Cleaning Services
Keeping up appearances at the CDP
Show your team spirit for CFC
Story by Wendi Feazell

The CDP will kick-off the 2014 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) on Monday, Sept. 22 during the Federal Staff meeting. This year’s theme will be “Show Your Team Spirit for CFC.”

The Combined Federal Campaign is the world’s largest and most successful workplace-giving campaign. The mission of the CFC is to promote and support philanthropy that is employee-focused, cost-efficient and effective.

The efforts of the CFC board, key persons, generosity of the CDP Employee Association and the CDP staff that participated in all the fundraisers, made for another successful campaign of $25,202.40 raised for last year’s campaign.

During the 2014 CFC solicitation period, the CFC board members along with the CFC key persons will host a Team Spirit door decorating contest, a bake sale and a silent auction to support this year’s campaign.

The fundraisers will kick off later this month when registration will open for October’s door decorating contest. In November, the CDP staff will have an opportunity to show off their culinary talents during the CFC bake sale. And, in December, everyone will have an opportunity to shop for holiday gifts at the CFC silent auction. The CFC team invites CDP staff to show team spirit by supporting these fundraisers.

It is said that tragedy brings heroes, and for many individuals donating time, money and services is a manageable way to make a difference in the world. Show your team spirit for CFC and donate to the charity of your choice. Together we can all make a difference.

Lyndsie Jennings is part of the HME housekeeping team that is responsible for maintaining and cleaning student lodging. There are six buildings with a total of 450 rooms that make up the student dormitory.
National Hispanic Heritage Month kicked off Sept. 15 and runs through Oct. 15, celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens with ancestors from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. This year’s theme is “Hispanics: A legacy of history, a present of action and a future of success.”

The observance started in September 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon B. Johnson. In 1970, the Hispanic population of the United States was 9.6 million, constituting 4.7 percent of the nation’s total population.

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan expanded the length of the observance, establishing Hispanic Heritage Month. The Hispanic population that same year was 19.4 million, roughly 7.9 percent of the nation’s total population.

The dates of Sept. 15 through Oct. 15 were selected to celebrate Hispanic heritage each year because Sept. 15 is the anniversary of independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Mexico declared its independence on Sept. 16 and Chile on Sept. 18. Columbus Day is recognized on Oct. 12.

Hispanic Americans contribute significantly to American culture in the fields of art and science. Among those are a scientist, Dr. Frances A. Córdova, and a Medal of Honor recipient, Master Sgt. Leroy Petry.

Córdova assumed her current position as the director of the National Science Foundation this year. She is an internationally recognized astrophysicist who is the youngest person and only the second woman to ever be named as the chief scientist at NASA. She has published more than 150 scientific papers. In 1997, she was awarded an honorary doctorate by Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles. She is a recipient of NASA’s highest honor, the Distinguished Service Medal, and was recognized as a Kilby Laureate in 2000. The Kilby International Awards recognizes extraordinary individuals who have made “significant contributions to society through science, technology, innovation, invention and education.”

Petry, born in New Mexico, enlisted in the U.S. Army in September 1999, which is something he wanted to do since he was 7 years old. He deployed eight times in support of overseas contingency operations with two tours in Iraq and six in Afghanistan. For his actions on May 26, 2008, Petry received the Medal of Honor in 2011. Despite losing his right arm below the elbow, Petry re-enlisted.

“If I can’t go to the fight, I can help the men who are wounded, injured or ill,” said Petry.

Petry retired from the U.S. Army in July 2014 after 15 years of service.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the Hispanic population as of July 2, 2013, was 54.1 million. Constituting 17.1 percent of the nation’s total population, Hispanics are now the nation’s largest ethnic minority group. In 2060, the projected Hispanic population of the U.S. is expected to be 128.8 million. According to this projection, Hispanics will constitute 31 percent of the nation’s population. The present actions of Hispanic Americans will continue to shape our nation’s future successes.
As an Instructional Systems Specialist with the Evaluation Section of the Curriculum Development and Evaluation Branch in the CDP’s Training & Education Directorate, Linda Pressley is responsible for course and training evaluations, management of continuing education credits for students and the conduct of third-party reviews for FEMA’s National Training and Education Division (NTED).

Pressley’s workday consists of analyzing Level 1 and Level 3 data, setting up of continuing education credits, performing NTED third-party reviews and writing evaluation reports.

