

NAF Atsugi volunteers participate in local orphanage festival

MC2 Justin Smelley

NAVAL AIR FACILITY ATSUGI –Residents and workers of Naval Air Facility (NAF) Atsugi participated in the Misono Kodomo-no-ie Orphanage Festival on June 5 by handing out American food to the crowd at the event.

The festival was held for the orphans of Misono and the local community to gather together and enjoy live entertainment and food. This is the second year that volunteers from NAF Atsugi have supported the festival by cooking American style food.

“This is my second year volunteering for this event,” said Culinary Specialist Senior Chief Celestino Angeles, Leading Chief Petty Officer of NAF Atsugi’s Supply Department. “We did it last year and I liked it. I think it’s gratifying and it’s also well worth it.”

NAF Atsugi started helping out the Misono Kodomo-no-ie Orphanage when the community members of the base were looking for a good place to donate the toys they received from the Toys for Tots program.

“I asked if there was anything we can do for the orphanage as far as community relations and they said that supporting the festival would be great,” said Sumie Maruyama, Community Relations Specialist of NAF Atsugi’s Host Nation Relations Office. “They wanted to enjoy American food and to interact with American people, so I thought it would be a really good opportunity for our community.”

NAF Atsugi residents took full advantage of helping the communities around base showing that they care about the host nation that they live in.

“The service members and the spouses who live on Atsugi are normal Americans who enjoy communicating with Japanese people,” said Maruyama. “I just wanted to show them that [the NAF Atsugi community] wants to be friends with the local people.”

“I think we are promoting a positive image of the Navy when we volunteer for things like this,” said Angeles. “It shows the community that we care.”

The base has planned more events for the Misono Kodomo-no-ie in the future including an upcoming baby home spring clean up for the orphanage.