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PRESS RELEASE

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Elkhart Girl Scout Troop Celebrates Giving

Elkhart – It is that time of year again – navigating busy stores and parking lots while we all hustle and bustle trying to find something for everyone on our shopping list. It is also the time of year to care for others in our community. The Indiana Lakeland Girl Scout Council Troop 74 did just that by donating their creations to *Toys for Tots*.

On Wednesday, November 28 at the St. Thomas School in Elkhart the girls of Troop 74 put into practice the values they've learned from Girl Scouting. "The troop wanted to find a way to give to others," states J.J. Lidy, a co-leader of the troop. Lidy continues, "I wanted the girls to see how good it feels to work really hard on something and then give it away to someone who needs it more than they do."

With the help of a company called Noah's Ark Stuff-n-Fluff (a company similar to Build-a-Bear but travels to your location), the girls purchased and built their own stuffed animals. This time, instead of taking the toys home, they gave their gifts to two US Marines who collected the donations for their annual *Toys for Tots* program.

"What better way for the girls ages 7 and 8 to connect with others in the community who might not have a Christmas tree full of presents," says Amanda Kreps-Long, Director of Fund Development and Marketing for the Indiana Lakeland Girl Scout Council. "They had a great time making the toys and I think they had even more fun knowing the toys were going to someone who would enjoy them even more. Learning how to contribute to your community is an essential goal of Girl Scouting."

The Girl Scout mission is to build girls with courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. The Indiana Lakeland Girl Scout Council staff and volunteers serve girls and young women in four counties – Whitley, Noble, Elkhart and Kosciusko. Persons interested in learning more about Girl Scouting may call 866.223.7740 or visit www.indianalakeland.org.

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