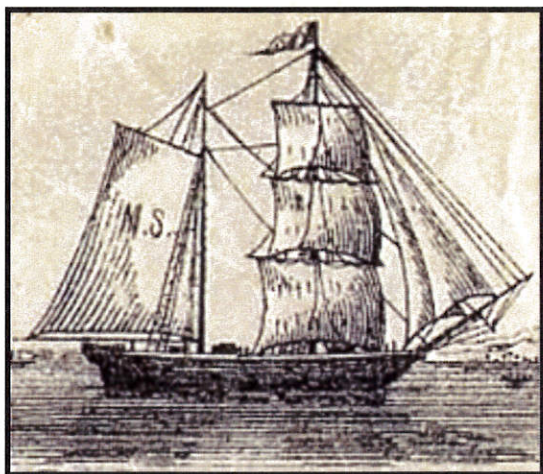


APRIL 2013

The Morning Star

A MISSION PUBLICATION OF THE WOMEN OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN HAWAII



Next Regular WBM Meeting

Thursday, April 18, 2013

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Hawaii Conference United
Church of Christ Office
1848 Nuuanu Avenue**

Invite a friend or two

**Woman's Board of Missions for
the Pacific Islands**

**1848 Nuuanu Avenue
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817
(808) 791-5647**



**Editor: Clara D. Priestler
Presiding: Karen Welsh**

SAVE THE DATE

*The Woman's Board of Missions for
the Pacific Islands*

142nd ANNUAL MEETING

"Called to Holiness"

Saturday, May 18, 2013

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Central Union Church

Parish Hall

**1660 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii**

\$25 per person

(includes a fabulous lunch)

**Tickets available at our April 18
meeting or by calling our office
(791-5647)**

Call now to RSVP

You don't want to miss this event!

*More details forthcoming
about our keynote speaker*

FROM OUR PRESIDENT: KAREN WELSH



Aloha Members and Friends of The Woman's Board of Missions
for the Pacific Islands,

Isn't God great! It's more of a statement than a question because I know He is greater than I can fathom. I am planning to spend eternity basking in His expansive love, mercy, and grace.

It is a privilege to serve as the president of this vital God-ordained and historic organization. I adore the idea that we are a ministry run mainly by women for the spiritual and physical benefit of women and children throughout Hawaii and the Pacific Rim. Being at the helm of a ministry located on Oahu when I live in Hilo, on the "Big Island" of Hawaii is challenging, but I have dedicated myself to the cause because I believe in WBM. There are others who feel the same way! The WBM leadership recently met to review our roles and responsibilities. We all agreed how we are blessed beyond measure as we continue to toil in our efforts to reorganize this beloved ministry and re-strengthen our ties to our amazing membership. We are the only woman's mission board of our type left in the United States and we hope to remain for many more generations.

As we shore up, however, we have come to the realization that some of our lifetime members and our once-faithful yearly members have not renewed their membership or paid their dues throughout the years. A part of this is our fault. We simply lost touch. It wasn't from the lack of caring, but the dwindling infrastructure of the ministry. Now we are back on track and stronger than ever we are asking that our members to pay their yearly dues. What you may not realize is that we create a budget each year with the hopes that our lifetime members will do their part and fulfill their financial obligation to the ministry and that new and existing yearly members will automatically renew the \$25 yearly fee. Please keep in mind that we have the Family Thank Offering, Mother Alice Fund and other areas of ministry that you can indicate as an additional offering. We will also accept any extra funds to help keep the ministry running. But don't stop there! We would dearly love a personal note with an update of your life and circumstances so we can pray for you and keep in touch with you.

On a good note, the newly revised edition of the "Memoirs of Henry Obookiah" is available for purchase. It can be obtained directly from our website at <http://henryobookiahmemoirs.com/> or by calling our Executive Director Clara D. Priester at the WBM office to secure the limited edition hard back (\$50 each) or in soft back (\$20 each).

In closing, I thank God for each and every person involved in this ministry. God is doing a good work and we continue to find ways to be better stewards of all He has given us. Our annual meeting is coming up at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 18, at Central Union Church on Oahu. The cost is \$25 per person. Please plan on attending if you are able and bring a few ladies with you! Feel free to call the office for more information on how to obtain tickets. Hope to see you then!

