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Community groups awarded \$150K in grants

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September 23, 2009 12:00 am By Dennis Fujimoto - The Garden Island

KIPU — "If Annie Sinclair Knudsen were here today, she would be proud of you," said Tad Miura Jr., advisory committee chair of the Annie Sinclair Knudsen Memorial Fund administered by the Hawai'i Community Foundation.

Nineteen community-based organizations were presented grant awards totaling \$150,000, Tuesday, during an informal reception at the Kaua'i Humane Society.

This year's awards promote volunteerism and collaboration. The beneficiary organizations have demonstrated organizational and community effectiveness, states an HCF release.

The awards were presented to organizations that serve

Kaua'i's community in culture and the arts, education, environment and health and human services.

"We're honored to have this opportunity to steward Ms. Ruth Hanner's legacy," Miura said. "This is a milestone event, marking more than \$5 million into Kaua'i's community programs."

Hanner was the granddaughter of Annie Sinclair Knudsen and established the memorial fund in 1987 in honor of her grandmother. The Annie Sinclair Knudsen Memorial Fund has a broad purpose to "support organizations that benefit the people, flora and fauna of Kaua'i."

"This award is personal to me," said Judy Lenthall, director of the Kaua'i Food Bank, in accepting the award. "Besides using the funds to continue the Keiki Cafe program with the Boys & Girls Club Waimea Clubhouse, I am a Sinclair."

Beneficiary organizations joining the Kaua'i Food Bank include the Lihu'e Lutheran Church that works in collaboration with The Salvation Army in providing meals for about 7,000 people each Thursday through the Salvation Army's Kokua Soup Kitchen.



Board members from the Annie Sinclair Knudsen Fund greet representatives of beneficiary recipients during an informal reception Tuesday morning at the Kaua'i Humane Society classroom. Shown are board members Nancy Budd, Sonia Topenio and board chair Tad Miura Jr. Dennis Fujimoto/The Garden Island

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The Salvation Army's Kokua Kitchen, working in collaboration with the Kaua'i United Way and the Kaua'i Food Bank, helps to turn out about 20,000 meals annually through the Hanapepe and Lihue Corps.

Julie Blachowiak of the Kaua'i Children's Theater said grant funds will be used in the Theater's Pono Player program that, this year, is focused on bullying for middle school students and drug and alcohol abuse for high school students.

"The students write plays, perform and are available to answer questions following the performances from their peers," Blachowiak said.

The Teen Court program administered by Hale 'Opio will re-open on Nov. 1 due to community support, including the grant. The Girl Scout program serves about 200 young girls through its Commit to a Girl after school program that is in its sixth year.

Other beneficiary organizations include the Kaua'i Humane Society, the Alzheimer's Association of Kaua'i, Malama Pono/YWCA/Kaua'i Hospice, the Lihue Pop Warner Association, Kaiola Canoe Club, the Nature Conservancy of Kaua'i, Kaua'i Feral, Hawai'i Literacy, Hi'ilei Kaua'i, the Kaua'i Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Virtual Enterprise program at Kapa'a High School, and Hope, Health and Healing.

The Annie Sinclair Knudsen Memorial Fund supports broad-based community grants programs, organization capacity building grants for Kaua'i's nonprofit organizations, and Kaua'i's participation in the Foundation's PONO program, a nonprofit leadership program.

Established in 1916, the Hawai'i Community Foundation is a statewide, charitable services and grantmaking institution endowed with contributions from many donors. The HCF is a steward of more than 500 donor funds, including more than 150 scholarship funds, and distributes charitable funds to Hawai'i's nonprofit organizations through a variety of programs.

HCF also serves as a resource on philanthropy and community issues and trends.

For more information, visit www.HawaiiCommunityFoundation.org.

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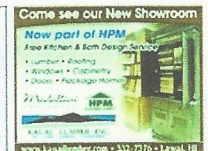
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