## HAWAII FOODBANK NEWSLETTER SUMMER & FALL 2019 NOURISF 'OHANA

The face of hunger in Hawaii is not always what we think

HUNGER ACTION MONTH



FEEDING AMERICA

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#### WELCOME

## A new school year – a different kind of excitement



Ron Mizutani, President and CEO Summer break is over and thousands of keiki are back in school. It is an exciting time for a child – catching up with old friends and making new ones. Sadly, for a growing number of Hawaii's keiki, the end of summer brings a different kind of excitement.

You see – for keiki who rely on free or reduced-price lunch, **the start of school is exciting because it means the return of a regularly scheduled meal.** For many, it's their first opportunity in months to receive healthy, daily nourishment. We need to fix this. To help fill this gap, Hawaii Foodbank is expanding its programs and services to reach more people than ever before – especially more keiki.

In May 2018, we launched our **Food 4 Keiki School Pantry** program at Waimanalo Elementary and Intermediate School in order to provide after-school snacks for young students, as well as

additional family food bags to take home. Since then, we have opened School Pantries at Ka'ewai Elementary School, Kamaile Academy, Kipapa Elementary School, Ma'ili Elementary School, Pu'uhale Elementary School, Wahiawa Elementary School and Wai'anae Elementary School. We also launched two additional **Keiki Pantries**. While not located on Hawaii State Department of Education school grounds, these sites are still actively providing nourishment to hundreds more students on Oahu. The Kalihi YMCA Teen Center serves students from Farrington High School and four Kalihi middle schools, and Hoa 'Aina O Makaha serves students at neighboring Makaha Elementary School.



Our **Hawaii Foodbank Kauai Branch** is also prepared for the upcoming school year – having recently installed School Pantry equipment at 'Ele'ele Elementary School, Kilauea Elementary School, Koloa Elementary School, Chiefess Kamakahelei Middle School and Kauai High School.

With several other School Pantries in the pipeline, we are excited to expand our reach and help more keiki. Last school year, we packed about 1,500 family food bags per month to keep the pantries stocked. We expect that number to increase to approximately 5,000 family food bags as we move through the 2019-2020 school year. Beyond food, each bag provides hope for a child and their family – and it is because of your support. **Every dollar, every ounce, every volunteer hour** – please know your support is making a real difference in the lives of others.

With respect and aloha,

You Migute

Hawaii Foodbank's Food 4 Keiki School Pantry program gives students the opportunity to receive after-school snacks, as well as one or two bags of food to take home to their families.

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.

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## HARRY C. & NEE CHANG C. WONG FOUNDATION FOOD DROP OFF



#### Alexa Ortiz

For a school project, Alexa Ortiz collected 177 pounds of canned food donations in only a few days. She and her parents, Afrodita and Nelson, hand-delivered her donations that same week. Even more, she brought her enthusiasm back to school and educated her classmates about Hawaii Foodbank's mission. Alexa is excited to participate in future volunteer opportunities at the warehouse.



#### Foodland's Bag Up Hunger

New to this year's Bag Up Hunger campaign, Foodland customers were invited to donate by redeeming a Maika'i My Reward – the equivalent of a \$5 donation. Maika'i My Rewards donations were distributed to food banks as Foodland gift cards. The gift cards will be utilized to purchase food for Hawaii Foodbank's network of food partner agencies. Kauai received \$295 in gift cards, and Oahu received \$5,015. Combined with regular cash donations, Hawaii Foodbank received more than \$29,000 from this year's Bag Up Hunger.

## Kauai's strength

Updates from the North Shore, one year later



by Wes Perreira, Kauai Branch Director

A lot can happen in a year, and just over a year ago Hawaii Foodbank Kauai Branch was called to go above and beyond in order to respond to the needs on Kauai.

On April 14, 2018, we found ourselves in the midst of record-breaking rainfall and flooding. In less than 24 hours, nearly 50 inches of rain fell on our North Shore. In its wake – homes were destroyed, businesses were lost and our community was devastated. Many families found themselves facing hunger for the first time in their lives.

