

November 2019

Aloha!

The holidays are a time to celebrate and be with family. However, for many kūpuna, this season can be a time of considerable isolation and loneliness. Our volunteers often provide clients with the only human contact they'll receive in a day – often the first to lend a hand in time of need. Hawai'i Meals on Wheels is a true lifeline for many of these kūpuna.

The seniors we serve face many challenges

Ms. Loma was 90 years old and weighed less than 93 pounds when her physician and the city referred her to Hawai'i Meals on Wheels in January of 2016. Struggling with respiratory and heart conditions, Ms. Loma could not prepare her meals. She was eating less than two complete meals a day and was losing weight fast.

When we first met Ms. Loma, she did not speak much but greeted volunteers with a warm smile. Our volunteers noticed she always came to the door dressed from head to toe in full robe and cap despite the heat. They took the time to learn that Ms. Loma was an ambassador for hula on the mainland back in the 1950s. Her time as an ambassador tragically came to end when her costume caught on fire and her entire body was burned, head to toe.

The following year, a volunteer discovered that she was missing phone calls from the city social worker because her landline had accidentally been pulled out of the wall. Over the next year, another volunteer noticed dementia ensuing as she forgot to pay her electric bill. Then, in January of 2019, Ms. Loma flooded her apartment twice and was being evicted. With each incident, Hawai'i Meals on Wheels connected her with community agencies, and in February of 2019, we supported Ms. Loma during her move to a higher level-of-care facility.

Fostering human connections through food

Strong social connections, like the ones our volunteers shared with Ms. Loma, are essential to our physical and mental well-being. Hawai'i Meals on Wheels is uniquely positioned to make a human connection through food. This is our priority, and we take that role very seriously. Please join us in making that human connection. Your donation, no matter what amount, will have a positive impact on the lives of our vulnerable seniors. Mahalo for your support!

Connecting to one another one meal at a time,

Michelle Cordero-Lee

Michelle Cordero-Lee
Chief Executive Officer

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