

HCOA Vision: Age with Honor. HCOA Mission: Help older individuals live independently with dignity.

Hawai'i County Office of Aging Report April 2019

Hawai'i Island "No Wrong Door" In Action

Janus Garramone and Ravi, her son with severe disabilities, were living a life filled with love as Kapoho residents for over thirty years until the Kilauea eruption in 2018. Their home was five streets away from infamous fissure eight, and on May 30th another 40 residents were evacuated. Janus, and Ravi, who must be transported by ambulance, moved in with a friend in Hawaiian Paradise Park. Janus stated this was a blessing; and it turned out to be the first of many critical and compassionate connections. However, the air quality exacerbated Ravi's condition over time.

A rental property with a ramp and wide doorway necessary for Ravi to pass through with his legs outstretched was generously provided as a temporary shelter where they stayed for over eight weeks.

Aloha Independent Living Hawai'i (AILH) East Hawai'i Specialist Emily Bartlett-Henry reached out to Janus. Janus explained her son's 24x7 care team of nurses, CNAs and habilitation technicians dissolved because they also lost their homes or were otherwise impacted by the Kilauea eruption disaster. With great tenacity repeatedly demonstrated, Janus began rebuilding the team. Then, cost-prohibitive monthly rent loomed in April. Emily contacted AILH Executive Director Roxanne Bolden, a domino effect of cascading open doors spread as all community partners took action with great due diligence, taken to a higher level given government shutdown blockades into January 2019.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i Community Director Elizabeth "Beth" Naholowaa Murph opened the door stating: 'We can do this.' Janus au-

thorized access to financial records for funding and referral purposes and blissfully stated she now started to feel her mojo come back. Super.

Janus used her home insurance to buy a home in Hawaiian Paradise Park Kaloii area. The house had no ramp and Emily promptly contacted **HPM**, and Safety and Internal Control Manager Darrell Olivera immediately replied.

Olivera opened the door to HPM manufacturing team's labor to build the ramp and provide a forklift to lift Ravi's 500-pound wheelchair. A materials list was created in collaboration with **Gilbert Alquinaldo**. The \$10,000 list was vetted by HPM and Catholic Charities; Catholic Charities partially funded the need. Superb.

Habitat for Humanity joined in and initiated building the ramp. First-rate.

The **Salvation Army** Hawaiian & Pacific Islands Divisional Director of Emergency Services & Safety Victor Leonardi announced they would fund the full \$10,000. Outstanding.

The **Shriner's** partnered with HCOA ADRC in Hilo providing labor and space, respectively, to repair wheelchairs for Kilauea disaster victims and Ravi. Door to door. Excellent.

This ten-month, super-awesome success story of a mom and her boy with severe disabilities finding a home and a circle of support through the "No Wrong Door" Aging Network is a distinctive tribute to the Hawai'i County community and individuals collaborating as one. Ravi's unwavering, joyous spirit continues to infuse everyone he meets with heartwarming awareness of it's utmost significance and it's service.

