

# Ohana Happenings

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## *Makana Pono: Employee Giving Program*

AVA GAILE TACATA, REGISTERED NURSE

ORGANIZATION:

LIGHT MISSION THROUGH NEW HOPE LEEWARD

***For many people, access to clean water is easy and plentiful. Water flows from our kitchen and bathroom taps. It can be hard to imagine life without access to this vital resource. Yet, some families in the Philippines lack adequate access to potable water, which has an enormous impact on their health and safety.***

June's Makana Pono awardee, Ava Gaile Tacata, RN, hopes to help families gain access to clean water. She selected the LIGHT Mission through New Hope Leeward to receive her \$5,000 Makana Pono contribution.

The LIGHT Mission through New Hope Leeward is working to install filtration systems in the small barrio of the Southern Philippines. Since the project started, community health has improved and the area has seen fewer cases of water-related illnesses. The Makana Pono contribution will help expand the project.

"When I first saw a video clip of what the mission does, I was moved," said Ava. "It makes me happy to help the families with something as simple as gaining access to clean and potable water through the installation of a cleaning system."

In July, Ava will celebrate her two-year anniversary of joining Islands Hospice as a hospice nurse. During her work week, she visits and assesses patients, making sure that they are in a comfortable state. She helps patients manage symptoms and provides support to families. She also helps train new nurses and promotes quality customer care.

Ava is a supporter of Compassion International, a child sponsorship and Christian humanitarian organization, and HUGS, a group working to strengthen Hawaii's families with seriously ill children.

"I am grateful for this recognition. Thank you to those who nominated me," said Ava. "Most of all I am happy to be used and a vessel of God's hand to touch those I encounter. To God be the glory!"



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ISLANDS HOSPICE



***Congratulations to Ashley Ladi who earned her Master of Social Work from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Ashley currently works for Islands Hospice as a Bereavement Assistant. She teamed up with the Islands Transitional Care team to complete her practicum.***



## ***Hospice Hero Town***

STACIE MCCABE,  
REGISTERED NURSE

***Families want to know their loved one is getting the best care possible during the final weeks or months of their life. That's where Islands Hospice RNs, like Stacie McCabe, step in. She provides medical care to patients, and also works to alleviate concerns and empower families through education. Helping families become more knowledgeable about their loved one's condition and gain confidence in their decision making, is a rewarding feeling.***

"I feel that I have helped them by giving them the tools they need to make their loved one comfortable and improve their quality of life," she explained.

Stacie worked as a CNA and waitress while studying nursing at HPU and became the first in her family to receive a bachelor's degree. Right out of college, she worked at a long-term care facility in Kaneohe for two years. There, she met hospice nurses coming in and out of the facility and became curious about hospice care. She realized that the mission of hospice, and the hours and flexibility, were perfect for her lifestyle, so she joined the Islands Hospice ohana about two years ago. Her schedule allows her to do more of what she loves, including reading, watching movies and spending time with her daughters, Taylor and Alexis.

Stacie is a part of "Team Blessings" and credits all of her teammates for a wonderful work environment. "I have never worked with a team of people so dedicated and committed to providing exceptional care to our patients and families, as well as each other," she said. "Every person on my team has helped me grow to be the hospice nurse that I am today."





## Hospice Hero West Oahu

JONATHAN WESSEL,  
ADMINISTRATIVE/  
SUPPLIES ASSISTANT

Jonathan Wessel interfaces with all of Islands Hospice's nurses and CNA staff on a weekly basis through his role as an administrative and supplies assistant. In addition to managing the supply requests for staff members out in the field, he also provides support and aloha to everyone he comes in contact with. The kindness he shows to his fellow coworkers, especially during difficult times, makes him our West Oahu Hospice Hero.

Jonathan ensures that every CNA and nurse has the items they need to serve their patients. "I get to see everyone so often that it allows me to get to know them better," Jonathan explained. "Getting to see how passionate they are about the people they help has been my favorite part about working at Islands Hospice."

He is often among the first to see CNAs or nurses after a patient passes away and is always there to offer hugs and comfort. "Seeing the grieving process they go through, and the support their Islands Hospice brothers and sisters provide, is a very powerful thing. I'm a hugger, so please if you ever feel like you need a hug, don't hesitate to ask."

Jonathan was born and raised on Oahu and graduated from Saint Louis High School. He earned his bachelor's degree in kinesiology rehab science from UH Manoa. Initially, he planned on becoming a nurse, but ended up changing majors to kinesiology. "The idea of wanting to help people and work in the medical field never left me, and that was a big factor in applying to Islands Hospice," he explained.

Jonathan is grateful for his coworkers who helped him through his initial months and continue to offer assistance every day. "People like my boss Lavie, for showing me the ropes and being patient with me. Or people like Kevin, who always covers for me when I'm not in the office, and so many others. I couldn't do this without all you guys," said Jonathan.

