



CPL. ANGEL J. VELASQUEZ

Sgt. Justin E. Studler speaks after receiving one of the North Carolina Activity Professional Association's Volunteers of the Year awards, during a ceremony Sept. 18. Studler donated his time to support Britthaven of Havelock.

Heart of Gold

Marine receives award for volunteer work

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MCAS CHERRY POINT

Sgt. Justin E. Studler was named one of the North Carolina Activity Professional Association's Volunteers of the Year, during a ceremony at the Atlantic Beach Sheraton Hotel, Sept. 18.

The award was kept a secret until it was presented to Studler. However, it's no secret that he devoted a lot of his time and care to helping people in need. The sergeant has been regularly volunteering his time to support Britthaven of Havelock.

Britthaven is a nursing home for people in need of skilled care. Most residents of Britthaven are elderly or mentally challenged individuals.

Studler, an air traffic controller here, has been a volunteer there for three years, accumulating more than 180 hours of volunteer service.

"It shows a lot dedication and admiration from his behalf," said 2nd Lt. Julie Vogt, a crew officer at ATC. "Volunteering for three years shows a lot about his character. Other Marines should emulate that and help the community."

Volunteering isn't new to Studler, or his wife, Shara, who he met working with autistic children in high school. He remem-

bers tagging along with his mother when she would volunteer to help people.

"I definitely don't volunteer to win awards," said Studler. "I've always liked to volunteer since I was young. To win this award is just simply amazing."

Studler's contributions go beyond his own volunteering. He's also known for getting his fellow Marines involved in volunteering at Britthaven.

"It takes a big heart to do what he does," said Capt. Travis Beeson, ATC facility officer. "He gets the other Marines involved. When they call from the nursing home requesting volunteers, Studler simply replies with 'How many you need?' He gets it done."

"All of the ATC Marines are giving, caring and loving," said Ruby Kessinger, the Britthaven activity director. "They always give 150 percent."

Studler said he plans on continuing his volunteer work wherever the Marine Corps takes him.

"It's so great that he does this," said Shara. "I love to follow him and do it just as much as he does."

For more information on volunteering at Britthaven, contact Ruby Kessinger or Melanie Bradshaw, at 444-4631.