

# INSIDE THE RESCUE

Rescuing Food to Feed Hawaii's Hungry

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## Agency Highlight

Its name — Angel Network Charities, Inc. — brings a smile to your face and a vast array of possibilities to your imagination.

What exactly do the Angels accomplish? What is their Network? How and who do they help?

Its motto provides a bit more detail: “A Hand Up, Not a Hand Out.”

“There are no other words to put it but straight out,” says Operations Manager Rodney “Mac” Macalino, who began as a donations truck driver 23 years ago and is now the only paid employee. “If you are in need then our doors are wide open with ‘A Hand Up, Not a Hand Out,’” as our founder would say, our beloved Ivy Olson.”

Homeless and at-risk families in East Oahu have been gratefully grabbing that hand since Olson started ANC nearly 30 years ago.

Her idea was to help the homeless and at-risk families work their way “back into society’s mainstream as productive citizens.” She was recognized with a “Thousand Points of Light” award from Pres. Bill Clinton. ANC also received an award from Pres. George H. W. Bush.

Here, ANC gets lots of help from its base at Calvary-by-the-Sea Lutheran Church on Kalanianaʻole. Its huge gift, along with contributions from other volunteers and donations from schools, businesses and individuals— and Aloha Harvest — have allowed it to establish the only food bank in East Oahu.

It serves people in need as far away as Waimanalo and Kaimuki, and everywhere in between, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. every Thursday and Friday.

An average of about 2,500 people a month make use of the food bank. Last month, the exact numbers were 1,476 adults, 541 children and 833 families, many transitioning from the street to new homes.

All need a Hand Up and ANC and Aloha Harvest have been helping together for 18 years, “Once to twice a week, every week, God giving,” Mac says.

“We get food you never would think of,” Mac adds. “Red Lobster, from clam chowder to crab legs, lobster tails to their biscuits. You just have to see it to believe it.

“But we also get things like bentos to pizzas, from Boston Pizza, to spam musubi salads for all our clients that cannot cook. It’s perfect, we could not do it without Aloha Harvest bringing all these blessings. This is no joke. I mean it, the list does not end. This is just to name a few of the things we get.”

Along with food, ANC offers folks a mailing address, shower and laundry facilities. There is also clothing and furniture for people in transition and it participates in “Operation Backpack,” which collects school supplies for children whose parents are unable to afford them.

Operations are funded through grants, donations, fundraising and partners like Aloha Harvest, which Mac calls “like a second family.”

“The whole (Aloha Harvest) crew has this personality thing and Polynesian style that reminds me of my own family,” he says. “Everyone has very good attitudes, from the office staff down to all their drivers. They all have great people skills.

“Keep doing awesome work in the community.”



Rodney Macalino and the staff and volunteers of Angel Network Charities, Inc.

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## **Volunteer Spotlight**



Meet Kaitlyn MacDonald. Every Wednesday the Honolulu Farmers Market is at the Neal Blaisdell Center. Kait helps man the Give It Fresh Today (GIFT) table that collects produce donations from vendors and shoppers. Learn more about GIFT on page 6.

Aloha Harvest picks up these donations and delivers it free of charge to surrounding nonprofit organizations that service the homeless and low income population. Kait takes it to the next level and also helps to deliver these donations and because she lives in the Windward area we are able to reach the other side of the mountains.

Please visit [alohaharvest.org](http://alohaharvest.org) or call 808-537-6945 if you're interested in volunteering with Aloha Harvest.

# all at once<sup>\*</sup>

Aloha Harvest is teaming up with Jack Johnson on his 2017 Summer Tour and *All At Once*, a social action network connecting nonprofits with people who want to become active in their local and world community. *All At Once* comes to life online at [www.AllAtOnce.org](http://www.AllAtOnce.org) and at the Jack Johnson concerts where you can get educated, get inspired, and connect face-to-face with us and other local and national nonprofits. #AAOLocalFood #AAOPlasticFree

## HOW YOU CAN TAKE ACTION!

- ▲ **Explore *All At Once*!** Visit [www.AllAtOnce.org](http://www.AllAtOnce.org) to check out what you can do before, during, and after the show to get involved.
- ▲ **Participate in our Pre-Concert Event** (Describe any pre-show event you are hosting.)
- ▲ **Visit us at the show!** Aloha Harvest will be at Jack Johnson's concert at the Waikiki Shell. Please come visit us, take environmental action, and enter to win Best Seats in the House – a chance to watch the show from the side of the stage!
- ▲ **Help us raise funds!** Jack Johnson's charity is matching donations contributed to us at the show or directly to our organization through September 1<sup>st</sup>, up to a total of \$2500. Make a contribution right now and your money will be doubled by the Johnson Ohana Foundation!



Jack Johnson will be playing two hometown shows, August 4th and August 5th at the Waikiki Shell! All proceeds from the shows will benefit the Kōkua Hawaii Foundation to support environmental education in Hawaii schools and communities. Get your tickets on Ticketmaster.

# Empty Bowl



# Hawai'i 2017



Aloha!  
It was an amazing night! Tables filled with over 3,000 beautiful, hand-crafted bowls in all shapes, sizes and colors; the aroma of gourmet soups, tasty breads and delicious desserts; and so many who came out to support this wonderful event – Empty Bowl Hawai'i 2017! This year an a la carte menu was added to provide the opportunity to purchase additional bowls or soups without having to purchase another full price ticket.

