



girl scouts   
western pennsylvania

# 2021-2022 Annual Report



## A Note from Our CEO and Board Chair

For 110 years, Girl Scouts have found a way to dream big and do good. They are a force for positive change in our world—tackling issues in their communities, helping others, and leading into the future. From reaching the outer limits of space to stocking their local food pantry, there is no challenge too big or need too small for a Girl Scout to tackle.

Since day one, girls have found a way to create a better future for themselves, their communities, and the world—and they continue to do that to this very day. Through our program, girls experience the benefits of Girl Scouts, meeting today’s problems with bold solutions.

Girl Scouts throughout western Pennsylvania adapted to the ongoing changes in our world, continuing to face challenges in new ways. This year, we were able to resume international travel and we created our first-ever Global Action Committee—a team of Girl Scouts who gain valuable leadership skills by helping us build a culture of travel in our council. While we’re back to in-person programming, we continue to offer virtual programming, events, and volunteer trainings, allowing us to reach more participants.

This year, Girl Scouts released a new patch program and badges to help girls learn to be even more resilient and strong, providing them with resources to help strengthen their mental wellness. Girl Scout families, caregivers, and volunteers also received access to mental wellness and inclusivity training resources from Girl Scouts of the USA and their trusted partners.

Throughout this report, you’ll read about girls who continue to impact their communities in creative ways. They’re protecting the planet, teaching money management skills, reducing food waste, cleaning up their neighborhoods, helping others, running their own cookie businesses, making lifelong friendships, and so much more in our ever-changing world.

Let’s continue to celebrate the problem solvers, go-getters, dreamers, and doers who are creating a better future for us all. We can’t wait to see what they do next.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Patricia A. Burkart  
Chief Executive Officer

Dot Brookes  
Board Chair



## Mission Statement

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

## 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.

## 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.



# Our Council



\*We serve girls in Philipsburg in Centre County.

**14,955**  
Girl Scouts (K-12)

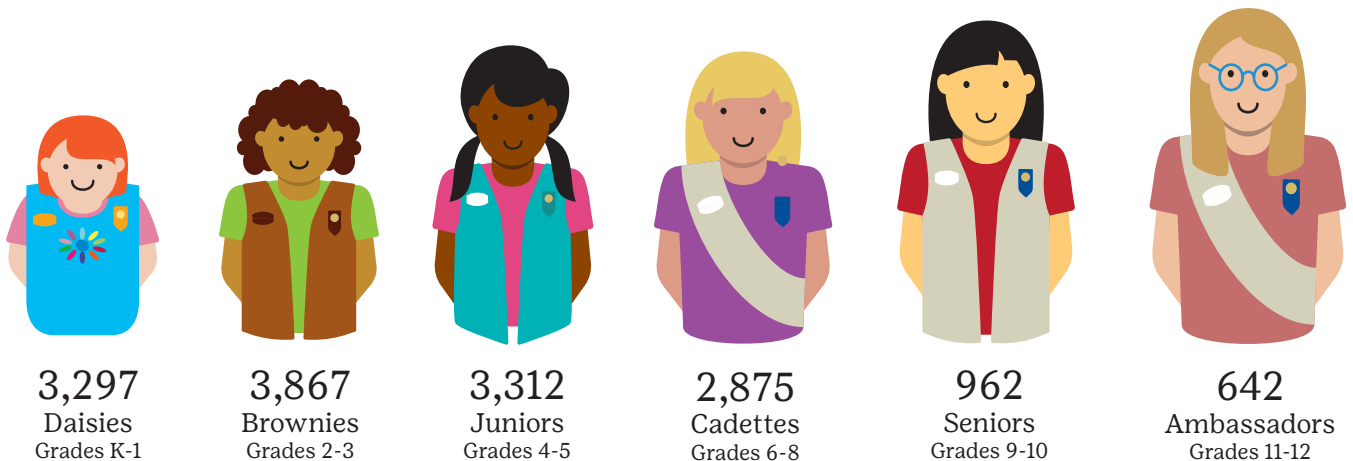
**8,562**  
Adult Members

**5,377**  
Active Volunteers

**101**  
Full-Time Staff

**22**  
Board of Directors

Out-of-council members: 39 girls, 174 adults



# Impacting Their World



**Bronze Award Girl Scouts Madelyn Drew, Ember Cramer, and Vaida Ponish from Troop 30527** developed a project to collect food waste at their school and use it to fertilize the high school garden. To reach a wider audience, they created a YouTube podcast. The girls also designed a presentation for their school and a skit for their troop to teach the importance of composting.

