

# Client *focus*

## **MEET SISTINE: Girl Scout, Award Winner, and Very Capable Young Lady**

Rose Myers has always had fond childhood memories of when she was in the Girl Scouts. She remembered the friendships and the exciting opportunities she had so it was natural for her to want her own daughter, Sistine, to have the same great experiences! Sistine was seven years old when Rose approached the leaders of a local Brownie Troop and talked with them about Sistine joining their troop. Troop 369 embraced the idea of having Sistine become a new member. Sistine was the first girl with a developmental disability to join this troop – she has Down syndrome.

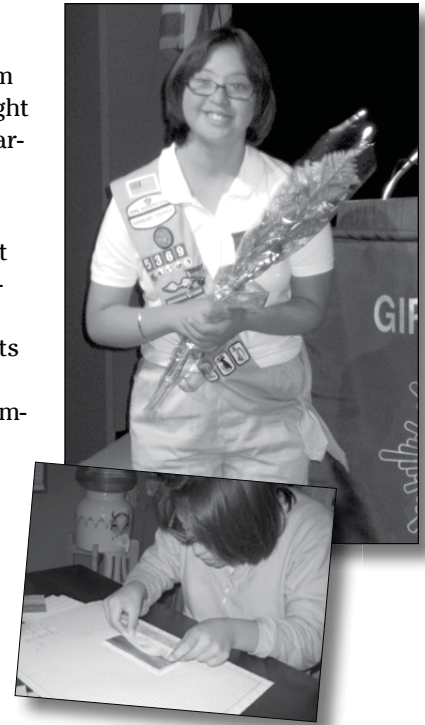
When looking for appropriate social and recreational activities in their local communities, parents and care providers of children and adults with developmental disabilities don't always think about some of the obvious options that are so naturally considered for the "typical" child or adult. As Rose found out, all it really takes is being honest with your request, offering support and sometimes even a bit of education to the benefit of everyone!

Sistine started out in Brownies as a shy and somewhat introverted young girl. Troop Leader Michelle encouraged all the girls in the troop to stand up, talk and read in front of the others, but Sistine was too shy and it was difficult for her to do this. She is now 13 years old and has been in Troop 369 for six years. Assistant Troop Leader Janet had this to say about Sistine: "I have had the extreme pleasure of watching her grow into a very confi-

dent, capable young lady! What I'm really proud of is that Sistine is right there, standing up, talking and sharing stories with us all – not a shy bone in her body anymore!"

Sistine was awarded the Girl Scout Silver Award for a project she created for the Beacon House in San Pedro. The Silver Award represents the accomplishments a Girl Scout has made to her troop and her community as she works to improve her life and the lives of others. For Sistine's project, she crafted handmade cards for the clients of the Beacon House and went there with her mother to personally deliver them to each of the 100 clients. She was invited to the podium where she read a note she had written thanking them for the opportunity to make the cards for them and for receiving her Silver Award because of the project. This was a momentous thrill for Rose as she stood by ever so proudly, knowing that Sistine had just started reading and had always been too shy to read or speak in front of such a large audience. Sistine has made great strides throughout her six years of involvement in the Girl Scouts and she continues to grow and mature. She has earned several badges and marched in the Torrance Armed Forces Day parade.

Sistine is finishing up her first year of high school where she has a variety of friends, interests and talents that keep her very busy. Her social life is enhanced by her participation in the Friendship Circle where she is developing more independence while attending social outings with her peers. HRC congratulates Sistine on her many accomplishments and contributions to the community. ■



*(above) Sistine smiles proudly at the Awards Ceremony.*

*(below) With amazing patience and precision, Sistine crafted over 100 beautiful cards.*