But, despite all this, one thing emerged clearer than any amount of disarray: Kauai is full of strength. Our community's resolve persists. It propels us to keep going.

One year later – the storm is over, but the need is not. Our Kauai Branch has utilized more than \$278,000 to serve those impacted by last year's storms. With assistance of partners like Kauai United Way, we've converted a trailer into a Mobile Food Pantry to reach more families. This is an important tool in providing necessary assistance to the Hā'ena-Wainiha communities, which were heavily impacted by the flooding and landslides. Road closures caused by the damage have made it difficult for many families to access regular resources. They are still feeling the impact today.

The Mobile Food Pantry continues to deliver food

Kauai is full of strength. Our community's resolve persists. It propels us to keep going."

once a week to about 80 North Shore families. Since last April, we have supplied the flooding-affected families with more than 380,000 pounds of food. The extended highway closure is over, but we know there is still more work to be done.

We know we don't do this work alone. It is due to the efforts of donors like Kauai United Way; retail partners like Walmart and Safeway; our network of food partner agencies, including the Christ Memorial Church, Church of the Pacific, St. William Church, and U-Turn for Christ; and community members like you. It is truly a collaborative effort, and you are the reason disaster response is possible. We are grateful.

A lot has happened in the last year.

Through it all – the people of Kauai are strong. We stand united. We are, indeed, one 'ohana. In the face of adversity, we will continue to respond to turbulence with passion, positivity and perseverance. This past year was no different, and we look forward to a better tomorrow. Together.

## Walmart shoppers fight hunger, spark change in Hawaii

Walmart and Sam's Club "Fight Hunger. Spark Change." campaign raises more than \$85,000 locally

Communities across Hawaii raised more than \$85,000 for local families in need through Walmart and Sam's Club's "Fight Hunger. Spark Change." campaign. In its sixth year, Walmart and Sam's Club engaged 18 suppliers and the public in its nationwide campaign that raises money for local food banks and brings attention to the issue of hunger.

"Hawaii Foodbank is thankful to Walmart, Sam's Club and Feeding America for reaching out to their extended customer network and supporting our mission to ensure that no one goes to bed hungry," said Ron Mizutani, president and CEO of Hawaii Foodbank. "The proceeds generated from this campaign will help



Hawaii Foodbank staff members like Chyenne Beach, Kauai Branch community development specialist, met with each Walmart and Sam's Club location on Oahu and Kauai to rally enthusiasm for this year's "Fight Hunger. Spark Change."

us to continue providing food assistance to more than 1 in 8 Hawaii residents every day. Our partnering organizations such as Hawaii Foodbank Kauai Branch, Maui Food Bank and The Food Basket will also benefit from the generous donations of Walmart and Sam's Club shoppers in order to meet the need across the neighbor islands."

Each Walmart and Sam's Club worked with their local island food bank, raising money by encouraging shoppers to make a donation or purchase participating items in-store or online. Donations made by shoppers will stay on their island to support local communities in need.

Across the nation, more than \$26 million dollars were raised through this year's "Fight Hunger. Spark Change." Additionally, Walmart and Sam's Club exceeded their goal of securing 1 billion meals for local food banks since the campaign launched.

"We are passionate about fighting hunger, and through this campaign, we have taken another significant step to help raise awareness of hunger in America and support local efforts to increase access to healthier, nutritious food," said Julie Gehrki, vice president of the Walmart Foundation.

## Starbucks provides \$10,000 boost to local hunger relief efforts

Starbucks' Mobile Pantry Grant to help Hawaii Foodbank expand its 'Ohana Produce Plus program

Hawaii Foodbank is pleased to announce it has received a \$10,000 grant from Starbucks to help alleviate hunger. Proceeds will support Hawaii Foodbank's efforts to further expand its 'Ohana Produce Plus program, which provides hungry individuals and families with fresh produce plus other essential food items.