To earn their **Girl Scout Silver Award, Mackenzie Stout and Makaylah Perri of Troop 50152** developed an app and downloadable PDFs to help identify a bite and/or rash and how to treat it. They spoke with a doctor and park ranger to learn about which kinds of plants and bugs are found locally and

common treatments for those certain kinds of bites and rashes. Because Mackenzie had completed the Think Like a Programmer Journey, she was able to code and format the layout of the app. Makaylah made flyers with a QR code that linked to the app and placed them in libraries, parks, and on social media.

## Categories of Impact

One hundred ninety-five girls earned either their Girl Scout Silver Award or the highest award in Girl Scouting, the Girl Scout Gold Award, by completing 131 Silver Award or Gold Award projects\* focusing on the following categories:



\*The Girl Scout Silver Award can be completed either individually or in small groups of up four Girl Scouts. Multiple group Silver Award projects were completed and are included in this project listing.



To address the lack of recycling in her community, **Gold Award Girl Scout Landis Crawford** created and distributed materials to educate others about the importance of recycling and composting to reduce solid municipal waste. She presented on those topics during a community event held at her local library. She then hosted a recycling event where residents could drop off their glass recyclables. Roughly one ton of glass was recycled at the event which reduces about 300 pounds of CO2 in the atmosphere. Landis was also one of the recipients of the 2022 GSUSA Gold Award Scholarship.

Seeing a lack of financial education in her area, **Gold Award Girl Scout Sreeja Yellapragada** organized a series of in-person and online workshops to teach various groups of students the basics of money and personal finances. Her workshops were filled with lessons and discussions sprinkled with engaging games and activities. To make all of her lesson plans and activities easily accessible, she created a website with a featured blog where she discussed ways to make, track, and save money.

## The Girl Scout Gold Award opens doors!

Girl Scout alums associate leadership, decision-making, teamwork, collaboration, and project management skills with those who earned the Gold Award.

Alums who have earned the Gold Award say it gives them:

- a competitive advantage on college and scholarship applications.
- a competitive edge on employment applications and résumés.

Gold Award Girl Scouts are more likely than non-alums to:

- obtain an undergraduate or graduate degree (88% compared to 32%).
- volunteer for causes they care about (82% compared to 33%).

Gold Award Girl Scouts are also more likely to hold leadership roles in their everyday lives (99%). Seven out of ten hold three or more leadership roles.

*(From the 2021 Girl Scout Alum Fact Sheet, GSRI)*

*We honored the accomplishments of 64 new Gold Award Girl Scouts in 2022. Get inspired.>>*



*Girl Scouts has allowed me to find my voice and become a leader and role model. As Miss Pennsylvania Teen USA, I am extremely passionate about sharing my Girl Scout Gold Award project, 'Affirmations with Alli.' It's so amazing to me that I was able to turn an idea into an entire initiative and share positivity across the state!*

—Alexandra Jones, Gold Award Girl Scout and Miss Pennsylvania Teen USA 2022

# Girl Scouts in Action



**250**  
 Girl Scout Service Day Pledges

**Girl Scouts are:**

- ☑ problem solvers
- ☑ go-getters
- ☑ dreamers
- ☑ doers

They are a force for positive change in our world—tackling issues in their communities, helping others, and leading into the future.

### Girl Scouts Pledge to Serve

More than 250 Girl Scouts across our council pledged to participate in **Girl Scout Service Day** this year which took place on September 24, 2022. From picking up trash to making cards for hospital workers, Girl Scouts came up with their own

creative ways to make an impact and benefit their local communities across western Pennsylvania. **West Perry Troop 36774** (above) made over 100 fall-themed snack bags to give to senior residents in low-income housing.



