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Greenhills Girl Scouts send letters, cookies to soldiers

BY ROB DOWDY | COMMUNITY PRESS STAFF WRITER

GREENHILLS - Girl Scout troops from Beechwoods Elementary School are proving that sometimes its better to give away cookies rather than sell them.

The troops, from grades two through six, came together March 14 in the Beechwoods gymnasium to put together Easter bags for soldiers overseas. The bags included Girl Scout cookies, camouflage Easter eggs with candy inside, handwritten letters and other treats.

"I brought video games," said fourth-grader Zoe Harvey.

Troop leader Jennifer Bedan said this is the first time the Girl Scout troops have come together for Easter packages, though they have sent gifts during other holiday seasons.

"It's a good way to send a little bit of home," she said.

After the packages were wrapped, they were given to Marcia Iker of the Yellow Ribbon Support Group, a group that organized March 2003 at Forest Park's Dayspring Church for family members and friends with loved ones in the military.

Iker, who has two sons currently in the military, said the support group has grown from three members to more than 40. They help families through the tough times when family members are sent off to war. Iker interviews local soldiers when they return from service overseas.

Troop leader Angela Collyer said the Beechwoods Girl Scouts recently performed a similar service in November, sending 96 shoeboxes of goodies to soldiers overseas. She said about 150 Easter packages will be sent from the scouts through the support group.

"I just though it would be nice," Collyer said.

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