

Ravens' mascot to join fun at Centennial Lane fair

News From Ellicott City

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A big round of applause for Girl Scouts from Trinity School Troop 2097 who raised \$525 during their Pennies for Peace fundraising campaign by collecting 52,500 pennies. During the eight month campaign from September 2009 through April 2010, the seventh-grade Cadettes placed a container in each of the school's classrooms and encouraged students to donate their spare pennies. The coins were collected and tallied by the scouts.

The Pennies for Peace campaign was inspired by The New York Times best-selling book, "Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace . . . One School at a Time," by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. The Scouts first learned of the book from Trinity School Principal Sister Catherine Phelps, who was moved by the riveting story of one man's journey to bring peace and hope through education to remote villages in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

On April 27, members of Troop 2097 traveled to Stevenson University to attend a lecture by Mortenson. The author spoke about his book which recounts his journey from a 1993 near fatal attempt to climb the world's second highest mountain, Pakistan's K2, where he was nursed back to health by members of an impoverished and remote Pakistani village, to his current campaign to give back to the people of this region by providing hope and knowledge through education.

To the delight of Mortenson, members of the Girl Scout Troop presented him with a \$525 check to help him in his efforts to establish schools in remote and often volatile communities of central Asia.

According to the book's website, www.threecupsoftea.com, the co-author hopes that his campaign will "promote peace ... by replacing guns with pencils, rhetoric with reading ... to successfully bring education and hope" to these desolate communities.

Congratulations to the following Troop 2097 Cadettes for this outstanding community service program: Marissa Varnado, Danielle Fenton, Sydney Ziegler, Meredith Beisel, Maddie Ehrenreich and Stephanie Culotta.