



*Kelsey
Abele*

Kelsey Abele, Belton, Missouri, is a junior at The Barstow School. She has been a Girl Scout for 12 years and is a member of Troop #882, Service Unit 674.

Kelsey's Gold Award project stemmed from her love of knitting. The first part of her project consisted of knitting scarves for the students in a fourth grade class at Troost Elementary School. Each student in the class received a hand-knit scarf. She also organized a hat and mitten drive for the students, which supplied the classroom with gloves and hats that helped equip the low-income students with proper winter wear. She promoted the longevity of her project by teaching a local Girl Scout Troop basic knitting skills. This Junior Troop had fun and earned a badge.

Through her project, Kelsey learned life skills such as time management and perseverance. By spending time with younger students she discovered a certain joy in working with children. This project has inspired what she refers to as a "Close Knit Community" to keep warm in a biting Kansas City winter. She hopes that the community ideal made a lasting impression on the students of Troost Elementary.

"I hope they realize that someone outside of their family thinks about them. With any luck they will remember that when they wear their scarves," said Kelsey.

**2009
GOLD
AWARD
RECIPIENT**

