

Hard-working volunteer is ‘very enthusiastic’

By **Barbara L. Sellers**
Northwest Guardian

Several people described the Fort Lewis Volunteer of the Month for May as “a really hard worker.”

Pfc. Khristell Hamilton, 514th Medical Company, volunteers for the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers organization. She also serves as the company BOSS representative for her unit.

“I enjoy supporting BOSS because it not only benefits me but other Soldiers, as well,” Hamilton said. “Plus, it gives me a sense of having accomplished something. We get to help plan and set up a lot of parties and other activities and then we get to participate in them.”

Hamilton volunteered nearly every day when BOSS was getting ready for the post-wide Easter egg dash, and she also helps with the Team Lewis event that BOSS sponsors each month,



Hamilton

said Spc. Lauren Allen, vice president, BOSS.

“She (Hamilton) is very enthusiastic,” Allen said. “No matter how long the job takes, she’s always here until the end. If she knows we are short-handed, she will

bring other volunteers with her, too.”

Just how many hours she volunteers depends on how much help they need, Hamilton said.

One of the most challenging volunteer experiences she had was helping out with the Easter-egg dash.

“We had fun, but it was also a big job because there were 4,000 plastic eggs that had to be filled,” she said.

While Hamilton was growing up, she said her mother always did a lot of

volunteer work at school and her father coached a co-ed, slow-pitch softball team — good examples of the need to help others.

Hamilton had her first volunteer job at an animal shelter while she was still in middle school, and it was one of the best volunteer experiences she ever had.

“I got to walk the dogs, feed them, and play fetch with them,” she said.

“When people were interested in adopting a dog, I got to tell them what I knew about each dog. That was fun because I really like animals.”

Hamilton was also introduced to the idea of the military as a career at a young age.

“My grandmother took care of us a lot, and she was in the Women’s Auxiliary Corps,” she said. “At that time, it was the closest thing to being in the Army (for women).”

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Hamilton also had a 21-year-old step-sister who intended to join the Army.

“My sister saw the recruiter and she was going to signup, but then she was in a fatal car accident,” said Hamilton, who was in junior high school at the time.

“She never got the chance to join the Army, so I decided to join for her.”

Hamilton’s Army career actually began in September 2005, when she joined the Army Reserve. Eight months after serving as a medic in the Reserve, she transferred to active duty.

“I loved being in the Army the whole time I went through my training,” she said.

“When I went for my weekend training,” she said, “I loved that, too. I just wanted more of it. I wanted to do it on a daily basis, so I went active duty, and my family is very proud of me for being in the Army.”

Being a Soldier in a unit that will deploy in the near future doesn’t give Hamilton very much free time, but she’s willing to give what time she does have to help fellow Soldiers, and the Fort Lewis community.

“She has a great attitude, and she always does everything with a smile on her face,” Allen said.