In Christ Alone,
Karen

WBM VISION STATEMENT

“The Woman’s Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands is a group of compassionate Christian women coming from a variety of churches and ethnic groups. Our purpose is: *to inspire and empower women to become active Christians, nurturing the Spirit in their individual lives, homes, community and the entire world * to educate and encourage children in their highest potential, and * to be in partnership with sister organizations sharing similar values.”



CORE VALUES

Competence Compassion

Commitment

Character Community

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2013

- April 18** **WBM Meeting**
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
HCUCC Offices
1848 Nuuanu Avenue
Honolulu, Hawai'i
- April 27** **Big Island WBM Meet Up**
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
45 Kapaa St. (Hilo)
Casual. Bring a lunch to share.
Call WBM President Karen Welsh to RSVP (640-7318)
- May 18** **142nd Annual Meeting**
(Saturday) 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Central Union Church
1660 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawai'i
Parish Hall
- June 6 - 8** **Aha Pae'Aina**
Courtyard King
Kamehameha Kona Beach Hotel

WBM CABINET

Karen Welsh	<i>President</i> <i>Big Island Representative</i>
Kathleen Mumford	<i>VP Representative, Tri-Isle</i>
Olive E. Bass	<i>VP Representative, O'ahu</i>
Linda Shigeta	<i>VP Representative, Kaua'i</i>
Myrtle Stewart-Vetekina	<i>Recording Secretary</i>
Lenora Cossey-Taft	<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>
Georgia Kay	<i>Interim Treasurer</i>
Eleanore A. Chong	<i>Finance Committee Chair</i>
Melinda Ahn	<i>Missions Chair</i>
Clara D. Priester	<i>Executive Director</i>

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



CLARA D. PRIESTER

God Has Been With Us

As I celebrate my second year as the Executive Director of the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands, I am so very grateful for both the "sunshine" and the "rain." As we have chosen to move forward with a renewed purpose and passion in our ministry, I am reminded of Romans 8:28, which reads, "and we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, and have been called according to his purpose." With all certainty, I can attest that our God has faithfully been with us.

Our Cabinet has been fully committed to strengthening our infrastructure. As Karen mentioned, our first step in doing so was to clearly define our roles and responsibilities. With a greater sense of direction, we remain enthusiastic and are working effectively as I believe the Lord requires of us. I am also pleased that our committees are meeting regularly and that we are continually identifying ways to better steward our resources.

We have so much to thank God and honor Him for. Our missions projects, chaired by Melinda, have created many opportunities for some of our members to pray for others as they share the love of Jesus while delivering basic necessities. Our Family Thank Offering Committee, chaired by Ruby, approved more than \$2,000 in one-time mission grants to individuals and families experiencing hardship. The "Memoirs of Henry Obookiah" has now been successfully launched and dedicated on the islands of O'ahu, Hawai'i and Kaua'i, and the interest in the book is steady. Our Membership Committee, chaired by Kathleen, has worked creatively to find those who want to serve with us. Our partnerships continue to grow and make way for more collaborative outreach. I have even met with representatives from men's groups (yes, men's groups) who have inquired about our organization and how they may support us. Our new members are excited and ready to serve. Our meetings are attended faithfully by a growing number of members, and we are building stronger relationships with each other.

There is so much more that I could share with you! This leads me to our upcoming Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 18, 2013. Come and hear more about how God has truly been with us in furthering His ministry and how you can use your gifts to extend God's love to others.

May you abound in His love and grace,
Clara

TRI-ISLE MEMBERSHIP REPORT

KATHLEEN MUMFORD, TRI-ISLE VP REPRESENTATIVE



On January 26, 2013 several members from the WBM Mau'i gathered to support the Mokupuni held at Po'okela Church in Makawao. The topic presentation was on How to Run a Meeting. We all learned much about minutes and treasurer reports. One additional note was to learn that most UCC churches pay for each member in the church to also be a member of the Mokupuni and is therefore welcome to attend all gatherings.

After the Mokupuni, members of Po'okela served a delicious meal. Joining in the day's activities were WBM members Gael Ito, who has agreed to be the new Po'okela representative and other Po'okela members Carrie Thompson, Margaret Raymond, Kats Enoki, Lynn Story and myself. In addition, Joyce Bergantino, Keolahou Hawaiian Church WBM representative, came from Kihei. We were delighted to make a few friends from other churches. We were hoping to see Youlida Yoruw, but she was unable to attend.

