



2 Scoops

Winter 2019



MAUI FOOD BANK
Helping the Hungry

Maui Writer Makes it Big in Hollywood

Maui's own Robin Jones Gunn is the award winning, best-selling author of 100 books including the "Christy Miller" series and the "Father Christmas" novels that have been made into three Hallmark movies.

"Finding Father Christmas" broke a network record in 2016 for being the most watched and highest rated movie. That record was broken again in 2017 with the airing of the sequel, "Engaging Father Christmas." The third movie, "Marrying Father Christmas" aired on November 4, 2018. The ratings are in, "Marrying Father Christmas" becomes Hallmark Movies & Mysteries' most watched original movie premiere to date.

The Maui Food Bank is pleased to be associated with Robin Jones Gunn. In fact, during the "red carpet" premiere showing of "Marrying Father Christmas" at Hope Chapel's Christmas Movie Night, Robin arranged for each attendee to bring a 5-pound bag of rice for the Maui Food Bank's Holiday Meal Program.

Congratulations to Robin Jones Gunn from all of us at the Maui Food Bank on her impressive success in the entertainment world. Mahalo for your willingness to leverage your success to help the hungry in Maui County!

Our appreciation goes out to Hope Chapel for hosting this fun, entertaining and successful "red carpet" event. The audience donated 900 pounds of rice to go towards the Maui Food Bank's holiday food distribution. Each food vendor expertly prepared a vast array of gourmet meals with all financial proceeds going towards helping those in need.

Thank you to the following sponsors who cooked and served a most exquisite and delectable menu.

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MAUI FOOD BANK
Helping the Hungry

760 Kolu Street
Wailuku, HI 96793
Phone: (808) 243-9500
www.mauifoodbank.org

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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*



You are never too small to make a difference.

“Support from the community is vital to the health of Maui County's poorest residents ...”

Aloha,

Here at the Maui Food Bank we are all about helping the hungry. It is our mission to put food on the tables of over 10,000 people a month who are in desperate need of hunger relief. We can't do it alone. Support from the community is vital to the health of Maui County's poorest residents, particularly at this time when the federal government has reduced its commitment to meeting the basic needs of its citizens.

Unfortunately, hunger exists in every community. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture more than 38 million people nationwide are food insecure — or 12% of our population. In the state of Hawaii 182,600 people are struggling with hunger and 1 in 5 children and youth are food insecure.

However, the good news is that working together we can create change by providing safe and nutritious food for those in need. More good news! Though the challenge is great — you are never too small to make a difference.

In January 2007 Haiku Market caught the vision and they came up with a plan to help the hungry on Maui. The staff shared that when Sharlene Dooge presented the need for food to former store owner Ray Nakagawa, he responded immediately with approval to get involved.



The store placed a Maui Food Bank fish bowl on the counter which is used for collecting financial contributions. Haiku Market generously supplies the Maui Food Bank with wholesome food from their shelves and freezers. Rising to the challenge this very special community grocery store has really made a difference. Since January 2007 Haiku Market has contributed \$39,850 and 38,555 pounds of food.

It is true that we all need to eat. Unfortunately there are those in our island ohana that don't know where their next meal is coming from. Let's all follow Haiku Market's lead and get involved. **Remember, you are never too small to make a big difference.**

Mahalo,

Richard Yust
Executive Director



Hot off the Press

Debbie Arakaki's "Parade of Homes" Benefits Maui Food Bank

Hawaiian native Debbie Arakaki is a successful real estate professional who has been an avid supporter of the Maui Food Bank for many years. She believes that no one – especially children – should suffer from the adverse effects of hunger.

Fortunately for Maui's hungry, Debbie regularly puts her beliefs into action. For example, for the past several years, Debbie has organized a "Parade of Homes" in Laniupoko where friends, colleagues, and visitors join her in raising money for the Maui Food Bank's "Aloha Backpack Buddies" program.

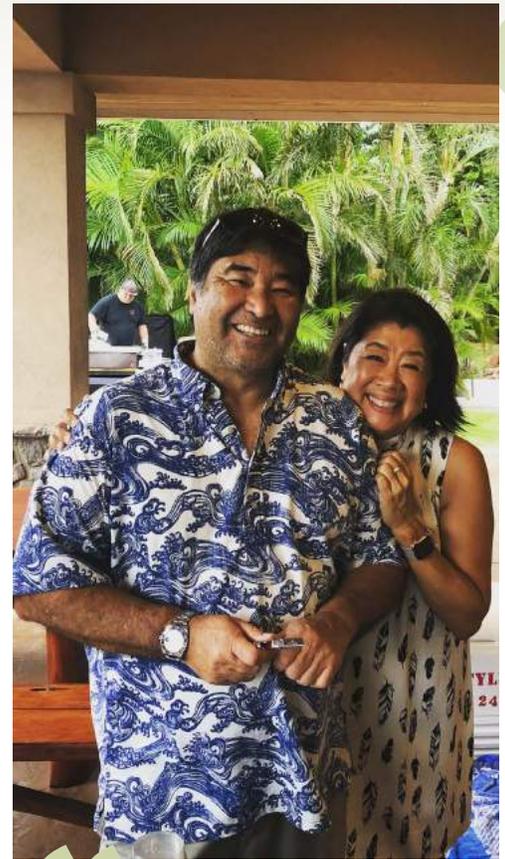
The "Aloha Backpack Buddies" program is designed to assure that no kids in Maui County go hungry on weekends when there's no access to the school systems' free and reduced-price breakfast and lunch programs.

