

Ohana Happenings

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Makana Pono Recipient Tod Yoshida



Tod Yoshida is an Islands Hospice CNA serving our West Oahu region. For the past four years, Tod has been providing companionship and personal care to patients and their families. As this month's Makana Pono recipient, Tod selected Hawaii Children's Cancer Foundation to receive the \$5,000 donation.

When a child is being treated for cancer, families often pay large associated expenses while experiencing disruption in income due to having to take time off from work to care for their child. Donations help to provide direct financial assistance to families in Hawaii with a child in cancer treatment, who may be experiencing related financial hardship.

"In my daily routine as a CNA for Islands Hospice, I provide companionship care," Todd explained.

"I would love to help support families who are in need of financial help through their difficult times."

The Hawaii Children's Cancer Foundation works to help children diagnosed with cancer, their families, and long-term survivors of childhood cancer. In addition to financial assistance, the foundation offers a wide range of programs to support families and children, including counseling. All donations contributed to the nonprofit stay right here in Hawaii to help ohana in their fight.

Tod is grateful that Makana Pono is far-reaching and supports a variety of worthy causes in the community. "I would like to thank Islands Hospice for all their support and contributions to organizations and charities in need."



TOD YOSHIDA, CNA
West Oahu

NONPROFIT:

HAWAII CHILDREN'S CANCER FOUNDATION



HAWAII CHILDREN'S CANCER FOUNDATION
SERVING THE NEEDS OF HAWAII'S FAMILIES COPING WITH CANCER





Hospice Hero West Oahu

MYRA ONDAYOG, COMMUNITY LIAISON

Islands Hospice’s community liaison, Myra Ondayog, is always surprised by the resilience and strength of hospice patients. She remembers taking 15 liters of oxygen to a patient who was unresponsive and seeing that same patient talking and eating just six months later.

“From that point, I realized that every person determines their fate. The mind and will are strong,” said Myra. “No family member, doctor, or nurse determines when a person will pass. I tell families that with hospice, it’s one day at a time, and your loved one will determine when he or she is ready for the next journey.”

For the past nine years, Myra has been in the field as a community liaison. She educates hospital staff, nursing home staff and doctors on the many services Islands Hospice provides to their patients and the community. She is often the first person that the family meets to learn about care options and helps to put them at ease. Myra also works to dispel any myths or stigmas relating to hospice care and helps hospitals with discharge planning, DME, transportation and coordinating admissions with the intake team.

Myra received an associate’s degree in marketing at the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising in Los Angeles, California. After spending 16 years in the retail industry as a manager, assistant buyer and assistant HR manager, Myra decided it was time for a change and went back to school to earn her bachelor’s degree in accounting from UH West Oahu. She had a brief stint at a CPA firm and at Cycle City, but after a few years working with numbers, she realized something was missing. “I loved numbers, but I missed interacting with people.”

Myra ended up in marketing at Ka Panuwai Ola, a skilled nursing and rehabilitation center. There, she became familiar with working in a care setting and built relationships with hospital social workers and elderly patients. Although she worked at a nursing home, she didn’t have many hospice patients, so when she joined Islands Hospice in 2011, she was a little apprehensive. Fortunately, her husband supported her decision and reinforced the fact that her new career would allow her to do great things for the community as an “educator” for people in tough positions.

“Every member of our company plays an important part in our patients’ and their families’ lives.”

During her spare time, Myra enjoys cruising with her husband of 24 years on his motorcycle, relaxing in their backyard with their four adult children and six grandchildren, with one more grandchild on the way in September 2020.

CARE IN THE TIME OF COVID-19



As the world faces this unprecedented global pandemic, full of stress and uncertainty, we want to thank everyone in the Islands Hospice ohana for being vigilant and flexible during this time. Please continue to do all you can to provide outstanding safety and care to our patients, their families, and our community, and do not hesitate to reach out to management if you have any questions or concerns. Please stay safe and take care of yourself and loved ones. We will overcome these challenges together and be better people as a result.

Believing in the power of love, kindness, faith, and strength in numbers, we invite anyone who is able and willing to join Kim Leland and the Islands Hospice ohana each morning at 8 am for a moment of silence and prayer for healing, compassion and understanding.

NEW HIRES

Jerome Cadiz
Lalaine Estrada
Arlene Roche
Lacy Fecher
Daniel Pak
Sierra Foster
Steffen Gambino





Hospice Hero Town

GLENN SCHEIB, SPIRITUAL CARE PROVIDER

As a spiritual care provider, Glenn Scheib supports patients and families of all faiths from all over Oahu in spiritual care. If they have religious faith, Glenn helps them draw strength and comfort from it. If they aren't religious, Glenn helps patients find peace and meaning in their life as they approach their earthly end.

"I do not strive to replace their permanent pastor or win souls for the Lord. My goal is to help hospice patients find a positive outlook on the life they have already lived, evaluate how they feel about their illness, make peace with their family and friends, and look forward to their future with hope."

Glenn Scheib grew up in a small town in Pennsylvania and had an active childhood participating in Boy Scouts, hunting, church, sports and study. He wanted to become a PA state trooper or an Army Green Beret soldier, but an accident in high school wrestling set him on a new course. "Before my accident, my pastor pulled me aside and told me he thought I'd make a good Minister. I laughed. but eventually, that's the direction I felt God was calling me."