“Students are our customers and the CDP wants to satisfy the needs of the customer,” said Pressley. “We need the students’ feedback from the Level 1 end-of-course evaluation,” added Pressley.

“We use the learning transfer surveys to revise or change policies, procedures, training methodologies and curricula to make sure our training is on target to assist the responder/receiver and their agencies in preparing for emergencies or disasters.”

The CDP strives to assist as many students as possible in obtaining continuing education credits while attending CDP courses. “Most of our students are professionals such as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), police, doctors and nurses, who are licensed to practice in their respective fields, along with that licensure comes requirements for continuing education credits,” said Pressley.

Pressley was born and raised in San Antonio. Prior to her working at the CDP, Pressley served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam era. She attended basic training here at Fort McClellan. While in the service she served as a Radiological Technologist at Fort Devens, Mass. After service, Pressley completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Radiation Technology, a Master of Science degree in Health Professions and Ph.D. (All But Dissertation) in Educational Human Resource Development. She went on to work as an instructor and program director of Radiological Technology programs in community colleges in San Antonio and College Station, Texas; St. Louis, Mo., and Rome, Ga.

In her 11 years working at the CDP, Pressley said obtaining California Department of Health continuing education credits for the Registered Environmental Health Specialists attending CDP courses was the most unusual job she has done.

“I support the CDP mission by ensuring students have the appropriate continuing education credits and evaluation is a part of everything we do at the CDP to ensure we offer the highest quality training to the state, tribal, territorial and local responders and receivers,” said Pressley.

Upon his retirement, who held the record for most wins as head coach in collegiate football history with 323 wins?

Please email your answer to arledges@cdpemail.dhs.gov by SEPTEMBER 29 for a chance to win two free movie tickets. The email should have “MOVIE TICKET GIVEAWAY” as the subject and the answer in the body.

This is a contest and by submitting a correct answer by September 29, your name will be entered into the random drawing for the free movie tickets.
AUTUMN FESTIVAL

on October 4 at Bennett Farms from 10-2

Please RSVP by September 25

ACTIVITIES
Hayrides Petting Farm
Hot Dogs Chips Moon Pies
Free Lunch
Free to CDP Staff & Family

Hay Maze Corn Crib Pumpkin Patch Live Entertainment – Iron City Boys

For RSVP and more information, please contact Amanda Stewart amandastewart@fema.dhs.gov

Center for Domestic Preparedness Employee Association presents

5th Annual Fall Golf Outing on October 13

Register at Cane Creek Golf Course or Call 256-231-0128

12:00 Shot Gun Three-Person Scramble

$60 per Person / $180 per Team Includes Two Mulligans each

Proceeds will be donated to the Derek Thomas Jensen’s Children Trust Fund
Alabama’s Capitol lawn was the site of the state’s tenth Ready Alabama Day, Sept. 12. The Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) joined more than 20 emergency response and volunteer organizations displaying the latest in response capabilities and training opportunities.

Ready Alabama is coordinated through the Governor’s Office of Faith-Based and Volunteer Service Office. Part of the ongoing efforts to stress readiness and preparedness throughout the state, Alabama highlights its campaign each year by celebrating Ready Alabama Day as part of September’s National Preparedness Month.

Emergency agencies provided large exhibits and realistic presentations that captured the attention of many in attendance. The CDP provided moulage displays, mannequins dressed in personal protective equipment and information tables, but the highlight of the afternoon was the Human Patient Simulator that gave attendees a first-hand look at how technology is used in training.

“This is the tenth year we’ve celebrated Ready Alabama and we are always proud to have the CDP participate and share in National Preparedness Month,” said Jon Mason, director of Serve Alabama. “The patient simulators are always a high point for all ages. It’s good to show our young people training technology and possibly inspire them for a career in service. The CDP’s focus on training and preparedness is important not only to Alabama, but the nation.”

The goal of Ready Alabama Day is to increase public awareness regarding citizen preparedness for any disaster or emergency, as well as demonstrating the state’s response capabilities. Nearly 550 emergency responders and youth from area schools gathered near the Capitol’s Circle of Flags to receive a firsthand look at response equipment, interactive demonstrations and training courses that stress the importance of preparedness.

The CDP develops and delivers advanced training courses for emergency response providers, emergency managers and other government officials from state, local and tribal governments. CDP training focuses on incident management, mass casualty response and emergency response to a catastrophic natural disaster or terrorist act. CDP training for state, local and tribal responders is fully funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), a component of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.
Cleanliness, on a practical level, relates to hygiene, disease prevention and a state of being free of dirt. Cleanliness may also be endowed with a moral quality as indicated by the adage “cleanliness is next to godliness.” However the concept of cleanliness appeals to you, the CDP has a staff of dedicated individuals bringing your ideas or definitions into reality.

