**Mission Statement**

Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council builds girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.

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**Girl Scout Promise**

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.

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**Girl Scout Law**

I will do my best to be
honest and fair,
friendly and helpful,
considerate and caring,
courageous and strong, and
responsible for what I say and do,
and to
respect myself and others,
respect authority,
use resources wisely,
make the world a better place, and
be a sister to every Girl Scout.
Dear Girl Scout Family,

For generations, Girl Scouts has taught girls and young women to do their best and to live each day by the values in the Girl Scout Law. These values are just as relevant now as they were when our Movement was founded 106 years ago by Juliette Gordon Low. Juliette was a trailblazer! She was also a lover of the great outdoors.

 Juliette would be happy to know that when it comes to girls we have never wavered and that the outdoors continues to be a strong pillar of our programming – as evidenced by the more than 54,000 experiences that took place at camp this year or the replies of 80% of girls who responded when asked and said that camp was their fondest memory of their time in Girl Scouts.

As you flip through the pages of our 2018 Annual Report, we hope you will take the time to learn more about our outdoor programs as well as celebrate some of our accomplishments with us.

Some of our highlights from the year include the release of 30 new badges that introduce girls to space science, robotics and environmental awareness, the creation of a family camp experience designed specifically to engage Hispanic parents who speak Spanish only and an experience at camp that changed the trajectory of the life of a Girl Scout who participated in our outreach program.

Most importantly, we will show the impact of your support not only on our programs, but on the girls and families we serve every day.

Thank you for believing in our mission. There’s no doubt about it: Girl Scouts is the single best place for girls. Our one-of-a-kind leadership development program provides girls with unlimited girl-led adventures found nowhere else. Because of you, we can help more girls develop into the best versions of themselves. Thanks for helping to keep our Movement relevant and our mission important.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Jean Janssen
President and Board Chair
2016-2018

Mary Vitek
CEO

Dee Hinkle
President and Board Chair
2018-2020
2018 highlights from around the Council

Total Members:

71,145

- Total girls: 53,598
- Total adults: 17,547

total Members:

- Troops participating in the Cookie Program: 2,502
- Average number of Cookie Packages sold per girl: 198.8

- Packages of Cookies sold: 4,641,780
- Cases of cookies sold: 386,815
- Cases of cookies donated through Cookies4Heroes: 6,889

Counties GSSJC serves: Angelina,fccg

Total Members: 71,145
Total number of girls who have earned highest awards

- **Gold Award**: 124
- **Silver Award**: 473
- **Bronze Award**: 1,327

2018 highlights from around the Council

**What do Girl Scouts do?** Girl Scouts discover, connect and take action to make the world a better place through unique programs that promote: **entrepreneurship, life skills, the outdoors and STEM.**

**Outdoor Progression**

Progression allows girls to learn the skills they need to become competent in the outdoors, including how to plan and organize outdoor activities. Acknowledge a girl’s mastery of an outdoor skill and invite her to challenge herself further by taking that next step up and out! Outdoor fun can be endless when girls lead.

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**Leave No Trace Principles:**

- Plan Ahead & Prepare
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Respect Wildlife
- Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors

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**2018 Program Highlights:**

- **Cookie Program**: 23,344
- **Travel**: 3,091
- **Visits to Camp**: 53,946
- **STEM**: 4,343
- **Fall Product Program**: 6,803
- **Sports**: 1,114
- **Conservation**: 2,473
- **Equitation**: 3,162
- **Health**: 1,547
- **Resident camp**: 2,042
- **Health**: 1,547
- **Fall Product Program**: 6,803

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**What did Girl Scouts do?**

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  - entrepreneurship
  - life skills
  - the outdoors
  - STEM

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Latrice Thibodeaux: The Comeback (CIT)
Counselor-in-Training
Latrice Thibodeaux sat with the breeze in her hair, the ocean to her back and her Girl Scout membership pin proudly displayed on her lanyard. Through a campership, financial aid for summer camp, she was able to enroll in the Counselor-in-Training (CIT) program. However, while sitting in sunny Camp Casa Mare, Latrice explained that her Girl Scout journey wasn't traditional. “I was in the detention center. I was in a rough situation,” said Latrice. “I thought, I cannot be in here. I need to be doing something productive with my life.”