We took some time to talk about the goals for our group to contribute to the WBM. A few ladies brought cancelled stamps for our gathering and others in the future will bring toiletries to share. We also talked about the support that the WBM gives to the shelters for women in need. Edith Kapiko from Keawalai Church made a donation during the previous week at my bible study group which I will forward to the O'ahu office.

We had a short meeting to talk about how we wanted to proceed in our gatherings. We decided to begin with supporting our sister churches events. We will be emailing news to one another in the Tri-Isle. When we have more church representatives, we can ask them to forward information to their own church members or submit news to their church newsletters.

We are looking to visit Lana'i and Moloka'i during the year. Linda Mau, past member of Keolahou Church has transferred jobs from Public Health Nurse on Mau'i to Lana'i. We hope to meet up with her one day soon on Lana'i.

After the meeting at Po'okela, Carrie Thompson and Gael Ito gave lessons in Ti lei making. There were about 6 in attendance and we learned to make traditional Ti, Maili Ti, and Rose Ti lei. It was a great time for all.

On February 1, 2013 a sister WBM member and my best friend Marcia Elliott, married Kelii Mowae at Keawalai church in Mau'i. She was dressed in a beautiful green and blue sundress with a bouquet of white roses. It was a simple ceremony attended by many from her bible study group and fellow Po'okela member and past WBM president, Kats Enoki. Marcia and Kelii plan to move to Moloka'i as soon as Marcia retires in the next few months.

We are looking forward to a book signing for the Henry Obookiah as a fundraiser later this year on Mau'i.

FROM OUR KAUA'I VP REPRESENTATIVE

LINDA SHIGETA



The Spring Break Youth Camp was from March 18-21 and the Church of the Pacific generously offered their grounds for the event. The theme of the camp was *God is the Adventure*. A \$3,000 Mabel Wilcox grant was received. It was written by Pastor Olaf. The fee for the camp was \$18.00 per student. This camp included fun water activities for the youth like surfing and canoeing. The new youth ministry leader from Waimea United Church, Clint Snyder assisted with the water activities. The youth at camp also worked with the Church of the Pacific's food pantry and garden. The Women's Board of Missions provided camp fee sponsorships for four Marshallese youth.

A pay forward type of Leadership Formation for Youth and Young Adults is being formulated and was presented at the February WBM meeting. The project is called *Sacred Day Walk*. This project is due to a Christian youth named Meleane Moala wanted to build up the Christian Spirit in lives of young people who like herself feel a strong desire to share Christ with others and would like more training in ministering to others, and time to develop a deeper sense of their own call to Christian sharing. This grew out of her Senior Project that also included a UCC Pastor. She gathered young women who were unchurched and through a weekend of prayer and conversation exposed them to the heart of Christian faith: the love and fellowship of Christ which he offers to all who accept and embrace him. Meleane is a youth member at Lihue United Church and attends Kapaa High School.

The YMCA Camp Naue on the north shore of Kaua'i has been reserved for spring 2014 and assign for use to the Woman's Board of Missions if needed.

The February 19 edition of "The Garden Isle" reported that graffiti vandals struck the Waimea Christian Education Center and After School Program. It has been repainted. Pastor Bemry Lieney Bunglick of the Marshallese UCC in Hanapepe was interviewed by the Garden Island Newspaper. It included a picture with himself and Diem Clements, director of the Marshallese Community Organization. In the newspaper picture they are holding a scale replica of a traditional Marshallese tibnoi sailing canoe he built with the assistance of a microenterprise grant. The headline reads Marshallese community adjusts to life on Garden Isle. It was acknowledged in the article that Mayor Carvalho appreciates a large group of Marshallese who help maintain parks the Hanama'ulu area.

The reorganization of the KAUCC Youth team is now in process and meetings have begun. We are calling for more help, parameters, procedures and members. We are still looking for a youth coordinator for the island except Waimea who has hired Clint Snyder and his wife Ellie and son Tekoa as their youth ministries leader.

I have met with the First Marshallese Church located in Waimea looking into how best the WBM can possibly assist them.

Our WBM hosted a book launch of the "Memoirs of Henry Obookiah" on the evening of March 21, 2013 at Lihue United Church. One focus of note for Kauai's book launch was for the youth of Kaua'i and their need to look to the good works of Henry Obookiah as a young adult.

