

INSIDE THE RESCUE

Rescuing Food to Feed Hawaii's Hungry

November 2015 Volume 2, Issue 4



Message from the E.D.

November marks the 16th year that Aloha Harvest has been in existence. Happy Birthday to us! It seems the years have gone by in a blink of the eye. November reminds us that the holiday season has arrived and appropriately so with ... Thanksgiving!

We all have much to be thankful for and in our busy lives, we often don't express our gratitude to others as often as we should. At Aloha Harvest, we are truly grateful for all of you that make what we do possible. We could not accomplish our mission of "Rescuing Food to Feed Hawaii's Hungry" without your partnership.

In our 15th year, we celebrated a huge milestone — rescuing more than 15 MILLION pounds of food since inception (which equates to approximately 16,129,033 meals). This was made possible through the generosity of over 1,000 food donors. We have been able to help over 230 social service agencies feed thousands of hungry and homeless — children, women, men, elderly and veterans each month. This would not be possible without the generosity of the many hotels, restaurants, grocery stores,

food distributors and individuals. We are truly thankful for you! Some of our food donors have done so from the beginning, such as Kentucky Fried Chicken, Y. Hata, Agnes Portuguese Bake Shop, Hawaii Gourmet Cookies, Sheraton Waikiki, Meadow Gold Dairies and Punahou School, to mention a few. Others who haven't been with us from the beginning, but contribute immensely — Pepsi Bottling Group, Whole Foods Kailua and Kahala, Don Quijote Hawaii, HFM Foodservice, Starbucks Coffee Company, Polynesian Cultural Center, Aloha Gourmet Products and Nishimoto Trading.

We would also like to express a huge thank you to everyone who has and continues to support us financially! We have been blessed to have strong financial backing from Hau'oli Mau Loa Foundation, which birthed the vision of Aloha Harvest mirrored after the successful City Harvest program in New York. We are also grateful to the many other foundations, businesses and individuals who have given monetary support because you have captured this vision and reached out to help our community through Aloha Harvest. We can't

thank you enough for your part in standing with us as we "Rescue Food to Feed Hawaii's Hungry!"

And lastly, I would be remiss if I didn't say thank you, from the bottom of my heart, to my staff — Mele, Bree (currently working with us as a temp hire), Greg, Hiram, George and Mike! They are hard-working, caring, dedicated and have a "heart" for this work we do every day. Mahalo nui loa for caring for others by serving our community to provide a very basic need — food — to those in need.



Ku'ulei Williams

Ku'ulei Williams, Executive Director

Agency Highlight

When Aloha Harvest began rescuing and donating quality food to social service agencies in 1999, Hale Kipa was the first to become a partner.

The “House of Friendliness” has helped more than 40,000 in its 45 years. It is now serving some 3,000 youth and families annually through its 19 locations on Oahu, Maui, the Hawaii Island and Kauai.

Hale Kipa offers a range of services for at-risk and high-risk youth, providing shelter and support, commitment and advocacy. It offers Hawaii’s runaways and homeless youth a place to stay and someone to talk to while they work out their problems. Hale Kipa has foster homes and group homes, independent living programs and emergency youth shelters.

Since 1989, it has been a collaborative partner with Waikiki Health in Youth Outreach (YO!), which has 500-600 young people come to its drop-in center each year. This small piece of Hale Kipa’s large puzzle serves up to 4,500 meals.

Since 1999, some of those meals have come from Aloha Harvest.

“I think somehow Aloha Harvest found out about YO! and we had always been looking for a way to supplement our food options,” recalls Alika Campbell, Hale Kipa’s Program Coordinator. “We were mostly dependent on Foodbank and community donations, so when the idea was pitched to us we were happy to participate.”

Most of the people Hale Kipa helps are between 12-17 years old. Their backgrounds are varied, and their families come from

all walks of life. Initially, Aloha Harvest delivered food more often. Sometimes it came from Kentucky Fried Chicken and Boston Pizza, which were popular with the kids. Once, leftover lobster from a Pro Bowl party showed up — not quite as popular but definitely memorable.

