

Texas Medical Reserve Corps Stories:

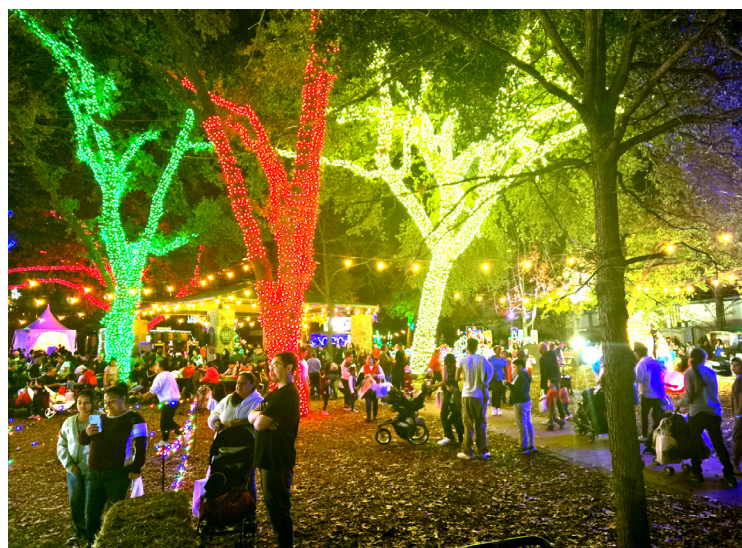


How MRCs are Serving Their Communities

February 2025 Edition

Spreading Holiday Cheer and Community Resources

On December 17, thousands of North Texas families gathered at the Dallas Zoo for United Way's ninth annual Jungle Bells, a festive holiday event featuring dazzling lights, live entertainment, and community engagement. Hosted in partnership with the Dallas Zoo, the event included a Christmas Community Outreach, where area nonprofits connected attendees with essential resources. Dallas County Health and Human Services Emergency Volunteer Program Coordinator Jessica Acker reported that MRC outreach efforts alone served over 1,200 individuals, distributing five cases of COVID-19 tests and more than 2,500 informational materials—remaining on-site to assist the community even after other organizations ran out of supplies.



Dallas County MRC outreach efforts were a huge success at the annual Jungle Bells Holiday Event reaching over 1,200 members of the community.

Booths were set up throughout the park, ensuring families had access to critical resources such as food assistance, housing support, and healthcare information.

Among the materials distributed were: COVID-19 Tests, Spanish Coloring Books, English Coloring Books, Maternity and Infant Care Program Information, Immunization and Clinic Information, Charity Cares Program Flyers, Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Phone Bank Contact Information, and Preparedness Document Bags & Texas Ready Resources.

“Beyond providing direct assistance at the event, the MRC also leveraged this opportunity to establish new partnerships,” said Acker. “Supplies were provided to local daycare centers, the City of Mesquite, and a warming shelter, where two vaccine clinics were later held. Community preparedness information was distributed, along with family contact cards.”

Acker emphasized the importance of collaboration in maximizing outreach efforts. “Instead of tackling outreach alone, organizations should connect with MRC coordinators, local health departments, and other divisions to explore opportunities for partnership. By working together, we can extend our reach and better serve our communities,” she said.

Special thanks to Jessica Acker of Dallas County Health and Human Services for sharing her story.