CELEBRATING OUR NEW MEMBERS

Our Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands continues to grow. We are grateful for the gift of all of our members. A warm welcome to our new members:

Meri Martha McPherson

Hilo, HI

Brenda Lee

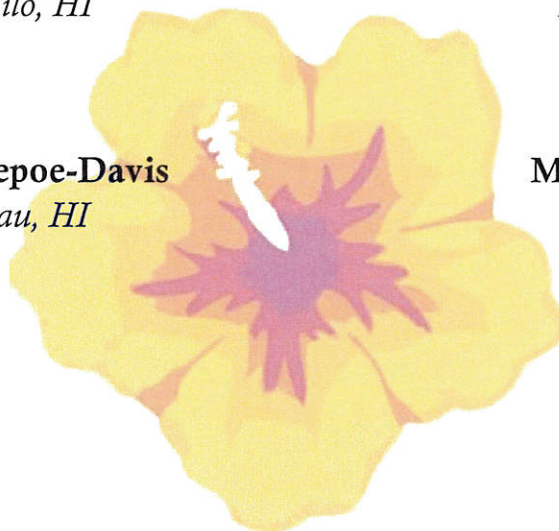
Hilo, HI

Lucia Poepoe-Davis

Keaau, HI

Madison Cox

Hilo, HI



MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands affords multiple opportunities to utilize your spiritual gifts to help improve the quality of life for others who are experiencing various hardships both here in Hawai'i and globally. Our organization will soon celebrate 142 years of ministry and outreach in June.

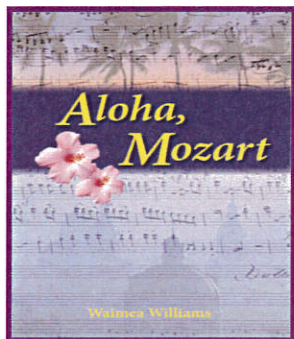
We meet monthly to conduct business, receive inspiration and identify ways to continue to make a difference in our communities and world. Annual dues of \$25 are due each June and used to help further our ministry. There are many ways to contribute to the work that we do.

A membership application can be found at www.hcucc.org. You can locate the Woman's Board of Missions by clicking on "Ministries" and then "Affiliated Ministries".

For questions about membership or our organization, please contact Clara at (808) 791-5647 or Kathleen at (808) 385-1625.

CELEBRATING.....

WAIMEA WILLIAMS



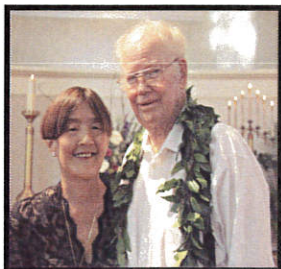
Waimea Williams, member of Kokokahi UCC and our WBM hosted a delightful book launch of her new book, "Aloha Mozart." The event was held on Sunday, March 10th at Na Mea Hawaii Native Bookstore. She began with a Hawaiian chant that was answered by three men also chanting. She spoke of her character growing up on Kaua'i with her grandmother and then moving to O'ahu as one of many children in a poor family. At 14, she had to work singing in Waikiki where she became the voice of the "Hawaiian Nightingale" on the airways. At this point during the event there was Hapa Haole hula and Hawaiian music. Next, Waimea spoke about her character as she traveled to Austria to sing opera, followed by a performance of four local young women who sang a beautiful rendition of "Panis Angelicus." They sounded like angels! Everything was well put together and orchestrated. Even the food was a blend of Hawaiian and German/ Austrian selections.

ELEANORE AHERTON CHONG



Our wonderful "Elly" married Herbert Montague Richards, Jr. ("Monty") in an intimate and joyous ceremony on Tuesday, February 5, 2013 at Central Union Church. The Reverend Dr. Charles A. Buck officiated at the ceremony and shared a couple of endearing stories of them.

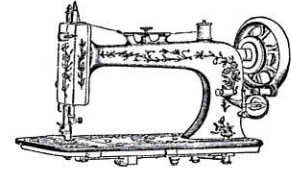
Elly's beautiful nieces, Jade and Nicole Stannard, traveled from California and were her bridesmaids. Monty's brother, James Richards, was the best man.



Following the ceremony, guests were serenaded by a harpist as they arrived for a reception to celebrate Monty and Elly.



