



**For Immediate Release**

October 2, 2017

## **ADOPT A FAMILY PROGRAM NOW ACCEPTING DONORS FOR 2017 HOLIDAY SEASON**

HONOLULU—Each year the Adopt A Family (AAF) program at Helping Hands Hawaii matches community donors with individuals and families who are experiencing poverty, homelessness, extended job loss, medical hardship and other difficulties that make celebrating the holidays financially challenging. The program and its donors uplift and inspire these households through a simple act of kindness – filling a family’s Wish List of basic necessities.

Households participating in the program are referred through a network of partnering agencies, including social service providers, emergency shelters, transitional facilities and low-income housing developments. They include elderly, disabled and veteran individuals; single-parent households; multi-generational households and other families with limited incomes and resources.

The goal of Adopt A Family is to ensure every household is adopted and to distribute gifts before Christmas so that families can be inspired for the new year.

### **HOW TO ADOPT A FAMILY**

Community members can sign up to Adopt A Family by submitting a [Donor Information Form](#) to [AAF@helpinghandshawaii.org](mailto:AAF@helpinghandshawaii.org). Family selections begin in early to mid-November, and the deadline to drop off presents to the Community Clearinghouse (CCH) is Saturday, Dec. 9.

The CCH is located at 2100 N. Nimitz Hwy. and open on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with extended hours through 6:30 p.m. from Dec. 4 through Dec. 8. Additionally, it will be open on the following Saturdays from 8 a.m. to Noon: Nov. 25, Dec. 2 and Dec 9.

### **WISHING TREE INFO**

Wishing Trees give the community an opportunity to participate in AAF by purchasing a single gift and returning the item to the tree’s host. The ornaments on the trees identify items commonly requested by families in need, such as clothing, fans, rice cookers, bedding and more. The items collected from Wishing Trees are used to fill Wish Lists of families who have not been adopted by a Community Donor.

Businesses interested in hosting a Wishing Tree should contact [AAF@helpinghandshawaii.org](mailto:AAF@helpinghandshawaii.org) for details. In the past, Wishing Tree partners included Koko Marina Center, Monkeypod Kitchen, Moku Kitchen and Leavitt, Yamane and Soldner.

### **About the Helping Hands Hawaii**

Helping Hands Hawaii (HHH) was founded in 1974 and connects individuals, families and organizations with essential human and material resources. Through a variety of programs, it provides a full continuum of care and helps people overcome obstacles, like homelessness, mental illness, substance use and language access. Strong partnerships with local social service providers and innovative approaches strengthen the community by helping people to help themselves. To learn more about HHH, its programs or services, visit [www.helpinghandshawaii.org](http://www.helpinghandshawaii.org).

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