

# Gift of Caring (GOC)

The **Gift of Caring** program is a council-wide community service project that gives Girl Scouts the opportunity to learn philanthropy and community service. Troops collect monetary donations from customers for cookies to be purchased by GSGLA, who coordinates delivery to our Gift of Caring community partners.

Funds from customers who generously tell troops to “keep the change” must be added to the Gift of Caring collections. The Cookie Program is not a direct solicitation for troops funds. All sales or donations must be reported and translated into cookies.

When your troop sells cookies through Gift of Caring (GOC), the troop does not pick up or take possession of the cookies. Collect the donation (money) and complete the customer Gift of Caring Receipt (if requested), then record the number of packages in eBudde under GOC (make sure the troop has received the funds before you give a girl credit in eBudde). This lets the council know how many packages to send to these organizations. Girls are eligible for the GOC rewards for selling 12 or more packages. The troop receives its proceeds, and the donor can feel good that their tax-deductible donation is supporting Girl Scouts AND the charitable organizations!

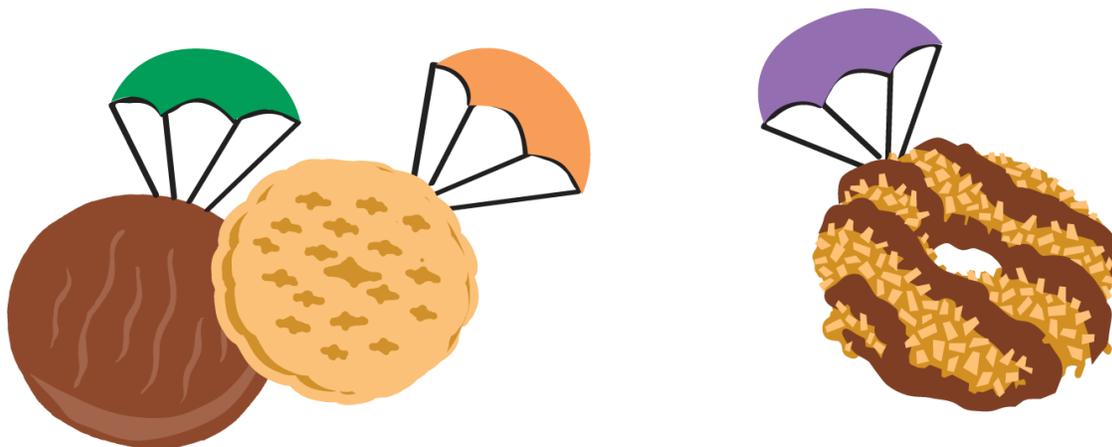
## **To increase Gift of Caring sales, consider these points:**

- GOC is your 9th cookie variety. It satisfies customers on a diet, with food restrictions, and any other reason why they don't want to buy a “real” package. **It is sugar-free, fat-free, guilt-free, and calorie-free!**
- You can sell GOC to those who want to support Girl Scouts, but just don't want to have the cookies around their house due to dietary restrictions.
- Showcase this 9<sup>th</sup> variety at your booth locations with donation jars and posters (resources available in the troop marketing kit.)
- Girls should email relatives and friends (especially those out of the area). This is a great group to target for GOC without incurring the cost of shipping.

## **Gift of Caring Challenge**

In 2019, GSGLA Girl Scouts collected donations of more than 148,000 packages that were then distributed to the following five GOC partners. If girls focus on GOC as much as physical packages, your total sales figures are sure to grow. **Imagine selling even 50 packages (or one to each customer) and not having to transport, carry, and deliver them!**

**Note:** Troops may donate their leftover cookies to an organization of their choice, but cannot solicit donations for any other organization. These packages do not count towards the council's Gift of Caring program. The council-wide GOC service project is the only activity of this type approved by GSGLA and follows both GSUSA and the US Department of Defense Guidelines.



# Gift of Caring Partners

All GSGLA Gift of Caring Partners are registered 501(c)3 non-profit organizations.

LOS ANGELES REGIONAL



Fighting Hunger. Giving Hope.

**Los Angeles Regional Food Bank** mobilizes resources to fight hunger in our communities by distributing food to people in need through charitable agencies or directly through programs, including nearly 900 charitable agency sites throughout Los Angeles County. They also conduct hunger education and awareness campaigns and advocate for public policies that alleviate hunger. The Food Bank feeds 1 MILLION People in LA County every year.

**Operation Gratitude** seeks to lift morale and put smiles on the faces of individual soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines deployed around the world. Through collection drives, letter writing campaigns and donations of funds for shipping expenses, **Operation Gratitude** provides civilians anywhere in America a way to express their respect and appreciation to the men and women of the U.S. Military in an active, hands-on manner. Operation Gratitude care packages contain food, hygiene products, entertainment items and personal letters of appreciation, and, of course, Girl Scout Cookies.



**Bob Hope**  
Hollywood USO at LAX

**Bob Hope USO at LAX** provides a comfortable area for service personnel to spend quality time with family before they ship out, or as a private area to reunite with loved ones as they return. It is a place where emotions run high and small creature comforts of home mean a lot. Gift of Caring cookies provide that special taste of home that tells military personnel that someone cares and appreciate their service beyond words – and only a Girl Scout Cookie can convey that!

**Goodwill of Southern California** seeks to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities by providing education, training and job opportunities to assist them in becoming self-sufficient and productive members of society. Girl Scout Cookies donated to Goodwill through GSGLA's Gift of Caring program are used at Goodwill's WorkSource and Job Service Centers in Los Angeles who mentor at-risk youth.



**Blue Star Mothers** is an organization comprised of mothers who now have, or have had, children honorably serving in the military. The organization's mission is to support through service, members and their sons and daughters who serve or have served honorably in the Armed Forces of the USA. Cookies donated through GSGLA's Gift of Caring program will be sent to United States' military personnel in care packages along with other items to brighten the soldiers' day.

## Gift of Caring Reward