## Volunteer Spotlight



LIYAN WAN

Liyan Wan used to live in a monastery, where along with her monastery sisters and brothers, she performed weekly acts of service. Even though she is no longer part of the monastery, acts of service continue to be an important part of her life.

Since 2018, Liyan has served as a volunteer at Islands Hospice, helping numerous patients and their families get through difficult times. One patient, she recalled, was experiencing high anxiety, but their weekly prayers together helped that person get to a place of calm. "She sensed my empathy and expressed appreciation for our friendship.

This feedback let me know that I was making a difference in her life," Liyan said.

While Liyan enjoys interacting with patients, she finds joy in working behind the scenes at Islands Hospice's office, too. "I experience purpose and gratitude in letter-folding for mass mailings as I get to seal love and blessings into the envelopes for each family that it reaches."

In addition to volunteering with Islands Hospice, Liyan helps with beach cleanups and volunteers with Hapa Mana, an organization dedicated to giving keiki access to free youth athletics. She is also the owner of Meerkat Academics, an education company specializing in tutoring for STEM subjects.



# ASK THE EXPERT



KIM LELAND

CEO of Islands Hospice

## *A Brief History of Hospice Care*

*While the concept of hospice has been around for centuries, modern hospice practices and facilities dedicated specifically to this type of care have sprung up only within the last 100 years.*

*In the U.S., hospice as we know it today came about even more recently than one would think.*

The modern hospice movement all started when one determined woman had the courage and leadership to share her cherished beliefs and philosophies on medical care across cities and oceans. This gave way to a whole new system dedicated to helping millions of people each year die with comfort and dignity. When we look back at our industry's history, we can see the progress that has been made, all while keeping the original mission and purpose intact.

### **A DIFFERENT KIND OF CARE**

Most people believe hospice care is founded upon the work of English nurse and social worker, Dame Cicely Saunders. After seeing a loved one suffer through a terminal disease, she realized that people needed holistic end-of-life care that encompassed mental, physical and emotional needs. Most of all, she believed in a system that was patient-centered, ensuring that care was respectful of and responsive to the individual's preferences, needs and values, and not just medical symptoms.

Dame Cicely eventually became a doctor and opened up St. Christopher's Hospice in London. Soon, patients with serious, untreatable conditions began leaving their sterile hospital environments to spend their remaining moments surrounded by the warmth and love of their family. Around this time, Dame Cicely became highly regarded and gained recognition around the world for her perspective on dying and care.

It wasn't until 1974 that hospice became institutionalized in the U.S., starting with Connecticut Hospice in Branford, Connecticut. This was the birth of the American hospice movement. Studies and program demonstrations continued and in 1983, President Reagan signed Medicare hospice benefits into law, which covered care for most hospice beneficiaries.

### **HOSPICE TODAY**

Today, more people are dying at home than in hospitals, a remarkable historic reversal. With this trend, families need more support than ever to provide the right type of care to their loved ones. Almost 1.5 million Medicare beneficiaries were enrolled in hospice in 2017, and that number seems to be increasing each year.

Despite our changing world and evolving methods, theories and practices, we remain bonded to our history and Dame Cicely's mission to keep the patient at the center of care.





## Maui Corner



SHELLEY PLATIRO

Licensed Social Worker

**How long have you worked at Islands Hospice?** Almost 5 years

**What do you do at Islands Hospice?** I am a licensed social worker for Islands Hospice Maui. I help the clinical team with the psychosocial needs of our patients and families, including legal paperwork, long-term placement and navigating through the Medicaid process.

**Describe a typical workday.** I coordinate with staff on social work needs and visit about four patients a day. A lot of my time is more administrative — I coordinate and arrange services via phone calls and assist with paperwork to coordinate placement, health insurance, etc.

**Have you held any other positions here?** I started as an LSW in 2013 at Islands Hospice Oahu. I later joined the Maui team in 2015.

**What is your favorite part about working at Islands Hospice?** The people I get to meet through this journey. From coworkers to patients to family members, I enjoy working with others, trying my best to make a difference.

**Do you have any special memories from your time working here?**

Too many to share! However, one patient in particular will always stay in my heart. She lived alone on Maui, trying her best to be independent. We bonded quickly while I helped her get her affairs in order before she passed at our IPU. She taught me the importance of taking care of myself on a spiritual level.

**What is your background?** I'm born and raised on Maui. I lived on Oahu for about 15 years before returning to Maui. I went to UH Manoa for my Master of Social Work degree.

**Is there anything about your background that inspired you to work at Islands Hospice/in hospice care?** I was practically raised by my grandparents, so I always knew I wanted to work with the elderly. At UH Manoa I took a couple of end-of-life courses that I found very interesting. After the death of a loved one I knew hospice was where I needed to be.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?** I enjoy spending time with family. I love spending money and shopping!

**Is there anything else you want to share with your fellow colleagues?** I love my Maui ohana and truly value the friendships I have gained.

