

COMMUNITY CORNER

Garrison commander discusses importance of CFC

By Col. William Clark
GARRISON COMMANDER

Although Fort Riley will kick off its annual Combined Federal Campaign Sept. 22 at Riley's Conference Center, on Sept. 16, Soldiers, civilians and members of the community participated in a CFC golf tournament to begin to help raise awareness of this important campaign.

The campaign is the one time during the year Soldiers and civilian employees will be solicited for donations. Those

donations will go to the charity of their choice — there are thousands to choose from.

Charities that can receive CFC donations range from international and local charities that support a variety of interests and issues.

A search for "veteran," for example, in the online CFC catalog at www.heartlandcfc.org



Col. Clark

org. pulls up more than 60 charities that support veterans. One of those charities may help someone you know.

More than 400 local charities are listed in the CFC catalog including on-post organizations like Fort Riley's Child, Youth and School Services.

Donating just one dollar a week can provide 68 meals to low-income individuals or food for two shelter dogs for a month. For \$4 a pay period, you can help a veteran's child attend college. Just \$6 a pay period can mean five nights of

shelter for a homeless person. For \$20 a month, you can provide a 10-month supply of nutritional supplements for a patient fighting cancer. The list goes on and on. By giving a little, we can make a difference for those in need.

Last year, Fort Riley had a record year. We surpassed our goal of \$300,000 by about \$50,000. This year, we've set our goal at \$375,000, but I'm sure we'll go above and beyond this year as well.

To help us reach that goal, we want to make contact with

100 percent of eligible donors at Fort Riley. Studies show many people don't give simply because they aren't asked. No one is required to give, but our goal is to make sure everyone has the opportunity. So let me tell you how you can help.

Donations can be made in the form of a one-time check or through payroll deductions. Some organizations host events to raise money for the CFC, like the golf tournament. The Directorate of Emergency Services hosts an annual chili cook-off. Think about what your

organization can do. Bottom line: Your donation can make the difference in someone's life.

To learn more about the CFC, talk to your organization's representative or visit www.heartlandcfc.org. Remember, we are stronger when we work as a community to reach common goals. Let's make this another record-setting year.

If you would like to comment on this column or suggest a topic for Community Corner, send an email to rile.post.newspaper@coms.army.mil.

Soldiers, school officials train on Adopt-A-School program

By Melony Gabbert
1ST INF. DIV. POST

The Adopt-A-School program should be taken seriously, according to Sgt. 1st Class Robert Ford, Adopt-A-School military liaison, Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division.

"This program is very simple. If you take out the technical issues, the school is a unit — one event per month. That's it," he said, speaking to a room full of Soldiers, school personnel from eight school districts and post personnel who met for Adopt-A-School training Sept. 8 at Riley's Conference Center.

"A lot of our community involvement is in this room," Ford said.

Through the program, Soldiers have read books to children, served school lunches, attended sports events and parades and spoken in classrooms.

The Adopt-A-School program partners Soldiers from a unit with one or more schools to send Soldiers into the schools, or to school events, at least once a month. The purpose of the program is to nurture children of the area, strengthen the commitment to education, increase

awareness of the Army's mission and build on the success of the Army Community Covenant, Ford said.

Representatives from the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Public Affairs office, Child Youth and School Services, Army Community Services, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Soldiers and school personnel all offered guidance to those who plan to participate in the program this year.

Maj. Jason Avery, 97th Military Police Battalion, said his unit partnered with Junction City High School, and that Soldiers had given motivational speeches at spaghetti dinners, spoken of their experiences, helped train JROTC members, walked around during proms, sent in Soldiers for discussions on bullying and attended faculty meetings.

"Fun, impactful, meaningful ways for Soldiers to get involved with students last year included the Freedom Walk, holiday decorating and reading to first-graders at Ware Elementary," said Valerie Lamoreaux-Reist, Family support coordinator. "Parents are moved by seeing Soldiers sing patriotic

songs with students."

After listening to speakers, school members and Soldiers who planned to partner this year met to exchange information and brainstorm. By the end of the two-hour session, ways for the Soldiers to participate in the schools were established.

The list of upcoming methods of involvement included meet-and-greets, fundraising walks, breakfasts, Fall Apple Day Festival activities, Veterans Day flag details, handprint painting in a gym, time in classrooms, providing a bouncy house at a carnival, mentoring dependents of deployed Soldiers during military club meetings, spending time on playgrounds at recess, Freedom Walks, color guards at sporting events and additional planning meetings.

"The speakers gave a lot of good examples that we'll try to incorporate in our schools and in our unit," said 2nd Lt. Brandon Trujique, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div.

"Trujique said his unit plans to partner with Riley County schools.



Melony Gabbert | POST Sgt. 1st Class Robert Ford, DHHB, 1st Inf. Div., and Adopt-A-School military liaison, at podium, speaks to a crowd of school personnel and Soldiers training for the Adopt-A-School program Sept. 8 at Riley's Conference Center.

"I learned that with the schools here, we have a partnership and we can mentor the children and support the schools," he said.

"I learned it is important to have that Army partnership as far as mentoring kids coming up to be productive members of society," added Staff Sergeant Jack Macy, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th IBCT.

Macy said he enjoys working with children and has his own. He will be working with Manhattan Catholic Schools.

"This is all pretty much common sense," he said.

Ford said he was happy about how the meeting turned out.

"Today was fantastic, fantastic," he said.

"This was a wonderful training opportunity. This is our fourth year. It's good for our students," added Teresa Grant, principal, Riley County Grade School.

Grant also said the way the post works with the surrounding area is phenomenal.

The 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th IBCT, 1st Sustainment Brigade, Com-

bat Aviation Brigade and the 97th MP Battalion all participate in the program. Soldiers dress in uniform when attending their respective schools.

The eight counties currently involved in the program are Clay, Riley, Dickinson, Pottawatomie, Saline, Wabaunsee, Morris and Geary. Schools that participate in the program sign covenants with the unit, generally in front of the student body. The covenants are then hung in the schools. Unit sponsorship signs also are located on each campus. The signs include the respective unit name and crest.