

DDDC Reaching Out to the Community

JIM SIEGFRIED SHARES A GIFT

“Each of us has a gift that needs to be given; a call that needs to be heard; an experience that needs to be shared.”

This simple message is one Jim Siegfried wants people to hear. Siegfried, Defense Distribution Depot San Diego, California Continuing Governmental Authority (DDDC CGA) Systems Analyst, shares that message frequently when he speaks to local audiences about disabilities in the workplace as a part of the Disability Awareness Foundation, . . . a non-profit organization founded on this philosophy.

When he was nineteen he was riding on the outside of a friend’s car going down a quiet street, he said. “I was thrown from the car into the path of an oncoming car. The oncoming car hit me and broke my back in two spots, completely severing my spinal cord at the chest.

“I first heard about the Disability Awareness Foundation through a friend,” Siegfried said. “They were looking for people willing to speak to groups. I was already involved with children through my coaching, and everyone thought I’d be a good influence on the younger kids.

“The foundation primarily speaks to grade school children,” Siegfried said, “we hope to get them early. We are looking into speaking to high schools and businesses.

“The best question I’ve ever been asked is: ‘Will you ever be able to walk?’ The question may not be great but the expression of concern by the third grade boy was genuine. My

Jim Siegfried, far right, with other speakers for the Disability Awareness Foundation.



answer ‘Maybe, that’s why I’m here talking to you today. You could be the one who grows up becomes a doctor and finds the cure.’ He had a big smile on his face and that was all the thanks I needed.”

“Jim is a great spokesman for people with disabilities and for all the contributions civilians make to the defense of our country,” said CAPT Frank Lindell, SC, USN, Commander, DDDC. “As a coach for just about every sport there is, Jim has spent years promoting self motivation, respect for others and helping kids realize their self-worth. We’re proud to have him on the DDDC team.”

A big sports fan, Siegfried also coaches football at three different high schools and has for nearly 20 years. “My other volunteer time is spent helping out with high school assisting in weightlifting class running the clock for other functions,” Siegfried said. He has also coached track and basketball.

DLA GOALS

GOAL 1 . . . Provide responsive, best value supplies and services consistently to our customers.

GOAL 2 . . . Structure internal processes to deliver customer outcomes effectively and efficiently.

GOAL 3 . . . Ensure our workforce is enabled and empowered to deliver and sustain logistics excellence.

GOAL 4 . . . Manage DLA resources for best customer value.