HAWAII FOODBANK NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2019

NOURISH 'OHANA

30TH ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE

Give by example.

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If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant. If we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.” – Anne Bradstreet

No doubt, living in Hawaii brings many blessings. Among them, we are graced with nearly 365 days of sunshine a year. While we may not always encounter the seasonal climate changes that other parts of the country endure, that is not to say we are unfamiliar with change altogether. As poet Anne Bradstreet poignantly reminds us – adversity makes us stronger.

We recently experienced this firsthand as we entered 2019 amidst the longest partial government shutdown in U.S. history. The 35-day shutdown created a ripple effect, triggering an influx in food needs across the entire state. While Hawaii Foodbank continued to take care of the 1 in 8 residents who already count on us every day, we were also called upon to support thousands of others who were being impacted by the shutdown. For many of them, it was the first time their families faced hunger.

I will never forget the day dozens of men and women arrived at our warehouse in Mapunapuna – all still in uniform, some with tears in their eyes – to humbly ask for food to feed their families.

Our team quickly responded, efficiently building emergency food boxes for each family. We provided emotional and physical support in hopes to help these families preserve their dignity and independence. To me, it was teamwork – and humanity – at its finest.

It was a priceless moment and a life-changing experience.

I understand that moments like this cannot happen without our community’s generosity and support. We couldn’t have responded the way we did without your help. In the face of crisis – donors, volunteers and community members like you kept our shelves stocked to meet the demand. We are grateful.

On Saturday, April 13, Hawaii Foodbank will lean on all of you once again as we celebrate our 30th Annual Food Drive. We invite you to join us on Food Drive Day and help us reach our goal of raising one million meals to feed our hungry ‘ohana.

Spring is here, and – thankfully – the turbulence in Washington D.C. has calmed. We have overcome adversity, and we are now faced with the opportunity to make positive changes. It is a time of rebirth, renewal and reinvigoration for Hawaii Foodbank. I humbly ask you to help us in our mission to end hunger and provide sustained nourishment to everyone in Hawaii.

With much appreciation and respect,

Ron Mizutani,
President and CEO

The people of Hawaii are one ‘ohana. Hawaii Foodbank provides food so that no one in our family goes hungry. We work to gather food and support from our communities. We then distribute food through charitable agencies to those in need. Our mission is from the heart, and we will fulfill our mission with integrity, humanity and aloha.

Nourish Our ‘Ohana is the official newsletter of Hawaii Foodbank. This publication serves to thank our donors and inform the public about Hawaii Foodbank events, volunteer opportunities, community partnerships and more. If you do not wish to receive a copy, please email: donorservices@hawaiifoodbank.org or call 808-954-7853 to have your name removed from our mailing list.
A common notion is that giving is a luxury; people can only give when they have excess to spare. Hawaii Foodbank donor Charmane Belleza doesn’t subscribe to this notion. She gives differently. She gives by necessity.

“I learned to give, not because I have something to give, but because I know how it feels to have nothing” says Charmane.

Charmane learned this resourcefulness at a young age. The daughter of a farmer and a teacher, Charmane grew up in a small village in the Philippines. Her home – built out of bamboo leaves and branches from her family’s farm – was humbly held together by her parents’ love and resolve.

“It was a struggle to put food on the table,” recalls Charmane. “We grew up poor and always struggled to find food – especially rice. My parents worked hard, but food was still scarce in our village.”

Because of this scarcity, Charmane’s mother would travel to other towns every weekend, selling tobacco leaves and branches from her family’s farm – was humbly held together by her parents’ love and resolve.

“It was a struggle to put food on the table,” recalls Charmane. “We grew up poor and always struggled to find food – especially rice. My parents worked hard, but food was still scarce in our village.”

Because of this scarcity, Charmane’s mother would travel to other towns every weekend, selling tobacco leaves in order to make more money. When this wasn’t enough, Charmane’s parents would borrow rice from neighbors and relatives.

