

## **Rockwall High School charity event huge success!!!**

On March 29, Rockwall High School was the host for the first ever Corporal Fox 3v3 Basketball Tournament, benefitting Homes for Our Troops. The tournament raised over \$2,000, all of which will go directly toward construction costs of the home being built in McClendon Chisholm for severely wounded veteran Corporal Michael Fox.

Inspired after attending the ground breaking ceremony for the home, Rockwall junior Wyatt Miller made plans to raise money for Homes for Our Troops and have a blast playing basketball at the same time. Rockwall friends and the athletic community at Rockwall High School quickly jumped on board to ensure success. The morning began with 85 players making up 17 teams. The event kicked off with introductions by Dale Downum, Rockwall High School's Voice of the Jackets. Dale introduced Corporal Fox, his girlfriend Erica and Congressman Ralph Hall. The importance of service to our country was clear and the players responded with great cheers and respect.

Perhaps the highlight of the entire tournament was not the constant laughter and smiles, (mixed with highly competitive athletes) but rather the camaraderie shown throughout the day. High school students constantly jumped in and helped out with jobs during the tournament. Players and their families visited with Corporal Fox and learned about his life and challenges. Dale Downum said it best when he stated, "I feel good about the future of our world when I look around at the young people in this gym. The future is great!"

Homes for Our Troops (HFOT) is a national, non-profit organization founded in 2004 that is strongly committed to helping those who have selflessly given to our country and returned home with serious injuries since September 11, 2001. HFOT assist severely injured veterans and their families by raising money, building materials and professional labor, and be coordinating the process of building a home that provides maximum freedom of movement and the ability to live more independently. The homes provided by Homes for Our Troops are given at no cost to the veterans who protect our freedom.

Marine Corporal Michael Fox was on his third deployment when he suffered the traumatic amputations of both of his legs in an IED blast in Musa Qala, Afghanistan on November 15, 2011. The home for Corporal Fox should be completed by September of this year. The Rockwall High School athletic community is excited to have Corporal Fox as a new friend, neighbor and fan!