

CSADD and JEA seek volunteers to help Hawaii Meals on Wheels

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Members of the Pearl Harbor-Hickam Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD) and the Junior Enlisted Association (JEA) will officially begin a new campaign July 29 to deliver meals to the elderly and disabled through Hawaii Meals on Wheels.

The campaign is seeking additional dedicated and motivated volunteers, said Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Abrel Smith, joint base CSADD president. The delivery day will be every Monday, holidays included.

On July 15, Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Leland Harris and Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Bryant McNeil of joint base Port Operation Dockmasters conducted a test run to get familiar with the meals on wheels route and meet those they will be serving.

Harris said he volunteered with Hawaii Meals on Wheels at a previous command and suggested that it also be established at his new command.

"It's another way to give back to the community and to think outside the box," Harris said.

"The best part for me about Hawaii Meals on Wheels is seeing the looks on the faces of the elderly as we deliver to them, especially when we are in uniform. It's breathtaking, the looks that they give us. It's better to give than receive," he added.

"Over the past couple of weeks the JEA and CSADD have been thinking of different ways to represent the Navy in a positive way and give back to the community at the same time," Smith said. After some discussion, both organizations decided that Hawaii Meals on Wheels would be the perfect solution to do just that, he added.

Hawaii Meals on Wheels (HMOW) is a private, nonprofit organization that is dedicated to helping frail elders and individuals with disabilities preserve their independence at home by providing hot, nutritious meals, and regular personal interaction.

The (HMOW) organization was established in 1979 with six clients, six volunteers, and \$25. Currently, the organization provides 300-350 lunch or dinner meals each day, Smith explained. Meals are delivered



Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Abrel Smith, joint base Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions president, participates in a freeze mob event focused on suicide prevention and sexual assault awareness, which was held at the Fleet Store over the Memorial Day weekend. Members of CSADD and the Junior Enlisted Association will begin a new campaign to deliver meals to the elderly and disabled through Hawaii Meals on Wheels. Photo by MC1 (SW) Cynthia Clark

Monday through Friday, including all week-day holidays.

According to Smith, service members who volunteer will be required to use their privately owned vehicle once a week for the Hawaii Meals on Wheels effort.

Smith that volunteers should be safe drivers and follow all traffic rules and laws, able to walk up stairs as needed, be responsible, patient friendly, and available for one to two hours (during lunch) for the delivery route once per week.

“Last but not least, be willing to stay committed with an open heart,” Smith added.