Hospital supports OHS Army JROTC

Special to the Okeechobee News

A mother of an OHS Army JROTC Raider team member identified a critical need during a recent Army Cadet meet that was held out of town. After one of OHS' Raider team members was injured while competing at the meet, Michelle Harper decided to seek support for OHS' program from the community of Okeechobee. Raulerson Hospital answered the request with the donation of a sports first aid kit and other supplies for the JROTC members at OHS.

Major Donavan Locklear (retired), the senior Army instructor, said that while the Army provides an approved curriculum, uniforms and other necessary supplies to run a JROTC program, there are often other essential supplies which are critical in moving a program from good to great. Locklear and SFC(R) Valparisia Gibson, the programs Army Instructor, are extremely grateful for the donation of the first aid kit from Raulerson Hospital, as well as monetary donations made by other organizations in recent weeks.

Locklear appreciates all the support from the booster parents over the years, including a recent push to communicate with local groups and leaders about the specific needs of the program.

This has resulted in generous donations from community partners and individual donors over the past few weeks. Maj. Locklear said the program currently has other immediate equipment needs.

Community members or corporate partners interested in making a monetary donation or purchasing essential supplies may contact him at donavan.locklear@okee.k12.fl.us for additional information.

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Members of the OHS Army JROTC program accept a donation of a first aid kit from Raulerson Hospital leadership. Left to right are Major Donavan Locklear, JROTC cadets Justin Rogers, Joshua Rhoden and Jacob Kerezsi, ER manager Gerry Windle, ER director Kathy Selby and CEO Brian Melear.

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December 27, 2016 10:27 am (GMT +5:00)
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