



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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MAUI YMCA LAUNCHES CHILDCARE PROGRAM DURING FALL BREAK FOR 200 KEIKI AFFECTED BY MAUI WILDFIRES, SUPPORTED BY \$250,000 FROM THE MAUI STRONG FUND

Program Offers Enrichment Activities and Transportation for K-8th Grade Students

LAHAINA, MAUI — Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) and the Maui Family YMCA today announced an after-school childcare program designed to support the needs of displaced families impacted by the devastating Maui wildfires. The \$250,000 grant was made possible by donations to the Maui Strong Fund, which was created to support evolving needs, including food, grief counseling, rental support, and other services as identified by HCF partners doing critical work on Maui. As of September 29, HCF has awarded \$25 million from its Maui Strong Fund to 120 organizations.

"The Maui YMCA is a dedicated partner, providing quality care and enriching programs for our keiki during these difficult times," says Micah Kāne, chief executive officer and president of HCF. "Thanks to our donors, we are glad to support this organization in its efforts to uplift the communities affected by the wildfires."

The grant supports the Maui YMCA'S day camp program at the Westin Kā'anapali which runs Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. during the Fall 2023 break. The program began on September 25 and will continue for the fall intersession and beyond, with the capacity to serve over 200 students from kindergarten through eighth grade who have been temporarily housed at the Westin and sister properties since the fires of August 8. Enrichment activities include dance, music, theater, physical fitness, and tutoring. Transportation is also provided for students between the distance learning hubs located in West Maui and their camp activities.

"Getting our kids engaged and back to some sense of normalcy is so important. We are happy to partner with the Westin and other organizations to provide a safe and fun haven for our keiki," says Mike Morris, CEO of Maui Family YMCA. "We are grateful for the support of the Hawai'i Community Foundation to make it all happen."

The fires on Maui have displaced thousands of families, creating an urgent need for essential services, including childcare. The Lahaina Advisory Team, created by Maui Mayor Bissen has identified childcare as one of the top priority needs on Maui.

The YMCA is currently seeking additional locations to increase their reach and services to provide a long term solution for child care for displaced households.

HCF has a unique role in disaster preparedness and response. The organization collaborates with partners, both inside and outside philanthropy, for a coordinated effort to secure maximum community impact. HCF has demonstrated its ability to raise funds quickly—and deploy grants rapidly to community organizations that are at the heart of emergency response efforts.

For more information on the program please email TheY@mauiymca.org.

*****VISUALS*****

Images of the YMCA camp can be [found here](#). Please credit MAUI YMCA.

For nonprofit organizations seeking funding from the Maui Strong Fund, please visit the HCF website [here](#) for detailed instructions on how to apply for a grant from the Maui Strong Fund.

For donations to the Maui Strong Fund at HCF, please visit <https://www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/maui-strong>.

For questions or additional information on giving, please contact Donor Services at (808) 566-5560 or donorservices@hcf-hawaii.org.

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About Hawai'i Community Foundation & Maui Strong Fund

The vision of the Hawai'i Community Foundation is to create an equitable and vibrant Hawai'i in which all our Island communities thrive. With our more-than-105-year history, our trusted expertise, and the generous support of donors, we are working to address the root causes of our state's most difficult challenges, including expanding access to affordable housing, conserving fresh water resources, and ensuring the healthy development of Hawai'i's young children. HCF works in communities across Hawai'i, with offices and staff located statewide. For more information about HCF, please visit hawaiicommunityfoundation.org and follow our social media channels on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#).

The Maui Strong Fund of the Hawai'i Community Foundation is providing financial resources to support the immediate and long-term recovery needs for the people and places affected by the Maui wildfires. HCF works in close collaboration with federal, state and county agencies, nonprofit organizations, and community members to get an understanding of the evolving priorities on the ground and deploys grants to address unmet needs. To ensure transparency, all grantees and award amounts from the Maui Strong Fund are updated regularly and can be found [here](#). The Maui Strong Fund is designed for the long haul, using a four-phase approach that includes recovery, stabilization, risk reduction, and resiliency building. Learn more about our four-phase approach [here](#).

About Maui YMCA

Maui Family YMCA opened its doors in 1960 and has been providing programs and services where the essence of community lives through healthy living, youth development, and social responsibility.

Today, Maui Family YMCA operates a full range of fitness classes, swim lessons and wellness programs at our facility. The Y offers enrichment programs including summer and school intersession day camps, ukulele and piano lessons, music appreciation and our newly launched teen programs, Stay Maui Nui and Games for Life.

The Y is an active participant in the relief efforts for Maui residents affected by the recent wildfires and will continue to work with the community through the long recovery process.

Maui Family YMCA, through its Open Doors financial assistance program, is open to everyone in the community regardless of their ability to pay.