Recipients of the 'Ohana Produce Plus program include low-income families, individuals with disabilities, the homeless, the working poor and others. For many people, 'Ohana Produce Plus is their only source of fresh fruits and vegetables.

"For more than 20 years, Hawaii Foodbank and participating food partner



As a Starbucks' Mobile Pantry Grant recipient, Hawaii Foodbank is excited to expand the 'Ohana Produce Plus program to include special, pop-up distributions to reach more keiki and families in need.

agencies have distributed millions of pounds of fresh produce, assorted dry goods and nonperishable items to hungry residents through the 'Ohana Produce Plus program," said Ron Mizutani, president and CEO of Hawaii Foodbank. "We are proud to partner with Starbucks and Feeding America to ensure that people who struggle with hunger have access to wholesome meals. This grant exemplifies what we can accomplish when we work together."

Starbucks is increasing its commitment to ending hunger, particularly among children and families, by investing in Feeding America programs and affiliates throughout the United States. This summer, Starbucks committed a total of \$1.5 million to 17 food banks, including Hawaii Foodbank. Since 2016, the company has also donated 15 million meals through its FoodShare program.

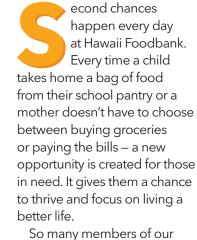
"Starbucks is committed to doing our part to alleviate hunger," says Jane Maly, social impact manager at Starbucks. "Our grant to Hawaii Foodbank's mobile pantry program is an expansion of our existing partnership to donate our surplus food, helping them to provide access to give kids the nourishment they need to learn and succeed."



## Food Drive continues to give second chances

30th Annual Food Drive raises more than 1.5 million meals and gives so much more

by Beverly Santos, Director of Food Drive and Events



so many members of our community choose to donate their time, money or food – dedicating themselves to advancing Hawaii Foodbank's mission. It's amazing to think of how many fresh starts they have nourished. Throughout the years, thousands of individuals and families have come to Hawaii Foodbank, just in need of a little help to get back on their feet. With a little assistance,



With new innovations like text-to-give and #BeatHungerHI, Hawaii Foodbank's Board of Directors and Alaka'i invigorated this year's Annual Food Drive.

many have received the second chance they needed and gone on to do great things.

This may not be the case if not for Hawaii Foodbank's generous 'ohana of volunteers, donors and partners who help keep our shelves stocked. Ensuring we have enough food is an ongoing challenge, and we are constantly thinking of creative ways to address this obstacle. 30 years ago, the challenge was no different. In response, Hawaii Foodbank launched its inaugural Food Drive at Restaurant Row to help gather more food for Hawaii's hungry. From these humble beginnings, the Food Drive would ultimately grow into Hawaii Foodbank's flagship fundraising event. Now a highly-anticipated, yearly fundraising effort – the Annual Food Drive unites businesses, organizations, groups and individuals all over Hawaii in the fight to end hunger. In addition to its original site – now known

to its original site – now known as Waterfront Plaza – the Annual Food Drive now holds collection sites all over the state.

This year, Hawaii Foodbank welcomed a new president along with an energized Board of Directors and a new, exciting group of young leaders called Alaka'i. While newness can bring forth anxious feelings, it can also foster fresh energy. Along those lines, Hawaii Foodbank chose to embrace change in hopes of creating a stronger future. As a result, the Annual Food Drive went through a renaissance of sorts - taking on an innovative approach to a legacy event.

Many innovative changes were launched this year. Perhaps most noticeably, this year's campaign and collateral took on a fresh, new look. This could not have been done without the help of First Hawaiian Bank, Hawaii News Now, *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* and iHeartRadio, all of which have been media partners and sponsors since the beginning. The phrase "Lead by Example" spearheaded the creative efforts, which led to the creation of the 30th Annual Food Drive's slogan: "Give by Example."

And that's just what happened this year – so many people responded to the call to action and "Gave by Example." The ability to donate by text was introduced this year and was met with positive response, contributing to an increase in monetary donations.

