

IN THE SPOTLIGHT...

Lindsey Stevenson - Making Communication Available to All

GC SEPTA was thrilled to hear about this project and honored to be included in the official presentation of this **Communication Station** by **Lindsey Stevenson**. We would like to share Lindsey's beautiful speech that she presented to the school administration and family members present that afternoon.

"Good afternoon. Thank you for being here today as I unveil the **Communication Station Core Board**. Choosing a topic for a Girl Scouts Gold award can be a daunting task, but for me, it was very easy. I knew immediately that I wanted to design a project that would enhance the Garden City School community.

For the past four years, Mrs. Cloghessy has been both my speech pathologist and the advisor of a program that I am a part of. This program, *The PAIRS program or Promoting Acceptance and Inclusion through Recreation in Schools*, helps students in high school make friends, be included, and have someone to talk to. It is through my participation in this program that I discovered that many of my peers with disabilities had difficulty communicating, and some even used a special device to talk. As I spent time with the students, I began to wonder how the younger students with similar disabilities made friends and communicated at lunch and recess.

Through my research I discovered that students with disabilities have less opportunities to communicate with their peers. I wanted to help fix this. I wanted the students in Homestead's special class program to have access to 35 different icons that would allow them to talk with friends and teachers. I wanted their recess to be a fun learning experience and I wanted to give them a way to make this happen.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Mr. and Mrs. Malone for funding my project through the Jamie & Paige Malone Foundation, Dr. Sinha for letting me have access to school property, Dr. Viscovich for having the sign placed, my Girl Scout leader, Laura Graine, for the support, Mrs. Cloghessy for introducing me to the world of Autism and AAC, and my mom and dad for supporting me through this journey. Thank you."

