



# Volunteer Corner



**Thank You Sheela!**

Sheela Murthy is the kind of person whose enthusiasm for life immediately infects you. She is a highly intelligent and successful woman who is humbled by all that she has meritoriously accomplished. She is committed to helping others and she supports Girl Scouts of Central Maryland because she “believes in the core mission and values of building women and girls of courage, confidence and character.” She adds, “The core mission of Girl Scouts is my thing! I love their values and believe in it.”

Even though Sheela stays busy running a flourishing boutique law firm—the Murthy Law Firm—which specializes in U.S. immigration law, she still has time for Girl Scouts. Sheela attended a weekend retreat at Camp Ilchester in December and participated in an American Bar Association workshop activity designed for teen girls. Among the participants were members of GSCM’s Beyond Bars Troop #7140. “I was fascinated and intrigued by these girls who were roughing it through the world without their mothers.” She engaged them in conversation and established a bond with them during the workshop. It was near the holidays and I asked them what they had planned, she remembered. “My heart broke,” she said, “when these girls said they had no plans for the holidays.” Sheela quickly put some plans in motion. She arranged for the girls to meet her for a special lunch in the private dining room at Tai Orient during the holidays. Afterwards, they had a tour of Sheela’s law offices.

While they were in her office Sheela shared her background with them. She wanted them to know that she did not come from a rich background, that in fact the country that she grew up in, most people are very poor. “I told them how poor my dad was and he demanded that none of his children experience the same level of poverty he had,” she said. “It is very important for young girls to see a woman of color who has come in from another country with almost nothing and make it,” Sheela stated. After the tour of her law offices Sheela took the girls for a shopping spree at Macy’s. “We all have made mistakes in life, but for the grace of God, our lives have not made us pay for our mistakes behind bars,” Sheela reflected. “I have been given much and I am glad to give back to these girls.”

**“To whom much is given, much is expected. I am so blessed, and I am glad and fortunate that I can share this [blessing] with others.”**

Sheela has been on the GSCM Board of Directors since 2006 and serves as Chair person of the Distinguished Women’s Award Reception committee.

## SHARE your STORY ESSAY COMPETITION

GSCM is asking you to share...SHARE YOUR STORY!! Simply select one of the topics below and write a one-page essay detailing your response and send it to GSCM:

How has being a Girl Scout affected your career choice?

Who is the strongest role model in your life right now? Why?

How has Girl Scouting prepared you for challenges in your every day life?

If you could give one million dollars to any cause, which would it be and why?

**Eligibility:** Open to all Girl Scouts from all age groups. Be sure to include your full name, address, Service Unit, and Troop.

**Winner:** The winner will be notified in writing in mid-October. Winning essays will be published in the Fall Edition of GirlsWorld. The winner will also receive a \$50 gift card to shop at either Juliette’s Closet location.

**Deadline:** Entries should be submitted no later than August 29, 2008. Submissions can be sent via email to [ncheese@gscm.org](mailto:ncheese@gscm.org) or mailed to:

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4806 Seton Drive  
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Attention: Niaxia Cheese

**volunteers** the driving force in Girl Scouting