Also new this year, Alaka'i launched the Annual Food Drive's first-ever evening event, #BeatHungerHI, in partnership with the American Heart Association of Hawaii. The event took place at SALT at Our Kaka'ako and served as a platform to encourage healthy food donations – an important new initiative that demonstrates Hawaii Foodbank's commitment to improving the

health of the communities we

many new partnerships were

With all these new initiatives,

serve.

formed. Ultimately, this enabled Hawaii Foodbank to extend its reach in the community on both Oahu and Kauai – helping raise more than 1.5 million meals for Hawaii's hungry.

This year's 30th Annual Food Drive was a success on so many different levels. It could not have happened without the trailblazers who paved the way 30 years ago, as well as the support from all of you today. As director of food drive and events, I am so excited to be part of this event's evolution as we move forward.

As always, we sincerely appreciate the support of our donors, volunteers and the greater community who have stood by our cause from the start. We also welcome our new supporters and partnerships with open arms.

With change comes risk. But, when that change pays off – and we are able to serve our mission in ways we may not have been able to before – the risk is most definitely worth the reward. Thank you for being a part of our vision to create a future where no one has to go to bed hungry.

Mahalo,

Panerly Saular.



Your contributions to the 30th Annual Food Drive made a meaningful and lasting impact – creating second chances for so many people.

## **Great Chefs® Fight Hunger**

Culinary event aims to knock out hunger in Hawaii



Great Chefs<sup>®</sup> Fight Hunger offers an intimate opportunity for guests to interact with the minds behind their favorite dishes. Here, Chef Keith Steel Kong describes Basalt Waikiki's pork shoulder pupu – a popular choice throughout the evening.

Nearly 600 people attended this year's 13th annual Great Chefs® Fight Hunger culinary event, March 23, where Hawaii Foodbank's warehouse in Mapunapuna was transformed into a gourmet gala. Guests were treated to a variety of delicious entreés, beverages and desserts crafted by Oahu's top chefs, beverage purveyors and sweet geniuses – all while lending a hand to those struggling to put food on the table in Hawaii.

"Great Chefs® Fight Hunger is a fun and fabulous evening that brings together some of the best Hawaii has to offer in the world of culinary and mixology," said Pam Davis, publisher of *The Oahu Concierge*. "As they all band together to raise funds to help those less fortunate, it's truly a great event for an even greater cause."

The fundraiser also featured a silent auction, live entertainment and first-ever Chef's Table experience – offering an exclusive, fivecourse menu for select guests. With all the evening's pomp and circumstance, participants and guests never lost sight of the mission at hand. Altogether, the event raised more than \$100,000 to help nourish Hawaii's hungry.

"I have always felt the need to contribute to our island community and to make a difference to better the lives of families here," said Chef Jeffrey Vigilla, CEO of Chef Point of View and Hawaii Foodbank board member. "Great Chefs® Fight Hunger is a perfect venue to bring together the island community of chefs who share the same passion to serve others and expand the awareness of such an important cause."

Hawaii Foodbank extends its sincere gratitude to event cochairs Chef Jeffrey Vigilla and Pam Davis for their continued contributions, dedication and support.

Special mahalo to all of the participating restaurants and chefs, beverage companies, Chef's Table contributors, table sponsors, silent auction donors, in-kind donors, Alaka'i members, volunteers, and participants who came out to help fight hunger in Hawaii.



by Danny Schlag

September is Hunger Action Month, and it reminds us that hunger is complex and often misunderstood. In Hawaii, the face of hunger is not always what we think.

e're all familiar with that feeling of being hungry – that clawing reminder that we should probably find something to eat. Our stomachs rumble, we feel tired and we may even have trouble concentrating. For most of us, though, hunger is a very temporary sensation. It's a nuisance, sure, but it's

easily satisfied and quickly forgotten.

But, for the 1 in 8 people in Hawaii who live with food insecurity, hunger is anything but a temporary sensation. It isn't easily satiated, and it certainly isn't forgettable.

