

Bailey's Helps Get Kids Ready for School

Submitted by Susan Lydick, BXRC Vocational Service Director

The Rotary Club of Bailey's Crossroads conducted a literacy and education project in late summer funded through the BXRC Foundation. Rotarians purchased 339 backpacks and school supplies for needy children at Bailey's and Glen Forest Elementary Schools, and also for additional needy schools across Northern Virginia through Northern the Virginia Family Services. Funds had been given to the BXRC Foundation by John Mathias, a former member of the club, who is particularly concerned about providing educational opportunities for needy children. Additional donations of school supplies and funds were collected from Bailey's Rotarians and the community to expand the project.

Susan Lydick, and daughters Elizabeth and Elaine spent much of their free time during July and the first half of August watching for backpack and school supply sales and purchasing backpacks and supplies when they found the best prices. By mid August, Susan's living room and dining room floors were covered with boxes and bags of supplies including 300 plus boxes of crayons and several hundred gluesticks.

On Aug 9th BXRC President Karey Starnes, Trudie Thompson, Chair of Bailey's Crossroads Foundation, and Susan Lydick, Vocational Service Director, presented Jennifer Rose, Community Giving Specialist for Northern Virginia Family Services (and member of the Fairfax Rotary Club) with a donation of 100 backpacks toward their 2000 backpack drive.

On Aug 16th Bailey's Rotarians and family members, and Maria Demerest, Bailey's ES parent liaison and her son Christopher gathered in the Bailey's ES cafeteria to sort supplies and fill 207 backpacks with school supplies. Rotarians who assisted via donations and/or volunteering included: Bob Glasser and wife Lynne, Max Gross, Ben Hester, Jim Holcombe, Kevin Holland, Roger and Neesa Hoskin, Steve Hunt, MC Kulick, Susan Lydick and husband Bob Lydick and daughters Elizabeth and Elaine, Dave Mercer, Sam Rothman, Karey Starnes, Lloyd Stoessel, Trudie Thompson, and Clyde Williams.

The backpacks and other supplies were presented to Bailey's ES Assistant Principal, Heather Boyd along with 400 boxes of Kleenex and 200 bottles of hand sanitizer, with the understanding that extra backpacks and school supplies would be shared with Glen Forest ES. We donated an additional 32 empty backpacks, 30 plus filled pencil boxes, and additional school supplies.

These backpacks and school supplies will bring smiles to the faces of young children this school year.