**Troop 52342** participated in Girl Scout Service Day by cleaning up the grounds around Monroeville Public Library where they hold their troop meetings. Troop leader Rebecca McCracken shared, “I loved watching our Cadettes give back to the community.”

### Youth Award Honors Troop Service



**Troop 52954** won a Youth Award from the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors for serving their community of Waterford. The troop painted the Little Free Food Pantry at a local elementary school and gathered items to stock it. They held a drive-through food and clothing collection, providing the items to a local shelter and food pantry, assembled bags containing personal care items, gloves, and hats for families in need, and baked brownies and cookies for a local soup kitchen.

# #TroopTuesday

Every Tuesday, we celebrate the problem-solvers and doers who are creating a better future. Join us on social media to see what Girl Scouts are doing in your neighborhood.

Use our Memory Book form to submit your photos! >>



## Troop celebrates community pride



**Washington Troop 10370** celebrated their community by drawing their city in chalk and jumping between landmarks. They also held an investiture ceremony to welcome new members of their troop, joined together for a Friendship Circle, and even learned about cake decorating. *#CommunityPride*



## Troop donates pet food and supplies



**Baldwin Whitehall Daisy Troop 17032** visited the Humane Animal Rescue of Pittsburgh to deliver pet food and supplies collected for a drive. *#AnimalRescue*



## Troop collects toys for families in need



**Canonsburg Troop 16106** collected 281 toys for Toys for Tots at Canonsburg's Old Fashioned Christmas. *#ToyDrive*



## Troop visits local police station



**Troop 53306 of Erie County** visited the Girard police station to learn about what community members and police do for their neighborhood. *#NeighborhoodWatch*



## Troop beautifies church property with flowers



**Troop 16206 of Rochester** planted marigolds in the flower beds at the church where they meet. *#BeautifyYourWorld*



## Troop donates birthday supplies to food bank



**Troop 46715 of Clearfield** collected birthday party supplies and made 100 birthday bags to donate to their community food bank. *#BirthdayBags*

# Expanding Her World



## Going the Distance

Girls were able to expand their world with our travel opportunities available throughout the year, including a local trip to Hersheypark and the addition of several travel camp sessions. This year, international travel resumed, and we created our first-ever **Global**

**Action Committee**—a team of Girl Scouts who gain valuable leadership skills by helping us build a culture of travel in our council. An online community was also created to help connect future travelers and encourage fellow Girl Scouts to explore the world around them.

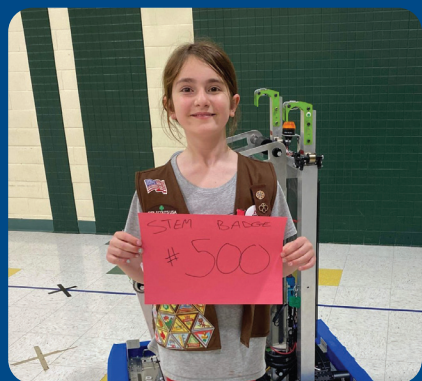
## Powerful Programming



Volunteers organized a *Think Like a Citizen Scientist Journey in a Day* at the **Lawrence County Community Action Partnership (LCCAP) Exploration and Innovation Station** in New Castle where over 70 Girl Scouts from 18 school districts participated. With the help of a master beekeeper, the girls learned about pinning bees and bee hotels, and they built a new pollinator garden.



A generous grant from the **Doris Stackpole Foundation** led 141 Girl Scouts in Elk County to earn over 400 badges through STEM programming. The Math in Nature badge series helped girls discover patterns and shapes in nature, explore symmetry, and use math for data collection and measurements. The Wonders of Weather patch program taught girls weather safety, how precipitation forms, and the impact of weather on food growth and sustainability.



Over the last three years, **Quasics Robotics Club at Gateway High School** has helped over 475 local Girl Scouts earn more than 500 STEM badges. Over 90% of those badges were earned on location at the troop meeting sites and at no cost to the troops.

