

News Release

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MAYOR'S VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION NIGHT

On Sunday, April 16, over 200 volunteers were honored for their service to the Town of Herndon from 23 different service organizations and groups. Each of these honorees contributed 100 hours or more of volunteer service in the community last year. The 37th Annual Mayor's Volunteer Appreciation Reception was held at the Herndon Community Center.

Citizens joined Herndon's Mayor, Sheila Olem, and members of the Town Council Naila Alam, and Keven LeBlanc as well as State Delegate Irene Shin in celebrating the spirit of volunteerism, and the theme, "Celebrate Service." The keynote speaker was Raul 'Danny' Vargas. As a community and youth advocate, Mr. Vargas has served on the Board of Directors for Northern Virginia Family Services and the Fairfax Partnership for Youth. In 2009, Vargas was appointed by Congress to serve on a bipartisan commission to study the creation of the National Museum of the American Latino. Mr. Vargas has appeared frequently as a media commentator and contributor in both English and Spanish on several outlets, and he has been recognized by both the Virginia General Assembly and the United States Congress for his community efforts.

Several awards were presented this year, including special recognition to Janet Hulme for more than 50 years of volunteer service with the Herndon Woman's Club, the Closet, and LINK. **Corporate Service awards** were presented to **GAM** Printers, nominated by LINK, and **BTI360**, nominated by Cornerstones.

The first **Distinguished Service Award** was presented to Betty and Bill Arey who have both volunteered with the CLOSET nearly full-time for more than 15 years, and he with Britepaths, and she with the Herndon Fortnightly Club.

The second **Distinguished Service Award** was presented to **Mr. George Price** for his 20+ years volunteering with both the Optimists and Herndon Festival, and 25 years of service to the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce and Friday Night Live! concert series. For 16 weeks each summer George coordinates the 40+ volunteers who ensure the event runs smoothly.

The third **Distinguished Service Award** was awarded to **Elysa Hersch Birman** who was described as someone who relishes every opportunity to help the community with the resources to live healthy, fulfilling lives, and provide for children in need. In the past 15 years she has volunteered with the Council for the Arts of Herndon, the Herndon Festival, the Herndon-Reston Rotary, Herndon Middle Computer Club, Herndon High Band Parents' Association, LINK, and the Herndon Fortnightly Club. Most recently she spearheaded the Rotary's newest signature events, "Candyland," and the Kids Helping Kids Bike-a-thon.

The Mayor's Volunteer Appreciation Reception is held annually in recognition of National Volunteer Week (April 16-22), which has been celebrated for 49 years and is sponsored nationwide by the Points of Light Foundation and the Volunteer Center National Network.

The Town of Herndon Parks and Recreation Department is a three-time national Gold Medal Award winner for excellence in park and recreation management presented by [the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration](#). The Town of Herndon, located in western Fairfax County, is the third largest town in the Commonwealth and is home to more than 23,000 citizens.

The Town of Herndon was incorporated by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia on January 14, 1879. Located in western Fairfax County, Herndon is the 3rd largest town in the Commonwealth. Businesses located within the Town of Herndon, which range from high tech enterprises to entrepreneurially owned establishments, employ approximately 23,500 people.

For more information, visit the Town's website at www.herndon-va.gov, and click on parks and recreation, or call 703-787-7300.

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