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Grand Wailea Employees Unite to Spread Cheer to Four Families of the Lokahi Adopt-A-Family Program on the Season of Giving

Wailea, Maui, HI (Dec. 19, 2008) – It’s the most wonderful time of the year as the Grand Wailea ‘ohana brings early holiday cheer to four less fortunate families from Lokahi’s “Adopt-a-Family” program.

Over the last six weeks, creativity and enthusiasm was plentiful as team members raised money via ice cream float, baked good, spam musubi, sushi bento box, and cake sales, as well as other inventive fundraisers for Lokahi, including a silent auction.

“Our team members had a wonderful time working together and exercising their creativity to raise money for such a worthy cause,” said Matt Bailey, managing director of the Grand Wailea. “We are thrilled to be able to contribute to a brighter and jollier Christmas for these families. It’s a great way to start the season of giving.”

The total funds raised will be divided between the four families and will be used to purchase gifts and much-needed household items. The four families adopted by Grand Wailea this holiday season came recommended by the Lokahi Adopt-a- Family program:

- The first family adopted by is couple with two young daughters. The father was laid-off from a job he held for six years and were close to being evicted from their home. The mother works at a local elementary school and the father recently obtained a temporary painting job at a local resort.
- The second family is a single mother with two children. The mother is hard-working and has a steady job but still struggled to provide for her family with no outside assistance. They currently live at the Homeless Shelter where rent is reasonable. The mother is dedicated to her children’s development and often attends weekly parenting classes.
- The third family is father with six children under the age of 10. The mother was incarcerated early this year. The father works full time in the evenings so he is home with the babies during the day and his sister watches them at night. For nearly a year, he has been a mom and dad taking care of the babies, always with a smile on his face.

- The fourth family is a couple with four children. The father has a steady job and the mother is aspiring to become a registered nurse and has started taking classes at Maui Community College with the financial aid. Both parents were raised around substance and domestic abuse and they have worked hard to “break the cycle” to ensure their kids have a safe and healthy future.

The “season of giving” is an all-year affair at the Grand Wailea whose team members participate in numerous local charities throughout the year including the Charity Walk, the MEO Kupuna Dinner and Turkeys to Hale Kau Kau.

About Lokahi

Established in 1985 by newscaster Leslie Wilcox and Mariellen Jones, 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.

About Grand Wailea A member of The Waldorf Astoria Collection®, Grand Wailea is classic elegance on a grand scale. Overlooking the southern shores of Maui with an unrivaled beachfront location on Wailea Beach, the Grand Wailea Resort sits on 40 acres of lush, tropical surroundings providing open spaces for the active vacationer, beauty for romantic getaways and fun for the whole family. Since opening in 1991, Grand Wailea consistently ranks among the world's best resorts by leading travel consumer reports and industry peers. For more information, visit www.grandwailea.com