*We do all this because we believe in the power of allowing girls to explore their interests in STEM in a low-pressure environment.*

—Coach Sean McMahon, Quasics Robotics Club



## Girl Scouting—Relevant in Today’s World

This year, volunteers received access to **mental wellness and inclusivity training resources** from Girl Scouts of the USA and their trusted partners. The *Mental Wellness 101 Training* provides information about facilitating mental wellness programming, supporting girls’ well-being, and addressing mental wellness challenges. Through the *Delivering Inclusive Program Training*, volunteers learn how to use inclusive and equitable language to support the identities of all Girl Scouts.

**New and updated badges, programs, and activities** were released for girls to explore topics they are passionate about: mental wellness, protecting the planet, taking care of animals, and exploring the great outdoors. These activities include more hands-on choices and new skills, such as smart money management, exploring STEM careers, and building life skills to support girls growing up in today’s world and to inspire them to be good global citizens.

## New badges and patches included:

- Resilient. Ready. Strong. patch
- Climate Challenge patch
- Girl Scouts Love State Parks patch
- Girl Scouts Love the Outdoors Challenge patch
- Updated Pets badge
- Updated Daisy Handbook and Petal badges



Findings show that **just one badge** is enough to make a difference!

Across all four outdoor leadership outcomes—competence, confidence, interest, and environmental stewardship—girls who earn at least one badge increase their outdoor leadership outcomes.\*

Outdoor interest and confidence lay the foundation for a life of outdoor engagement, and spending time in nature has a positive effect on a person’s social, emotional, cognitive, and physical health and formation of values.

In 2022, all girls who attended our resident camps earned at least one badge at camp.

\*From a study by the Girl Scouts Research Institute (GSRI), *Girl Scouts Soar in the Outdoors*, 2019



# Goal Getters



Girl Scout **Annie Baker-O'Donnell** of Cranberry Township sold over 750 packages of cookies all via phone and cold-calling.

## Smart Cookies

Girl Scout Cookie entrepreneurs are leaders in the making. Through the cookie program, they learn to set big goals, make decisions about how to run their cookie business, manage

money, and gain valuable communication skills. Their goals—and their approaches to reaching those goals—are just as unique as they are.



Girl Scout **Devan Brown** from Pittsburgh reached her goal of selling at least one package of cookies in each of the 50 United States! Devan was also a Super Seller this year, selling over 1,000 packages of cookies.



Indie Girl Scout sisters **Nina and Illy Sicchitano** from Bethel Park set a goal to sell 3,000 packages of cookies to fund their camp



sessions this year. Surpassing their goal, together they sold over 5,000 packages, which helped them both fund an additional week at camp!



**65,163**  
PACKAGES OF COOKIES  
TO THE MILITARY

**4,329**  
NUT & CANDY ITEMS  
TO THE MILITARY

## Entrepreneurial Ingenuity



Thinking outside the box, Girl Scout **Camryn Moline** of Pittsburgh made creative commercial-like entrepreneur videos to market her cookie business and boost her sales.



In 2022, girls got creative in decorating their cookie booths to attract customers and sell more cookies. It was fun to see the girls' big ideas come to life, making their booths eye-catching and unique!

## Supporting Our Military

This year, Girl Scouts in western Pennsylvania collected more than 65,000 donated packages of Girl Scout Cookies and 4,300 nut and candy treats for **Operation: Sweet Appreciation**, our initiative that provides sweet treats for men and women in the military serving at home and overseas, as well as veterans' organizations.

**Super Sellers** in both our cookie and MagNut programs were invited to attend an exclusive Super Seller event. Girls who achieved this milestone enjoyed a Mystery Dinner Theater experience in 2022.

This year, 51 Girl Scouts from our council went above and beyond to achieve **Double Super Seller** status by selling 650 or more packages of cookies during the cookie program and \$1,000 or more worth of product during the MagNut program.

