Who would have thought community service could be so much FUN? Cub Scouts from Pack 369 in Kemptown not only know community service is fun, but they understand their efforts have a purpose. This year is the third in a row that parents, Scouts and siblings have turned out to help St. Michael's Catholic Church in Mt. Airy pack more than 500 lunches for the homeless. The third Sunday of every month, parishioners from the church support both Frederick and Baltimore homeless shelters by donating hundreds of food items, then assembling them into brown bag lunches. But in August, many of the parishioners are on vacation and Pack 369 pitches in to help get the job done. This year all 500 lunches were assembled in just a little over an hour!

From the newest Tiger to the Webelos, the Scouts and parents help form an assembly line where bags get a drink, fruit cup, sandwich, a salty and a sweet snack and sometimes a pack of chewing gum or mints. Ted Burkhardt the organizer from St. Michael's said one of the things the folks getting the lunches like most is that the volunteers are thoughtful enough to mark the bags with a "T" for turkey, "H" for ham or "B" for bologna. He said they are grateful not only for the gift of the lunch but for the dignity to choose what they receive. Feeding the hungry and giving drink to the thirsty are considered important corporal works of mercy. But as the Scouts and parents participate, there is certainly realization that in helping others, we gain something for ourselves.