

GIRL SCOUT

Delivery

Whether or not you've been a Girl Scout, you know one thing is certain: those cookies are delicious. All the Girl Scout cookies are vastly different—from the minty chocolate goodness of Thin Mints to the shortbread sweetness of a Trefoil. The cookies aren't all made from the same ingredients, but that's OK. They're kind of like Girl Scouts themselves—the girls have different backgrounds and experiences, but they all share the same core values—they are honest, friendly, respectful and confident. Just like our *Justine* REAL Girl winner and cover girl . . .

by Kara Bowlin

Her name is Hosanna Kabakoro. Sure, she doesn't have a typical American name, but that's because she's not a typical American girl. Hosanna arrived in America—Idaho, to be exact—four years ago. Before that, she lived in a remote village in Fiji—and since she moved to the US, she's been at it nonstop. And Girl Scouting has been a huge part of her transition from island life to American culture.

"I started as a Girl Guide in Fiji where I grew up," Hosanna recalls. "So, when I moved to the US I started Girl Scouting, which is basically the same thing. I think that oftentimes when people move to a new place, they join a group or a club and that group ends up defining who they are as a person. With Girl Scouts, it's not like that—the girls define the organization."

Hosanna is so dedicated to Girl Scouts that she decided to aim for the Gold Award, which is the highest award available for Girl Scouts. "It really

challenged me to establish a deeper level of discipline in my personal life," she said. Hosanna thought about her own experiences—coming to America as a Fijian refugee, and the difficulty she had adjusting to American ways—and started an organization called 2-Way Street. "2-Way Street is a program that I've founded to assist refugees and displaced youth acclimate to life in their new communities through mentorship, community service and educational support programs. I started it because one of the requirements of my Gold Award was to find a need in my community and develop a long-term, sustainable way of meeting that need."

Hosanna's program has helped refugees from all over the world, and she knows firsthand how hard it is to be new to a country. "Moving to the US from Fiji was a huge change—Fiji is all palm trees and beaches and the area where I live in Idaho is a beautiful desert area—no palm trees and no beaches," she says. "Culturally, it was a huge change as



well. For about six months I was having a bit of a pity party. Finally, my mom decided she'd had enough and told me that I had to get out and find something to do, so she took me to my local library and I started volunteering there. That kind of snowballed into what I'm doing today. I think volunteering becomes a way of life—and it kind of changes how you live your life. It becomes a habit to serve."

And she's teaching that habit to others as well. "I work with refugees about five hours a week," she said. "I have people that I've trained since the organization started—some are

actually from the program's first group of refugees—and now they're able to help new refugees who are coming in. It's actual refugees helping refugees. It's a mentorship program, and if the mentor is going to a movie, then they take their refugee friend with them. They teach them what popcorn is and how to buy a ticket and how to live life in America."

And although it almost seems as if Hosanna has turned into an all-American girl, she still is very influenced by her life in Fiji. "When I was nine, Fiji underwent a military coup and their government was overthrown—the rebels even took our house," she says. (She describes this traumatic event so calmly!) The political unrest in Fiji was the reason that Hosanna and her family had to move to the US in the first place. "I think growing up and seeing that—watching people being hurt and seeing the turmoil in the region, and seeing Fiji's relatively new system of democracy fail made it amazing to see how everyone in the US has a voice, but so few of us use it."

But Hosanna's world isn't limited to just school, scouting and service. She recently won the Miss Idaho Teen USA pageant and will compete for Miss Teen USA this summer. "I was filling out a college application and somebody said that I looked really boring on paper—



kind of like an egghead," Hosanna laughs. "My mom found a flier for the Miss Idaho Teen USA Pageant so I really thought and prayed about it and I

decided that it was something that I wanted to pursue. I went in a complete amateur—I had no idea what



<Celebrity Pink> dress \$42 Macy's

I was doing—and I did win. The pageant opened so many doors for me. Since winning, it's just been this whirlwind of appearances and community service projects. I pretty much do the same stuff that I did before I won, but I just wear a crown now."

It's funny that Hosanna ever thought she looked boring on paper—because it was her (paper) application that convinced The Powers That Be at *Justine* to choose her as our REAL Girl winner representing the Girl Scouts of the USA. It seems like her dedication to

Girl Scouting has really helped her grow as a woman—on and off paper! Organization founder, Gold Award recipient, even pageant queen . . . Hosanna's achieved tons already and her future looks undeniably bright. But instead of modeling, or acting, or becoming the next great woman in politics, she wants to be a journalist. And knowing this girl's track record, she will rule the evening news before we know it.

Flip the page to see Hosanna in her first *Justine* fashion shoot!