



## Gold Award Winners

By Cathy Tyson

Three Moraga best friends recently worked together on a community service project for which they received the Girl Scout Gold Award. Kimberly Scherr, Caitlin Haley and Rachael Shapiro have known each other since kindergarten, and are now all seniors at Campolindo High School.

“We were trying to help families that are less privileged. We cleaned up, painted and furnished a room for a single mom and her two kids at the Elizabeth House,” said Scherr.

The Elizabeth is a transitional residence for single women and women with children who have experienced homelessness, violence, addiction or poverty. What’s unique about the house is that its goal is to support women and their children as they transition to self-sufficiency. Their Parenting Group, Homework Club, plus job search help provide the tools for their residents to get back on their feet.

A fair amount of planning, and at least 65 leadership hours must be spent on the project itself. The girls had a timeline and a project proposal that needed to be approved by



From left, Caitlin Haley, anonymous recipient, Rachael Shapiro, Kimberly Scherr

Photo provided

the Girl Scout Council.

“We were there almost every day after school,” said Scherr. “She was really excited. The woman had been homeless and was struggling to keep custody of her kids. It was definitely really rewarding. It was way more work than we thought. It’s amazing to see how much three average teenagers can accomplish.”

They plan to help two more families at Elizabeth House in the New Year. The girls had asked their parents to save old furniture, and used some of their cookie sale money for paint, and sent out a donation letter to friends and

family.

Haley agrees, “It was really fulfilling and fun moving everything in. The lady was so nice and so supportive. I would love to do it again.”

“The most striking thing, was that we asked her what she needed, and she was so excited to get even the littlest thing,” noted Shapiro.

Shapiro will be attending Northwestern in the fall; Scherr has heard back from a couple of schools, but is waiting with Haley until the spring for the final word on the balance of their applications.