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So much to do, so little time... Isn't it always the way? It seems particularly true this time of year, for those of us with children heading back to school. And at the new higher-capacity Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc., it's consummately true. While many are enjoying the last few weeks of a long, relaxing summer vacation, others of us are feverishly working to complete the year's worth of work that has been conducted over these precious few Wisconsin months.

Since May 1, we have been preparing for the practical launch of our newly renovated Girl Scout council, and the many rejuvenated programs and services that we will be able to offer our members as a result. It's been an invigorating and historic summer, in an "Extreme work" kind of way. We've had new ideas to cultivate, new procedures to develop, and new policies to approve. We've also had new colleagues and volunteers to get to know, new ways of work to adjust to, and new programs to design.

The most energizing part of it all is the reason we've done all of this is, which is, of course, the girls. After years of research and review, Girl Scouts is recreating itself from the inside out. The Girl Scout Promise and Law remain our cornerstones, and to best honor them in the 21st century we have recast how and what girls do in Girl Scouting. This will make us better able to react to girls ever-changing needs. Our rebirth will also help us maximize resources, and redirect more of every donor dollar to the corps of our mission – building girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.

This rejuvenated program is called the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, where girls will first Discover their own skills, interests and values; then Connect to others in a diverse setting; and then combine these to Take Action and make their world a better place.

Author Marianne Williamson expressed "In every community there is work to be done. In every nation, there are wounds to heal. In every heart there is the power to do it."

So really, Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes is simply empowering more hearts... 24,000 more.

What work needs to be done in your community?

Ann Saris is VP of Brand and Marketing for Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc., serving 24,000 girls and 6,600 volunteers in 58 counties across Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

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