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Assets School Adopts Lokahi Family in the Spirit of Giving

Students Deliver Personal and Household Items to Local Family of Nine Members

By Dyanna Okazaki, 12/16/2009 1:25:56 PM

"There's more?," said the family's case worker, who greeted Assets School students a few days ago as they passed presents from one person to the next in assembly-line form, loading up The Lokahi Giving Project truck. From canned foods to household goods and special presents, the students kept the gifts coming. Jason Wagner, Assets School Dean of Student Activities, described how thrilled the social worker was for these gifts for the deserving family.

"This is an important part of what we do at Assets because it instills a sense of civic responsibility in our students," said Wagner, who proposed the idea last year and started what is now a new Assets' tradition. "In addition, the children learn that it feels good to help others."

Senior student Darrin Chinen remarked, "It was very heartwarming not only for us but for the family as well because we gave our gift of Aloha to a family in need, and in return received the gift of Aloha back. I think this is what Lokahi is all about." Another Senior student, Courtney-Cree Aponte, added, "It was really nice to see the behind-the-scenes collaboration of how they get everything organized. It was amazing to see how many people come and donate things for needy families and take time out of their day to do that."

The Assets School Student Senate spearheaded the school-wide campaign, implementing creative fundraising ideas such as using snack sales to generate money for purchases. According to Wagner, requests by Lokahi are different this year from years' past. Families are asking mostly for food.

The Lokahi Giving Project provides people with opportunities to relieve the burden of struggling individuals and families, especially the working 'gap group', through donations of goods, cash equivalents, enriching experiences, and advocacy. Lokahi works hand-in-hand with over 200 non-profit agencies, shelters, group homes, hospitals, churches, and schools to verify and meet the needs of the most deserving families and individuals.

Assets School is an independent school for gifted and/or dyslexic children that provides an individualized, integrated learning environment. Assets' environment empowers these children to maximize their potential and to find their places as lifelong learners in school and society. For more information, visit <http://www.assets-school.net>

Dyanna Okazaki is the Associate Director of Development for Assets School

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