The community outreach program Girl Scouting in Detention Centers provides Girl Scout curriculum to residents of juvenile probation facilities – girls working to overcome the setbacks of their lives through reformation and rehabilitation. Meetings focus on relevant topics such as self-esteem and conflict resolution and traditional Girl Scout activities like learning the values in the Promise and Law. “They believe that even though you’ve made some bad decisions, you can still be a Girl Scout. You can turn it around and do something good,” she said.

Community outreach staff encouraged Latrice to contact them after she returned home, so she could continue her Girl Scout journey. “I thought, well, it’ll keep me out of trouble, so I guess that'll be a good start for me to turn my life around,” said Latrice.

Our community outreach staff immediately got to work on finding a way for Latrice to go to camp. “We signed up for a campership, and I got it, and I was like – woah! This is really happening,” she shared.

That summer, Latrice got a crash course in Girl Scout camp, visiting all three resident camps and participating in tons of outdoor activities. “I’ve become more of an outside person. Being outside is really fun. I’ve been in a canoe. That was my first time being in a canoe. I got a bull’s-eye in archery the first time. I was so excited!”

Girl Scouts changed Latrice’s life. She hopes other girls will hear her story and join too.

“When most people think of Girl Scouts, they think of goody two shoes and cookies. I’ve seen a totally different side of it now. It makes you a better person.”

–Latrice Thibodeaux
Kimberly Vaughan remembered for her love of camp
In late May 2018, we learned that a member of our Girl Scout family, Kimberly Vaughan, was a victim in the shooting at Santa Fe High School. Kimberly, a Girl Scout Senior, was planning to begin the process to earn the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest honor a Girl Scout can earn, in just a few months.

A Girl Scout since she was a Daisy, Kimberly had one experience that she prized above all else: attending summer camp. While annual attendance wasn’t possible, Kimberly took every opportunity to spend a week at camp to the fullest advantage. Most recently, she attended introduction to sailing sessions at Camp Casa Mare in Seabrook. During the school year, she also attended activities she helped with such as “I’d Rather Be Camping” or helping at Carousel weekends where younger girls camp for the first time.

Few things are as memorable for a girl as going away to summer camp. While she may not remember exactly how this rite of passage made her more responsible and independent or how it gave her an appreciation for nature, she’ll know it did.

GSSJC is grateful for the opportunity to play a small role in sharing the great outdoors with Kimberly. To honor her memory, an honorary Gold Award project was developed last summer. Kimberly planned to pursue a project centered around educating her community on the benefits of American Sign Language (ASL) because she experienced speech delay as a child and her family learned ASL to bridge the communication gap. Celebrating Kimberly’s enthusiasm for Girl Scouts and her passion for using ASL as a communication tool with infants and toddlers, GSSJC developed Choose Love.

This activity guide encourages Girl Scout Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors to discover how ASL can benefit young children with and without speech delays and to share what you learn with others. In their activities, girls will learn the history of ASL and how hearing loss impacted Girl Scout Founder Juliette Gordon Low’s life, how to sign the alphabet as well as a song in sign language. Girls will then take their skills into the community to teach others sign language basics and how ASL can benefit everyone.

To learn more about this project, visit gssjc.org/forms and search Choose Love.

To provide the camp experience for other girls, visit gssjc.org/donate.

“Kimberly’s favorite memory was waking up to the bugle playing each morning at Camp Casa Mare.”

–Rhonda Hart, Kimberly’s mother
Entergy supports female leadership through Girl Scouts
It began with a horse, or rather a herd of horses who needed a cool place to hang out at our Camp Misty Meadows.

That might sound like the beginning of a silly joke a Girl Scout Brownie might tell you, but it was also a reality for our herd at Camp Misty Meadows in Conroe. The property includes more than 300 acres of pasture but didn’t include any loafing sheds to give the horses shelter, particularly during the summer months.

