



2 Scoops

Winter 2018



MAUI FOOD BANK
Helping the Hungry

California Visitors Deliver Holiday Joy to the Food Bank

A couple visiting Maui from California recently phoned Marlene Rice Development Director at the Maui Food Bank, and asked if they could visit the Food Bank. “We love visitors,” responded Rice and welcomed them to come over. The next day Steve and Samantha Bryson arrived at the Food Bank for their first visit.

Steve and Samantha are well known for their generosity. Last year they paid off roughly \$30,000 in layaway merchandise at a big box store near Memphis, so that families could have gifts for their loved ones during the holidays. “There were 135 families whose layaways expired that day,” Steve Bryson recalled. But because of the Bryson’s generous donation, all of those people were able to pick up their gifts without charge and have a proper Christmas with their families.

You could tell right away that they were so kind and wanted to help the hungry in Maui County.

“We didn’t really know much about the Bryson’s when they said they were coming over,” shared Marlene Rice. “But it certainly didn’t take long to warm up to the them. Steve and Samantha said that they are always looking for ways to help and give back.

The Bryson’s were initially intending to make a \$5,000 donation to the Food Bank, but doubled the donation to \$10,000 after finding

out about the Food Bank’s Aloha Backpack Buddies program. The Aloha Backpack Buddies program serves school kids who participate in their schools’ free and reduced-price meal program by giving them a backpack prefilled with six meals. The students take the backpack home for the weekend, so that they have nutritious meals during the days they can’t access food at school.

When asked about his motivation for donating money to buy food, Steve reflected back on his poor childhood in Memphis. His father had an alcohol problem and his mother raised 6 kids. “I’ve eaten government cheese before and I clearly recall how a concerned friend used to drop off food for our family. I know how it feels to be hungry,” he concluded.

Marlene Rice noted, “When guests visit Maui from the Mainland, hear about a need and then step up to meet that need, it is greatly appreciated.”

A big Mahalo to Steve and Samantha for the generosity they extended to the Maui Food Bank. The Bryson’s make their donations public in the hope that others will come forward and do the same. Their donation was immediately used to purchase rice and fresh produce for those in need in Maui County.



Steve helping out at the Maui Food Bank





MAUI FOOD BANK
Helping the Hungry

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Our MISSION

The Maui Food Bank's mission is to help the hungry in Maui County by collecting and distributing food through community partnerships.



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From the Desk of *Richard Yust*



**Generous Gifts Help Food Bank
Keep It Chill**

What would you do if people were depending on you to transport fresh food all over the island of Maui, but your 13-year-old refrigerated truck suffered a major breakdown?

Naturally, our first action was to evaluate the condition of our existing truck, which revealed that the cost to repair the truck and the refrigeration unit would far exceed the value of the vehicle. All the mechanics came back with the same recommendation: "It's not worth fixing."

Faced with the fact that the truck needed to be replaced, our next action was to immediately initiate a targeted fundraising campaign.

Simultaneously, Keith Wright, our Director of Operations, went to work conducting research on the best truck for our needs. He then solicited bids on providing that specific vehicle to us, eventually identifying a dealer in Southern California who had the right truck at the right price.

Meanwhile, a group of eight different corporations and foundations had responded with donations that provided enough capital to purchase the new truck outright:

- Atherton Foundation
- Central Pacific Bank Foundation
- Cooke Foundation
- Fred Baldwin Foundation
- HEI Charitable Foundation
- First Hawaiian Bank Foundation
- Alexander & Baldwin Kokua Giving Program
- Matson Giving Foundation



However, the truck was some 2,500 miles away in Southern California, so Matson generously agreed to ship the truck to us without charge, absorbing close to \$7,000 in shipping costs.

Our new refrigerated truck is now in use every day, picking up food donations from our community partner stores, delivering food to our central warehouse for processing, and distributing palletized food drops throughout Maui.

We are so grateful to everyone who helped make it possible for us to obtain this new truck, enabling us to continue to fulfill our mission of helping the hungry in Maui County. Mahalo!!

Richard Yust
Executive Director

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Agency Connection



Nakua at age 14 in the Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike Building Program

In Working One Learns ▲

This story comes to us from Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike, one of Maui Food Bank's partner agencies located in Hana. The Maui Food Bank provides meal and snack foods for the youth who are part of this exciting, life changing program.

"Every day I'm at school, I think of work, work, work," said Nakua Konohia-Lind when he first started with the Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike Building Program at age 14. Now, at 24 years old, he's become the youngest person ever to captain the iconic Polynesian Voyaging Society canoe, the Hōkūle'a, after sailing on more than half the legs of its three-year worldwide trip.

Nakua says he wouldn't be where he is today without knowing how to sand. "The tools that I earned during my years with Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike I took to college... I was probably one of the better ones in shop class in college because I knew how to use all the tools. I became the 'go-to-guy.'"