MISSION POSSIBLE: KOKOKAHI UCC TROPICAL HUNGER PROJECT



Over the last few months many of you as individuals or churches donated sewing supplies consisting of fabric, thread, scissors, needles, buttons, zippers, Velcro, yarn, batting, measuring tapes, pins and more for the UCC Kokokahi Tropical Hunger Mission. Roger Butlig is our Field Representative in Cagayan de Oro. He runs our demonstration farm at his house just outside Cagayan de Oro on Mindanao, the most southern island in the Philippines. He conducts trainings to teach other villages, organic sustainable farming, so families are taught to fish rather than giving them a meal. Kokokahi funded a community center that sleeps a dozen people where they come to stay for a week or longer to learn how to grow food for their families.



Melinda shipping 13 boxes to the Philippines



Display of the very first blanket sown



Arrival of the boxes in the Philippines

The items made will be used to clothe the families and some sold by the women to raise funds for food. While they are able to generate income this way, their needs are still excessively great.



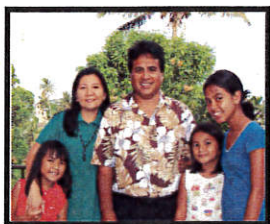
Initially the sewing supplies were to be utilized by a group of women from Upper Kam-is which is situated 5 kilometers from Roger's farm. This village has no electricity, so manual sewing machines were purchased with funds sent by the UCC Woman's Board of Missions. Many factors contributed to holding the sewing and trainings at Roger's demonstration farm in the community center.

A government partnership was made and more sewing machines were purchased allowing many more women from other villages to be trained to sew as well. This is a good thing as Hawaii's churches and individuals were so generous with their donations of sewing supplies. You made this project a success!



We have incorporated the sewing along with the growing of crops that these families can use to feed themselves. Roger writes *"The more participants we have on this training the more backyard garden we make.....so far we have now in the list about 23 mothers mam, i know there are more mothers will join this training when they heard that we are going to start."*

After they grow crops successfully at Roger's farm they will be supplied with tools to farm in their own villages. Roger says *"Yes mam.....my proposal about the tools mam, if we are going to give each mother a set of garden tools that will cost us a lot but if we group them into several groups and let them helping each other especially those who are neighborhood i think it is much lesser and the impact of being trusting each other will be realize."*



LUDWIG NOTES

Caleb and Rose Ludwig have been full time missionaries in Fiji for the past 12 years. Their family has been commissioned to move back to Guam to restart the Campus Crusade for Christ Ministry at the University of Guam, and to also minister to inland communities in Micronesia.

As our WBM continues to offer support to the Ludwig family, and as they prepare to leave for Guam, Caleb sent a prayer request as follows:

"Pray that Rose will obtain her visa to work on Guam before we leave Fiji in April. Pray for the needed funds for our travel. We plan to stop in Hawaii and Pohnpei before heading to Guam. Pray that God will rise up all our needed financial support to live and do ministry in Guam. Pray for our children's schooling needs and that they will be able to continue their education in Guam without interruption of their grade levels. This is mostly important to Annette who will be finishing high school this year. Thank you for your prayers."

In Christ,
Caleb, Rose, Annette, Annabelle and Andrea Ludwig

MISSIONS IN ACTION: HOMELESSNESS IN HAWAI'I

*By Melinda Ahn, M.Ed.
Missions Chair*



After my first year as the Missions Chair, I got my feet wet. I learned a lot about Hawaii's homeless situation and the biggest areas of their need. While we would like to partner with other organizations that work with the homeless, I also believe that we fill a niche that others don't reach. As we do our Homeless Blessings, it allows us to have one-on-one interaction with them. Many need spiritual guidance, which is better achieved in a one-on-one experience. The Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands will continue to care for our homeless through Homeless Blessings. You can help by donating:

***eye glasses *blankets *pillows *jackets *socks *slippers *clothing *stuffed animals
*bibles *toiletries *sheets *wheel chairs**

We received a donation of batting from a local company and some donated materials that could be sewn into pillows. During our Christmas Homeless Blessing, we had one pillow available. The woman who received it hugged it closely to her body. Think about sleeping on the hard ground or a cold sidewalk without a pillow. An unknown angel delivered knit beanies that were a much appreciated Christmas gift. If you would like to help sewing pillows, making beanies or dolls please contact me at either melindaahn@hawaii.rr.com or at (808) 224-9452. You may also contact Clara at our office at (808) 791-5647 or (808) 990-0503. Donations can be dropped off at the UCC conference office located at 1848 Nuuanu Ave. If you are dropping donations off at our WBM office, please contact Clara to schedule a time.

