

Projects Benefit Less Fortunate

Works Sunday volunteers discuss importance of day.

BY MIRZA KURSPAHC
THE CONNECTION

Izzy Simpkins stood over the table making sandwiches and packing lunches with three other women. She would not have stood out within the group except for one obvious thing, she was younger than the others gathered around the table.

The 11-year-old Ashburn Village resident joined some 25 volunteers at the Herndon Friends Meeting on Spring Street on Sunday, Aug. 17, to help pack 140 lunches for the clients of Reston's Embry Rucker Community Shelter. "I wanted to help homeless people," said Izzy of her decision to dedicate some of her Sunday afternoon to help make and pack the lunches. "We are so fortunate and it would be good of us to give back," she said of joining her family and others in helping with the project. It was Izzy's first time participating and

she said she would definitely be back again. "I liked it. People here were nice," she said.

Izzy was not the only child participating in the project. Her brother and a handful of other children assisted in

making and packing lunches, sorting through the food and cleaning up after it was over. "I think it's great for kids to do this project," said Susan Huebsch, a Reston resident who is a member of the Herndon Friends Meeting and the co-chair of Sunday's project. "They get to see hands on that a simple project makes a difference," said Huebsch, who participated in the project for the fourth time on Sunday. "They understand people get hungry and need to eat."

THE PROJECT at Friends Meeting in Herndon was one of many in the Reston and Herndon community that took place as part of Works Sunday, a series of community service projects that serve the underprivileged in the area. It is an effort conceived from area faith communities that come together to better the general community through the projects.

"One thing I like about Works Sunday is how people from all different faiths come together," said Huebsch. She said



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From left around the table, Anna McCormally, Melanie Stanley, Izzy Simpkins and Kristin Yost prepare lunches for clients of the Embry Rucker Community Shelter at the Herndon Friends Meeting as part of Works Sunday.

the projects are very local and their impact is immediate. It took 45 minutes to pack 140 lunches for the Embry Rucker Shelter. Reston Interfaith, the shelter's operator, hands out about 60 lunches per day, rendering Sunday's project as about two days worth of lunches for the shelter.

Nearby, at Herndon's First Baptist Church on Elden Street, volunteers conducted free health screenings from 1 to 4 p.m. Jim Ryan, Herndon resident and president of the Reston Lions Club, managed the tests at the club's van that held three to four sight and hearing checking units in it. "It's just community service," said Ryan. "There's a lot of people who need glasses or hearing aids and they don't even know they need them," he said.

Linda Soller, a member of the First Baptist congregation, said the church is located centrally, which made it a great location for the screenings. She said the congregation felt very strongly that it is important to provide community service and to help other churches provide the same service. "We are very excited to be doing this," she said.

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— Susan Huebsch, Reston resident