

A CUP OF COLD WATER SNAPSHOTS & REFLECTIONS – JULY 2014

July 30, 2014 - (Deb Lynch, Soot Bredhoff, Ev Senter and Kit Hart hosting Registered Nurse/ UH Maui/Instructor Carol Petith-Zbiciak. Carol and her Husband Cris have generously given to ACCW as Carol continues to explore ways to offer medical treatment to the homeless) Served: 76, Mileage: 20+ Excerpts from Deb Lynch's in-depth snapshot:

Next stop River Mouth - the ladies came to the van (no men this time) and one wonderful lady asked if we could all pray for Maui. "It is so despondent, and so many things are going wrong - we need God's light to shine upon us." So we all held hands and prayed and she gave the tenderest, heartfelt plea to God to help our island and all who live here. She could give sermons!

Then on to the makai beach stop at Lower Main, before the Kahului Harbor. The clients dashed over to us, "A&B sent their Security and forbids the Salvation Army to drive over their land to serve us! And they are coming for you too!" Quick - we get food and hygiene for them and cruise out. Before we leave, we also serve a new family - a 4 week old baby with mom and dad. "Diapers, really you have diapers? How wonderful!!! My son was born on father's Day!" Big smile.

One dear, limping, bent over, aged man - a veteran, who can't get medical care. No money for transportation and then feels shunned by the medical personnel. One younger man, "You are a Godsend, always! I haven't eaten in 2 days."

We turn at Kane St and there, beside Family Life center (where we usually park) are 6 police units. But they are just all standing there out of their vehicles. "Are they waiting for US?" (reflecting on the trespass warning). There's the A&B Security Guard, hands on hips scowling at us. Cruise around the block again. Back to Vevau and parked there. We wave to a couple of clients. They come over, then a few more, and then more! At least 30! "They (A&B Security) are so mean! There was one old guy, lame leg, couldn't move fast enough for them to get off the property so they called the police to arrest him. I mean, he could hardly walk! No heart, no heart." Shake of heads. I tell them, "Please let tell folks we will still serve you. We will park here. We may have to adjust, but we will still be here for you." (Apparently the police weren't waiting for us, but an out-of-control lady who ran off - they were waiting for her return).

And back to GSC. 76 clients served. Quiet prayers for peace and strength, to soften hardened hearts, to watch over our clients, and to thank God for showing us how kind and gentle most of our clients are. Please guide us in this mission, most gracious Lord and Savior. Amen.

July 27, 2014 - (Keku Akana, Shirley Falcon, Amy Shim) Served: 44, Mileage: 33

Excerpts posted from Keku Akana: I get to join two wonderful women, Shirley Falcon from New Hope Chapel and Amy Shim from St. Johns. We serve 5-6 behind ABC store in North Kihei. George, an ACCW regular since our Oct 2013 launch always has some good line's. *"I don't care what they say about you folks, you are alright!"*

We get busy at both Kalama Parks 20-30+ ish and role thru Charley Young's and the Kamaole's A's we pull into Kam III, we spot some Good Shepherd families having a nice barbecue. We serve only 2 folks there , including the handicapped, wheel chair bound lady....who wants to tell Keku that her boyfriend is "locked up again..." We serve one off of Welakahao and strike out off of Halekuai (after several Tsunami sized horn blowing). I notice that Amy and Shirley incite larger than usual smile's from our clients...just something about women and women who show effortless love.....lucky them. Lucky us.

Amy, Shirley and Keku talk plenty story...our churches, our spiritual walk, grand kids, life in general. We laugh plenty. The mission ends quickly. We return to and re-stock. We all agree, it was another wonderful Sabbath day of service. I walk off... silent prayer, "God, thank you for these wonderful people, thank you for making them part of the ACCW team...everyone of them"

Comments:

"Pineapples, definitely pineapples... I don't have a knife, but I will find a knife for that pineapple."

"You wouldn't spare that blanket, would you?" Reply: "Its yours!"

"No fish steaks (sardines)?"

" You know what, you guys, i mean you guys are awesome.... I ask for food for two, even though it's only me and my friend is way over there sleeping but you trust me and give me food for two."

"I'll eat what eva..."

"Reading glasses...reading glasses!!...Oh yah...do you know what its like when you can't read...it drives me crazy."

July 26, 2014 - (Duke Casper, Lani Scott, Nalani Pollack and our Faithful rider Father Bill Albinger) Served: 62, Mileage: 55

Excerpts posted from Duke Casper: Auntie Lorna, and Uncle Ernest are first stop at their camper in Ukumehame. As we are loading them up with goodies for two families, Uncle Ernest tells us they are moving to a new location as of August 2. They will wait for us on Saturday morning by an open field (nearby).

Mario, Kim , and August greet us at the stone wall. Doggies out front remember the biscuits from our last visit, and are first at the van. August gives us a coolerful of fruit to pass on to folks up the road.