HME, Inc. employs 29 people in the custodial and housekeeping departments. Twelve custodial team members are responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of the training facilities and 17 housekeepers maintain the lodging facilities.

“The housekeeping team is responsible for cleaning and maintaining six buildings and approximately 450 rooms,” said Martha Lawson, lead of lodging staff.

The housekeeping staff makes the beds, cleans the bathroom, empties the garbage, vacuums, provides towels and washcloths and stocks amenities, such as coffee and shampoo. Along with their routine duties, the staff has routine weekly and monthly tasks they perform on a rotating schedule. High dusting and floor waxing are part of the rotating schedule.

“We always have something to do,” said Lawson. “We don’t do everything every day, but we work toward finishing everything by the end of the week.”

All of the hard work doesn’t go unnoticed. Students can fill out comment cards on the housekeeping services and HME pays close attention to the students’ remarks.

Two examples of recent comments from students:

“Thank you for taking such great care of our rooms. It was nice coming back to a perfectly prepared room each day.”

“Thanks for being awesome and putting up with all of our constant messes. We all appreciate it.”

Maintaining a clean space for students is paramount and
housekeeping continues to rise to the challenge.

“We are very dependable,” said Lawson. “I’ll give [the housekeepers] a task and I don’t even have to check to see if it was done.”

Along with the mountains of laundry and hundreds of rooms to clean, the housekeeping team proves to be courteous and always willing to help.

“We problem solve,” said Lawson. “If a student has a request, we do our best to accommodate.”

While responders are in class, housekeeping takes care of their accommodations. Students may still see HME employees making sure cleanliness standards are being upheld throughout the campus.

“The custodial teammates interact a lot with the responders simply by being cordial and exhibiting a caring attitude when they speak to them in the hallways,” said Phillip Allen, deputy project manager/institutional services manager. “The image that the responders take away when they leave is extremely important to the sustainability of the CDP and I believe the custodial teammates are an irrefutable part of that.”

At Building 61, Noble Training Facility and other CDP facilities, the custodial staff maintains the offices, classrooms, restrooms, training sites and hallways. The custodial staff is responsible for so much floor space that having a person dedicated to specific floors and hallways is a necessity.

Just as the housekeeping staff has a weekly and monthly rotation of additional duties, the custodial staff has obligations throughout the facilities.

“We have a list of responsibilities that are performed weekly, monthly and even annually,” said Allen. “Sometimes I’ll just walk around to make sure we are staying on top of things that aren’t maintained on a daily basis like ceiling tiles and air fresheners.”

Housekeeping team members are not the only ones who receive positive marks for their outstanding performance and courteous manners. The custodial staff receives numerous verbal accolades and when feedback comes in via email, Allen prints them out to show the crew.

Both custodial and housekeeping have a sense of pride when roaming the CDP campus. Their efforts show just how pristine the facilities can be.

“The responders arriving at the CDP are inundated with the appearance of lodging and training facilities, building entranceways, the resilient shine of the hallways, and cleanliness of sleeping quarters, classrooms and restrooms,” said Allen. “Without the dedicated custodial and housekeeping staff, none of this would be possible.”
“Jesus, because of who He is and all that He has done for me. Salvation is free and I thank Him every day. There is no one word to explain the why…."

Pauline Cunningham
Financial Management Specialist, FEMA

“Dalai Lama. I’d like to just sit and talk to him.”

Preston Kingure
Cook, ADRS

“Abraham Lincoln. His presidency just fascinated me and what all he was able to accomplish while he was in office during such a tough time in our country.”

Jared Joiner
Stationary Engineer, MMT Services LLC.

“John Lennon. I’d love to hang out with him and even participate in one of his Bed-Ins for Peace. He was such a cool guy.”

Stephanie Owens
Role Player Actor, Leidos

“Abraham Lincoln because he played such a vital part in our country’s history. He saved the Union, freed the slaves and presided over America’s second founding.”

Heather Hollingsworth
COBRATF Support Team, Leidos

“Stanley Kubrick. I’d love to sit and discuss filmmaking, as well as photography since he was an avid shooter.”

Benjamin Crossley
Visual Information Specialist, FEMA