

Carlisle Barracks honors volunteers

Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos

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Volunteering is the practice of people working on behalf of others or for a cause, without payment for their time or their services. While volunteering does promote a greater good and can improve the quality of life, it is also valuable as a social capital.

The social capital of volunteering is apparent at Carlisle Barracks. On May 13, Carlisle Barracks honored the volunteers with an awards ceremony at the Letort View Convention Center.

Over the past year Carlisle Barracks volunteers contributed 47,161 hours of their time volunteering at organizations and activities ranging from the post Judge Advocate volunteer income tax assistance program to Boy and Girl Scouts and everything in between. Their combined hours were worth more than \$1 million in saved money.

“This community could not survive without our volunteers,” said Lt. Col. Janet Holliday, garrison commander.

“You make us proud. You make us a community of character,” said Maj. Gen. Gregg Martin, commandant, Army War College. “The volunteer spirit transcends the individual effort and the individual award. It transforms the entire community.”

Tom Russell, a meteorologist with CBS 21 News, was the keynote speaker. In 1998 Russell was on the receiving end of volunteers who provided him and his family with food and clean-up help after a hurricane destroyed the first floor of his home.

“Volunteering is more than feel good events,” he said. “It is where the rubber meets the road.”

The organizations and individuals honored were:

Cub Scout Pack 173 – Scouts and volunteers of Pack 43 contributed more than 3,000 hours to the installation in the past year.

Retirement Services group – Volunteers provided dedicated and selfless service during the Carlisle

Barracks 36th annual retiree appreciation day.

The Army Heritage and Education Center – Volunteers perform a wide range of tasks including research cataloging, exhibit construction and conservation of artifacts.

U.S. Army War College Military Family Program – Contributed 800 hours of volunteer service to several significant projects that have worldwide influence and impact for military families. One of the projects was the booklet, “Basics from the Barracks: Military Etiquette and Protocol,” has already proven to be a valuable resource for spouses groups, military family orientations, and family readiness groups.

Facilitating, Leading and Group Skills (FLAGS) Facilitators – Eleven volunteer spouses invested more than 225 hours to become certified as volunteer facilitators and trainers to deliver workshops to train, prepare, and deliver an intensive program designed to enhance the leadership skills of senior spouses during the winter quarter 2011.

Carlisle Barracks Spouses Club – The Carlisle Barracks spouses club provided over 1,500 hours of volunteer service to the Carlisle Barracks community. They raised more than \$10,000 for scholarships, and donated more than \$15,000 to the community through their Rocking Auction.

Federally Employed Women group – supported local Soldiers’ families during the holiday season and sponsored a Breast Cancer Awareness program to educate Soldiers and family members.

Boy Scout Troop 173 – supported retiree appreciation day, the Chapel’s food ministry and retired American flags used by post organizations.

Individual awards:

Col. Ret. Ray Porter – has volunteered an average of 500 hours a year for the last 18 years.

Linda Chaudrue – has volunteered at the thrift shop for more than 19 years.

Carolyn Tolman - has volunteered with the American Red Cross and Dunham Army Medical Clinic, providing assistance with medical record keeping, and working as a volunteer clinic receptionist when needed.