



P.O. Box 2786 Kamuela, HI 96743

Dear Friends,

We surely hope that this year has been treating you well, half of the year has flown by with the blink of an eye.

We wanted to continue to bring you quarterly updates with some highlights. This quarter our volunteers experienced quite a few emotional months.

Two young children ages 2 and 5 had been displaced along with their 3 older siblings when both parents were arrested for robbing several businesses and homes. The two younger children have been placed in foster care while the older siblings have been placed with their grandmother. The two younger children came with nothing except the clothing they were wearing. BIGT provided clothes, diapers, wipes, all the basic necessities, and food.

We have assisted 2 families who have lost their home to devastating fires. One family in North Kohala with 3 family members and a dog. As the family waited a couple days for the Red Cross, they were in immediate need of clothing, food and basic necessities. BIGT volunteers took a late-night shopping trip to Kona to buy several pairs of clothing/underwear, shoes, socks, and basic necessities to bless this family. Arriving in Kohala at around 11pm. volunteers delivered the goods to a family member who was still waiting for the Red Cross to arrive, no one showed up. All 3 family members were able to stay with close relatives in the same town while they waited for the insurance company to do its assessment.

The second family we assisted lost their home in Ka'u. There were 5 adults and a 2-year-old who resided at that residence. They not only lost their home but they also lost several vehicles. They were able to stay in a short-term rental for the time being. BIGT volunteers shopped for items that were needed for the toddler, a rice cooker, pots and pans to cook, household items and basic necessities for the whole family.

We were able to help an elderly woman return home to Hawaii from Idaho with an escort so she could start her chemotherapy where she had family. She lived alone and needed to be near her family so they could help take care of her while she received her treatments.

A houseless single mother with 5 children in Oceanview was finally given the opportunity to transition into a new apartment located in Waikoloa. She moved to Waikoloa with no money and no food stamps because being houseless is costly, having to buy groceries in Oceanview is very costly. The apartment this family moved to was bare and empty. BIGT provided beds with bed frames, sheets, pillow cases, bath towels, rugs, cooking utensils, pots and pans, a rice

cooker/Instapot, kitchen towels, shower curtains, drawer organizers, a living room couch, rubbish bins, all basic necessity items, diapers, wipes, baby items, etc. Volunteers also met mom on another day and took her to Goodwill to look for anything else her family needed. Upon one of the visits to the apartment, mom handed me an envelope, she said she just received her financial assistance and wanted to pay for our gas because she knew we needed to travel to get . That was such a sweet gesture, of course we declined and told her, this is a blessing for her and her children to start over. We wanted to make their transition as smooth as possible and didn't want them to be sleeping on the cold floor. She and one of her daughters cried tears of joy and showed their appreciation.

We also continue to partner with Downtown Pahoa Feed the People Ministry to feed the houseless in a hearty hot meal. This happens every second Wednesday and last Friday of the month. Most houseless in the Pahoa area are vegan, so fresh veggies are purchased from the farmers market to create hearty soups, curries and stews. L&L Pahoa also donates meals with a meat option.

In March we were gifted over 500 prom dresses by a very generous business owner who moved to the Big Island. BIGT volunteers set up a pop-up shop for high schoolers to come and try on dresses. They were able to take a FREE dress for prom, senior banquet night, and pictures. We still have over 400 dresses and they are being stored. Next season we plan to set up pop-ups on the East side as well as the West side.

We also continue to rent a walk-in freezer to store frozen food items and donations used for meals as well as food distributions.

We cannot thank you enough for your continued support. We cannot do what we do without all of your support.

May you be granted abundant blessings for your generosity!

Rhonda Bell

2nd quarter 2023