Debbie is keenly aware that the Food Bank's Backpack Buddies program helps prevent hunger, which in turn reduces school absenteeism, improves kids' ability to learn effectively, and raises student outcomes.

This year, Debbie and her team raised over \$22,000 for the Backpack Buddies program. Having owned restaurants for 20 years, she has always made sharing food a part of her culture. Being able to give back to the help the keiki on Maui is important to Debbie and her family.

Debbie became a full-time Realtor® in 2005 and joined Elite Pacific Properties in Maui as a Partner in 2013. She says, "we are all part of the community and I feel it's important to give back in whatever ways we can." The Food Bank believes that what makes Debbie's "Parade of Homes" so successful is that Debbie is able to call on all her friends to help the hungry in Maui County!

Mahalo to Debbie Arakaki for another successful Parade of Homes fundraiser!



We are all part of the community and I feel it's important to give back in whatever ways we can.



ALYSSA CHING photos



Ice Carving Competition Benefits Maui Food Bank

Originally published by Maui News, November 26, 2018

Shimon Sato (left, first photo) of Japan carves a sculpture out of ice with the help of Darren Ho, owner of Maui School of Ice, during the Ice Carving Competition on Friday afternoon outside Anytime Fitness in Wailuku. Sato, who traveled to Maui alongside fellow Japanese ice carver Satoshi Yokoyama, won the competition that benefitted the Maui Food Bank.

Second photo: University of Hawaii Maui College culinary chef instructor Craig Omori sculpts a block of ice with father-in-law Paul Azilla during Friday's competition.

People Helping People

Isaac Uyesugi Proves Small Change Makes a Big Difference

If you've ever entertained the misconception that all high school students are self-absorbed video-game automatons, we're pleased to offer this evidence to the contrary.

Recently King Kekaulike High School's Leadership Class undertook a unique "Penny Drive" fundraiser. Spearheaded by Senior Class Member Isaac Uyesugi, this fundraiser solicited the involvement of all students at the school.

The school's Leadership Class members employed an unusual mechanism ... they walked around campus with gallon water jugs asking classmates, faculty, and staff to drop pennies – and ONLY pennies – into the jugs.

The Leadership Class members also turned the event into a competition to see which class could collect the most pennies. The Junior Class won that competition, collecting over half the total sum of \$1,056.12.



"I was born and raised here on Maui, and I've seen hungry people everywhere. To me, it feels really good to do something tangible to help..."

Organizer Isaac Uyesugi noted, "I was born and raised here on Maui, and I've seen hungry people everywhere. To me, it feels really good to do something tangible to help hungry people."

Isaac's example of caring for others is an inspiration to us all. ***Mahalo to Isaac Uyesugi and to everyone who participated at King Kekaulike High School!***

Volunteer HI-Light

"... it makes me feel good inside to know I'm helping make a difference ..."



Detroit Native Gives Back Through Volunteering at Food Bank

A little over a year ago, Linda Salesky reached the conclusion that she needed to escape the inhospitable weather of her native Detroit, Michigan. So she plucked up her courage and did the most sensible thing one could do in that situation – she moved to Maui.

Linda arrived on Maui trusting and believing that everything would work out. Having worked from home for several years as a Mortgage Underwriter for Quicken Loans she was able to bring her job with her. Finding a place to live came together quickly. Within a week Linda was comfortably settled in her new home on Maui's north shore.

Linda is a firm believer in giving back to one's community, so as soon as she got settled, she started looking for a place to volunteer some time. She found many worthy organizations on Maui, but she felt an instant connection to the Maui Food Bank. "I love that I get to help put healthy food on someone's plate who is in need," she explained. "There are people here on Maui who don't know where their next meal is coming from, and it makes me feel good inside to know I'm helping make a difference for those people."

When serving at the Food Bank, Linda can often be found stocking the shelves with the food that comes in through local food drives. Though she doesn't necessarily get to meet the people the Maui Food Bank serves, she enjoys knowing that her efforts help others in a tangible way.

She concludes, "As soon as I found out about the Maui Food Bank, I thought to myself, 'This would be a great place to volunteer'...and it is!"

