



NEWS RELEASE

HOLLOMAN AFB 49TH WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Telephone: 575-572-7381

49wg.paoffice@us.af.mil

www.holloman.af.mil



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release No. 250813

August 13, 2025

Holloman volunteers donate 2,586 hours to help community

HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. – Over the past month, members of Team Holloman have been actively engaging with the local community, lending their time and skills to a variety of revitalization and restoration projects as part of the 2025 Casa Big Give campaign. The Big Give, an initiative supported by Casa Auto Group, provides both hands-on assistance and financial support to local organizations, helping reduce their operational costs while fostering a stronger bond between the base and the surrounding community.

"I'm incredibly proud to see how the Airmen of Team Holloman embraced the 2025 Casa Big Give. What these teams accomplished wasn't just physical labor; it was a testament to our culture of innovation, teamwork and genuine commitment to our community," said U.S. Air Force Col. John Ethridge, 49th Wing commander. "The partnership with the Casa Big Give team and the support from local leaders demonstrates what we can accomplish when we work together."

Volunteers from 16 teams comprised of Airmen, civilians, family members and retirees, contributed over 2,500 hours and generated a savings of approximately \$88,000 in labor. Their efforts ranged from painting local businesses and improving forest recreation sites, to rehabilitating animal shelters and renovating a center for the homeless. Since its inception, the Big Give has accumulated over 150,000 volunteer hours and generated more than \$2.2 million in saved or donated value for the surrounding community.

The large team winner receiving \$7,500 was the "Ghost Warriors" (29th Attack Squadron). The team helped build a new education center for the Alameda Park Zoo, contributing over 500 volunteer hours and donating an estimated \$28,000 in time and materials. In addition, while working on their project, Airmen responded to a nearby car crash and rendered aid to the accident victims until first responders arrived on scene. Their heroic actions were recognized August 12 by the City of Alamogordo Mayor Susan Payne.

The small team winner receiving \$2,500 was "Who Runs the Show" (49th Maintenance Operations). They completed landscaping, stucco repair, and painting for the local Veterans of Foreign Wars post, volunteering over 140 hours and saving the organization approximately \$6,000.

The People's Choice award (\$1,000) went to the "16 TRS Savages" (16th Training Squadron) for completing a variety of improvements to sites on the Lincoln National Forest and flood clean-up at Two Rivers Park in Ruidoso. Their 230 volunteer hours saved the U.S. Forest Service roughly one month of labor and \$4,000.

"The Airmen from Holloman donate their time and resources to the community to improve the projects they pick," said Brandon Burling, Casa Auto Group general manager. "They also develop friendships with the people of the projects they're working on; more often than not, we see people stay in contact with those people for years and continue to work on those projects long after the Big Give has ended."