Then Entergy stepped up and agreed to not only donate the funds to build the structure, but also involved their employees by building the shed for GSSJC. “We chose the loafing shed project because our company is mainly linemen, servicemen and engineers,” said Tracey Brodeur, market program developer with Entergy. “They love outdoor projects. This gave them a way to showcase their talents at the same time as helping the horses and the Girl Scout camp.”

From there, the company’s interest in working with Girl Scouts grew. When a reforestation project was identified as another need at Camp Misty Meadows, Entergy agreed to assist. “The reforestation project was enjoyable because we can drive by the site and see the fruits of our labors,” said Brodeur. The project included planting more than 300 trees along a 2,220-foot berm along the southern perimeter of the camp. In mid-November, more than 40 volunteers, including Girl Scouts and Entergy volunteers, spent an afternoon planting these trees.

Supporting Girl Scouts is important to Entergy because they know the girls who participate in our programs learn valuable skills like conservation to prepare them for careers of the future. “Many of our employees were Scouts, and it’s important in today’s society to teach our young generation how to survive and exist on their own,” said Brodeur. “I would encourage other companies to support the Girl Scouts because there are very few places left in our society that teach our young people the important life skills that Girl Scouts provide the participants. This is so important!”

“It was so great to be outdoors and see the girls take ownership of the planting themselves.”

—Tracey Brodeur, market program developer with Entergy
Our Gold Award Girl Scouts:

**Gabrielle LaRochelle** led over 20 volunteers in installing an automated irrigation system for a grove of 16 citrus trees at Johnson Space Center. The trees were donated, but there was no efficient system to water them. As such, Megan recruited volunteers from NASA and the Gardening, Agriculture, Sustainability and Arts Club at The Longhorn Project Garden; designed the irrigation system and fundraised to purchase the supplies needed for her project. She then worked with her team to dig trenches, glue 200 feet of PVC pipe and lay 400 feet of drip irrigation hosing. Gabrielle hoped her project would show others that they have the power to solve problems and help a community through initiative and dedication.

**Ava Hale** implemented a flood mitigation plan at Cunae International School to prevent flooding. She led a team of eight volunteers in building a dry creek river bed along the natural drainage path that goes to the main drain and empties into a retention pond. Ava and her team cleared a 156-foot path, laid down landscaping material and spread four cubic yards of bull rock. They also planted native vegetation to prevent erosion and improve water absorption through vapo-respiration. Ava’s project was inspired by her volunteering efforts during Hurricane Harvey and her hopes to prevent future flooding in the area.

**Megan Grote** completed a wildscaping project, landscape designed to provide habitat for wildlife, at Jesse Jones Park in Humble. A portion of land, which many used as a dumping ground, was allocated to Megan for her project. She then recruited help from over ten volunteers to clear the land, plant native vegetation, which would utilize less resources and pesticides, and build a bench. Megan also staked plant identification markers in her wildscape and created a brochure to be displayed at the Jesse Jones visitor’s center. Megan wanted her project to take place outdoors and to help others enjoy and appreciate nature.
Champions of the Outdoors

Mackenzie Hogan worked with Pearland Parks and Recreation to establish an interconnected geocaching system called Disney Cache Gold Award. Mackenzie assembled caches consisting of sustainable containers that stored a small Disney character, a log book and a pencil. She then led a team of eight volunteers in finding secure locations to hide the caches throughout half of the parks in Pearland. Mackenzie promoted the project by designing and distributing a flyer, which was published in Pearland Magazine and posted online. The project was developed to help children ages 9-13 build both mapping and math skills while enjoying the outdoors.

Halle Hudson led 30 volunteers in completing a tree-planting project around Sims Bayou and Meyer Park. After training her volunteers on how to properly plant trees, Halle got to work while directing her team throughout the project. Additionally, she created a website with instructions on how to plant trees and gave presentations to Scouts and a science class. She also designed a fact sheet, which she distributed at her presentations, to community churches, businesses and neighborhoods. After her family was affected by flooding, she hoped her project would repair and prevent flood damage in those areas.

