS RELEASE

Girl Scouts Collect Nearly 24,000 lbs of Food for Local Food Banks **Hundreds of Girl Scouts occupy familiar storefront territory for a different cause**

LOS ANGELES, April 15, 2014 – On Saturday, April 12, Girl Scouts in the greater Los Angeles area set up booths in front of participating Ralphs/Food 4 Less locations for Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles' (GSGLA) annual Feed Your Neighbor Food Drive & Service Day. Girl Scouts, a familiar fixture in front of grocery stores, encouraged shoppers to help their communities by donating food to benefit regional agency partners of the LA Regional Food Bank. Simultaneous to the food drives, Girl Scouts volunteered at local pantries, sorting and packaging food to be distributed to those in need and brought donations. By the end of the day, GSGLA had collected nearly 24,000 lbs of food (and counting), which will provide roughly 19,551 meals.

The day of service was a culmination of activities and opportunities the girls have participated in over the last four weeks as part of a patch program. Prior to the big day, the girls participated in workshops, service opportunities, and other activities to teach them about the hunger crisis and the challenges associated with feeding a family. The event incorporates the Girl Scout three keys to leadership: Discover, Connect, and Take Action, making Feed Your Neighbor more than a food drive and service project, but an opportunity for Girl Scouts to learn about the need, understand the crisis, and *do something* about it.

The program included Hunger 101 workshops that taught participants about the hunger crisis in their communities and engaged girls in interactive scenarios regarding the process of looking for assistance. Girls also ventured to grocery stores and were challenged to shop for nutritional value on a limited budget, compared international food consumption, and learned about the spirit of philanthropy.

A 2013 nationwide food insecurity study found that Los Angeles County has the most hungry families in the nation with 643,640 children struggling to eat daily.

About Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles:

Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles serves more than 40,000 girls in partnership with more than 20,000 volunteers throughout the diverse communities of Los Angeles County and parts of Kern, San Bernardino, and Ventura counties. The council's programs engage girls in the areas of Leadership, Arts & Culture, Business Smarts, Environment & Outdoor Adventure, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math), and Wellness & Healthy Living. To join, volunteer, reconnect, or support, visit www.girlscoutsla.org or call 1-888-GSGLA-4-U.

