



P.O. Box 2786 Kamuela, HI 96743

Aloha Friends,

We hope this finds you well! We just wanted to give you a quarterly update of some of the things we have been doing.

A family of 7 with both parents working full time jobs, barely making ends meet each month. One of their babies got sick and needed to be hospitalized for a month on Oahu. One parent needed to be in the hospital with the baby and the other parent needed to be home with the other 4 children all under the age of 10. So, in that month both parents didn't receive full paychecks. Of course rent got behind, electricity on the verge of being turned off, realtors office called and said if back rent is not paid in FULL they would receive an eviction notice. A family of 7....where would they go? How would they be able to come up with first months rent, a deposit, turn the utilities on for a new place and still feed their family? When Mom got back from Oahu, she applied for assistance just for the time being, so they can get back on their feet. She applied for food stamps and WIC (milk, peanut butter, fruits, baby food). They received a denial letter stating that they do not qualify because they make \$5 and some change too much a month. BIGT jumped into action immediately and helped pay for the back rent, some of the electric bill and filled their cupboard and fridge with much needed food. This brought a sense of relief and a glimpse of hope for both Mom and Dad. Tears of gratitude streamed down Mom's face as we approached their apartment, she couldn't thank BIGT enough.

A family takes in their elementary school aged nephew because his father can no longer take care of him properly due to drug abuse. They didn't have a bed for their nephew so he slept on the couch. This child has already been through so much trauma, he needed to feel like he belonged in this home, so BIGT bought him a bed and bed frame. Now, he can sleep comfortably at night and doesn't need to feel like he was just staying for a night on the couch.

A family has lost their Mom/Wife to COVID. Mom passed away at home in December. Mom and Dad had been together since high school. Dad is beside himself and doesn't know how to deal with this tragedy. He moved to an outer island for work. He could not stay in the family home where his wife passed. Three of the girls lived in the home, the eldest of the 3 girls at home and her family of 5 also resided there. Last month the family of 5 needed to move because they were not respecting the home. They picked up, left with everything and just left 1 bed and 2 beach chairs for the other 2 girls, one is in her early 20's and the other just 14. Dad still upkeeps the mortgage payments and utilities for the 2 girls. The older of the 2 girls who still reside at the home, works full time on the coast while the 14-year-old goes to school. Dad comes to the Big Island to see the girls but does not come to the family home where his wife passed away. These girls have lost their mother, their older sister has moved, and so did their father. BIGT learned of this family and bought a bed and bed frame, we are still looking for decent clean living room furniture, a small dining room table and an area rug. Our goal is to make this

home feel welcoming, comfortable and cozy. We don't want them to feel abandoned or lost, we want them to feel loved and know that they matter. There are people who care about them and they are important.

We have also purchased non perishable foods for our Little Free Food Pantries. These pantries are open 24/7 in Waimea and Kohala for those who need food and are not able to come to the Food basket or Food Pantry distributions because they are working during those hours. We stock the pantries with protein, canned fruit, canned vegetables, staples, snacks, breakfast bars, protein shakes, bottled water and some ready to heat foods. We also leave sealed plastic ware for those who are on foot who eat out of the pantry. Sometimes the houseless will take a pudding cup, apple sauce, tuna pouch or can, Spaghetti O's etc. and eat it right then and there.

We do monthly outreaches in Pahoia as well as Oceanview bringing free clean clothing, basic need items, pet food, household items and so much more. A line usually forms before we even open, some wear the clothing right then and there.

During outreaches we have realized that many of our houseless on Hawaii Island have severe mental illness. Some may self-medicate with drugs and alcohol but some don't and are suffering with homelessness. Rental inventory is nearly non existent right now, so when families become houseless it is extremely difficult to find housing that 2 working adults in the household can afford. Becoming houseless and living out of your vehicle is VERY expensive. Not having a fridge for food but needing to keep a cooler cold with smaller amounts of food is very expensive not to mention the gas for the vehicle because they cannot stay in one area for a length of time or they can get fined for illegal overnight parking.

All that we do is made possible because of your donations. We are all volunteers and we do this because we care about our island communities and their families. We want stronger communities around Hawaii Island and touch those families who often fall in the gap, the elderly who live on a fixed income with no family, and the houseless community. Our mission is to bring God's light into dark places. We want to give each person we assist a glimpse of hope when they could be facing an unforeseen circumstance in their life.

Thank you so much for your continuous contributions and for believing in our program. We appreciate you and couldn't do all of this without you.

God Bless You,

First Quarter 2023