A young,well dressed, handsome haole fellah greets us at the shelter above the aquatic center. Mark is his name. Smiles like we're old friends. COCW served him and his buddies many times on the central Maui run. *"So happy to be out of my car and into real living space. I'm on disability. Developed Multiple Sclerosis recently. Can't seem to do the same work all the time. I like doing different things for a short period,and then on to some other job. Not easy ,but I do get a check from the government. Still really hard to find my own place. Nobody calls me back. Thank you so much for what you guys do for us. "*

We meet father Bill at Holy Innocents. More fresh treats for our customers. Kimo Simpliciano, a local Lahaina farmer (and surfing buddy) has dropped off bananas and tomatoes for our customers. His farm supplies numerous local restaurants with beautiful organic fruits,veggies and nuts-Simpli Fresh Produce. At Tennis courts , we see Celeste,who has some good news for us today. Celeste, middle aged haole woman, paper thin in her flower print house dress ,proudly tells us about her son. " he's working with Chef Keef at the Hula Grill in Ka'anapali. I'm so proud of him. He doesn't drink or do drugs. He's a little stubborn ,though. He likes to walk home after work. Sometimes it takes him 3 hours. "

Banyan tree is hot and busy today. Many of the regulars greet us with smiles, jokes, and heartfelt thank yous.

Miss Nymph from New York, finally tells me her real name. She is a basket case today. Father Bill and I listen and watch her as she suddenly plops down on her blanket and proceeds to devour a can of sardines. Things wind down and we prepare to leave. Patricia needs a blessing, Father Bill offers,and we say the Our Father together.

Mala Wharf seems to be a magnet for disturbing situations. Kendra tells us her story through eyes brimming with tears. Raped by a trusted teacher at 11 years, she finds it difficult to maintain relationships. Recently divorced, loss of custody rights with her newborn, and fighting drug and alcohol temptations, she is finding it difficult to obtain shelter, and employment. Father Bill gives her a heartfelt blessing, we offer referral info and we depart.

Run into some old customers at Honu restaurant parking lot. Last stop, Bible thumper Stanley. Father Bill asks Stanley if he got his new pants yet. Negative replies Stanley. Father Bill says he' ll pick him up a pair later today and drop them off. Big smile, thank yous and Stanley resumes his western watch at Waihikuli.

Special thanks to Lani and Nalani. They were wonderful with the people today. Special Royal Hawaiian Aloha. Peace and God Bless us all. Duke

July 23, 2014 - (Taskie Hoopii, Paul Javier, Kit Hart) Served: 44, Mileage: 21

Excerpts posted from Kit Hart: A woman shared her story of family concerns; a long struggle with kids & grand kids. We listened and encouraged her through tears & seeing strength in her marriage & faith. A long time Kanaha camper very stooped, asked if he looked bad. I said he looked uncomfortable. He said docs said scoliosis. Asked if in pain, he said he was. Another long timer with infected looking cuts. Suggested ER visit. Taski called paramedics for a fellow on Alamaha St. We need to pray for many health concerns. We were advised by a security person that meeting folks on property between library & Foodland is trespassing. (Keku advised - advisory sent to the Team)

July 20, 2014 - (Larry Brown, Peggy Santos Cora Brown) Served: 19, Mileage: 34 - The weather is threatening and Larry is assessing the day early. Larry reports a slow south Maui run, with good

engagement and "talk story time". Larry & Cora have a long day as they return from Kihei and prepare the Van for the monthly St. Joseph Catholic Church Breaking Bread Ministry run. The ECW led by Louise Aloy prepared 25 plus school supply bags for this special mission. ACCW also takes up plenty of kids clothes, wahine clothes, etc. BJ Santiago is also getting his first St. Joseph Church "rep" as our run leaders experience how the outreach works. Threatening weather doesn't stop the Breaking Bread Ministry team or the ACCW van crew....Rorick "Rick" Kramer relayed, *"We served over 100 meals....and please tell your church, thank you, thank you for the school supplies."* They exhausted all of their hot meals. Louise and Cora take care of the school supply distribution. Another day of service out of gratitude for the greatest gift in life...Yashua, Christ our Lord.

July 19, 2014 - (BJ Santiago, Kit Hart, Rev. Pat McCoughen - from Episcopal News Service) Served: 44, Mileage : 50 - Some of our scheduled team members "pass" on their run to allow Rev Pat to experience the West Maui Run. Excerpts posted from Kit Hart: Enjoyable West side run yesterday with Pat & Keith, visiting priests from Upland, CA. BJ at the helm. Pat took notes for Episcopal News & Keith took pictures. New fellow by the library came to Maui for work, had problems with a professional license & ran out of funds. He was appreciative of a nice button-down shirt for a 2nd job interview. First time with a woman at Mala, told her story of her sons kidnapped. She asked for prayer; we held hands & prayed for her. Fewer folks at the banyan, several on way into Lahaina & GSC.

July 16, 2014 - ACCW In-reach Collective (Kit Hart, Dcn. Cris South, Paula Baldwin, Ren. Linda Decker) On a Kihei run, we pull in on a random male looking 'down and depressed', he says, "I lost my kids, my wife, my job... I am in that car right there," tears running down his face...we let him talk, we let him cry, we keep silent and keep giving him supplies and referral information. We ponder the irony of a man in total despair, living in his car very near two churches. Remembering that we are called to share the gifts of God with one another and with the poor of the world, hear this ancient Celtic prayer:

Each thing we have received, from you it came, O God. Each thing for which we hope, from your love it will be given. Kindle in our hearts within a flame of love to our neighbours, to our foes, to our friends, to our loved ones all. From the lowliest thing that lives, to the name that is highest of all. Amen