

Girl Scout Cadette Troop 20208 Launches *Soapy Smiles* Personal Care Products Drive

Montclair, NJ – April 28, 2022 - Four enterprising teen girls from Girl Scout Cadette Troop 20208 have launched *Soapy Smiles*, a Montclair-based personal care drive to provide non-food items to local people in need. Most people don't realize that daily essentials like shampoo, razors, dental care products, diapers, feminine hygiene products and more are not covered by SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), commonly known as food stamps. SNAP is the largest federal food aid resource available, but its benefits do not apply to personal care items, leaving many individuals and families without these important supplies.

Believing that no one should be deprived of baseline personal care supplies to maintain health, wellness and comfort, the Scouts decided to expand on a personal care drive they began in 2021. *Soapy Smiles* was the result, and Troop 20208 has successfully invited other Girl Scout troops and local organizations to join them. The four participating Cadette scouts leading the *Soapy Smiles* effort are working toward their Girl Scout Silver Award which is earned by completing 50 hours of community service and creating a program that lives on after they have moved on.

Kicking off in May, the *Soapy Smiles* drive will take place across three different days – May 14, 15 and 21, 2022. The personal care item donations will be divided between Toni's Kitchen and the Human Needs Food Pantry, both charitable non-profit organizations based in Montclair. Items collected will include: shampoo, conditioner, razors, body wash, soap, shaving cream, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, feminine hygiene products and diapers.

Ingrid Burke, co-leader of Troop 20208, said, "We are incredibly proud of our scouts and their ambitious actions which make the world a better place. Our intention is that *Soapy Smiles* will become a recurring program that Girl Scout service unit troops will support for years to come."

How to donate:

Saturday, May 14th from 12-3pm at Union Congregational Church, 176 Cooper Avenue, Upper Montclair, NJ 07043

Saturday, May 15th from 12-3pm at the Community Outreach Program for Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and the St. Vito Society, 79 Pine Street, Montclair, NJ 07042

Two locations on May 21st:

Saturday, May 21st from 10:00am-1:00pm at the Glen Ridge Arts and Eco Fair on Woodland Avenue (near Ridgewood Avenue), Glen Ridge, NJ 07028

Saturday, May 21st from 12:00pm-3:00pm at the Montclair Eco-Fair at St. James Episcopal Church, 581 Valley Road, Upper Montclair, NJ 07043

Or donations can be ordered through the Troop's Amazon Wish List:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/7JNEPWFKAXFS/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_2

All orders will ship directly to the troop's storage facility.

For more information, visit www.soapysmiles20208.com, email soapysmiles20208@gmail.com or call/text 201-661-0216 with any questions.