

Troop 227 makes history with Gold House

By Rebecca Green

Housework has taken on a whole new meaning for twelve GHS students.

It all started two and a half years ago when the members of Girl Scout Troop 227 volunteered to paint interior walls for Habitat for Humanity, a non-profit organization that builds low cost quality housing for working families. The girls found the work both enjoyable and rewarding. At about the same time, the girls were beginning plans for their Gold Award Project which is the final step in the Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting. Usually the project is different for each girl and completed individually. The members of Troop 227 wanted to do something more. "We wanted to do a project that would make a real difference in someone's life," said troop member Stephanie Grayson.

Well, they definitely are. The fifteen seniors, including twelve Whirlies, in Troop 227 are building the first Scout Habitat house in the country. It is called the Gold House. The troop had to get approval from both the National Girl Scout Council and Habitat for Humanity. "It was really hard at the beginning, many people doubted us," Grayson recalled.

The next step was to raise the \$37,500 required to build a house. "Raising the money was hard. Because we are affiliated

with the Girl Scouts, we could not directly solicit funds for Habitat," Ellen Little said. "We spread the word to the community about our project, and the response was overwhelming." The troop printed brochures, mailed post cards, and was interviewed on local radio and television programs. The community responded generously and they reached their goal in only four months.

It was time to plan construction. Each girl became a supervisor specializing in one aspect of building process. They went to training sessions and spoke with skilled workers. "Although we each organized our specific crew, we all went to work on each others' crews," Grayson said.

In mid September, Habitat assigned a family to the Gold House. Norman and Candy Smith became the owners. They have three children, ages seven, six, and three. The family had to work 100 "sweat hours" on other Habitat houses before they qualified for a home of their own. Now they work on the house that will soon be their home alongside the Girl Scouts.

Are you impressed? Well, that's not all. The North Carolina chapter of the National Society of Fundraising Executives has awarded the Outstanding Youth Volunteer Award to Troop 227. The award was presented at a banquet celebrating National Philanthropy Day.

In early December, a dedication ceremony is planned to celebrate the completion of the Gold House. The troop sent invitations to First Lady Hillary Clinton, who is the honorary chairperson of the National Girl Scout Council, and former President Carter, an active volunteer for Habitat for Humanity. This project may become an example for service organizations nationwide. In any event, history is in the making at 212 Gant Street.



Gold House Girl Scouts work late into the day.

Thanksgiving made better for poor by GHS, Urban Ministries

By Susan Barham

Thanksgiving means going to grandmother's house, spending time with family and friends, and most of all, eating. On Thursday, November 25 most people enjoyed turkey and dressing, cranberry sauce, candied yams with marshmallows, and pumpkin pie for dessert. But on the day of thanks, we tend to forget those less fortunate who don't have much to be thankful for. Greensboro's Urban Ministry and Grimsley's Student Council turned things around for the unfortunate people of Greensboro this Thanksgiving holiday.

Urban Ministry served dinner Thanksgiving Day from 11:00 am through 4:00 pm.

Everyone was welcomed to their new location at 305 West Lee St. The Restaurant Association sponsored the program; they bought and prepared the food.

Grimsley's Student Council had a Food Drive during the month of November. Boxes were in homerooms to collect canned food. The food went to their "adopt a family" program. Student Council purchased a turkey dinner for this family and delivered it the day before Thanksgiving. All of the remaining canned food went to Urban Ministry.

Thanks to the help of Greensboro's Urban Ministry and Grimsley's Student Council, everyone had food to eat and something to be thankful for on Thanksgiving Day.



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