



VOLUME 120, ISSUE 40

Serving Wasatch County Since 1889

DECEMBER 23, 2009

Midway Elementary joins Christmas Can Cure to aid wounded veterans

BY JOHN MOSS
Special to the Wave

What began as an effort to help a few wounded veterans by the Eureka Resort in Mesquite has grown beyond organizers expectations due to the generosity of local business, including Midway Elementary School.

Christmas Can Cure is a non-profit organization designed to bring some happiness into the lives of wounded veterans. Midway

Elementary School joined with the organization, along with Resorts West and other local businesses, to help make the Christmas experience a great one for the two families coming here for the event.

Brent Burnham, Student Council advisor at Midway Elementary, worked with his students to play a significant role in the event. Students in the school wrote letters of appreciation to their "Wounded Warriors" which



were presented to the families when they came to Soldier Hollow for a tubing experience. One of the families, Joseph and Aileena Perez and their three daughters, had never experienced snow before. The other family, Bradley and Chante Chidester and their four daughters, come from Fountain Green, Utah.

"We are very happy to be part of this wonderful program," said Principal Shawn Kelly. "Mr. Burnham has done a great job getting our students involved in service projects. It is very beneficial for our kids to give of themselves to help others and to feel a sense of patriotism and gratitude for our country and

those who protect us."

Resorts West has also been a big part of the Christmas Can Cure effort this year. The event included a flag raising ceremony in Park City at 9:30 a.m., sledding and tubing at Soldier Hollow with Midway Elementary students and their families at 2:00 p.m., and an appreciation reception at the Swaner Nature Center in Park City at 5:00 p.m. that evening.

For every soldier killed in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan, nine more return home wounded. Returning to civilian life and coping with disabilities brings many challenges for the vets and their families. Christmas Can Cure is de-

signed to give these soldiers and their families a Christmas that they can look forward to and remember for a lifetime.

"Our students are better off for having been part of this experience," said Mr. Kelly. "There is a great deal beyond our textbooks that we want our students to know and experience. Joining with the community to help and strengthen others is one of those key principles that we want our students to embrace. We appreciate Mr. Burnham's efforts to make sure that this happened, both for our students and the families they helped."

Midway Wrangler Review



BY PAT DECASTRO

Midway Elementary student council members in partnership with Resorts West, The Christmas Can Cure Foundation and Soldier Hollow sponsored a family tubing activity for the "Wounded Warriors".

The Chidester and Perez families spend a memorable weekend in Park City. They came to Midway on Saturday for tubing, dinner and a ride on the Polar Express.

Teachers and students at Midway Elementary made cards and letters to express support and appreciation for these soldiers and their families.

The cards were presented to the families by Brent Burnham and Shawn Kelly on Saturday. The soldiers were very thankful for the kind words and letters sent by the students.

Student Council would like to thank the teachers and students who supported the activity and Soldier Hollow for their willingness to sponsor the tubing activity for these families. Student Council also thanks all the teachers, staff, students and families who donated warm clothing items to our Hat and Mitten tree this year.