



# Celebrate Gold

**Avery McKenna**  
Kansas City, MO



## A New Yard for NewHouse!

Avery McKenna has been a Girl Scout for 12 years as a member of Troop 1899 in Service Unit 606. She is a senior at Staley High School.

Avery wanted to create an inviting, relaxing outdoor space for NewHouse, a local domestic violence shelter, to improve the wellbeing of the residents. She created a rich outdoor garden that included tomatoes, blueberries, a cherry tree and flowers. The various aspects of the garden will allow residents and their children to enjoy spending time outside. In addition to the garden, Avery built three sensory walls for the children to use to get their energy out.

It was important to Avery to make the outdoor area of the shelter as welcoming as possible, so she used additional funds to clean up general landscaping, and stock NewHouse's "birthday closet" with gifts for the kids staying at the shelter. She also spent time educating some of the kids staying at NewHouse about the garden so they can be part of taking care of it into the future.

In recognition for her efforts, Avery was awarded the 2022 "Youth Volunteer of the Year" from NewHouse!

**“Because of Girl Scouts... I have been able to serve so many in my community and grow as a person. I so appreciate all Girl Scouts has done to shape me into the leader I am today, and show me how rewarding it is to help others!”**