Troops ‘making a difference’ for 20 years in Central Texas

BY CAROLANN HONE Volunteer Programs Coordinator

What a difference a day can make! On Oct. 26, Fort Hood and the surrounding communities will be bustling with activity as hundreds of volunteers contribute their time in various ways. Individuals, groups, and military units will be participating in the annual Make a Difference Day. Their efforts will go towards completing more than 100 donation drives and projects for a variety of nonprofit and charitable organizations. This year, the Fort Hood Army Volunteer Corps will again partner with the Killeen Volunteer, Inc. to coordinate the 20th annual Make a Difference Day, which symbolically joins volunteers across the nation in community service projects in their communities.

This year’s Make a Difference Day event celebrates twenty years of outreach efforts that have made a positive and durable difference in their community. The annual Make a Difference Day event celebrates volunteerism and provides a great opportunity to reach out to those in need and support agencies for year around partnerships. To find out how you can neighbor reach out to neighbors, help feed the hungry, provide warm beds for families and deliver homemade meals. Volunteering is a selfless act that exchanges the gift of time for the sake of giving.

Make a Difference Day is an opportunity for Soldiers, Family members, Civic employees and community members to become part of something greater than themselves. This grand event is a wonderful chance to make a real and lasting contribution to “The Great Place” and to the surrounding communities. Each, Killeen Volunteer, Inc. publishes, makes the Make a Difference Day Project list on the City of Killeen website. Projects submitted by local organizations such as the American Red Cross, Rosewood Retirement Community, Families in Crisis and the Texas Humane Heroes will be a trained staff member to receive your donation. Both lines are operational 24/7. There is an array of events and activities being conducted with Soldiers, Family member, command and community partnership highly encouraged. This is a joint venture between the Fort Hood Family Advocacy Program Office at 288-3941 for more information regarding details, dates and times of activities.

End Domestic Violence: ‘Recognize It, Report It, Prevent It’

BY BARBARA WYERS Family Advocacy Program

October is recognized nationally and Army-wide as Domestic Violence Prevention Month. Fort Hood is conducting a DVP campaign to promote awareness and focus on the issue of domestic violence. The Fort Hood Command General, Maj. Gen. Anthony Ierardi, has demonstrated command emphasis by the signing of the Fort Hood 2013 DVPM Proclamation. The 2013 theme is “End Domestic Violence - Recognize It, Report It, Prevent It.”

In this file photo, Tiana Jamison, 16, hands a bingo card to Minnie Nero at the Bob Gilmore Senior Center in Killeen during Make a Difference Day Saturday. For their project, teens from CYSS prepared and served meals to senior citizens at the center.

In this file photo, Clifton Monroe, retired, Staff Sgt. Jason Kinge, 1st Cav. Div., sorted more than 1,200 cans and boxes of non-perishable food in the Meals on Wheels vehicle for the Killeen Volunteer, Inc.

In this photo, Soldiers from 3-7 Cav. Regt., 1st Cav. Div., sorted more than 3,200 cans and boxes of non-perishable food for the Meals on Wheels in the city of Killeen, Texas, Saturday afternoon during Make a Difference Day. For their project, teens from CYSS prepared and served meals to senior citizens at the center. These events provide an opportunity for individuals and groups to make a difference in the lives of others. This year, for the 20th annual Make a Difference Day event, volunteers will be able to participate in more than 100 donation drives and projects.

In order to prevent domestic violence, education and treatment are key. The Family Advocacy Program offers resources regarding prevention and treatment of domestic abuse for at-risk Families.

The Family Advocacy Program offers Relationship Enrichment Workshops, Preparing for Marriage and other classes. In addition there is a Stress/Anger, Conflict Resolution Workshop, Stress Free Marriage/Parenting sessions, Blended Family Support, Dating Violence Prevention education for teens and single Soldiers, and a Single Parent’s Network, just to mention a few.

Please call 254-288-3941 for details. Treatment services, such as individual and group counseling, are available for Soldiers and Families at the Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center, Family Advocacy Program Office, Building 16005, located on T.J. Mills and Old Ironsides, or call us at 287-8671.

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