



**For Immediate Release**

November 18, 2015

## **HELPING HANDS HAWAII SEEKS DONORS FOR NEEDY FAMILIES DURING THE HOLIDAYS**

HONOLULU—The Adopt A Family (AAF) program links low-income households in need with businesses and community members to fulfill holiday wish lists of basic necessities. Donors give these families hope for a better year, reduce financial strain on their limited budgets and enable them to celebrate the holidays with their families. The deadline for donors to drop off wish list items is Saturday, Dec. 19, 2015.

This year there are nearly 600 households (more than 2000 individuals) participating in the AAF program. Households include homeless and low-income individuals and families living in emergency shelters, transitional shelters and low-income housing. They also include senior, disabled and veteran individuals and their families with limited incomes and resources. A number of businesses, such as HHF Planners, Hawaii Gas and GAP, have already expressed interest in participating as corporate donors.

“By ‘adopting’ a family, donors provide material support through the fulfillment of a family’s wish list,” said Helping Hands Hawaii President and CEO Jan Harada. “But, the real impact of donors can be seen in the raising of the spirits of our families during the time of year when the economic gap becomes most apparent and those who struggle to provide the very basic needs for their families really feel the most disheartened.”

### **ADOPT A FAMILY DONOR INFO**

The deadline for donors to drop off wish list items for the AAF program is Saturday, Dec. 19, 2015. Donors must complete an application form found online, which is used to match them with participating families. Families matching the donor’s preferences are sent for review, and the donor may choose to adopt one or all of the families.

After selecting a family, donors purchase items from the family’s wish list. Families who are not chosen return to the pool of participants seeking a donor. The family’s wish list is a guide for what they need most during the holidays, but gifts are at the donor’s discretion. When shopping is complete, donors deliver wish list items to the Community Clearinghouse (CCH) at Helping Hands Hawaii, which is located at 2100 N Nimitz Hwy and is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Beginning Nov. 27, CCH will extend its hours of operation to 6:30 p.m. and will also be open on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon to accommodate donors dropping off gifts.

## **HOLIDAY TREE INFO**

Holiday Trees offer donors the opportunity to participate in AAF without adopting an entire household. The trees display ornaments listing individual items frequently requested by many of the families and will be used to fill the wish lists of households who are not selected by donors. Donors are encouraged to visit one of the following locations to select an ornament, buy the item and deliver it to CCH by Saturday, Dec. 19. Contact the Holiday Tree host for details on when each tree will be available to the public.

### **2015 Holiday Tree Hosts**

[The Kahala Resort & Hotel](#): 5000 Kahala Ave., Honolulu, HI 96816

Contact: Huy Vo, Public Relations & Marketing Manager, (808) 739-8854

[Koko Marina Center](#): 7192 Kalanianaʻole Hwy., Honolulu, HI 96825

Contact: Krysti Peacock, Director of Marketing, (808) 295-7197

[Monkeypod Kitchen](#): 92-1048 Olani St. Suite 4-107, Kapolei, HI 96707

Contact: Christie Snopko, Human Resources Director, (808) 380-4086

United Health Care: 841 Bishop St., Ste. 725, Honolulu, HI 96813 and a tent at Keehi Lagoon every Saturday for gift drop off

Contact: Tanya Seagaimaalii, Customer Service Professional for Member Services, (808) 457-7778

### **About Helping Hands Hawaii**

Helping Hands Hawaii (HHH) was founded in 1974 and connects individuals, families and organizations with essential human and material resources. Through our various programs, we provide a full continuum of care and help people overcome obstacles like homelessness, mental illness, substance abuse and language access. Our strong partnerships with local social service providers and innovative approaches strengthen our community by helping people to help themselves. To learn more about HHH, its programs or services, please visit

[www.HelpingHandsHawaii.org](http://www.HelpingHandsHawaii.org).

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