## Double Super Sellers

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Jaidyn Alcorn      | Hannah Motonis     |
| Colette Baptiste   | Mia Noone          |
| Paityn Barger      | Hadley Painter     |
| Emily Bishop       | Victoria Parshall  |
| Devan Brown        | Abby Phelps        |
| Marlee Butterworth | Alexa Riggs        |
| Carmen Clark       | Savannah Ross      |
| Katelyn Clawson    | Devyn Rowland      |
| Lexxi Cress        | Jordyn Rowland     |
| Erica Cummings     | Caylee Schoentag   |
| Sophia Damico      | Madison Schoentag  |
| Sydney Dayton      | Serena Shotts      |
| Claire Dolcich     | Addison Smith      |
| Stephenie Draa     | Kaitlyn Smith      |
| Olivia Farney      | Kinsley Smith      |
| Victoria Finizio   | Abigail Steele     |
| Brynn Haun         | Hailey Stinar      |
| Gracie Heichel     | Savannah Taggart   |
| Kataryna Iorio     | Ashley Valasek     |
| Harper Johnson     | Amelia Valentino   |
| Ella Kienzl        | Kinley Walker      |
| Elaine Knapton     | Magen Walzak       |
| Allison LaBar      | Lillian Whitehouse |
| Kennedy LaCross    | Morgan Wilcox      |
| Norah Manross      | Nevada Wilcox      |
| Mila Mihalik       |                    |



# Honoring Community Leaders & Role Models



## 2022 Honorees

### Women of Distinction

**Gisele Barreto Fetterman**

Second Lady of Pennsylvania and  
Founder of the Free Store #15104  
Woman of Distinction Public Service

**Kari Burnham**

Pittsburgh Fire Bureau  
Woman of Distinction First Responder

**Sister Sue Fazzini and  
Sister Audrey Quinn**

Benedictine Sisters of Pittsburgh  
Women of Distinction Religious Service

**Sylvia Fields**

Eden Hall Foundation  
Woman of Distinction Philanthropy

**Elena LaQuatra**

WTAE-TV Pittsburgh's Action News 4  
Woman of Distinction Journalism

**Carol Neyland**

Dollar Bank  
Woman of Distinction Finance

**Sandra Reiman**

JP Morgan Chase  
Woman of Distinction Retail Banking

**Emily Sheetz**

Sheetz, Inc  
Woman of Distinction Business

**Christy Uffelman**

EDGE Leadership  
Woman of Distinction Entrepreneurship

**Angela Wheland**

FedEx Ground  
Woman of Distinction Communications

### Organization of Distinction

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield

## Awards of Distinction

Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania honored 11 women and two Gold Award Girl Scouts for their accomplishments and leadership at the annual Awards of Distinction event, presented by PNC and held at the PNC

Champions Club. This annual event honors inspirational women and celebrates the mission of the Girl Scout Movement, which is to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

## 2022 Girl Honorees



**Gold Award Girl Scout Lakshmi Natesan** from Pine-Richland High School addressed the lack of female representation in history by creating educational videos and lesson plans for students at a local elementary school. Lakshmi was named the Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania **2022 Girl Scout of Distinction** in recognition of her project, "Herstory."



Wanting to address the negative stereotypes that people with autism often face, **Gold Award Girl Scout Katelyn Graham** of Somerset County wrote and illustrated a children's book about autism. She donated 150 copies of her book to local elementary schools to educate students about the effects of harmful stereotypes. Katelyn was named the Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania **2022 Girl Scout Humanitarian** in recognition of her work.

## Volunteer Awards

In 2022, four invaluable volunteers were recognized with one of the highest adult awards in Girl Scouting, the Honor Pin.

See all of our 2021-2022 adult award recipients. >>



**Susan Boser**  
Service Unit 52914  
Rivers Edge

Bringing her knowledge of the environment and Pennsylvania's waterways to Girl Scouts, Susan enables girls to learn in creative ways through her Water Systems program, connecting Girl Scouts to organizations such as Penn State and the Beaver County Conservation District. Her enthusiasm for protecting the environment and for Girl Scouts is the perfect match.



**Cyndi Bland**  
Service Unit 3620  
Crawford County

Cyndi provides opportunities for girls among several service units to come together and be involved in their communities. She has led girls in activities such as making blankets for cancer patients, laying wreaths on veterans' graves, and compiling foster care packages. She actively encourages girls to be involved in helping others and serving their communities.



