

Charles Tillman returns Home to CRDAMC

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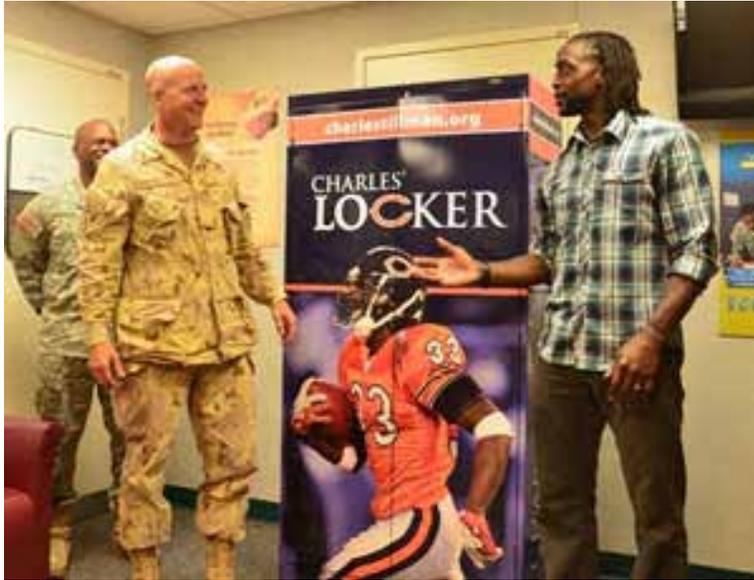


Figure 1: Charles Tillman donates one of "Charles' Lockers" to patients.

Pro-Bowl defensive back for the Chicago Bears, Charles Tillman, returned to Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center on Oct. 11 to give back to the hospital and community that gave him so much as he was growing up.

While at CRDAMC Tillman donated a Charles' Locker filled with electronic media, courtesy of the Charles Tillman Cornerstone Foundation, to the hospital and its patients to help ease the strain of families and patients while visiting the facility.

The foundation has donated five other lockers to hospitals in the Chicago area, but this is the first locker that has been given to a military hospital.

Tillman, who attended Copperas Cove High School, still has family in the area. While still a student at CCHS, he took part in a CRDAMC program for prospective nurses and medical students. The program allows students who are interested in pursuing a medical career to come to the hospital and receive valuable experience while still in high school.



Figure 2: Charles Tillman (far right) visits with patients and staff, telling stories of football and his time as a prospective nurse / medical student at CRDAMC.

“My first choice during high school was to go into the medical field and become a nurse,” Tillman said. “That didn’t quite work out, but I still remember the valuable lessons learned during the program.”

The joint program, which is available at all high schools in the surrounding communities, is still is going strong today.

Brig. Gen. Dean Milner, the deputy commanding general of III Corps and Fort Hood, was able to attend and take part in the dedication ceremony along with many staff and patients. After the dedication Tillman remained on the floor to take pictures with patients and staff, as well as sign numerous photos for fans. Tillman continued to the third floor to talk to more patients and take more photos.



Figure 3: Charles Tillman signs autographs for patients and staff.

While at Fort Hood Tillman also visited with Soldiers and staff of the Warrior Transition Battalion taking time to visit and take pictures with many of the Wounded Warriors there.

Overall, Tillman, his staff, and family spent more than two hours meeting with staff, patients, and their families. The CRDAMC family is grateful for the generosity of the Tillman Foundation.



Figure 4: Charles' Locker is packed with electronic media for patients.



Figure 5: COL Speights presents Charles Tillman with a photo of CRDAMC.