Pass It On®…

A Place Only Santa Knows About.

Operation Christmas Drop has been making sure the people of Micronesia get Christmas every year.

In a place most people have never heard of, a huge C-130 aircraft flies in low over a tiny string of islands in the Pacific.

The plane itself is an enormous, big-bellied transport that can be filled with 20 tons of supplies. It is almost miraculous that it can even fly. Like the albatross bird, it seems to defy physics, drifting side to side and seeming to float in the air on a magnetic field. Then the bay doors open and crates drop from the belly. Parachutes billow and the cargo swings to and fro on its way to the landing zone on shore.

It's a miraculous sight. And the villagers run excitedly to the crates packed by Santa's helpers back on a small Air Force base.

"It's always exciting, especially when Christmas is around the corner. I know everyone here is excited," says Ignacious, a Mogmog village chief.

The Air Force crews and leadership stationed in Guam see it as a story of hope "to come here and show that we can still do this mission, to ensure that it takes care of people."

Inside the crates are much-needed supplies: tools, school supplies, food, clothing and, most anticipated, toys. The operation began in 1952 when a B-29 crew spotted islanders frantically waving over the atoll of Kapingamarangi. To the children below, it was like seeing an angel. The crew quickly packaged up what supplies they had on board, packed them into a makeshift container, attached a spare parachute, and dropped the package as they circled back.

It was all done in the spirit of Christmas. And it sparked an ongoing annual tradition that reaches over 50 Pacific islands today. The operation serves the needs of over 10,000 people on the islands, a lifeline and a delight to see. It also reminds us of the human connection we all share.

This Christmas, when you are flying past the masses in shopping malls and on crowded streets, take a moment to look around. There may be a few children waving their arms in need, a family looking up to you as you float about. You might be an angel to them. Pause. Take the time to see them. Collect what you have to offer and circle back. They may not need school supplies or tools. They may need something more. A kind word. A smile. A cup of cocoa on a cold day and a warm conversation.

Make Your Christmas Drop…PassItOn.com

By The Foundation for a Better Life®

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