

The Heart of DCMA

By Tonya Guy-Green, DCMA Dayton

It's my opinion that the men and women of the Defense Contract Management Agency are just as dedicated to the well-being of one another as they are to our country's warfighters. In early 2007, I applied for the Tomorrow's Leaders Initiative program. The following is an excerpt from my application:

I can recall attending a [contract management office] Christmas party hosted by the Special Activities Committee during my first year with DCMA. One of the activities that SAC planned was a game — similar to Family Feud — in which each table was given a list of questions to answer to see how many others answered the same. I specifically remember one question, “What is the best part of working for DCMA?” With a hint of sarcasm, my initial answer was, “The pay.” However, those that had been with DCMA longer convinced me that the people topped the list of reasons to work for DCMA. It's a couple of years later and now I can now say with conviction, “I get it.” There are many individuals within DCMA that I have come to view as my extended family. There is an overall sincere concern for one another's well-being, both personal and professional, that one rarely experiences in the workplace. With that comes a great sense of loyalty and obligation.

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These words ring more true to me now than ever before, because I have been a recipient of the overwhelming and genuine concern that the people of DCMA have for one another. In May 2007, I had a brain tumor removed,

which left me with some paralysis and bound to a wheelchair. I spent a total of five months in three different medical facilities. Not a day passed in that five months that I didn't receive cards, flowers, visits or telephone calls from members



Front row, from left: Norm Horn, DCMA Dayton, Tonya Guy-Green, DCMA Dayton, Ron Johnson, DCMA Dayton, and Bill Slusser, DCMA Dayton; back row, from left: Jay Damron, DCMA Small Business Programs, Stephen Lisy, DCMA Dayton, Terry Howard, DCMA Information Technology Customer Service Organization, Deacon Charles Henry, Omega Baptist Church, Deneen Oldham, DCMA Dayton, Ken Pegues, DCMA Dayton, and Deacon Robert Buycks, Omega Baptist Church.



From left: Ron Johnson, DCMA Dayton, Jay Damron, DCMA Small Business Programs, and Ken Pegues, DCMA Dayton, screw the ramp frame together.



The completed ramp, built by DCMA Dayton employees.

of DCMA. I even received messages from people whom I did not know but who had heard about my situation. I also received more than 400 hours of donated leave from the men and women of DCMA.

The people of DCMA Dayton, Ohio, were there for my family as well. One sat with my family through my 10-hour surgery, another made sure my seven-year-old son maintained as much normalcy in his life as possible by taking him to judo practice twice a week and shopping for summer clothes, and another

took him bike riding and book shopping. Others were more than willing to drive me 30 miles away for necessary appointments. These are just a few examples of individual acts of kindness shown to me and my family.

The people of DCMA also made financial donations to build a ramp so I could get safely into and out of my home once discharged from the medical facility. They didn't stop there, though. Another employee got his Boy Scout troop involved. They held a car wash, and

all funds collected went toward supplies needed for building the ramp. Within one week of my return home, a large group of DCMA Dayton members came to my house to build the ramp. It was such a joy to see so many people come together and work hard for my benefit. That ramp immediately gave me a sense of physical and mental freedom.

It has been seven months, and I am still receiving visits, calls, cards, flowers, fruit baskets and get well wishes. Never in my life will I forget this experience and the ways in which my DCMA family supported me and my family. I feel so honored and blessed to work with such genuinely kind people. Thanks so much to each and every one of you. 

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