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By Staff | Oct 11, 2023



Keiki play with slime at the YMCA camp. PHOTO BY THE MAUI YMCA.

LAHAINA — Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) and the Maui Family YMCA 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 Sept. 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,” said 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 Sept. 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 Aug. 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,” said 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 Richard Bissen has identified childcare as one of the top priority needs on Maui.

The YMCA is currently seeking additional locations to increase its 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 about the program, e-mail TheY@mauiymca.org.

Nonprofit organizations seeking funding from the Maui Strong Fund can visit the HCF website for detailed instructions on how to apply for a grant from the Maui Strong Fund.

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

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