As the universal need became greater, and more agencies began participating, deliveries were cut to once every 6-8 weeks. The type of food also changed. Now, drivers often deliver pans of food from hotel buffets. Breads, pastries and pre-packaged food, pulled off shelves because of its expiration date, are staples, particularly for places like YO! that have limited storage space.

Every bit of food is appreciated. Carla Houser, Program Manager for Waikiki Health, said as much at Aloha Harvest’s 15th anniversary celebration last year.

“We can’t do the work we do without our community partners, like Aloha Harvest,” Houser emphasizes. “I asked folks that night to take a moment and think about the effort it

takes to feed 30-50 hungry teenagers four meals a week.

“It takes a community effort to do the work we do and we are so humbled and grateful for the support we receive. For many of our youth, we are the only meal they get each day. We strive to make it as nutritious and fresh as possible. Aloha Harvest’s donations are often the cornerstone of our meal preparation.”

Aloha Harvest is available to help any 501(c)3 non-profit organization on O`ahu with a feeding program. Agency applications are available online (alohaharvest.org) or by calling the office (537-6945).



Hale Kipa

Aloha for Hawaii Charities

Many may not know that the excess food from Sony Open in Hawaii is donated to Aloha Harvest each year. Aloha Harvest is also very fortunate to receive yearly grants generated from this fundraiser put on by the Friends of Hawaii Charities, Inc. By donating on its website (www.friendsofhawaii.org) to Aloha for Hawaii Charities and selecting Aloha Harvest as your charity of choice, we will receive a bonus boost in addition to 100% of your donation. Donations are being accepted now until Sunday, January 17, 2016 at 4 p.m. HST.





Make a \$5 donation on www.alohaharvest.org to get your VIP ticket for Kahala Mall's **VERY MERRY EVENT** happening December 4 - 6, 2015. A list of exclusive offers from participating stores is available online.

Each ticket comes with an entry form that you can turn in for a chance to win. Kahala Mall will be awarding five (5) \$100 Kahala Mall Gift Cards and the Grand Prize is a One Night in a Scenic View Room at The Kahala Hotel & Resort plus a Buffet Breakfast for Two at Plumeria Beach House.



Compassion in Arts 2015 Winners

3D High School Category

1st Place: Michelle Chang, Punahou
 2nd Place: Jasmine Patel, Seabury Hall
 3rd Place: C.O., Olomana School.

3D Middle School Category

1st Place: Noah Ah Mook Sang, St. John Vianney
 2nd Place: Diza Hendrawan & Mahina Williams, Punahou
 3rd Place: Nicole Buyukacar, Home schooled

Digital Graphics Category

1st Place: Pedro Prescott, Hawaii Academy of Arts & Science
 2nd Place: Benigno Ballesteros Jr, Damien Memorial High
 3rd Place: Casey Nguyen, Kaiser High

Drawing - High School Category

1st Place: Brooke Anuhea Eiden, Kapolei High
 2nd Place: Jonathan Montecillo, Waipahu High
 3rd Place: Raegan Bishop, Ho`ala School

Drawing - Middle School Category

1st Place: Kenta Sakamoto, Stevenson Middle
 2nd Place: Archer Heimen-Smith, Seabury Hall
 3rd Place: Julia Nguyen, Stevenson Middle

Mixed Media Category

1st Place: Angelica Devers, Kapolei Middle
 2nd Place: Kristen Glenn, Kaiser High
 3rd Place: Chloe Michelle Rodriguez, Ho`ala School

Poetry Category

1st Place: Brooke Maser, Kaiser High

Watercolor Category

1st Place: Violet 'Iolani Moon, Kealakehe High
 2nd Place: Emily Stone, Kamehameha Schools
 3rd Place: Lillian Pickering, Seabury Hall

Video Category

1st Place: Kiamana Johnson, Colin Shimizu, Kenna-Seanne Casil, Alexis Akaka and Kamakakai Lau, Ewa Makai Middle

Dance Category

Honorable Mention: Alanna Cutler, Hawaii Academy of Arts & Science

Over 200 submissions were received in this year's competition and a total of 29 finalists, listed above, were recognized at the Opening Exhibit on Friday, October 16, 2015. The Compassion in Arts Exhibit was on display at the Honolulu Museum of Art School from October 16 thru November 11. A special thanks to everyone who was involved. Photos are available on our Facebook page.