When master navigator Nainoa Thompson met Nakua at Honolulu Community College five years ago, Nakua was studying marine mechanics. Thompson had asked HCC's boat maintenance class if anyone could sand the bottom of the canoe. "I knew how to sand like an expert," says Nakua. "So I was like, 'I'm down, let's do it' ... Simple thing like know how to sand took me a long way."

Nakua's great-grandfather, Sam Kalalau, Sr., sailed with Thompson on the Hōkūle'a's 1976 Tahiti voyage. Polynesian Voyaging Society founder Herb Kane once noted that Kalalau was revered among the crew for his deep knowledge of the sea and for his strength. Kalalau was both a leader and a teacher, but also willing to jump in with the crew to do whatever was needed. Nakua is following in his ancestor's footsteps.

"All work ethic," is what Nakua says Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike (MKHKI) taught him. "Whether working in the [MKHKI] program or working on the canoe, I just work hard ... for the feeling that I did something good for someone else besides myself. It's not for me to work hard, it's to represent my kūpuna [elders] and the people after me." Nakua also hopes to someday start his own Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike-style program—with canoes.

I want to make a program with the canoe, that gets kids off the streets and hopefully doing something good, for their tradition, for their culture...to insure we have resources for our future generations." Mahalo to the Food Bank for the meals and snacks they have provided throughout the years to Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike.



Nakua Konohia-Lind building a game

People Helping People

High School Senior Devises an Innovative Way to Fight Hunger

In an age when young people are often criticized as self-absorbed, at least one High School Graduate has demonstrated ingenuity and concern for the less fortunate in his community.

Kai Hemmitt was born on Maui, and has called Maui home his entire life. While attending Kihei Charter School, when Kai was tasked with postulating and executing a Senior Project, he combined his passion for music with his concern for those who are challenged by hunger.

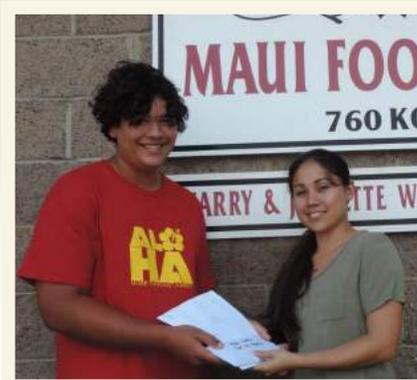
Kai created a music CD blending hip-hop instrumentals with island music, and then set up a booth at Wailuku 1st Friday and Kihei 4th Friday, giving him an opportunity to explain to attendees what he was doing.

As a result of his efforts, Kai sold out of his CDs, raising enough money to provide 600 meals to the hungry in Maui County, distributed through the Maui Food Bank!

Kai explained, "I thought it was great that I was able to do what I really love, and help the community at the same time! Actually, it's pretty easy to give back when you involve something you love doing."

"In my family, cooking and eating together is a big part of our family life...it's how we enjoy each other and celebrate things, and it brings us a lot of joy," Kai continued. "I want others to be able to experience the same joy and happiness I feel, and in my experience, it takes food to make that happen. It gives me a good feeling knowing I've helped someone else."

We at the Maui Food Bank salute Kai Hemmitt for his ingenuity and his heart for others.



To learn how you can bring joy to others by helping assure they don't go hungry, call the Maui Food Bank at 808.243.9500, or visit MauiFoodBank.org.

Maui's Hyatt Properties Partner with Maui Food Bank to Relieve Hunger

Two of Hyatt's premier properties, the Andaz Maui at Wailea Resort and the Hyatt Regency Maui Resort, are now actively working with the Maui Food Bank to help the hungry in Maui County.

One of the people at the forefront of this collaboration is Dana Lopez, Assistant Director of Human Resources at the Andaz Resort. Dana notes, "At Andaz Maui, we believe in being an active part of the community. This is our home, and our culture is a culture of serving the local community."

Recently, a team of volunteers from Andaz and Hyatt Regency volunteered at the Maui Food Bank, filling 500 food boxes for Maui's Senior Citizens. "We chose Maui Food Bank as our service partner because we wanted to get tangibly involved with helping people in need, and that's what Maui Food Bank does so well. Giving back is important to Andaz employees, and we're proud to team up with Maui Food Bank. I personally like volunteering at the Food Bank," Dana continued, "because it gives me a deep sense of meaning to help the hungry on Maui."

In addition to their work with the Maui Food Bank, Andaz Maui donates vegetable oil to power bio-diesel machines, and has adopted a stretch of highway near Kealia Pond National Wildlife Refuge. Four times every year, an average of 25 bags of trash are picked up from that location thanks to Andaz's participation.

Andaz Maui at Wailea Resort is the luxury brand of Hyatt Hotels Corporation. After only four years on Maui, Andaz was recently named "The # 1 Hotel in the Hawaiian Islands" by Conde Nast.

Maui Food Bank is pleased to be collaborating with the Andaz Maui and the Hyatt Regency Maui, and we look forward to a long partnership as we work together to help the hungry in Maui County.