We are also hoping that others will go out with us when we make these visitations to the homeless. We are all fortunate to have food and shelter. Many do not realize how in the blink of an eye, we could lose our job, become unable to provide for ourselves, and could easily be in their place. As Jesus said, "Whatever you do for the least of those you do unto me."

Blessings on you.



“MEMOIRS OF HENRY OBOOKIAH”



The Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands was blessed to celebrate the Kaua'i Island book launch of the "Memoirs of Henry Obookiah" on March 21, 2013 at Lihue United Church.

The evening began with a prelude of music by the worship team at Lihue Missionary Church and was followed by a Pu wehe by Alohi Blackstad of the Na Keiki O Koloa Halau. The young ladies of Na Keiki O Koloa chanted an oli and the Reverend Remond Jeike, FMUCC and Pastor Wesley Elmore of the host church led the congregation in pule. A resounding and heartfelt welcome and reflection was delivered by the Reverend Dr. Nani Hill, the Kahu at Hanapepe Hawaiian Congregational Church. Na Keiki O Koloa responded in worship as they offered a hula to Ke Akua through "The Prayer." WBM President Karen Welsh spoke about the journey of faith that Henry took, and Deborah Li'ikapeka Lee, the project coordinator for Ahahui O 'Opukaha'ia, followed with readings from the book and explaining the return of Henry's body from Connecticut to Hawaii with an amazing talk, slideshow and video. A PowerPoint presentation of historic pictures was also shown while the Lihue United Chapel Choir, under the direction of Lois Ricciardi, sang a heart-rendering "Walk Worthy". The Reverend Dr. Nani Hill closed the program with a book blessing and Karen Welsh dismissed the attendees with a prayer of thanksgiving for the book, along with the food and fellowship that followed in the fellowship hall.

"It was a historic event that we were impressed to bring to Kaua'i Island," Welsh said. "I am so thankful for all the participants, as they added greatly to the depth of the event." "I also want to extend a mahalo to our WBM Kaua'i Representative Linda Shigeta. She worked tirelessly on this launch and it showed. It was a quality book launch and we appreciate all that she did."

Books are available for purchase in the WBM office at \$20 per soft back and \$50 for a limited edition hard cover copy. They can also be ordered at <http://henryobookiahmemoirs.com>.

"This book should be in every home in the nation," Welsh said. "It once changed the course of two nations and can do the same today."

MAHALO NUI LOA

H.M. Wyeth
Kapaa UCC
Helen Pierce
Helen Kawahara
Carolyn Winston
Guy & Josephine Enoki
Cancelled Stamps

Pat Lee
Brenda Lee
Lucia Poepoe-Davis
Meri Martha McPherson
Madison McPherson
Hilo Meet & Greet

Haili Church
Lyman Museum
Kumu Moses Crabbe
Kahu Brian Welsh
Daughters of God (halau)
Lorna Bufil
Kui & I Florist
"Memoirs of Henry Obookiah"
Book Launch (Hilo)

Donna Gamboa
Windward Spouse Abuse Shelter
Progressive Interiors
Karen Koles, Mid-Pacific Institute
Central Union Women's League
Donations

Roger & Ann Butlig
May May Butlig
Waz Waz Butlig
Boogie Butlig
Sewing Instructors in Mindanao

Pastor Wesley Elmore
Lihue United Church
Lihue United Chapel Choir
Reverend Nani Hill
Hanapepe Hawaiian Congregational Church
Reverend Remond Jeike, FMUCC
Na Keiki O Koloa
Alohi Blackstad
Nick Shigeta
Deborah Li'ikapeka Lee
Myrtle Stewart-Vetekina
Linda and Layne Shigeta
Karen Welsh
Kiara Maciel
Melinda Ahn
Aletha Kaohi
Paula Cobb
"Memoirs of Henry Obookiah"
Book Launch (Kaua'i)

Waimea Williams
Melinda Ahn
Kaimana Parsons
Aunty Vivian Maunakea
**Transporting, packing, loading
supplies for shipment to Mindanao**

Dwayne E. Priester
Office Supplies