For them, hunger is persistent. It's painful, paralyzing and, oftentimes, *imperceptible*. Hunger is ... more than meets the eye.

Close your eyes. Imagine someone who is hungry. Try and conceptualize hunger. What comes to mind?

For many of us, we might see a picture of a weathered, outreached hand on the side of the street. Maybe we see humble words scattered across a withered piece of cardboard. These are tragic images that come to mind, yet they quickly fade in our rearview.

As we're given the green light, this image of hunger becomes distant. It turns abstract. It's ambiguous.

Now, let's open our eyes and take a look around us. You see, hunger is transforming.



Hunger is ... the highest cost of living.

According to a recent 24/7 Wall St. study of what it costs to live in America's most expensive cities, the cost of living in Hawaii is nearly 25 percent higher than the national average. With grocery prices here higher than anywhere else in the nation, it's no surprise that the ripple effect of hunger is pervasive.

Accordingly, many are left making challenging food

choices – and it's not just the stranger on the street.

Hunger is growing. It's no longer in the distance, and it's not just an abstract horizon. In Hawaii, hunger is much more than a faceless figure passing by.

## Hunger is ... our sweet, old auntie.

Hunger in Hawaii has a face – and it's a familiar one. It's hidden, but it's close. Hunger is our gentle auntie across the street. You know, the one who's known us since before we were born. Our auntie who fed us fresh mango from her tree. The one who always had butter mochi and crack seed for us. She's now the same auntie who humbly lives on a fixed income. She foregoes food to pay for her medication. She's struggling – but she's worked too hard to ask for help now.

Hunger is our best friend. You know, the one who used to come over after school while her parents closed up the family restaurant. She's now a first generation college student who's always worked hard but couldn't quite get that scholarship. She's the one who attends class all day, waits tables at night and eats the same, tired package of ramen before bed. She's the one who can't possibly let her parents know she's hungry – not after they've worked their hands raw to provide a better life for her.

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## Hawaii Foodbank's body of support

Foodbank & Friends event honors donors, gives insight into giving impact of community



Hawaii Foodbank held its most recent installment of Foodbank & Friends, June 20, at the warehouse in Mapunapuna. A group of financial advisors and estate planners were welcomed for a tour and informational session on the impact of Hawaii Foodbank's mission in Hawaii.

Hawaii Foodbank's mission to make sure no one in Hawaii goes hungry is not possible without the tremendous support of our community. It's amazing how so many people can come together to build a single, cohesive body of support.

While our staff and dedicated volunteers become the feet on the ground, our food partner agencies exist as the hands that extend the flow of food to those in need. Similarly, our network of food manufacturers, local growers, corporate partners and community food drives provide a solid foundation for the body. They are the bones – holding up our hungry 'ohana with safety and protection.

Through it all, the body

needs a source of vigor and vitality. This is where our donors come in. They are the lifeblood. Their support is the sustenance that circulates to every other part of the body – keeping our mission alive and strong. Their giving hearts enable us to do what we do.

Our relationship with our donors is crucially important, and it's one that we are eternally grateful for. To express this gratitude, Hawaii Foodbank is continually looking for creative ways to engage with our 'ohana of supporters. That's why we created Foodbank & Friends.

Foodbank & Friends is a series of community events that happens several times throughout the year – typically right in our own warehouse. They include a variety of topics, financial strategies, special guest speakers and opportunities to network with loyal supporters of Hawaii Foodbank. The goal is to provide guests with a deeper understanding of our mission while also honoring the giving impact of our community.

Our most recent Foodbank & Friends event took place June 20. For this event, we welcomed a group of financial advisors and estate planners for a tour of our warehouse in Mapunapuna. After the tour, the group met with various Hawaii Foodbank staff members to gain insight into the impact of our mission in Hawaii. Participants left with valuable information, tools and stories to share with their clients.

### FOODBANK & FRIENDS Donor Tips

by Lisa Nakano, Donor Relations Manager

. . . . . . . . . .