“One time, my mom came home with nothing. No one wanted to lend her rice,” reflects Charmane. “She was weeping out of frustration and sadness. Seeing her with so much emotion brought tears into my eyes, and I wept as she wept. I promised myself that one day this would never happen again.”

While crippling at the moment, this experience ultimately instilled Charmane with a sense of hope and perseverance. “This is the day I vowed that I would never see anyone else starve.”

It’s a vow that Charmane continues today.

Now living on Oahu with her husband and two children, Charmane works locally as a middle school teacher. She strives to give whenever someone needs help or food, honoring her mother in the process. “She taught us to be generous at all times - no matter how small. Life is not about having much. It is about how much you give to those in need.”
Aloha shines through at Golf Classic
Community raises more than $50,000 for Hawaii Foodbank at charity golf tournament

Despite early morning showers and overcast weather, Hawaii Foodbank’s 15th annual Golf Classic shone brightly on Feb. 15. Just like the sun drove out imposing storm clouds that morning, dozens of teams gathered at Hawaii Prince Golf Club to drive out hunger.

The annual charity golf tournament provides a day of fun, friends and cheerful competition to raise funds to help nourish Hawaii’s hungry. Golfers were treated to a variety of activities, including on-course competitions, prizes, complimentary snacks and beverages, and more. Activities concluded with a lively awards ceremony and dinner at the Bird of Paradise Restaurant.

This year’s Golf Classic proved to be a record-breaking event – raising a total of $50,070. This amount will help to provide food for more than 125,000 meals.

Mahalo nui loa to our Hospitality Coalition and Golf Classic chairs:
Fuji Schenck of Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa and Bernie Caalim of Trump International Hotel Waikiki.

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Special mahalo to:
Daniel Abergas, Aloun Farms, Armstrong Produce, Bird of Paradise Restaurant, Ross Butterfield, Mike Casiato, Miss Hawaii USA Laci Choy, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, Del-Marc Fujita Enterprises LLC, H&W Foodservice, Hawaii Foodservice Alliance, Hawaii Prince Golf Club, HFM FoodService, Kimo Kahaoano, Marriott’s Ko Olina Beach Club, MillerCoors, New City Nissan, Nimble Solutions, Penske Truck Rental and Leasing, Pint Size Hawaii, Prince Waikiki, Roberts Hawaii, The Queen’s Medical Center, Miss Kaka’ako Makana Williams, Young’s Market Company, all of our other generous sponsors and donors, our wonderful volunteers, and all of the teams who came out to “putt” an end to hunger.

About to go SPAM®
17th annual SPAM JAM® hits the streets, April 27

The Waikiki SPAM JAM® returns to Kalakaua Avenue on Saturday, April 27. One of the most popular festivals of the year, the event celebrates Hawaii’s love for SPAM®.

This year’s event includes 20 restaurants, more than 50 different SPAM® dishes, live entertainment, and a variety of retail and craft booths.

Hawaii Foodbank is grateful to be the beneficiary of Waikiki SPAM JAM®. Festival-goers are encouraged to support the community by dropping off food and monetary donations at Hawaii Foodbank booths located throughout the event.

With each donation, festival-goers will have the opportunity to receive a small gift as well as admission into drawings for various raffle prizes.

For more information, visit www.spamjamhawaii.com.

Signed, sealed, donated
Letter carriers prepare for Stamp Out Hunger®, May 11

The 27th annual Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive will take place Saturday, May 11. This event is the country’s largest single-day food drive, and it provides an easy way to donate food to local residents in need.

As letter carriers deliver mail along their postal routes, they will collect food donations to distribute to Hawaii Foodbank. On May 11, individuals can participate by leaving a donation of non-perishable food items next to their mailbox before their letter carrier’s regular pick-up time. This year, no special bags are needed.

Hawaii Foodbank’s top five most-needed food items are canned proteins, canned meals, canned vegetables, canned fruits and rice.
Entering the 30th year of Hawaii Foodbank’s Annual Food Drive, we are continually inspired by those who give by example.

