

## Girl Scout group helps community during MLK Jr. Day of Service

*By Jackie Bryant, ERDC PAO*

When the Disaster Services Coordinator of the Voluntary Action Center of Prince William County, Va., requested assistance in assembling disaster kits for senior citizens Jan. 13, members of Junior Girl Scout Group 549 stepped in to help. This activity was part of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

“My husband Peter and I like the fact that the scout troop places an emphasis on the children participating in community service,” said Melody Clanton, a visual information specialist in TEC’s MIO. Clanton’s three daughters, Elena, Lora and Kari are students at Philip Michael Pennington School in Manassas and are members of the Girl Scouts. “It’s important to us that our girls understand they need to give some of their time helping others in the community,” Clanton said.

The volunteers packed water, flashlights with batteries, a first aid kit, hand sanitizers and a whistle into zippered bags which were purchased through a grant to the center.

The Voluntary Action Center is a non-profit organization that serves to meet community needs through volunteer services. Founded in 1981, the center has refereed thousands of volunteers to more than 200 public and private non-profit organizations in the county.



*Clanton with l to r: friend Jennifer Read and daughters Lora and Kari.*