

HADLEY

'Golden Moments' honored

BY CORI URBAN

Special to The Republican

Although 18-year-old Monica M. Rosa is majoring in foundations of health at Holyoke Community College with an eye to working with children in a hospital setting, she earned her Girl Scout Gold Award with a project geared toward senior citizens in her community.

By interviewing and extracting the poignant moments in their lives, she preserved their memories by presenting them with customized mementos placed in a golden box.

The goal of her project was to remind elders that they are appreciated, important and not forgotten.

She interviewed 25 seniors at Elaine Manor, the town Senior Center and the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke (before the pandemic) and then purchased small items to remind them of the memories they had shared with her. For example, if an elder liked gardening, she purchased a flower pot, soil and seeds.

Each golden box had four, five or six mementos.

After she filled each golden box, she wrote each elder a note relating her life to theirs and thanked them for everything they had done for the community. When she delivered the boxes, some of the recipients hugged her and cried "knowing that there are still people throughout the community that think about them, care

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Monica Rosa, of Hadley, was awarded Girl Scouting's highest honor, the Gold Award, for an effort she entitled "Golden Moments," working with area senior citizens to share their memories. (GIRL SCOUTS OF CENTRAL & WESTERN

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Scout

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about them and appreciate all that they have done for us,” Rosa explained.

She purchased extra materials, painted an extra 25 golden boxes and created additional interview surveys so that a future Girl Scout troop can repeat this project.

“My Gold Award project, ‘Golden Moments,’ will always touch the hearts of those senior citizens,” she said. “I’m glad I got the opportunity to make a difference in their lives and that someday this project will go on so other Girl Scouts can make a difference as well.”

The Girl Scout Gold Award recognizes girls in grades 9 through 12 who demonstrate extraordinary leadership through sustainable and measurable Take-Action projects and signifies achievement of the highest recognition for girls in Girl Scouting.

Rosa has been involved with Girl Scouting for 12 years and is a member of Troop 40033 in Hadley.

A graduate of Easthampton High School, she said Girl Scouting showed her that she likes to make a positive impact on others’ lives and to help people when needed. “Girl Scouts introduced me to CPR and first-aid certification, and it showed me how great it feels to help others,” she said, adding that Girl Scouts helped her gain independence and opened new opportunities to her.

“The thing I like most about Girl Scouting is helping others. I love making a positive impact on my community. I was extremely fortunate to be in the troop I was in because they treated me like family,” Rosa said.