



St. Francis

HEALTHCARE SYSTEM OF HAWAII

A Legacy of Caring for Hawaii's People

Live Every Moment

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Taking care of the people who take care of the community:
St. Francis Healthcare System provides free dinner meals for seniors,
especially those whose family members are essential workers**

**Hawaii Dental Service Foundation serves as lead sponsor of new initiative
with a \$150,000 donation**

St. Francis Healthcare System, in collaboration with other organizations and restaurants, has taken the Show Aloha Challenge to heart. Beginning Monday, April 20, 2020, St. Francis will offer free dinner deliveries to the homes of Oahu's seniors.

The Show Aloha Challenge began March 30 to provide free lunches prepared by local restaurants for delivery to the homes of seniors who did not qualify for other government-sponsored home meal delivery programs. The lunch delivery program that began with the generosity of business leaders, the City and County of Honolulu's Elderly Affairs Division, and Kupuna Food Security Coalition, is continuing. The dinner delivery program is a new addition and will also be for seniors who fall into the gap group who are not eligible for other meal delivery programs. The new program also provides valuable respite for essential workers who may be fatigued after their shift and are caregivers for seniors in their families.

"We know healthcare workers, including our own employees, are critical to a vibrant, robust healthcare system, but many are under tremendous stress and at the brink of burnout. Many don't have the energy to make dinner and take care of their elderly loved ones after a long shift of meeting the needs of others non-stop," said Jerry Correa, chief executive officer of St. Francis Healthcare System. "This is our way of taking care of the people who take care of the community."

Correa noted that Mother Marianne Cope and six Sisters of St. Francis voyaged to Hawaii from Syracuse, New York, in 1883, at a time when the islands were being ravished by Hansen's disease, then known as leprosy.



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“The Sisters courageously jumped into the fray without reservation,” Correa said. “They did whatever was needed to provide comfort and care for them, while practicing good hygiene so that they would not become victims of the disease themselves.”

St. Francis Healthcare System is following in the footsteps of the Sisters of St. Francis by continuing to identify the needs of the community and fill those needs.

“As the spread of COVID-19 continues toward its peak in our islands, and we continue to learn of more cases and lives that have been lost to the disease, we believe this service will help to alleviate some of the stress, build a healthier, more resilient community, and show that despite all that is happening, aloha is still alive and well.”

St. Francis Healthcare System expanded its call center to receive the lunch meal delivery requests, and mobilized drivers, and created an efficient system to make sure meals from the participating restaurants were efficiently and safely delivered to the homes of seniors while practicing physical distancing and taking other recommended precautions.

St. Francis will use the same infrastructure for the dinner deliveries, including implementation of an app that Pacific Point, the local representative of Salesforce, helped build to make tracking meal deliveries easier. Salesforce has also waived its licensing fees through April for St. Francis to allow more drivers to access the meal delivery app on their mobile devices to accommodate the volume of meal requests and to enhance efficiency.

“We have received numerous requests for dinner deliveries and we wanted to meet those needs,” said Melissa Ah Ho-Mauga, vice president – client services for St. Francis. “We are fortunate to have great partners to assist us. The initial list of participating restaurants for the dinner program include Fish Hook Café, Gyu-Kaku and Ruby Tuesday. As the need increases, we hope other restaurants will join our efforts.”

A number of organizations have already stepped up to provide their support, with more than \$230,000 collected to date, including the Hawaii Dental Service (HDS) Foundation as a lead sponsor of this effort with a \$150,000 donation and oral health kits consisting of toothbrushes, floss and toothpaste for the kupuna. The funds will be used to underwrite the costs of the food and labor for participating restaurants and to support the sustainability of this program.

“We recognize there are urgent needs in the community right now. We're joining St. Francis to ensure healthcare workers have peace of mind that their kupuna at home have nutritious meals to maintain their oral and overall health during this crisis,” said Mark Yamakawa, HDS president and CEO. “We encourage other organizations and individuals to join us in this effort.”

In addition to the HDS Foundation, other generous contributions have included \$25,000 from American Savings Bank; \$50,000 from Nan, Inc.; and \$5,000 from UHA Health Insurance. For more information about the Show Aloha Challenge lunch or dinner delivery programs or to make a donation to the program, contact St. Francis Healthcare System at (808) 547-6501.

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