

South Dakota National Guard Public Affairs Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SD Guard members volunteer for Day of Caring

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Sixteen South Dakota National Guardsmen joined about 1,400 other community members by volunteering their time to assist neighbors and businesses as part of the United Way of the Black Hills Day of Caring on Sept. 6.

The United Way of the Black Hills kicks off their fundraising campaign each year with a day in which community members and organizations provide their time on various projects around Rapid City. The United Way said this year's goal is \$1,945,000 and has 85 service projects throughout the city to complete.

Eight Soldiers from the 109th Regional Support Group and eight Soldiers from Joint Force Headquarters volunteered their time to spend the day painting, installing insulation and sheetrock, and trimming trees at two separate locations.

“The Day of Caring is a way to give back to the community and to show our support,” said Maj. Brendan Murphy, member of the Joint Force Headquarters team. “There are some people in the community who are in need and might not be financially or physically able to make some needed improvements to their home, so we’re here to help them out and make a difference.”

In addition to the manual labor provided during its Day of Caring, the United Way's primary mission is to raise money, and then distribute it to many of the area's leading non-profit agencies that provide help to people in need.

“I think it's important to give back and be thankful for what you have,” said Murphy. “Not everyone has been given the same opportunities or abilities in life, and those of us that have been given a lot it's a great way we can show our support. We are a community and community means helping one another out.”

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120906-A-RN486-014: South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers Maj. Brendan Murphy, left, and 1st Lt. Waylon Skelton, right, prepare to cut insulation for a home project as Staff Sgt. David Goodwin assists during the United Way's Day of Caring in Rapid City, S.D., Sept. 6, 2012. (SDNG photo by Maj. Anthony Deiss) (RELEASED)



120906-A-RN486-026: South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers Maj. Kevin Huxford scrapes paint as Sgt. Nate Livermont paints trim for a home project during the United Way's Day of Caring in Rapid City, S.D., Sept. 6, 2012. (SDNG photo by Maj. Anthony Deiss) (RELEASED)



120906-A-RN486-031: South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers from the 109th Regional Support Group, as well as members of Project Solutions Inc., teamed up for the United Way's Day of Caring in Rapid City, S.D., Sept. 6, 2012. (SDNG photo by Maj. Anthony Deiss) (RELEASED)



120906-A-RN486-020: South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers from Joint Force Headquarters, as well as other community members, teamed up for the United Way's Day of Caring in Rapid City, S.D., Sept. 6, 2012. (SDNG photo by Maj. Anthony Deiss) (RELEASED)

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