

## **State Librarian Receives Copy of *No Matter What* from Kansas National Guard**

by Shannon Roy, Editor

State Librarian Christie Brandau was touched to receive a copy of *No Matter What* from a Kansas National Guard Unit. The men and women of the 891st Kansas National Guard are primarily from Southeast Kansas.

Staff Sergeant John Sheehan explained that the 891st soldiers wanted to thank the State Library staff for making it possible for them to participate in the project called “Read to a Tot – No Matter What: Kansas Reads to Preschoolers.” This event was held in November 2005 while they were serving in Iraq.

Some of the 891st read to family members and school groups using computers and webcams that came from a library that Staff Sergeant Sheehan helped to establish while on deployment in Iraq. Sergeant Sheehan has always been a strong advocate of literacy. This project was a great way for him to promote literacy to his fellow soldiers and to those they love. The Kansas Reads to Preschoolers Project gave them a chance to connect with their families back home by sharing this lovely book about loving someone no matter what – or where.

This particular hardback copy of *No Matter What* by Debi Gliori was read during a war on the other side of the planet. Then it was sent back to the Iola Public Library with the signatures of the Southeast Kansans who served there. It was then sent to the State Library as the soldiers had requested. It will be a cherished possession of the State Library staff for many years to come.