

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES



Holo'ala Noio

Spotlight on KEO in the Community

Dawn, chronically homeless for 9 years and in need of a job, clothes, and work skills, had no where to turn to for help. Sally, a married mother of two girls in school, is positive and encouraging and in need of basic needs in tough times like now. Like many others, Dawn and Sally rely on one of the new and much-needed community services provided by agencies like Kauai Economic Opportunity (KEO).

The new Home Barrier Removal Program (HBRP), a result of new CSBG ARRA funds at KEO, assists people like Dawn and Sally. People like them can now receive the help and assistance they need to get back on their feet. Heading this new program is Aida Shen, Program Director. KEO's HBRP program provides access to everyday things we may take for granted, like phones, answering machines, computers with Internet, copy machines and printers, and transportation, and other provisions.

KEO helped Dawn with clothing vouchers to shop for work and interview clothes, a bus pass to help her get around, and special training needed to get her through her interviews. Sally, with her can-do attitude, has had several interviews, gas cards, resume advice, employer assistance, and online applications with KEO's help. "[KEO] did above and beyond [their] regular job," says Sally. Both Dawn and Sally are now more prepared and confident thanks to the hard working people at KEO. OCS extends thanks to KEO for all their years of service.

Lanai - A Case Study in Community Aid

- by En Young

There is no doubt needs exist in Lanai. Even on neighbor islands where there are fewer layers between your food and its source, self-sufficiency is an issue. Lanai is especially sensitive to economic fluctuation for two reasons. First, the chief revenue source for the island is tourist dollars. Secondly, there functionally exists only one employer, Castle and Cooke.

Lanai serves as a microcosm of challenges faced by the State. The lack of access to gainful employment results in increasing pressure on other avenues to provide basic

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Hawaii WAP featured in Episode of WXTV



WXTV, a weekly show on weatherization training, aired its most recent episode this month featuring the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) here in the Pacific Rim, focusing on Hawaii, American Samoa, and Guam. WXTV follows WAP projects around the country, and provides episodes of useful information

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necessities. Fishing, hunting, and demands on other natural resources increase, as locals are unable to pay the high cost of imported goods. Thrift store and other alternative service utilization increases as people seek to cut corners.

Desperate residents continue to take what is offered as employers continue to convert full-time positions to part-time. Profits fall while benefit costs rise for companies and their employees.

This results in less time at home as parents work multiple jobs to make ends meet. Organizations that depend on contributions of time and money to keep afloat are struggling, as there is less funding to go around, and less time for the employed to donate.

Although we as a State do not provide the same kind of access to social services as O`ahu and other islands enjoy, this community continues to find a way to make ends meet and be content, if not happy, at that. For example, let us take one of our most basic necessities: food.

King's Chapel and Sacred Hearts Church have both decided to join the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) administered by OCS. Although the USDA foods are free, logistics and handling are always issues in the fair distribution of the goods. Each church alternates pickups from the wharf, while splitting the goods into each church's fair share. The USDA foods, basic building blocks of meals, are complemented with donations from an already cash-strapped community. People of Lanai



Patsy and Sue of Saint George's Church preparing for their twice monthly food distribution.

somehow still find the funds to provide breads, fruit, island favorites such as Spam, sardines, and other foods; enough to make a two-week supply of food for an individual.

Amidst widespread tales in the public sector of waste and abuse, the residents of Lanai prevent these happenings by being genuinely interested in each other. Larger families with a greater need will receive larger shares of food. Someone losing a job on the island is big news, and the people respond accordingly with assistance as needed.

Much has been made of the importance of "safety net" services assisting low-income people, our neighbors, and those in desperate situations. Often we, as the agencies who contract for these services, have trouble identifying problems, preventing service duplication, and sculpting the funding into services that will genuinely help our target clientele and the neighborhoods in which they live.

Our lesson from Lanai is although our society increasingly values technique and treatment, we continue to undervalue community and its ability to accomplish our goals. Our investments should continue to be in the potential of individuals, but we should also strive to invest in activities that strengthen the ties between them.

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for consumers and professionals.

The Pacific Rim episode was shot on the Island of Maui during of the July WAP training and addressed specialized issues the Pacific Rim. Key note speakers in the episode were Bob Dahilig of HCAP, Inc., Leonardo Sequeira of MEO, Inc., Abby Adams and Lenny Hatori of Alternate Energy, Inc. on Maui, Melelega Tuiolosega from American Samoa, and Philly SanNicolas of the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority.

OCS would like to thank those who help to make Hawaii's WAP Program successful and WXTV for featuring Hawaii.

To view the special on WXTV, visit them at:

<http://www.weatherization.org/wxtv/>