Message from the President

Born out of Hurricane Iniki (a Category 5 storm) in 1992, and initially operated by volunteers, the Kauai Food Bank was incorporated in 1994 and in 1995 was formally established as a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization, providing our community with 20 years of uninterrupted service. We were steadfast in our mission from the beginning and that continues till today. Our doors remain open, answering the call to action, “changing the face of hunger”. Four years ago, Kauai Food Bank, Inc., applied for a trade name, and we are now doing business as Kauai Independent Food Bank (KIFB).

Knowing that the children will always need our help, we expanded our Keiki Café to now thirteen locations around the island. In our Backpack program, each youth receives an unmarked Backpack each Friday for the child and their siblings with food for the weekend. This is just a small step in our efforts to help in “changing the face of hunger”. Our Kokua Kupa’a Kupuna program assists seniors from the Senior Centers, who stop at the KIFB once per month and receive nutritious food at no cost. We are so pleased that they are being helped. More information on these programs overleaf! The Uluwehi Emergency Food provides those residents in the direst need the opportunity to receive emergency food to accommodate their needs for 2-3 days. Visualizing those who overcome the fear of asking makes one think twice of what you have. It grips my whole being when I hear “have you any food that I can have, I am hungry”. Yet, this is asked on Kauai more than we realize. Also, over 40 agencies distribute our food bank products throughout Kauai.

Although KIFB is an independent food source for the hungry, we are dependent on the many friends and partners on Kauai and the mainland who understand what we do and join us in support of our mission. We are so grateful to everyone who believes in us and who dedicate their time and effort in helping us. Through our Growing Food Together and Gleaning programs, we are recipients of fresh produce from local farmers and generous individuals who have dedicated their acreages of fruit trees to us for our programs. It is the combination of all of the foregoing that makes us successful.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we extend our hand of thanks to each of you for your support. We continue to look to you to be a KIFB partner, and sincerely thank you.

In appreciation,

Rowena B. Cobb
Rowena B. Cobb, President
Executive Director’s Message

Aloha!

First of all, I would like to thank the Kauai Independent Food Bank (KIFB) Board of Directors for their support in the mission of the food bank to “educate, provide nutritious food for the hungry, and respond to emergencies”. Our board is very engaged and involved in wise decision-making that help us in continually moving forward in fulfilling our mission.

I want to also thank my staff: Carol Beardmore - Managing Director, Rizaldy Tolentino - Warehouse Supervisor, Leona Perez - Program Coordinator, Melanie Goto – Administrative Assistant, Elliott Brooks – Assistant Accountant, and Randell Giminiz – Driver, for their dedication to KIFB in support of our programs that help feed keiki to kupuna across the island.

Since I took over as Executive Director in January of this year, I have seen first-hand how the KIFB has been blessed with overwhelming support from not only our entire Kauai community, but also our many friends and supporters on the mainland. From individuals, businesses, corporations, County, State and Federal employees – we are indeed fortunate. Without you we wouldn't be able to provide nutritious food for our programs.

We are really excited to report that, yet again, we have been accredited by the Better Business Bureau for 2015, meeting all 22 of their charitable standards. The Kauai Independent Food Bank continues to be the only food bank in the State of Hawaii accredited by the BBB.

As we approach the holiday season, we humbly ask for your consideration once again to support our KIFB Holiday Food Drive September 15 to December 31, with nutritious food and monetary donations to help our important programs.