Board Focus

Michele McLean Brings a Big Heart and Organizational Acumen to the Maui Food Bank Board

Michele McLean has served on the Board of the Maui Food Bank for nearly six years. Raised in Connecticut and Pennsylvania, Michele earned a BA in Political Science from Vassar College in 1987 and then moved to Washington, D.C., where she worked for several years on Capitol Hill.

After briefly relocating to Florida in 1993, Michele found herself volunteering with “BEAKS” (Bird Emergency Aid and Kare Sanctuary), an organization dedicated to helping birds in distress, including eagles, pelicans and herons. She quickly moved from volunteer to paid staff.

Wanting to be closer to her parents who moved to Maui in 1983, Michele made the move herself in 1994. Continuing her “BEAKS” work, Michele volunteered for ten years with the East Maui Animal Refuge, and also served on its Board. With her D.C. experience as an analyst, she accepted a similar job with the Maui County Council, where she worked on planning and land use issues. After several years, Michele left the County and spent a few years as a planning consultant in the private sector; she then joined the State’s Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) in 2005, where she served as Deputy Director, helping to manage restoration, marine, and cultural programs. In 2011, Mayor Alan Arakawa appointed



Michele McLean

Michele as Deputy Planning Director, a job she holds today; she also serves as the County representative and Chair of the KIRC.

Michele said she is surprised that there are so many people in need of hunger relief in Maui County, stating, “These kids and families should not be stereotyped; we need to face that reality to overcome the challenge that one out of five kids in Maui County are at risk of going hungry.”

Michele has stated that she is honored to be a part of the Maui Food Bank Board. Plus, because of the partnership between Maui County and the Food Bank, Michele is in an ideal position to serve as a liaison between the two entities.

Michele’s experience and commitment to help the hungry is heartfelt. She possesses a quality of compassion and willingness to seek the betterment of others. We appreciate all that Michele McLean brings to the Maui Food Bank – her organizational expertise, spirit of generosity, and community involvement make her an exceptional and valuable Board Member.

Volunteer HI-Light -

Maui Food Bank Partner Donates Time and Money

The Maui Food Bank enjoys relationships with people who donate their time and people who donate money, but Jim Sheppard is one of the very few individuals who are committed to doing both!

Jim Sheppard and his wife Lynda moved from the San Francisco Bay area to Maui a little over two years ago, and Jim lost no time getting involved with the Maui Food Bank.

Jim was a regular financial contributor to local food banks when he lived on the mainland, and has contributed regularly to the Maui Food Bank since 2011. Once Jim relocated to Maui and he witnessed the extent of the Food Bank’s vital work in

Maui County he felt the need to become more tangibly involved, so in addition to donating money, Jim also began volunteering his time on a weekly basis at the Food Bank.

It is important to Jim to help those less fortunate, and he strongly believes that helping to provide hunger relief is something that everyone should consider.

“Hunger in Hawaii is a problem that can be remedied if all of us would do something,” Jim states. “The Maui Food Bank does an excellent job of utilizing resources efficiently, enabling more people to benefit with minimal waste. I’d encourage others to donate time or money to help the Food



Bank accomplish their mission...which is also my mission...to assure that nobody goes hungry in Maui County.”

Mahalo to Jim Sheppard for his contributions to the Maui Food Bank and the example he sets for others.

How you can help?

Food is our priority.

Your food donations are distributed to over 10,000 needy people in Maui County each month.

Financial support is essential to our mission.

For every dollar you give we are able to provide 4 meals to hungry people.

We rely on volunteers like you.

Volunteers contribute significantly to the daily operations of the Maui Food Bank.

Hawaiian Native Journeys from Homelessness to Volunteerism

Just a few years ago, 25-year-old Hawaiian native Isaac Sproat found himself homeless and hungry here on Maui. Like many people who have experienced homelessness, Isaac found living on the streets to be deeply frightening and humbling.

Isaac recounts that the most difficult challenge of his six-month period of homelessness was finding food. Having no knowledge of the Maui Food Bank, Isaac had no idea how or where to obtain food assistance, so he started stealing food to survive.

Once he was rescued from his homeless situation, Isaac became determined to help others avoid the pain and hopelessness he'd experienced himself. That's when he was introduced to the Maui Food Bank.

Since then, Isaac has become one of our most dependable volunteers. He explains, "My experience here at the Maui Food Bank has opened my eyes to the resources that are available for people on Maui who are struggling to find enough food to get by. There are so many people who are benefiting from what the Food Bank provides, and in a different way, I'm benefiting, too...my commitment to helping others has really changed my own life for the better."

Isaac has come a long way since his homeless days; he's currently enrolled in college, where he's studying Sustainable Construction Technologies. We're very grateful for Isaac's consistent contribution to helping others through his volunteer work here at the Maui Food Bank.



"My commitment to helping others has really changed my own life for the better." - Isaac