



NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CNRSE Sailors, Civilians Help Feed the Homeless

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Region Southeast Public Affairs*

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - Sailors and civilians from Commander, Navy Region Southeast (CNRSE) served hot meals to more than 400 homeless people during a volunteer event at the City Rescue Mission's (CRM) New Life Inn May 19.

The effort was organized through the CNRSE Navy Community Service Program and was the first volunteer event of a planned partnership between CNRSE and the CRM.

"The City Rescue Mission is a great organization for us to partner with because of the impact it has on so many people in the community," said Yeoman 1st Class (AW) Angel Barnes, CNRSE volunteer coordinator. "We have done events with them in the past, but our goal is to maintain a continuous, official partnership with them. I believe our Sailors strongly support their mission and these kinds of efforts give them an opportunity to build camaraderie and give back to the community at the same time."

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The CRM is a privately funded, non-profit organization that has provided assistance to the homeless and needy in Jacksonville since its establishment in 1946. In addition to serving meals daily at the New Life Inn, the mission also offers emergency shelter services, operates a thrift store and offers a 24-month addiction recovery and job placement program at its McDuff Avenue campus. The organization relies heavily on volunteers and contributions from the community to facilitate these services, said Sherry Warren, CRM volunteer coordinator,

“Our volunteers and donors are vital to our success in our goal of transforming Jacksonville’s homeless and addicted into sober, self-sufficient, employed, responsible citizens,” Warren said. “It is great to have a group of military volunteers to help serve because part of our homeless population consists of veterans and it is especially meaningful when they see military personnel helping those in need. I believe a partnership with the Navy and the CRM will have a positive impact on the lives of those we serve.”

According to Yeoman 3rd Class (SW) Reaunta Evans, a volunteer, helping out seemed like the right thing to do.

“Volunteering is simply me trying to ‘pay it forward,’” Evans said. “When the opportunity comes to help someone, I’m all for it. You can never give too much because there is always going to be someone who’s in need. One day it could be me.”

Throughout the evening, many of the homeless in attendance expressed their appreciation for the volunteers’ efforts. For Anthony Allen, a homeless veteran, the experience was a personal one.

“These guys aren’t wearing the same uniforms that we did back when I was in the Navy, but some things don’t change,” Allen said. “To me, the military has always been about character and it shows character for someone to give up their own time to come out here.”

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According to Warren, the CRM serves more than 19,000 meals and provides shelter for the organization's addiction recovery program.

For more information about the CRM, visit <http://www.crmjax.org/>

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140519-N-UA460-005 – JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (May 19, 2014) – Yeoman 1st Class (AW) Angel Barnes prepares fruit bowls at a Commander, Navy Region Southeast (CNRSE) volunteer event at the City Rescue Mission. During the event, CNRSE Sailors and civilians served more than 300 hot meals to the homeless. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Greg Johnson/Released)



140519-N-UA460-007 – JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (May 19, 2014) – Renee Thornhill (right) and Sailors assigned to Commander, Navy Region Southeast (CNRSE) serve meals to the homeless during a CNRSE volunteer event at the City Rescue Mission. During the event, Sailors and civilians served hot meals to more than 300 homeless people. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Greg Johnson/Released)