

Spreading Holiday cheer to members of the Carlisle Community

Suzanne Reynolds, Public Affairs Office

Spreading Holiday Cheer to members of the Carlisle Community



Army War College and Carlisle Barracks volunteers spread holiday cheer to more than 140 guests from area nursing and retirement centers at the 57th Annual Senior Citizens' Holiday Social held Dec. 6 at the LVCC here.

"The Senior Citizens' Holiday Social is a very worthwhile event that is important to the Carlisle community," said Army student Col. Josslyn Aberle, who chaired the event with hundreds of volunteers from the Class of 2013 and their families.

"We could not have made today's Social happen without the tremendous outpouring of support from all of the volunteers from Carlisle Barracks and the surrounding community. "We are grateful

for everyone who baked cookies, shared their talents, acted as escorts and volunteered for today's event. It was a very special day for us and our guests," said Aberle.

Guests enjoyed an afternoon of conversation with their escorts, drawn from the Army War College student body. Cookies, punch, Santa and entertainment filled out the afternoon. Children of the Moore Child Development Center Preschool Choir sang, teenagers from Cedar Cliff High School danced, children performed Irish dance and students, faculty and Family members sang and played musical instruments. Finally Elvis appeared and provided leis to the ladies.

Each guest received home-made treats and a framed photo to remember their visit. Following the event, students delivered cookies and poinsettias to the seniors who were unable to attend.

"We were notified about this event in late August by our faculty members who talked about the internal connection and joy you would get," said civilian student Rick Lauber. "My guest, Al Hollenbaugh from Claremont Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, was never married, does not have kids and has lived in Pennsylvania his whole life. He probably doesn't have many relatives. So it has to be lonely.

"It was neat meeting him and maybe this event brought a little light into his life," said Lauber.



"It is good to take care of the community, especially the seniors," said Navy student Cmdr. Arthur Fong. "It is great to listen to their experiences. It puts you in the holiday spirit and is also a good break from schoolwork."



It was the first time for Linda Crum from Claremont Nursing and Rehabilitation Center to attend the Senior Citizens' Holiday Social at Carlisle Barracks. I had a great experience," Crum said. Linda's escort, Moroccan Pakistani Fellow Lt. Col. Karim Aboulghit said it was a great event and that there should be more events held in order to keep in touch with the guests.

"It was a wonderful experience to be with my guest, Edna Myers from Thornwald Home," said Pakistani Fellow Brig. Gen. Ikram Ahmed. "It is a great service to the community, and I am sure the volunteers really feel very proud.

"It was a fun way to give back," said Ahmed.

"I did not get to know my grandparents so to see everyone with their guest definitely puts you in the spirit," said Army student Col. Melinda Mate, who escorted Martha Wilson from the Thornwald Home.

"It is a fantastic opportunity for the students to get together with senior citizens from the community and pay forward holiday cheer, said Army student and Class President Col. Steve Maranian.