To this day, Glenn stays deeply connected to his home church in Pennsylvania. "Every week they send me the worship bulletin, and in October they send me a box of Christmas cookies, as they have for 30 years. They are my spiritual family and I cherish their love."

After joining the seminary, Glenn served three separate multi-church charges, then became an Army chaplain, serving in the Army Reserve and as an Army active duty chaplain for 22 years. Helping military veterans remember and celebrate their service to our country and reflecting on how their service affected the rest of their life is one of his greatest joys.

Working in this field has allowed him to meet some pretty fascinating people. One patient he fondly remembers was a German soldier who survived a battle, joined a medical aid convoy, surrendered to Americans, and later made his way to relatives in the States, where he joined the U.S. Navy and retired as a commander.

In 2014, Glenn joined Islands Hospice, where he provides comfort and guidance to our island families. In his spare time, he enjoys raising fruit trees, watching his grandson play soccer, building muzzle-loading rifles and reading up on military history.

Volunteer Spotlight



PAULETTE FEENEY

Paulette Feeney clearly remembers the first two patients she met while volunteering with Islands Hospice. "The first patient allowed me to feed her at dinnertime and wanted some scripture reading and prayers afterward. Her face lit up with joy when we concluded with Our Father before saying our good-byes," Paulette recalled.

The second patient she met felt like "a long-lost friend." Together, they reminisced about earlier days that made her life worthwhile. "It was a privilege to share such moments with these individuals," Paulette reflected.

After losing a parent and three siblings to cancer, Paulette wanted to support others going through the difficult experience. For the past four years, she has volunteered at Islands Hospice, and has been a light to many in times of darkness.

She provides respite to families and patients in end-care facilities.

Paulette starts her shift by signing in, saying hello to staff and residents. She is then off to see patients. If they are asleep, she plays music from her phone and if awake, she introduces herself and talks with them. Over the years, Paulette has learned that some patients can express more than others, and she goes with their flow.

Although officially retired, Paulette lives a busy life practicing yoga and tai chi and taking other exercise classes at the YMCA two to three times a week. She volunteers with her community association as a block captain and remains the point person for her neighborhood for emergencies. We are thankful Paulette manages to fit volunteering with Islands Hospice into her busy schedule and are grateful for her genuine compassion and positive attitude.



ASK THE EXPERT



JAMES IBBAY, RN

Director of
Clinical Services

Hydration and nutrition at the end of life

Food and water may seem essential to life, but for a person with a serious, life-limiting illness, the question of whether or not to provide artificial hydration and nutrition is not always so straightforward.

Artificial hydration and nutrition are undeniably sensitive topics for everyone involved in hospice care. This process is used on patients who have difficulty swallowing food and drinking. Doctors can provide nutrition and hydration through intravenous administration or by putting a tube in the stomach. However, when a person is at the end of life, the body begins to shut down because of the disease and dying process, not because of a lack of food or liquid. Studies show that artificial nutrition and hydration does not prolong the life of a patient at the end of life. Instead of being beneficial, it may even cause discomfort or complications that can diminish quality of life.

This is a difficult conversation to have with patients and their families, but patients have the right to know what treatments will be involved with their care. There are also matters of religious and cultural beliefs to consider. Patients should not be left in the dark with regards to the pros and cons of a treatment.

Deciding whether to prioritize hydration and nutrition should be made on a case-by-case basis. Aside from religious and cultural values, it involves ethical, medical and legal issues as well. Talking to the patient or their family is an important part of providing the right care. As health care providers, we should be kind, yet honest and firm regarding artificial nutrition and hydration. We have to lay everything out for the patient or family to understand what this process involves in order for them to make a decision without burdening them emotionally.

If our patients or their families decide not to move forward with artificial hydration and nutrition, we can encourage other actions to help keep them comfortable:

- Have family members offer small sips of water and ice chips if the patient can still drink. Keep the patient's lips and mouth moist with swabs or a wet washcloth.
- If the patient asks for a particular food or drink, honor that request as much as possible.
- Let family members know they can provide other forms of nourishment, such as holding hands, playing music, singing, visiting with a pet, or providing gentle massage.



Maui Corner



SHERON HANKS

Director of Clinical
Services Assistant

How long have you worked at Islands Hospice?

Just over four and a half years.

What do you do at Islands Hospice?

I work as a DCSA, helping the DCS and supporting the field staff. I also fill in and make nursing/aide visits as needed to ensure coverage. I cover one week a month as the Administrator on Call for the evenings and weekends.

What is a typical workday like?

I work in the office to support the field staff in order for them to care for our patients. I take care of the ordering of supplies, assist with auditing, and occasionally cover field nurse or CNA visits if there's a need.

Have you held any other positions here?

CNA, LPN

What is your favorite part about working at Islands Hospice?

I love my Maui team. We all work together to do what's best for our patients.

Where did you grow up? What is your background?

I grew up here on Maui and attended Maui Community College for nursing school. I have been an LPN for 18 years now. I have an 8-year-old daughter who keeps me on my toes. I took a break from nursing for a few years and got a degree in Early Childhood Education and worked as a preschool teacher for a while but found my way back to nursing when I started at Islands Hospice almost 5 years ago.

What inspired you to work at Islands Hospice?

I have always had a passion for working with the elderly and sick. Hospice was new to me when I started at Islands Hospice but I truly enjoy the work that we do.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to read, take my daughter swimming, and spend time with my family when I do have free time.

