



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **GIRL SCOUTS GIVE BACK TO PEERS AND COMMUNITY**

When the fourth grade Girl Scouts at Richland Elementary School in Essex, Missouri found a stack of “lost and found” coats collecting dust in their meeting room, they came up with an idea. Why not share those coats with kids who need them? “We asked the school if we could clean up the coats and give them away,” said volunteer troop leader Janie King. But they didn’t stop there; the Girl Scout troop also sent a note home with all the students at school announcing their coat drive. “I think I have 250 coats in my truck right now” said King. The girls spent two evenings at the Laundromat, cleaning the coats and sorting them into sizes.

It was important to the girls that they give back to the school, which allows them to meet in one of the classrooms. “This project is a great example of girls taking action as advocates for their peers,” said Girl Scouts of the Missouri Heartland CEO Jennifer M. Orban. The fifth grade Girl Scouts also joined the project, helping with the distribution of the coats to families. The coats were available for families, kids and adults, to take at parent-teacher conferences on Thursday and the rest will be left at school for distribution as the weather gets even colder. “Everyone has been supportive,” said King, “the girls want to do this every year now.”

#### **About the Girl Scout Leadership Experience**

Founded in 1912, Girl Scouts of the USA is the preeminent leadership development organization for girls in grades K-12. With 3.3 million girl and adult members worldwide, Girl Scouts is the leading authority on girls’ healthy development. Today’s Girl Scout Leadership Experience has evolved to fit a wide variety of interests of schedules. With six program pathways – events, series, camp, troops, travel, and virtual – girls have more options and more reasons to join than ever before. Through hands-on learning opportunities and a girl-led decision-making process, the Girl Scout Leadership Experience empowers girls to discover a

strong sense of self, connect with others in a changing world, and take action to help make the world a better place.

**About Girl Scouts of the Missouri Heartland**

Girl Scouts of the Missouri Heartland has a membership of approximately 16,000 girls and 6,000 adults across 68 counties in central and southern Missouri, southeast Kansas, and northeast Oklahoma. With the support of community partners, donors, and volunteers, we mentor and support girls as they develop crucial life skills and prepare to take the lead – today, tomorrow, and for the rest of their lives. For more information on how to join, volunteer, reconnect or donate to Girl Scouts, call 877-312-4764 or visit us on the web at [www.girlscoutsmoheartland.org](http://www.girlscoutsmoheartland.org).

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