Yokosuka Officer Spouses Club donates to charities

Story and photo by Joe Schmitt, CFAY Public Affairs

The Yokosuka Officer Spouses Club (YOSC) held a reception and awarded charity money to different organizations from Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) community July 11.

Susan Cloyd hosted the event with YOSC and invited all of the organizations to a reception held at her on-base residence.

YOSC is active in the community and maintains two stores on board CFAY, "*Takusan* Treasures," an Asian furniture store and "Second Hand Rose," which is a used goods and thrift shop.

All of the profits from the stores are put into a charity fund that is continually added to through the year. This year the club raised $82,000 in total.

"At the end of the (collection period), which usually is in May, we get a set amount and we take that money and donate it to registered CFAY organizations," said Amy Devore, out-going YOSC president. "This year we are running about two months behind due to the disasters that happened to Japan in March."

The victims of the earthquake and tsunami were among the groups chosen that received some of the money from YOSC.

"We contacted the Japanese spouse group on base and asked them what was the best charity to give to so the money would actually get to the victims," said Devore.

CFAY Yokosuka Officer Spouses Club (YOSC) members donated money from their annual charity fund to representatives from various groups that registered to receive money from YOSC. The donated money was generated from the YOSC stores "*Takusan* Treasures" and "Second Hand Rose," which are on board CFAY.

"They told us about a newspaper charity that takes all the money there and buy products for the victims. We gave them $15,000 this year."

Additionally, children of military members received money from the YOSC at the reception.

"We awarded $20,000 in high school scholarships with the top recipient receiving $5,000. We also gave money to the scouting groups that are here in Yokosuka," said Devore.

Lisa Turney, one of the leaders for Cub Scout Troop 33, was at the reception and received money on behalf of the troop.

"We're going to use this money to help pay for all the different expenses we build up through out the year. We have a lot of awards and badges that the scouts earn and all of those cost money. We want to recognize our guys for what they have done and this money is going to help us do that," said Turney.

YOSC also donated money to scholarships for military spouses and to other groups for various purposes.

"It's all about helping the community," said Lindfors. "If you come here and your spouse wants to take classes or your kids are in sports or take part in any of the other organizations that we donate to, then we will have helped cover those costs so life can be a little easier for them."

Lindfors said that YOSC plans to continue the charity reception for many more years. Organizations that want to apply for next year can contact the group and register.

Pet of the Week

Asia is a sweet pit bull mix. She's about six years old, spayed, playful as a puppy, and loves everybody she meets. Asia is learning basic commands with our trainers, and will be a fantastic companion for a family that wants to play fetch every day. She's also a great running buddy. She is housebroken, kennel trained and looking for a family. To find out more about Asia, or any animal at Pets Are Worth Saving (P.A.W.S.), call 243-9996, or e-mail usskittytalk.yokosuka@gmail.com, or visit the P.A.W.S. website at www.pawsyokosukajapan.com

USNH Yokosuka offering voluntary internal monitoring

By Richard McManus, USNH Yokosuka Public Affairs

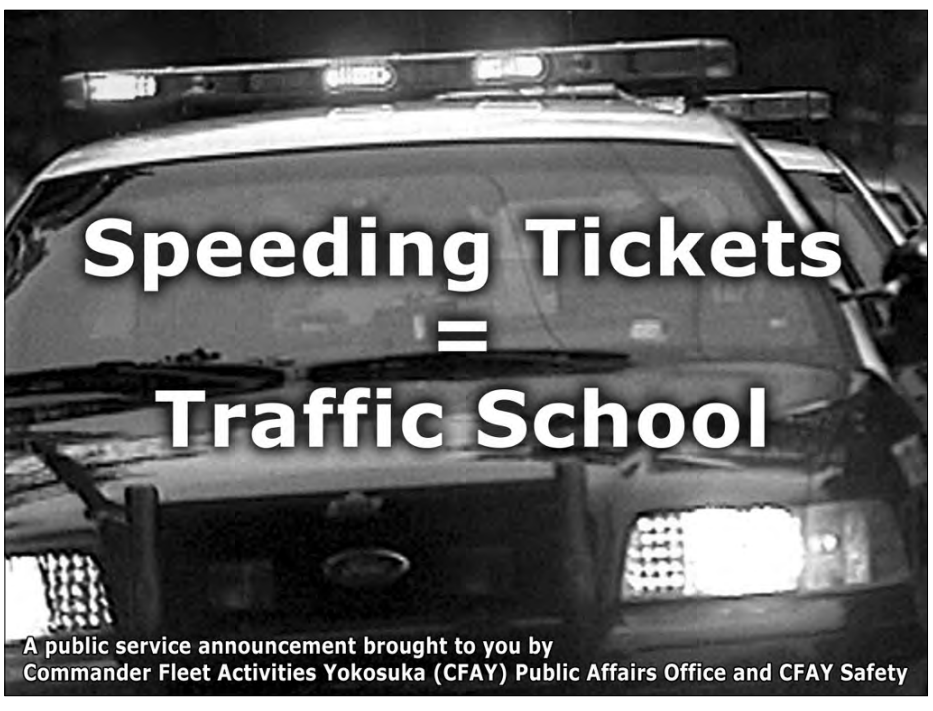
While not medically indicated, U.S. Naval Hospital (USNH) Yokosuka will offer voluntary internal monitoring for Department of Defense (DoD) personnel and their family members.

Environmental and personal radiological monitoring by U.S. personnel has shown that exposure levels for individuals who traveled in the "warm zone," which is 50 miles around Fukushima Dai-iichi Nuclear Power Plant, to be below minimal detectable activity and pose no significant health risks. Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY), which is located 192 miles south of Fukushima, is well outside the "warm zone."

"There are no clinical indications that internal monitoring is necessary." said Capt. Stephen Pachuta, USNH Yokosuka commanding officer. "However, we are offering the opportunity for internal monitoring to DoD-affiliated personnel."

Appointments for screenings are available to service members, family members, DoD civilians or DoD contractors who were present in prefectures affected by the voluntary departure March 12 through April 17. To schedule an appointment, call USNH Yokosuka at 243-6788, Mondays through Fridays from 7 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. Screenings will be available from July 26 - Aug. 22.

Internal monitoring is a passive, non-invasive procedure that measures levels of radioactivity in a person. There are two methods to conduct internal monitoring. One is using a handheld, portable detector placed near the torso. The other is a larger fixed unit that you stand inside; the door remains open while the participant is tested.

The internal monitoring process is painless, takes only a few minutes and people being screened do not receive any radiation during the procedure. Upon completion, subject matter experts will be available to explain results and answer questions about the screening.

USNH Yokosuka is the largest U.S. military treatment facility on mainland Japan and serves approximately 55,000 beneficiaries. A 47-bed core hospital in Yokosuka on the banks of Tokyo Bay is complimented by five branch health clinics in Japan, Korea and Diego Garcia.