Support Aloha Harvest by purchasing Kaka'ako's Kitchen's 12 months of Giving special during November and 20% of the proceeds will be donated to us.

Fire Roasted New York Steak with a Green Peppercorn Sauce served with White or Brown Rice and Mac Salad or Nalo Greens for \$13.95!



Stay at Home Campaign

The 10th annual Stay at Home Campaign has begun! No special galas or expensive dinners will be necessary. Mailers have been sent out inviting our supporters to simply make a donation from home. Last year's campaign raised about \$4,000. We hope to surpass that goal this year with your kōkua.



Trick or Eat 2015

Congratulations to Keone`ula Elementary School in Ewa Beach for collecting the heaviest amount of canned and dry goods! A pizza party will be awarded to the classroom that raised the most.

A total of 3,500 pounds were collected for this year's Trick or Eat Food Drive! Big Mahalo to everyone who participated!



Food Donor Corner



Thoughts of Whole Foods Market usually run from the sublime (Midnight Moon cheese) to the ridiculous (kale ice cream). But at the heart of the market's audacious selections are core values it calls "the underpinning of our company culture."

One speaks directly to Aloha Harvest.

"Our team members are part of the local community," WFM writes on its website, "and they are passionate about supporting the local causes that are important to our shoppers and neighbors. First off, it's a given that each store donates food to area food banks and shelters. We have food; they know how to get it to people who need it. Done."

Whole Foods has played a significant role in the 15 million-plus pounds of food Aloha Harvest has rescued and delivered since 1999. The Kailua store donates three times a week and Kahala once. Aloha Harvest's refrigerated trucks pick the food up and get it to those who need it most.

"The food is a mixture between perishable and non-perishable foods," according to Thomas Chesebro, Kailua's Customer Service Associate Team Leader. "It ranges from unsellable cans or bags of chips, damaged packaging, to items close to their expiration date. Also, food from our prepared foods area which contain pre-pack salads/sandwiches, to hot or cold bar items from the previous night. We try to 'save' as much as possible for Aloha Harvest."

Food that is not saved here — and around the country — usually goes to farms for compost.

At this time of year, WFM also includes Aloha Harvest in its "Food 4 More" holiday campaign. Donations go to purchase meals of non-perishable food for families in need.

The past three years, both Kahala and Kailua stores have included Aloha Harvest in the campaign. This year, the Kahala location has chosen to support Aloha Harvest once again this holiday season. Chesebro calls "Food 4 More" his favorite of WFM's three major fundraisers annually, "because it directly helps the people in Hawaii."

Part of his job is to inform customers about how Aloha Harvest helps feed needy families in Hawaii. That message comes from the heart.

"I love what you do for our communities and the people of Hawaii," Chesebro says. "I love the concept of 'rescuing food' so that it is not wasted. And I am amazed at all of the organizations you work with to reach so many families and especially our children of Hawaii."



Support Aloha Harvest through the Feed 4 More campaign this holiday season at Whole Foods Market Kahala!



Fill the Truck 2016

Tentatively set for Saturday, February 6, 2015 at the Kapahulu Safeway from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Join Aloha Harvest this Super Bowl weekend in its effort to "Fill the Truck" with canned and dry goods for those who are less fortunate.

To sign up to volunteer or host a food drive, call (808) 537-6945.



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As you're shopping online this holiday season, select Aloha Harvest as your charity of choice. The Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible items to support our mission.

Kōkua Today

Donate by Check
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Honolulu, HI 96816

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