**Debora Robertson**  
Service Unit 5208  
Firefly

An integral part of her service unit for many years, Debora mentors and supports new leaders and continues to build and strengthen bonds with other service units to increase the benefits and opportunities for girls. She uses her knowledge of Girl Scouting in her area to increase recruitment efforts and organizes one of the area's legendary traditions—the Washington Mall show.



**Nancy Rodgers**  
Service Unit 1605  
Laurel

During the 62 years that Nancy has been a Girl Scout, she has inspired generations of girls through her leadership, events, and mentorship, listening to girls and encouraging them, and setting a model of behavior for how to manage difficult situations. Nancy has been a critical player in bringing volunteers together and creating a community of support.

Our volunteers share what volunteering with Girl Scouts means to them:

*Girl Scout leadership is a labor of love guiding the girls to experience what they want, and it is very rewarding to see the girls grow and become their unique selves.*

—Amy Dobbins, Girl Scout volunteer

*I love the girls in my troop, and I enjoy the company of my fellow volunteers. Even though I started this for my daughter, I get a lot out of it for myself.*

—Jeanette Benedetto, Girl Scout volunteer

*It is incredibly rewarding to watch these young girls grow and to know that you had a small part in that.*

—Heather Balas, Girl Scout volunteer

*You learn so much not only about the girls, but about yourself, too.*

—Misty Stephens, Girl Scout volunteer

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations who supported our mission with a charitable gift this past program year:\*

### Corporations and Foundations

#### (\$25,000+)

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United Way of Venango County  
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**Pearl Society Members**  
*These donors have made gifts of \$1,000 or more and have exemplified a tremendous investment in our mission.*

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Carrie Yopp

#### Leadership Level Donors

*These donors have made gifts between \$500-\$999 and have made a generous investment in our mission.*

#### (\$500-\$999)

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Bernard Rottschaefer  
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James Swoger  
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Kathryn Weir  
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In memory of June & Benny Bortle  
Diana Brush  
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Katie Harvey  
In memory of Charles Corry  
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In memory of Dal Goldstein  
Charmin Campbell Chiodo  
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Beth Zeuli  
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Sandra K. Fischer  
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Terese LaVallee  
In honor of Ellen Morgan  
Megan Morgan  
In honor of Anne Zophy  
Kelley Lang

### Planned Gifts

**Juliette Gordon Low Society**  
Make Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania a part of your estate plan.

Erik and Eva Andersen Girl Scout Movement-wide Challenge  
Planned Gift  
Marcia Barber  
Dianne Belk and Lawrence Calder Girl Scout Movement-wide Challenge  
Planned Gift  
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Patricia Burkart  
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**(\$1,000+)**

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 Magee-Womens Research Institute & Foundation  
 Maher Duessel  
 Mitsubishi Electric Power Products Inc.  
 My Benefit Advisor  
 Peoples and the Essential Foundation  
 Pittsburgh Magazine  
 PPG Industries  
 Reed Smith LLP  
 Seton Hill University  
 Sheetz, Inc.  
 University of Pittsburgh  
 UPMC and UPMC Health Plan  
 Whalley Charitable Trust

# Financials

**Revenue**

Product Sales, net of related costs  
 Public Support  
 Retail Operations, net of related costs  
 Program Fees  
 Investment Income  
 Other Income

**Total Public Support & Revenue**

**Expenses** (before depreciation)

Program  
 Management and General  
 Fundraising\*\*

**Total Expenses**

Net change in net assets from operations (before depreciation)