Mahalo to Linda Salesky for helping the Maui Food Bank serve the hungry in Maui County!



Board Focus

Mark Harbison

Coldwell Banker Broker Mark Harbison also serves as Chairman of the Board for Maui Food Bank. Originally from Oklahoma, Mark studied and lived abroad in Tokyo and Hong Kong. After marrying Lisa Oyama, who grew-up on Maui, the two returned in 2001 making Maui their home.

Mark has played a key role in helping organize the Rotary Club's tremendously successful Holiday and Spring Food Drives. He has been a member of the Rotary Club of Kihei-Wailea since Nov 2001 and is currently the District 5,000 Rotary Foundation Vice Chair and Grants Chair. The vision and mission of Rotary, is "Service above Self." This makes Mark a perfect fit to serve on the Food Bank's board. Mark recently said, that *"The motivating factor for doing food drives is because it is one of the most effective means of serving the community. With close to 300 Rotarians on Maui, holding island-wide food drives makes this the most visible thing we do."*

When asked Mark says, that his deep sense of serving mankind comes from time spent in Calcutta India. As an investment banker vacationing in India, Mark had never encountered the kind of poverty he saw there. After stumbling over a beggar with no arms or legs who was lying in front of the hotel where he was staying, he was unable to get the image of this poor man out of his mind. That was a turning point for Mark — a call to action! He knew that something had to be done to change a world where this kind of poverty exists.



Mark and his wife Lisa

Since then Mark has been actively involved with charitable service. Mark dedicates much of his time to serving those who are in need.

"I am amazed that so many people do not know where their next meal is coming from."

Once becoming involved with the Food Bank, Mark's eyes were opened to the ever growing need for food relief here in Maui County. He recently said, "I am amazed that so many people do not know where their next meal is coming from."

Mark has been a real gift to the Maui Food Bank. We sincerely appreciate the wisdom, experience and spirit of generosity he brings to his position as a board member and colleague. Mark is one who unhesitatingly is ready and willing to do whatever it takes to help the Maui Food Bank to fill its mission to help the hungry.



Kids Feeding the Hungry

Mahalo Troop 999 for helping the hungry during this Holiday Season!

Girl Scout Troop 999 at the Brownie level brought a basket of Holiday Cheer to the Maui Food Bank. Eva, Brooke, Lilah and Coco, Ella Rose and Piper collected food from their families to create healthy meals for those in need.

Philanthropic Leader Pens

"Thoughts To Live By"



Many people never stop to think about it, but raising money to support the work of a non-profit charitable organization is a very challenging endeavor. At the Maui Food Bank we often turn to acknowledged leaders in the field, such as the late Jerold Panas, for direction and encouragement. Mr. Panas passed away July 14, 2018 but his exceptional influence will be felt for many, many years to come.

Mr. Panas was an internationally-recognized leader in the field of philanthropic development. As a speaker and best-selling author, he greatly influenced people from all walks of life through his consistent encouragement, wise counsel, and insightful coaching.

We at the Food Bank continue to be inspired by Mr. Panas' thoughts, so we've decided to pass some of them along to you:

Thoughts to Live By

by Jerold Panas

- Most beautiful attire . . . *A Smile*
- Most destructive habit . . . *Worry*
- Greatest joy . . . *Giving*
- Most satisfying work . . . *Helping others*
- Greatest problem to overcome . . . *Fear*
- Most crippling disease . . . *Excuses*
- Most powerful force in life . . . *Love*
- Sheer bliss . . . *Yes, I'll make the gift*
- Worst thing to be without . . . *Hope*
- Four most power-filled words . . . *"I Can Do It"*
- Greatest asset . . . *Faith*
- Most prized possession . . . *Integrity*
- Most contagious spirit . . . *"Spirit of Aloha"*

Agency Connection

Maui Intersection Church

Sunday afternoons are usually associated with football games and a relaxing nap, but this does not ring true for Matt and Lei Jim. Every Sunday afternoon you can find the Jim's at Kalama Park in Kihei ministering to those who attend Maui Intersection Church. The majority of their congregation are homeless people who want to change their lives.

The Jims conduct a traditional church service and in the middle of the service they serve a hot meal to everyone. After the service they distribute food bags to anyone in need. Before becoming an agency with the Maui Food Bank, the Jims bought their food at retail outlets like Safeway or Costco. Since joining the Maui Food Bank, the Jims have been able to significantly decrease the cost of their food ministry budget.

Matt and Lei have seen many lives transformed through Maui Intersection Church. When asked about their approach to homeless ministry, Matt stated, "You just need to be transparent and gain their trust." Matt and Lei have done just that and have gained the respect and trust of their small congregation. **Every week, lives are changed, and the Jims not only feed the spiritual hunger in people's hearts, but physical hunger as well.**



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.