

## **M MacFarlane – Application for Funds to Common Good Fund May 2020**

I write to support Molly MacFarlane's application for funds to the Common Good Fund, Selkirk. I am the District commissioner of Girlguiding Selkirk, that is the local manager of the volunteers who lead girlguiding in Selkirk. I have known Molly for about 8 years. I first met her as a brownie when I started to work as an assistant with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Selkirk Guide Unit, which was and is run by Molly's mother, Vicki MacFarlane.

Molly has been a member of Girlguiding since she became a Rainbow at the age of 5 years. She has continued, with no break, through Brownies (7-10 yrs), Guides (10-14 yrs) and now as an independent Ranger in Girlguiding Tweed Valley county. She achieved the highest award available to a Guide by gaining her Baden Powell award and has shown remarkable tenacity, loyalty and enthusiasm for Guiding by never failing to support external activities such as the Remembrance day parade, the Scout and Guide concert, Scot's week etc., and always being the first to volunteer for fund raising activities such as bag packing and home baking sales, to provide unit funds or help girls to attend special camps and international trips. Currently Molly is volunteering in a Brownie unit supporting on a one-to-one basis a girl who is blind enabling her to take part in all the brownie activities. This has opened a new world of fun and friendship for the little girl.

Now it is Molly's turn to be the one invited on a wonderful international trip, to go camping with Canadian and other nationality guiding groups and learn something of the culture of Canada. She won this invitation by attending selection at Scottish level in competition with girls from all over Scotland. Her "can do" attitude, enthusiasm and ability to pull a team together shone through.

However, unlike any girl before her, Molly has hit the circumstance of the corona virus lockdown. Such are the restrictions to personal liberty that she is unable to access our usual methods of fund raising, the bake sale, sweet sales at the Scout and Guide Concert and bag packing. Despite the problems, Molly has set up a treasure hunt "Where's Molly" (loosely based on the "Where's Wally" idea and committed herself to a sponsored walk, run & cycling matching the miles between Toronto and Calgary. Undaunted she is now trying to find other means to raise the amount required by Scottish Guiding, as one of the challenges all participants must tackle. In normal circumstances Molly would be well on the way to her target amount but these are not normal circumstances. In this situation I suggested that the Common Good fund might be a way forward and within 2 days Molly had an application sorted out! I think this well displays her enthusiasm and determination.

There is no doubt at all that all our international trips and jamborees teach our girls independence in a safe setting; they foster important international relations and understanding; they develop self-confidence and leadership. These are qualities that we need in our civic society in Selkirk as well as within guiding. I have no doubt that if the funds were made available to Molly to enable her to take part in this trip of a lifetime, she will repay it in many ways to Selkirk, her home town.

Dinah Faulds District Commissioner Girlguiding Selkirk. 11 West Nisbet Steading, Jedburgh TD8 6TE

Mobil: