

PRESS RELEASE

Girl Scouts Collect Nearly 37,000 lbs of Food for Local Food Banks **Hundreds of Girl Scouts occupy familiar storefront territory for a different cause**

LOS ANGELES, May 4, 2015 – On Saturday, May 2, 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 Los Angeles Regional Food Bank. Simultaneous to the food drives, GSGLA's Service Squad—high school Girl Scouts—mobilized at the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank in South Los Angeles, sorting and packaging food to be distributed to those in need. By the end of the day, GSGLA had collected nearly 37,000 lbs of food (and counting), which will provide nearly 25,000 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 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.

A recent nationwide food insecurity study found that Los Angeles County has the most hungry families in the nation—1 in 6 people are food insecure. Currently, 40 percent of the people served by the L.A. Regional Food Bank and its partner agencies are children.

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 engages girls through programs in Leadership, Business and Financial Literacy, Outdoor Adventure, STE[A]M (science, technology, engineering, art, math), and Healthy Living. To join, volunteer, reconnect, or support, visit www.girlscoutsla.org or call 213-213-0123.