On behalf of Aloha Harvest, I would like to express our deepest mahalo to the Hawai'i Potter's Guild for selecting Aloha Harvest as the beneficiary of Empty Bowl Hawai'i 2017. We were honored to be this year's recipient! Special thanks to Mark and Stacey Kuhn, and the wonderful committee who put incredible hours of work into the planning; all the sponsorship partners who helped financially and with donations; to all the gifted and talented potters for donating all the bowls; to all the dedicated chefs for delighting our taste buds with soups and breads; and... just as important, we thank YOU! Each and every one of you contributed to the success!

In Hawaii alone, we throw out approximately 237,000 TONS of food each year! More than enough food is produced to feed every person, yet millions of people go hungry every day. Empty Bowl Hawai'i is a grassroots effort to help end hunger and reminds each of us that no one should have an empty bowl. All funds raised from this event will help Aloha Harvest expand our mission of "Rescuing Food to Feed Hawai'i's Hungry".

Together, we helped to raise over \$40,000 this year for Aloha Harvest! Mahalo nui loa from the depths of our hearts!  
Mahalo piha!

Ku'uilei Williams  
Executive Director



## Food Donor Corner

### Blaisdell Farmer's Market and GIFT— a true community event

GIFT (Give It Fresh Today) is a program set up at Farmer's Markets throughout the Island, where shoppers are invited to buy a little extra from their favorite farmers and vendors, and donate some of what they purchased to provide fresh, healthy food to organizations who provide food to the less fortunate. The vendors at the Blaisdell Farmer's Market location go above and beyond. GIFT and Aloha Harvest have teamed up and the outcome is heartwarming.

"Donating is always a good thing," George, the Market Supervisor from Otsuji Farms says. "We really like knowing that someone from Aloha Harvest takes our donations to a nearby church/shelter." Otsuji Farms has been donating ever since GIFT was brought to the Blaisdell. Otsuji Farms, estab-



lished in 1954, is one of Oahu's original family farms. The farm believes in premium, yet affordable, local produce grown without harmful pesticides.

"Having access to fresh produce is really important and we are glad to help out." Otsuji Farms is proud to contribute to Hawaii's food security and sustainability. "[If there wasn't a program like GIFT], we'd give excess produce to our volunteers, other vendors,

shelters, and last case scenario, to pig farmers."

"[Before GIFT], we either would give it to other vendors or we take it to a shelter, like IHS" says Ashlee and Ippei Taniyama, from Mochi Lab. They are one of the most recent donors from GIFT, starting in May 2016.

Ashlee and Ippei Taniyama look forward to giving their excess every week and they say it's incredibly easy, "It's really simple, we just box up the extras and walk it over to their table." Mochi Lab offers their butter mochi, which is a new twist on the Hawaiian dessert baked in muffin form. They are also looking out for Hawaii's future—by using locally grown produce and eggs.

Brug Bakery is another weekly donor at the Blaisdell Farmer's Market. Since Brug Bakery first opened its doors, it has been providing free bread daily to the Angel Network, and in 2014 it started donating sweet products to all of Hawaii's nonprofits to "express our gratitude to the local Hawaii people." Brug Bakery offers loaf breads, sandwiches, savory items, and sweets.



The GIFT table is placed right next to Larry and Nanette Geller, from GreenWheel Food Hub, a program to help Hawaii's residents, especially those in low-income communities, gain better access to fresh locally-grown fruits, vegetables and staple foods. By accepting SNAP benefits (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as Food Stamps) at local farmer's markets, they hope to make it a little easier to access and afford locally grown foods. GreenWheel Food Hub believes that by providing SNAP acceptance at locally grown farmer's markets, they not only provide access to fresh healthy foods, but they allow the community resources to support local farmers, providing

a needed boost to the local food system.

Without Nanette and Larry's help and kindness, vendors would have a more challenging time getting their donations to the GIFT table, "We heard from Larry over at the GreenWheel Food Hub table. He said that if I ever had any leftovers I could donate to Aloha Harvest and a driver or volunteer would drop it off [at an agency] after the market ended." said Ashlee Taniyama, from Mochi Lab.

GreenWheel Food Hub strives to help both the vendors and the shoppers, "This is a solution we believe in. Local communities can support local farmers to grow the food we love to eat."

## Project Wave

### 50 organizations in 50 states in 50 weeks

Project Wave was an idea that two sisters from South Carolina created because of their desire to learn more about opportunities for serving others as well as travel and learn more about the U.S. In each state, they will be working with nonprofit organizations to see what they do, how they do it, and understand the impact it has on their community.

In mid-March, Aloha Harvest got the phone call from Lindsey and Lee Ellen Fulmer that they were searching for a nonprofit to volunteer for the next two days. Their story was so inspiring we just had to learn more about their adventure and welcomed them to our office. They were huge in helping us prepare for Empty Bowl Hawaii 2017!

To support and learn about Project Wave, visit [www.facebook.com/2sisters1vision](http://www.facebook.com/2sisters1vision). Mahalo Lindsey & Lee Ellen!



Aloha Harvest staff Mele Pepa Latu & Bree Murray with Lindsey and Lee Ellen Fulmer from Project Wave.



**G**reenWheel Food Hub is a social enterprise with a mission to help Hawaii's residents, especially those in low-income communities, gain better access to fresh, locally-grown fruits, vegetables and staple foods.

This project was created with the intention of cultivating a space for folks using SNAP benefits - and everyone who is navigating economic challenges - to share information and resources as a community.

You can find Nanette Gellar (pictured above) and her husband Larry at the Honolulu Farmer's Market every Wednesday 4 - 7 p.m. Bring your EBT card and you will receive Green Bucks to use like cash for eligible items at the farmer's market vendors.





3599 Waiālae Avenue #23  
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