FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Williamson County Medical Reserve Corps Celebrates the Power of Volunteerism During National Volunteer Week, April 15-21, 2012

As the nation focuses on the work of everyday citizens during National Volunteer Week, the Williamson County Medical Reserve Corps (WilcoMRC) is getting recognition for its contributions in protecting and promoting the health of local citizens. The Williamson County and Cities Health District (WCCHD) says Thank You to the dozens of local volunteers who stand ready to be called on during emergencies and to help with events that promote the wellness and safety of the public.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), which was launched in 2002 after the events of 9/11 brought to light the need for an organized system for medical and public health professionals who could be ready to respond to emergencies. The MRC system also helps improve public health on a day-to-day basis. The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is a national network of local volunteers committed to building resilient communities and improving community health and safety. MRC volunteers in Williamson County include medical and public health professionals as well as other individuals with varied backgrounds often unrelated to healthcare. Each volunteer contributes a unique skill vital to their MRC unit. Combined with a passion for service, MRC volunteers have become an important resource for county leaders to call upon during emergencies. Nationally, more than 206,000 volunteers serve in more than 980 local MRC units. In Williamson County, 30 volunteers currently give their time to assist the Health District. WilcoMRC Director Mike Caudle says, “MRC units have repeatedly demonstrated their value, strength, and success in helping to build strong, healthy, and prepared communities. The WilcoMRC recruits, trains, builds, and sustains a team of medical, public health, and other volunteers who participate in community preparedness activities, training events, and exercises.” For example, WilcoMRC volunteers were recently called on to help with the 10th annual Children’s Health Festival in March. MRC Volunteers also undergo training to help them be better prepared to assist during other public health emergencies like influenza outbreaks, chemical spills, and even acts of bioterrorism.

The WilcoMRC is seeking volunteers to join our team. If you would like to join or need more information about volunteer opportunities with the WilcoMRC, please visit our website at www.wilcomrc.org or contact WilcoMRC Director Mike Caudle at (512) 943-3600 or via email at mcaudle@wcchd.org. For more information about the Williamson County and Cities Health District, visit http://www.wcchd.org.