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Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc.

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Girl Scouts Thankful for Gift of Time

November gives us all a chance to reflect on those things for which we are thankful. For many, this November might require more stretch to identify a list. As always, though, it's a matter of perspective. You may have seen the widespread email (author unknown) that touts such an attitude:

I Am Thankful...

- For the teenager who is not doing his chores but watching TV instead, because it means he is at home and not on the streets.
- For the taxes I pay, because it means that I am gainfully employed.
- For the extensive list of things that need to be fixed around the house, because it means I have a home.
- For my heating bill, because it means I am warm.
- For the pile of laundry waiting, because it means I have clothes to wear.
- For aching muscles at day's end, because it means I have been capable of working hard.

The list goes on, but you get the idea. Another great way to adjust one's perspective is to reach out a hand to others in need, especially children, whose appreciation for life and little things is contagious.

We've all been 'graced' with a fresh perspective over the last year, by experiencing a new reality personally or watching friends or family members address job loss, layoffs or other cutbacks. To take a more positive look at it though, perhaps it is fate offering a chance to gain a new appreciation for what truly matters in life, and how rich we are in less obvious ways.

For those with newfound time on hand due to a new personal reality, this can be an amazing opportunity – the first you've ever really had - to help the youth in your community who are anxiously awaiting a new experience of their own. All these kids want and need is for a caring adult to share some time and knowledge. You'll be astounded what a little time each week can do to make a lifelong difference in young lives.

I encourage you to consider volunteering some of your new gift of time to working with, and sharing with, Girl Scouts. Whether it's a few hours a week, a few hours each month, or a few hours for the coming year that you have to give – girls are anxiously awaiting your help.

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