



# NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **STAR, Inc., Lighting the Way... Group Home Receives Halloween Decorations from Middlesex Middle School Girl Scouts**



PHOTO: Girl scouts from Troop 50383 from Middlesex Middle School in Darien gather together in front of their Halloween decorations at a STAR group home for individuals with developmental disabilities. Painters include (LtoR) Hayley Collier, Lee Thalhammer, Katie Condren, Sofia Uttley, Taylor Hart, Kelsey Hartfelder, Caroline McKay, Helene Collins and Alexis Gajwani. Not pictured are Elena Cage and Chelsea Hurd.

October 20, 2009: Girl scouts from Darien Troop 50383 from Middlesex Middle School brought the spirit of Halloween to a STAR, Inc., Lighting the Way... to a group home that houses five individuals with developmental disabilities. The girls brought treats bundles they had created and filled with candy, and Halloween decorations; they also painted the windows of the group home with spooky Halloween images.

Troop leader Gayle Hartfelder says, "The girls enjoy doing this every year. They started the tradition a few years back, and now look forward to it—especially this project! This is one of the service projects they specifically request at the beginning of the year."

This service project is something the Darien Girl Scouts perform in cooperation with STAR each year. Their commitment to service is the cornerstone of the The Girl Scout Promise, which states: "On my honor, I will try to serve God and my country, to help people at all times and to live by the Girl Scout Law." This promise encourages girls, even the youngest, to give back to the community.

STAR, Inc., Lighting the Way is a not-for-profit organization serving individuals of all ages with developmental disabilities, as well as providing support services to their families. STAR provides a wide range of programs and services to more than 500 children and adults with developmental disabilities, including Recreational Programs, Day Programs, Job Training and Placement, Social Services and Advocacy. STAR creates opportunities for individuals to live full lives with independence, freedom of choice and personal growth by providing support, services and advocacy. We inform and encourage the community to recognize and appreciate the value of all individuals.

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