Daniel Spracklen: A Hero Not Once But Twice!

By Dr. Chuck Kelley

Not everyone gets the opportunity to be a hero. And for those who do, being a hero is something that rarely happens more than once in a lifetime. But not for Daniel Spracklen. Daniel, who holds a dual houseman and pool attendant position at the Embassy Suites, sprang into action last week and earned hero status for the second time … in a single year! Incredible!

Earlier this year, Daniel was highlighted in Saturday Briefing for saving the life of a young child. One morning while walking by the Embassy Suites pool, he saw a young girl with a very worried face looking down into the depths of the pool. When he followed her gaze to see what might be troubling her, he spotted her younger brother lying motionless on the bottom. Daniel dove right in, pulled the boy out, performed CPR and saved his life. His quick thinking and unhesitating action not only earned him our respect and admiration, but also resulted in his being chosen from nearly 30,000 Embassy Suites team members nationwide to receive the Spirit of Embassy Award.

They say lightning never strikes twice in the same place, but it looks as if Daniel may be a lightning rod – a magnet for chances to act on his heroic instincts. Last week he was again working near the pool when he spied a foreign guest with a very worried look pointing toward the water saying “rescue!” Again he saw a child on the bottom, and again Daniel instantly dove in, pulled an unconscious girl out and performed CPR. Happily, he was able to revive her and after a quick overnight stay in the hospital, she was back the next day smiling and eager to give Daniel a “high five.” Saving a life is extraordinary. But saving two lives in one year is near unbelievable!

Daniel says he is very thankful that when he started work at Embassy Suites five years ago and learned he would be working in the pool area, he had a chance to take the American Red Cross lifesaving class and learn CPR.

Energetic, friendly and eager to exceed customer expectations, Daniel is well respected by his co-workers, who nominated him for the Spirit of Embassy Award. Born and raised in South Seattle, he moved to Honolulu in 2009 to be with his family. His first experience with Outrigger came while he was working on property as a contractor. There, he met several members of our ‘ohana and quickly saw the wonderful benefits of being part of our company. When a position opened up in 2012, he quickly applied, was accepted and began his Outrigger career.

Daniel’s lifesaving experiences have highlighted for him the value of friends and family. He recommends that we all “give a hug to everyone we love, because that is what life is all about.”

We are extraordinarily proud of Daniel and grateful that we have a real hero in our ‘ohana. Well done, Daniel!