

Food Donations supporting Salvation Army

Story by Chief Yeoman Ryan Arnoldussen, Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC), Ventura County



Chief Petty Officer Ryan Arnoldussen of Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) Ventura County with Lieutenant Manuel Gaytan, commanding officer of the Oxnard/Port Hueneme Corps and Lieutenant Daisy Gaytan from Salvation Army supporting 2013 Feds Feed Families (FFF) annual food drive campaign. CPOA and FCPOA support through donations of non-perishable food items like peanut butter.

Oxnard, Calif. (July 19, 2013) – In support of the 5th annual "Feds Feed Families" (FFF) food drive, the NOSC Chief Petty Officer Association and the NOSC/CBMU 303 First Class Association donated more than 145 pounds of peanut butter to the Salvation Army/Oxnard/Hueneme Corps, July 19, 2013.

Deputy Secretary of Defense has requested Department of Defense (DoD) support through donations of non-perishable food items for distribution to local food banks nationwide as a direct response to the "United We Serve" Act signed by President Obama in April 2009.

Lieutenant Manuel Gaytan, Commanding Officer of the Oxnard / Port Hueneme Corps, said the Salvation Army will give out the peanut butter to families and also will make sandwiches to feed the children for our After School Program "Dream Makers," and hand out to homeless and others.

"When speaking with local community leaders and families in the community, they said they were in desperate need of peanut butter," Lieutenant Gaytan said. "Peanut butter is expensive compared to other non-perishable food items, which makes it difficult for them to keep in stock." "Peanut butter is such a multi-functional food," he said. "You can eat for breakfast, lunch and dinner. It is high in protein, fats, calories; it is an essential staple of a diet if you are hungry and down on your luck."

Gaytan said he was thankful for the donation and expressed optimism for the upcoming holiday food drives.

This food donation from the NOSC/CBMU 303 First Class Associations and the NOSC Chief Petty Officer Association was also an opportunity to show their future Sailors and Associations how important community service is in the Navy, said Aviation Electrician's Mate 1st Class Michael Burkett, the operations department head at NOSC, Ventura County.

Burkett addressed the Sailors who donated and said, "Community service is a vital part of your time in the Navy. Wherever you go, you will be volunteering in the communities you live in. It is very important for us all to get involved, volunteer, and represent the Navy's Core Values of honor, courage and commitment in all our lives outside of the Navy as well."