

Recycle Center wins first at Killeen Christmas parade

By Christine Luciano

Ricky the Raccoon and the Fort Hood Recycle Team participated in Killeen's 46th annual Christmas parade and greeted the crowd with their recyclable float.

Encouraging Central Texans to recycle, the Fort Hood Recycle Team built a float made out of paper, plastic and cardboard. A polar bear hauling a sleigh full of presents and decorated with Christmas lights was built in 12 days by recycle employees Rufus Walker, Wayne Stanford, Edel Sarrosa and Michael Fabry Jr. "This is extreme float building," Rufus Walker, Recycle Center assistant manager, said.

"For the past six years, the Recycle Center has enjoyed coming up with new ideas to build a float made out of materials we have right here at the Fort Hood Recycle Center," Walker said. "The Christmas parade is a great family event for our employees and their children to celebrate the holidays."



Recycle employees walked along both sides of the float, greeting hundreds and passing out candy to children lined up with their buckets and bags. The employees' children sat in the float with their elf hats helping Ricky the Raccoon greet the crowds and wishing them happy holidays.

Children jumped up in excitement as they looked up and noticed Ricky the Raccoon waving from the float.

"A lot of kids who have seen Ricky at the Fort Hood Recycle Center or at school presentations, had another opportunity to see him at the Killeen Christmas parade," Walker said. "It is another opportunity to reach out to surrounding communities and encourage children and adults to recycle, reuse and reduce."

More than 140 entries, about half of them decorated floats, participate in the annual Christmas parade. The Fort Hood Recycle Center was recognized by the Killeen City Council and Celebrate Killeen Committee and received first place in the non-profit category and first place overall for their float.

During the holidays, remember to recycle and bring Christmas wrapping paper, paper gift bags and cardboard boxes to the Fort Hood Recycle Center on 72nd Street. Call 287-2336 for more information.