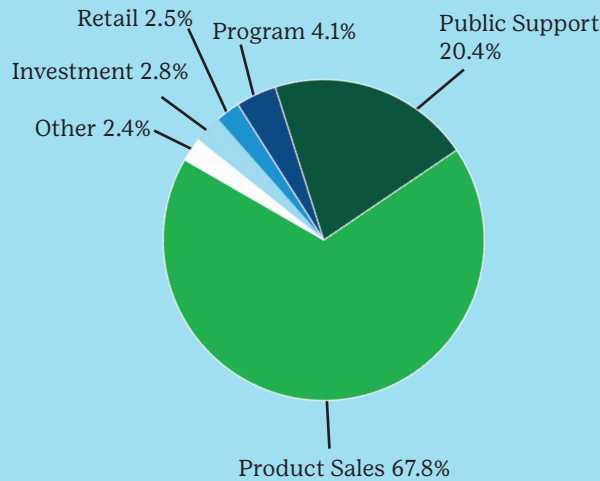
	10/1/2021- 9/30/2022	%	10/1/2020- 9/30/2021	%
Product Sales, net of related costs	\$7,264,318	67.8%	\$6,468,217	67.5%
Public Support	\$2,189,823	20.4%	\$2,215,078	23.1%
Retail Operations, net of related costs	\$271,839	2.5%	\$232,536	2.4%
Program Fees	\$439,650	4.1%	\$373,741	3.9%
Investment Income	\$297,418	2.8%	\$202,082	2.1%
Other Income	\$253,367	2.4%	\$85,829	1.0%
<b>Total Public Support &amp; Revenue</b>	<b>\$10,716,415</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$9,577,483</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Expenses</b> (before depreciation)				
Program	\$8,135,750	87.1%	\$8,123,814	86.3%
Management and General	\$770,361	8.2%	\$796,617	8.5%
Fundraising**	\$434,870	4.7%	\$496,105	5.2%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$9,340,981</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$9,416,536</b>	<b>100%</b>
Net change in net assets from operations (before depreciation)	\$1,375,434		\$160,947	

**Statement of Financial Position**

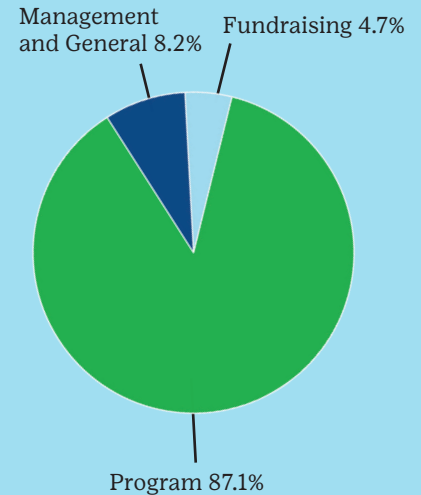
Total assets of the council	\$22,293,340	\$26,136,058
Total liabilities	\$791,826	\$1,723,478
Total net assets	\$21,501,514	\$24,412,580
Change in net assets	(\$2,911,066)	\$2,730,845

\*\*Fundraising expenses include a portion of council management and program staff salaries.

**Revenue  
FY 2021-2022**



**Expenses  
FY 2021-2022**



*A copy of Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania's official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania 800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.*

*\*Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of the charitable giving list. Please report any discrepancies to the Fund Development department at 800-248-3355.*



## Board of Directors 2021-2022

**Board Chair**—Dot Brookes (*Cranberry*)  
**First Vice Chair**—Nicole King Yohe (*Zelienople*)  
**Treasurer**—Michelle Maccagnan (*Allison Park*)  
**Secretary**—Jon Colburn (*Pittsburgh*)

### Ex Officio

Patricia A. Burkart, Chief Executive Officer

### Members At-Large

Christina Brussalis (*Gibsonia*)  
Vaughn Cook (*Pittsburgh*)  
Elizabeth Cook (*Pittsburgh*)  
Linda DeJulio (*Saint Augustine, FL*)  
Kathi Finch (*Sewickley*)  
Mary Kohler (*Wexford*)  
Camille Kovach (*Harrison City*)  
Julie Kresge (*Erie*)  
Victoria Kush (*Cranberry*)  
Lois Kuttesch (*Cranberry*)  
Monica D. Lamar (*Pittsburgh*)  
Cindy Pezze (*Murrysville*)  
Jennifer Price (*Murrysville*)  
Claudia Reed (*Cresson*)  
Richard Siergiej (*Monaca*)  
Andrea Stapleford (*Warren*)  
Rebecca Stiger (*Alison Park*)  
Mary Lou Vargo (*Pittsburgh*)

### Girl Advisory Panel

Asia Broughton (*Pittsburgh*)  
Elyse Hughes (*Masonstown*)  
Sophia Menke (*Wexford*)