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Kadena's AFSA Chapter 1553 partners with Promise Keepers assisting locals in need

By Airman 1st Class Lynette M. Rolan

18th Wing Public Affairs 6/9/2016 — Kadena's Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 1553 assisted a local non-profit organization, Promise Keepers, with an outreach project here June 2.

Promise Keepers is part of the Two Fish Project, which is dedicated to ensuring families in poverty are cared for and motivationally encouraged. They were arriving to pick up a very special delivery courtesy of AFSA.

Nearly 3,000 pounds of clothes and shoes from Kadena members was donated to those in need from the surrounding community.

These clothes go to Okinawa's single parent families, children's shelters, homeless, and those seeking job employment.

"We try to have good engagement and good involvement with the local community," said Tech. Sgt. Jamie Smith, AFSA vice president and 31st Rescue Squadron resource advisor. "I know every time we have one of these drives, I've always seen a good turnout with AFSA, and with people who are a part of AFSA, to make sure they can support the local community."

This opportunity to give back makes this project an invaluable resource for Kadena and the local community.

"There's a lot of low-income families here," said Yoshihiko Nishime, pastor of Yugafu Church, a partner of Promise

Keepers. "Most of the kids going to school have very little, so that's why we try to clothe them."

These are donations that can be delivered to a specific location or the families can come and pick up the clothes, Nishime commented.

AFSA advertised the clothing drive throughout many of the organizations across base. This particular clothing drive marked the third year in a row AFSA has partnered with Peace Keepers. The generous amount of clothing was donated over the course of one month.

"Team Kadena really got together to support our local community," said Tech. Sgt. Kahlila Mutidi, AFSA outreach committee lead and 18th Civil Engineer Group safety manager. "We accumulated more clothes than ever before. It truly was a Team Kadena effort."

Volunteers loaded the clothes onto a truck which would bring them to people in need.

"I have clothes I haven't worn for years, so I was able to give some pants, and some sweatshirts," said Smith. "I know some homeless people could be outside or in the elements where they're not always warm; they might need some warmer clothes, so that was something I thought would be beneficial."

This clothing drive is just one of many projects AFSA does for the local community.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Lynette M. Rolan)

^ Tech. Sgt. Kahlila Mutidi, Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 1553 outreach committee lead and 18th Civil Engineer Group safety manager, helps Miku Hanashiro, Promise Keepers volunteer, carry a box of clothes, June 2, at Kadena Air Base.

"I am very thankful for what Kadena does for the children in Okinawa," said Nishime. "I really appreciate all of the Americans coming to help with this project."

Everyday Hero: Airman's quick thinking saves two from horrific crash

> Senior Airman Ja'Mesha Pratt, 18th Operations Support Squadron airfield systems technician, poses for a photo June 15, at Kadena Air Base. Pratt heroically saved the lives of two local Okinawans after witnessing them involved in a terrible accident. She pulled them from their overturned vehicle and applied Self-Air Buddy care until first-responders arrived.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Naoto Anazawa)

By Staff Sgt. Benjamin Sutton

18th Wing Public Affairs 6/15/2016 — A sunny afternoon turned tragic when out of nowhere a car sped off a busy road landing nose-down, its velocity flipping it upside down before finally scraping to a halt off the side of the road.

Senior Airman Ja'Mesha Pratt, 18th Operations Support Squadron airfield systems technician, had just finished Weighted Airman Promotion System (WAPS) testing when

she witnessed the car fly off the side of the road.

Pratt immediately veered off the side of the road and in seconds was assisting the older Okinawan couple with their struggle to survive.

"When I saw the car flip upside down, I immediately pulled over and ran to assist the two people who were trapped inside it," said Pratt. "I came along the passenger side and saw a woman who was upside-down, held in place by her seatbelt, while crying and hysterical from her ordeal."

The woman was upset because along with the terrifying situation she found herself in, her husband who was driving, was not responding to her attempts to wake him up.

"I was able to carefully maneuver her out and away from the vehicle and promised to go back for her husband," she explained. "Then I ran to the other side and slowly pulled her unconscious husband out."

However, while removing the wounded man from the

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