Keiki Café

“Educate” and “provide nutritious food for the hungry” reads our mission statement. Hunger strikes at the mental as well as the physical aspect of the human body. It is most devastating when it occurs at the crucial ages of the development of children. Our island’s unique culture of family and community depend upon the physical and mental well-being of the rising generation, our keiki. The KIFB’s Keiki Cafe Program aids the children of Kauai in seeing that they are provided with nutritious food or “super snacks” that refresh their growing minds. Educational programs that stress healthy living and eating habits are also provided with the Super Snack, fulfilling two points in the KIFB’s threefold goal. With our keiki well fed and educated they can end the cycle of poverty and neediness. Keiki Cafes are available at participating after-school programs at Wilcox Elementary School’s A-Plus Program in Lihue and Waimea Boys and Girls Club on the Westside. Kamaaina Kids Cafes also are available at Wilcox, Kilauea, Koloa, Eleele, King Kaumualii’, Kapa’a, and Kalaheo Elementary Schools.

Backpack

Hunger affects not only the educational aspect of a child’s life, but also the child’s life itself. Each Friday throughout the school year, we provide an unmarked package to each qualifying child filled with nutritious food for the child and their siblings for the weekend, supplementing their sparse weekend diet. We have partnerships with two charter schools in Kekaha whose student enrollment is nearly exclusively Native Hawaiian keiki from Niihau, the charter school in Hawaiian Homelands in Anahola, and also the Boys and Girls Club in Kapaa.

The unmarked Backpacks are provided to qualifying keiki to take home for the weekend, in the following locations: Ke Kula Niihau O Kekaha (Niihau Public Charter School); Kula Apuni Niihau a Kahelelani Aloha (Niihau Public Charter School); Kanuikapono (Anahola Public Charter School); Kapaa Clubhouse – through the Boys & Girls Club Kapaa. We are currently furnishing over 570 Backpacks each month to our keiki through the Backpack Program.
**Kupuna (Seniors)**

Proper nutrition and wellness are just as important for our kupuna as it is for our keiki. The needs of the elderly are often overlooked. We address this need through our Kupuna program. We operate this program in collaboration with the County of Kauai, Agency on Elderly Affairs and Alu Like, to serve our kupuna at the Senior Centers, who stop at the KIFB once per month and receive 10-15 pounds of healthy, nutritious food at no cost. Seniors from Kapaa, Kekaha, Kilauea, Koloa, Lihue, and Anahola, visit the food bank. This program commenced in March 2013 and from March to December, 2013, 740 seniors were served in this program. It's a great way we can help honor and express our aloha to our Kupuna.

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**Mahalo to our Spring Food Drive Sponsors**

Anahola Prince Kuhio Day  
Aqua Engineers  
Chiefess Kamakahelei Middle School  
Child Welfare Services  
County of Kauai  
The Point at Poipu  
Eleele Elementary School  
County Fire Departments  
Grand Hyatt Kauai  
Hanalei Bay Resort  
Harley Davidson  
Irons Brothers Surf Competition  
Kaepu Elementary School  
Kapaa High School  
Kapaa Shores  
Kauai ATV  
Kauai Dance Studio  
Kauai Marriott Ohana  
King Kaumualii Elementary School  
Koloa Elementary School  
Kukui Grove Center  
Lihue Baptist Church  
Macy’s  
Manu Kai  
Matson  
Mokihana Hotel  
Sheraton Kauai Resort  
St. Regis Princeville Resort  
State Child Welfare Services  
Waimea High School  
Westin Princeville Ocean Resort Villas  
Wilcox Elementary School  
Wilcox Memorial Hospital  
Dept. of Human Services—Vocational Rehabilitation Office

**Volunteers**

First Hawaiian Bank  
Kauai Community College Hospitality Class  
Kauai High School Key Club  
Kauai High School LEO Club
Mahalo to our 7th Annual Dine Out For Hunger Participants

Holiday Food Drive
October 1 – December 31

The holidays are a wonderful time of the year, gathering with family and friends, talking story, sharing a meal. Unfortunately, for many on our island, the pantry is empty. Donations can be dropped off at the KIFB warehouse in Nawiliwili, or at any Fire Station on Kauai.

Holiday Food Drive Day
Oct 3 from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M

Volunteers are needed and appreciated!
At the following Sites:

Big Kmart
Kukui Grove Center