Perhaps best known for their famous cookies, the new Holyoke Girl Scout Troop is out to prove that the organization is so much more than just cookie sales.

Under the leadership of Ravon Krueger, the Holyoke Girl Scouts have completed a number of projects over the past year that were done in the spirit of the Girl Scout organization's mission: To build girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place.

Currently, the Holyoke troop is divided into three groups according to their grade levels. Girls in kindergarten and first grade are in the Daisies, which is led by Sharon McWilliams.

Juniors are girls in grades four and five, and Cadettes are in the sixth grade and older. Both of these groups are led by Krueger.

Completing these projects allows each girl to earn badges and awards, and helps them move up to the next girl scout level.

For their project this year, the Juniors recorded themselves reading children's books on CDs. They then designed and sewed book bags, in which they put the CDs they made. These bags and CDs will be given to patients at Denver Children's Hospital.

In addition, the group is sponsoring a book drive to benefit the Children's Hospital. Community members are urged to bring new and gently used books to Inklings Bookstore, where a drop box has been set up.

For their efforts, the Juniors received the The Girl Scout Bronze Award—the highest honor a Junior-level girl scout can achieve.

Meanwhile, the Cadettes have been busy performing good deeds of their own. They traveled to Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, where they learned how to make pottery vases. The vases they made were filled with flowers and given to residents of Regent Park.

Cadettes were also responsible for organizing the Brownie Bridging Ceremony, which took place Tuesday, May 19 at the Holyoke Elementary gym.

In Daisies, young girls are introduced to girl scouting through arts and crafts projects and learning activities. The Bridging Ceremony marks their graduation from Daisies to Brownies.

During the Holyoke ceremony on Tuesday, the Daisies recited the Girl Scout Promise and Law. They then marched across the stage to receive their certificates stating they are now Brownies.

A couple of song and dance routines and a flower presentation to their parents followed the initiation.

Also after the bridging ceremony, all the girl scouts were recognized for their cookie sales and the top sellers were awarded prizes.

It was noted by Krueger that the organization also donated 45 boxes of cookies to Operation Gratitude, which sends care packages to soldiers overseas.

In addition to the services they've provided already, some of the Girl Scouts were also planning to help American Legion members place American flags on the graves of veterans in honor of Memorial Day.