

**LOCAL TEEN CREATES 20-FOOT MURAL INSPIRED BY
CLARENDON HILL'S HISTORICAL TIE TO DAISY FIELDS**

Girl Scout Gold Award Daisy Mural Blooms at Community Presbyterian Church of Clarendon Hills

On Sunday, September 18, 2022, Community Presbyterian Church of Clarendon Hills (CPC) dedicated a twenty-foot mural created by Hinsdale Central senior Avery Rigazio that celebrates the history of the daisy fields of Clarendon Hills. A reception celebrating the mural dedication took place at 10:30am. Avery's mural brightens Fellowship Hall, the main social and gathering space in the church. The mural was the outcome of several years of planning, fundraising to purchase materials, and execution, and recently earned her Girl Scoutings' highest award, the Gold Award. In addition to the beautiful mural—rich in blues, greens, and white, Avery led the repainting of the entire Fellowship Hall to complement the mural.

The creation of the daisy field mural represents the intersection of Avery's talents and interests in both philanthropy and art, as well as the history of the community. As she considered ideas for her Gold Award project, Avery was drawn to her longstanding participation in activities such as Sunday School, Logos, Vacation Bible School, and youth programs at CPC during her childhood, concluding that the church "felt like the right place to do a project." In addition, Avery affirms that "I wanted to do something that that would benefit the community through art, and I felt that nothing means more to Clarendon Hills than daisies. Clarendon Hills began with an accidental field of daisies, and it's only appropriate to center the mural on our town's heritage."

The scope of Avery's undertaking is impressive, including raising approximately \$1000 to fund the effort, and nearly 1000 hours of total labor. Gold Award projects are led by the individual Girl Scout, and the overall effort is "100% girl led." Avery was supported by Hinsdale Central art teacher, Laura Milas, who designed the original collage that was projected to create the mural. She was also assisted by Girl Scout troupe members Rachel Brugge and Annaka Freve, as well as her parents, Anne and John Rigazio, and her sister, Abby Rigazio, who is a previous Gold Award recipient.

From design to completion, the project involved scraping of layers of old paint, priming, projecting and tracing the mural, planning out the wall painting, and learning how to paint with fine tip brushes while balanced on a ladder and unable to touch the walls. Ultimately, according to Avery, "the ability to actually do this big of a project and have it mean something means a great deal to me." Community Presbyterian Church is delighted and full of gratitude with Avery's beautiful mural that will be enjoyed by many for years to come.

Avery is a member of Girls Scout Troup 51360 in the Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana Girl Scout service unit.