Madeline Daigle built a new and easily accessible indoor garden for the senior residents of The Manor at Jersey Village. With the help of ten volunteers, Madeline developed prototypes and measured out wood for her project. They then constructed, painted and installed the planters. Madeline obtained cuttings and clippings for the planters from friends and family, which were planted in the garden. Through her project, Madeline highlighted the benefits of indoor gardening for healthy living within the senior population. Continued maintenance of the garden will provide residents with fresh organic fruits and vegetables, stress relief and improved air quality.
A simple outdoor escape can be life changing for girls and families.
For 10 years, through our Hispanic Community Engagement program (HCE), we have focused on cultivating relationships with Latina Girl Scouts whose parents or family members speak only Spanish and lack familiarity with our organization.

Through the years, these families have been instrumental in helping us expand our reach in Hispanic communities, and they serve as some of our strongest volunteers and advocates for Girl Scouting.

Studies show that camp experiences in Girl Scouts are beneficial to girls’ leadership development across ethnicities. Thirty-eight percent of Hispanic Girl Scouts are more likely than their peers to say they overcame a fear of the outdoors through Girl Scouting, 79 percent say they tried an outdoor activity in Girl Scouts and 59 percent of Hispanic girls say Girl Scouts has offered them access to outdoor activities. Similar outcomes can be extended to members of girls’ families through family camping.

Throughout the year, GSSJC provides opportunities for girls to go camping with their families. In February 2018, HCE volunteers organized a weekend family campout at our Camp Robinwood near Willis, TX for Girl Scouts who are members of our Spanish-speaking troops and their families. Prior to the excursion, many had never participated in an overnight outing or visited our camp properties.

To prepare for the campout, troop volunteers completed training. To address language barriers, HCE volunteers organized and facilitated camp trainings in Spanish, which helped better engage parents. Participation by fathers like Ephraim Guevara and Francisco Morales, who completed camp certification training that teaches volunteers how to take Girl Scouts on overnight outings, was remarkable.

During the camping weekend, Girl Scouts enjoyed fishing, paddle boats, hiking, archery and making s’mores by the fire. However, what they enjoyed most from the experience was being able to share it with their families.

Parents enjoyed the trip so much that they were inspired to complete additional trainings and serve as mentors for other Spanish-speaking troops. Ephraim went on to complete first aid, CPR and AED training and is now a bilingual instructor for GSSJC.

The next troop family camping opportunity for our HCE program will more than double in 2019.
Girl Scouts become environmental stewards with new badges

From the backyard to the backcountry, Girl Scouts has a long, storied, and successful history of getting girls outdoors. In fact, many Girl Scouts tell us “camping trips” are one of the best things about their Girl Scout experience. It’s true: connecting with nature in a girl-led setting is a big benefit of belonging to Girl Scouts.

In July 2018, Girl Scouts of the USA introduced 30 new badges for girls ages 5-18. This comes after introducing 23 new badges in the summer of 2017. The new badges in 2018 offer girls the chance to learn more about some of society’s most pressing needs, such as cybersecurity, environmental stewardship, mechanical engineering, robotics, computer science and space exploration.

The environmental stewardship badges, in particular, are exciting for Girl Scouts because they were the Movement’s first-ever series of badges focused on this topic. Through preparation for outdoor experiences and by taking action on environmental issues they find important, Girl Scouts will take the steps to not only learn about the great outdoors but to more fully understand how they can protect it for future generations.

Girls will learn skills from how to keep trash out of nature, taking care of wildlife and the seven principles of Leave No Trace to how to plan an eco-trek, exploring biodiversity and learning the role of eco advocates in our world.

Although Girl Scouts has been advocating for the environment since the organization’s founding 106 years ago, these badges are the first to specifically prepare girls to be environmental advocates who address problems, find solutions and protect the natural world (funded by the Elliott Wildlife Values Project).
Thank you, 2017-2018 GSSJC donors!

Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council (GSSJC) expresses its deepest appreciation to the donors listed on the following pages for their generous contributions in support of Girl Scout programs between September 1, 2017 and August 31, 2018. More information on opportunities to support GSSJC is available by contacting Connie Chavez at cchavez@sjgs.org or 713-292-0321.

