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Media Release

St Vincent de Paul Northern Territory

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US Navy contingent show their support of the St Vincent de Paul Society

A contingent of over 60 US Navy personnel worked to clear and prepare the St Vincent de Paul Society Coconut Grove site in preparation for refurbishment work to commence in one of our accommodation buildings.

This goodwill initiative by the US Military demonstrates their willingness to show support and gratitude to their host country. It is completely voluntary for individual personnel interested in providing support, and some muscle!

Over two days the navy personnel set about clearing the site, renovating and painting buildings to provide a more pleasant and safer environment for residents at Bakhita Centre. The Bakhita Centre provides medium to long term accommodation for 30 single men in Darwin.

After hours of hard work, the skip bin was filled to the brim with rubbish and garden waste, a bathroom was gutted ready for renovation, racking was installed, and buildings were painted creating a more pleasant, inviting and safer environment.

Fran Avon, Chief Executive Officer of St Vincent de Paul Society said, 'This was a fabulous opportunity to demonstrate the great work of the Society to our international visitors while being able to move some critical projects along quickly. We are very thankful to the US Navy for their support and hard work'.

This US Navy support will save the Society thousands of dollars in labour costs – increasing the capacity to support services and programs and go toward helping those in need.

The project is part of a larger scope undertaken by the Society to maintain and improve their sites to provide a nicer and safer environment for their clients.

On completion of the supported work the St Vincent de Paul Society was presented with an engraved plaque to acknowledge this partnership and goodwill.

The US Navy arrived on Tuesday and will be in Darwin for up to nine days.

ENDS

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