The Foodbank & Friends event on June 20 spurred a valuable discussion regarding charitable giving. As adopted by Vanguard's *Financial Planning Perspectives*, here are three steps to developing a successful charitable giving plan:

#### **1.** Determine *when* to give.

The timing of a gift can have financial benefits for you, your heirs and Hawaii Foodbank. Your financial needs, purpose for giving, desire to pass assets on to your heirs, and tax and estate planning needs should all be considered.

#### 2. Choose what to give.

The type of asset donated can also have a big financial effect. Cash donations tend to be easiest. However, donations of appreciated securities or property may yield an equivalent benefit to Hawaii Foodbank while also carrying much greater tax and estate planning advantages for you.

#### 3. Decide how to give.

There are many methods of giving. These include direct gifts, bequests, charitable trusts and more. Each has its benefits and considerations and can serve very different goals. Selecting the right method is critical to the success of your giving strategy and financial plan.

#### Want to learn more?

For more on charitable giving, contact Lisa Nakano, donor relations manager, at **808-954-7875** or **lisa@hawaiifoodbank.org**.

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Hunger is generation after generation sandwiched beneath a single roof. It's a dad working multiple jobs to take care of his aging parents while still ensuring there's enough food for his three keiki. It's a single mom spending restless nights going to sleep on an empty stomach – making sure her son gets all the food in the house. It's a shy kid who tells his classmates he "forgot" to bring his lunch to school again.

#### Hunger is ... healable.

Hunger is so many things here in Hawaii.

Hunger is shame. Hunger is pride. Hunger is quiet dignity masked behind a brave smile. Hunger is making sure no one else around you knows that you're hungry.

Amidst all these things, let's hold on to this: hunger is still *healable*.

September is Hunger Action Month, Feeding America's annual campaign to bring attention to the reality of food insecurity. Its goal is to promote ways to get involved in the movement to end hunger. It reminds us that, together, we can heal hunger – one helping at a time.

One helpful hand. One helpful heart. One helping of food at a time. It all adds up to make a difference for our sweet auntie across the street, our childhood best friend and so many others in our hungry 'ohana.

Whether you volunteer, donate or share on social media – our actions can help bring a hopeful smile to the face of hunger in Hawaii.

### HUNGER ACTION MONTH<sub>M</sub>

Take action against hunger every day during Hunger Action Month. Download the **30 Ways for 30 Days Calendar** and see how we can help end hunger – one helping at time.

HawaiiFoodbank.org/HAM

# Your Foodbank



Great things are happening at Hawaii Foodbank to improve warehouse efficiency and the flow of food to those in need. Operations recently replaced the Enterprise **Resource Program**, which will improve efficiencies, reduce costs, eliminate error-prone manual work, and streamline accounting and financial operations. A new Warehouse Management System was also installed to improve tracking of inventory in the warehouses.

On Oahu, renovation of Hawaii Foodbank's aging Mapunapuna warehouse will begin in September. Steps are also being taken to find a bigger home for the Kauai Branch's growing operations. These changes, new programs and expanding services come with costs, but they will serve as valuable. long-term investments in Hawaii Foodbank's mission and future. "We continue to invest in our mission by devoting resources to our equipment, facilities

and, most importantly, our people," said Ron Mizutani, president and CEO. "The needs are great in Hawaii, and we have much work to do. Our family is growing to meet those needs."



Accordingly, Hawaii Foodbank Kauai Branch is pleased to announce the

promotion

Beach

of Chyenne Beach to community development specialist. Beach is responsible for overseeing the non-profit's development strategies on Kauai to ensure the organization's successful operation and growth. "I am excited about this opportunity and look forward to working with the community to expand our reach on my home island," said Beach. "The struggle on Kauai is very real for many people. I want to make a difference in their lives - inspiring hope in those who depend greatly on our services."

#### ΚΟΚυΑ

#### **FIGHT HUNGER HUI Oahu Recurring Donors**

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