Great care has been taken to ensure the proper recognition of our donors. If an error or omission does occur, we sincerely apologize and hope you will bring it to our attention. Please address all corrections to Suzanne Boak at 713-292-0273 or sboak@sjgs.org. Thank you for your continued support.

Leadership for a Lifetime

Your gift to this annual fund provides quality services to 54,000 girls in 26 counties, assists 17,000 Girl Scout volunteers, supplies innovative and relevant program opportunities for all girls, and ensures that the best possible training, resources and support are available.

$25,000+

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Juliette Gordon Low Society

For more than a century, Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council has inspired and enriched the lives of girls in our community. Preserving and building upon positive outcomes for future generations of girls is the mission of the Juliette Gordon Low Society, whose members have included GSSJC in their estate plans. We are proud to recognize those who have already made commitments to our legacy society and invite others to join them as we build a sound future for GSSJC. For more information on creating a legacy for the benefit of GSSJC, contact Diane Pavey at 713-292-0277 or dpavey@sjgs.org.

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Cathy Wining-Thomas

The Emerald Circle

The Emerald Circle awards scholarships to graduating seniors who have earned the highest award in Girl Scouting, the Gold Award. Funds are derived from membership dues and donors as well as The Emerald Circle Gold Award Scholarship Endowment Fund. Since 1996, The Emerald Circle has granted 461 scholarships totaling $629,000. For information on how to join or to give to the scholarship fund, contact Emily Kelley at 713-292-0358 or ekelley@sjgs.org.

**Lifetime**

Ranvae Baker
Anna Mae Beghini
Corin Ann Blytas
Elizabeth J. Bonner
Kay K. Craig
Wendy R. Crawford
Ellen R. DeSanctis
Marlene M. Edwards
Nancy C. Flatt
Emily P. George
Susanne M. Glasscock
Dolores Russell Goble
Dorothy M. Goodykoontz
Doris E. Hill
Sandra A. Judson
JoAnne Knodel
Linda P. Lay
Jacqueline S. Martin
Kate Marx
Karen M. Matlock
Mary B. McIntire, Ph.D.
Helen M. Meistrich
Valerie Mogas
Theresa Price
Linda Reid
Jayne Roberts
Louise Rugaard
Louise A. Shearer
Nancy and Bud Simpson
Carolyn Goble Smith
Marianita Paddock Snodgrass
Mary C. Thompson
Cheryl Thompson-Draper
Mary Vitek
Evelyn Vittone
Nancy R. Walker
Sara L. Walker
Joanne M. Williams
Cathy Wining-Thomas
Linda W. Petersen
Linda M. Ross
Donna Sisak
Pam Staples
Connie Stone
Barbara S. Story
Carolyn Vann
Margaret Vaughn
Nancy Wells
Iska Wire

**Individual**

Patricia Aviles
Lavonne Baker
Barbara S. Barnes
Terrie Bean-Minero
Julie H. Bell
Katie Berend
Julia Blackmore
Charlene Burgess
Portia S. Cook
Cindy Costales
Tunis L. Deal
Carol Dyson
Serena Folkerts
Nancy Halpern
Joan Korpal
Debra A. Lewis
Margaret Lincoln
Ida Pearl McDonald
Nancy McGuire
Loren M. McCray
Yvonne Myles

**Couples**

Barbara and Jonathan Day
Candace Donaldson and Dawn Donaldson
Amanda Galan and Iliana Galan
Dolores Z. and John M. Richards
Karen Rugaard and James Ward
Sharon W. and Patrick F. Timmons
Jeanneae and Marcus Sims

Promise Society

Consists of individual members who have donated $1,000 or more for at least five consecutive years.