Every year in April, Hawaii Foodbank hosts its Annual Food Drive Day – the culmination of a three-month-long Food Drive season that begins each January. During this time, we invite our community to host their own food and fund drives in order to raise awareness and help provide nourishment for Hawaii’s hungry. This year’s Food Drive Day takes place Saturday, April 13, at various locations throughout Oahu and Kauai.

A lot has happened since last year’s Food Drive Day. East Oahu and Kauai’s north shore experienced record-setting rainfall so severe that many families are still recovering. Not long after, Kilauea’s devastating eruption on Hawaii Island left hundreds of other families in need of emergency relief. Most recently, a 35-day partial government shutdown found thousands more in need of food assistance for the first time in their lives.

Since last year’s Food Drive Day, things have certainly felt tumultuous, at times, for the people of Hawaii. Example after example, we’ve seen how quickly things can get taken away. However, at Hawaii Foodbank, we’ve also seen – example after example – how much our community can give. From individual donations to large-scale corporate campaigns to everything in between – our community continues to respond to turbulence with passion, positivity and perseverance.

This multitude of kindness, creativity and kōkua truly makes our mission possible. Here’s how some of our community members choose to overcome adversity and give by example.

Azzie Blancaflor
Student, Lemonade Stand Owner

Coach Nick Rolovich
Head Football Coach, University of Hawai‘i Rainbow Warriors

Kanoe Gibson
Host, HI Now
After several natural disasters last summer, Hawaii Foodbank’s food supply dipped dangerously low. When seven-year-old Azzie Blancaflor caught wind of this, she quickly flew into action. To help, Azzie opened a lemonade stand to benefit Hawaii Foodbank. She raised $600 and gathered 210 lbs. of food.

Azzie didn’t stop there. Later in the fall, she helped organize a Veteran’s Day fundraiser at Wet’n’Wild Hawaii. With the help of her mother and a few volunteers, Azzie collected 1,196 pounds of food. Collectively, her efforts have helped provide food for more than 2,600 meals.

Short in stature but immense in heart, Azzie reminds us that giving is good for everyone involved.

“I feel happy because I give food to people who don’t have food,” said Azzie. “I want to encourage [others] to do it – because it’s terrific to do something for other people, even if you don’t know them.”

“...It’s terrific to do something for other people, even if you don’t know them.”

— Azzie Blancaflor

To help Hawaii Foodbank, Azzie sold more than 100 cups of fresh lemonade and mango iced tea.

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Media partners like Hawaii News Now, Honolulu Star-Advertiser and iHeartMedia have provided priceless assistance and sweat equity in support of Hawaii Foodbank’s mission.

Kanoe Gibson, who has deep roots on the island of Kauai, is a proud member of the Hawaii News Now team. On Food Drive Day, April 13, Hawaii News Now anchors and reporters will be out in force once again at Waterfront Plaza – serving as champions and community advocates in the fight against hunger.

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Businesses, organizations, groups and individuals are invited to host their own food and fund drives – culminating on Food Drive Day, April 13, where thousands of volunteers will be collecting canned goods and monetary donations across the state to help feed hungry residents. On this day, food and monetary donations can be dropped off between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the following locations:

**Oahu**

- Costco - Hawaii Kai Towne Center
- Kapolei Commons
- Koko Marina Center
- McCully Shopping Center
- Pearl City Shopping Center
- Walmart - Kapolei
- Walmart - Pearl Highlands Center
- Walmart - Town Center of Mililani
- Waianae Mall Shopping Center
- Waiokeola Congregational Church
- Waterfront Plaza
- Windward City Shopping Center
- SALT at Our Kaka’ako (4 to 8 p.m.)

**Kauai**

- Big Save – Eleele
- Big Save – Koloa
- Big Save – Waimea
- Safeway - Kapaa
- Safeway - Lihue
- Princeville Center
- Walmart

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