



Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CRDAMC helps make end of school year fun for its Adopt-A-School

FORT HOOD, Texas – Although the rainy weather canceled a fun day outside for the Saegert Elementary School students, it didn't dampen the bond between the students and the Soldiers from Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center.

CRDAMC Soldiers visit Saegert regularly participating in many Adopt-A-School activities, culminating the school year with Field Day, a full day of fun outdoor games and activities for all the students. This year's Field Day had originally been scheduled for May 15 but rain caused it to be re-scheduled for May 29 and continued inclement weather forced the event to move indoors.

"I know the kids were disappointed we couldn't play outside. It still ended up being a fun day for them as they got to play different games and do projects in their classrooms," said Staff Sgt. Zachary Harrison, CRDAMC's Adopt-A-School program coordinator. "We decided to come out anyway and hang out with the students since it's our last activity for the year. The kids are always happy to see us and spend time with Soldiers."

Harrison is not exaggerating the relationship between the students and CRDAMC Soldiers. Even though the Soldiers work demanding schedules entailing shift work and long hours, they make time for the students. Throughout the year, they help with mentoring and tutoring students, serve special holiday lunches and participate in parades and events such as the Freedom Walk and Career Day.

The Killeen Independent School District recognized the MEDCEN's dedication by presenting CRDAMC with the Top Fort Hood Adopt-A-School Unit Award at its recent annual volunteer awards luncheon for accumulating more than 900 volunteer hours.

"We are so appreciative of the time the Soldiers spend with the students. We can always count on them to be there and actively support us," said Gwendolyn James, assistant principal at Saegert Elementary. "Really, to ensure students' success, it takes input from all stakeholders--from students

to staff to parents to community. The Soldiers play an important role, as they can bring something to the table that we can't always. They develop a special connection to the students and build a unique relationship. Also, the Soldiers serve as great role models for the students. The character trait of just giving of yourself sets a great example for them.”