Margaret Britton
Connie Chavez
Kay K. Craig
Julie M. Deeter
Ellen R. DeSanctis
Constance C. Eicher
Nancy C. Flatt
Susanne M. Glasscock
Dorothy M. Goodykoontz
S. Pilar Grantham
Cluadia W. Hayslip
K. Daniel and Delores James Hinkle
Jean T. Janssen and Stephen P. Pate
Sandra A. Judson
Kevin C. and Monica Maby King
Elena and Scott McCreery
Stacy and Dee Methvin
Nancy Lee G. Peterson
Melanie Rippentrop
Jayne and Paul Roberts
Mary K. Ryder
Margaret S. Sheriff
Nancy and Bud Simpson
Catherine B. Smith
Esther and Don Spencer
Aimée and Brandon Sproles
Katherine M. Tamer
Gail and Ray Tompkins
Mary and Mike Vitek
Cathy Wining-Thomas and Jim Thomas
Fiscal 2018 Operating Revenues

Product Sales is the largest source of revenue for GSSJC, totaling $10,830,000 in net revenue. Product Sales includes the Girl Scout Cookie Program and the Fall Product Program. In addition to being the premier financial literacy program for girls, the Cookie Program generated gross revenue of $18,576,000. Costs included cost of cookies sold of $5,264,000 and bonuses for troops of $2,811,000. The Fall Product Program is a friends and family sale that provides funding for troops around the beginning of the school year. This sale generated gross revenues of $954,000, cost of sales of $382,000, and troop bonuses of $240,000.

Non-Capital Contributions and Capital Contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations totaled $1,873,000 and $130,000 respectively. Allocations from United Way agencies totaled $1,281,000.

Endowment Net Asset Composition

Monies contributed to the Endowment funds are intended to ensure the future of Girl Scouting for girls over the next century. By making gifts to the endowment fund with direct cash gifts or through various charitable vehicles, including wills and charitable trust, you are ensuring the legacy of GSSJC.
Fiscal 2018 Operating Revenues

Fiscal 2018 Operating

Eighty-five percent of total expenses are used for program directly benefiting members of GSSJC. Management & General costs as a percentage of total expenses are 10% and Fundraising expenses are at 5% of total expenses. In 2018, approximately $951,000 was spent on capital improvements to our camps and service centers.

Net Assets as of August 31, 2018

Net assets for GSSJC reflect a large investment in land, buildings and equipment. Also, our fiscal year begins on September 1 and ends on August 31. Due to the timing of our operations, we raise funds in one fiscal year to be expended in the next. The Girl Scout Cookie Program is the largest source of revenue. This sale concludes in May, and the funds raised are gradually depleted from then until the following April. With the fiscal year end of August 31, our general operations net assets reflects our position at the end of our largest fundraising effort. These net assets are used for our operations in the next fiscal year.
It costs $332 per girl to make Girl Scouting a reality at GSSJC

$167 Provides Council-wide programs and activities at all levels that enhance troop participation and allow girls the opportunity to build new skills. It also provides the opportunity for girls to participate in activities beyond the traditional troop setting.

$60 Develops and imparts the very best training, materials and curriculum for adult volunteers, ensuring the needs of each Girl Scout are met.

$46 Maintains, updates and expands the use of all camp properties, service centers, GSSJC headquarters and the Program Place for Girls.

$46 Supports membership development, including recruitment and registration of girls and volunteers, staff support to volunteers and financial assistance available to all members.

$13 Enhances the visibility and affirms the successes of Girl Scouting as the premier organization for girls through press releases, media coverage, *The Golden Link*, online community site and www.gssjc.org.
2018-2019 Board of Directors

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Chair of the Board
Delores “Dee” J. Hinkle

Vice Chair
Melanie Rippentrop

Vice Chair
Marguerite Woung-Chapman

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Julie Boushka
Meg Britton
Tony Canales
Kirsten Davenport, JD, LLM

Kimberly K. Denney, PE
Francisco Diaz
Darcie Durham
Alisa Fraga-Kautzmann
Jane Gasdaska
Calvin Gorriaran
S. Pilar Grantham
Suzanne Kean
Elena McCreery
Michele McNichol, PE
Cassandra M. McZeal, PhD
Melinda Reeves
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Dorothy Goodykoontz
E.C. “Bud” Simpson

Mary Vitek, CEO