



# The St. Francis LEGACY

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ABOVE: The Sister Maureen Keleher Center's living room is as inviting as ever.

LEFT: Patient rooms at both hospice centers feature state-of-the-art beds, head wall units, air conditioning units, and flat screen TVs with the LodgeNet system.

## St. Francis Hospice Upholds the Dignity of the Terminally Ill With \$3.5 Million Modernization Expanded Medical Team and New Programs

When St. Francis first introduced hospice care to the Islands 30 years ago, it was a relatively foreign concept. Today, St. Francis Hospice continues to raise the bar in the standard of care for the terminally ill in Hawaii.

At a time when the health care industry in general has seemingly become more focused on trying to remain solvent – often to the detriment of patients – and when respect for human life has diminished, St. Francis Hospice is making a strong statement to uphold the dignity and value of the terminally ill with a significant investment in its inpatient facilities and program.

St. Francis Healthcare System is now in the final stages of a major, \$3.5 million modernization of its two inpatient hospice centers – the 12-bed Sister Maureen Keleher Center in Nuuanu and the 24-bed Maurice J. Sullivan Family Hospice Center in Ewa. More than just aesthetic upgrades, the investment in first-class amenities at the facilities is designed to change the way St. Francis Hospice delivers care.

“We were viewed as revolutionary when we first began hospice in the Islands, and we want to remain at the forefront by offering new services to care for hospice patients,” says **Sister Agnelle Ching**, OSF, chief executive officer of St. Francis Healthcare System of Hawaii. “We’ve learned a lot over the past 30 years; we know what patients want and need to make their last days as meaningful and comfortable as possible. Dying is a natural part of living and hospice is part of the continuum of care that we provide.”

### Acknowledgment for Great Work

Open house events were held for The Sister Maureen Keleher Center on Dec. 5, and for the Maurice J. Sullivan Family Hospice Center on Dec. 12. **Rep. Karen Awana** presented a certificate of appreciation to St. Francis Hospice at both events. **Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland** sent words of praise to the

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# Modernization

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*FAR LEFT: Jay Larrin performed at both open houses.*

*LEFT: Sister Agnelle Ching, third from right, gathered with Sen. Will Espero, Sen. Norman Sakamoto, Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Rep. Karen Awana, Rep. Rida Cabanilla and Rep. Kymberly Pine at the open house of the Maurice J. Sullivan Family Hospice Center.*

Sisters for their work at the Nuuanu hospice, while Honolulu City Council Chair **Todd Apo** spoke on the importance of the West hospice to the West Oahu community.

Besides Rep. Awana, a number of elected officials were present for the West open house, including Rep. **Rida Cabanilla**, Rep. **Kymberly Pine**, Sen. **Will Espero**, Sen. **Norman Sakamoto**, and Sen. **Clarence Nishihara**. Representing the Sullivan family was **Kitty Sullivan Wo**, daughter of Maurice J. Sullivan in whose honor the hospice facility is named, who was very pleased with the improvements that are being made.

## A Fresh, New Look

Upon entering the driveway of the Nuuanu hospice, patients are greeted with an open, welcoming landscape. There have been extensive upgrades to the exterior of the facility to give the center an almost entirely new look, including a fresh coat of paint.

Once inside, you're immediately impressed with the flowing, open floor plan. The beautiful foyer leads to the refurbished dining room, pantry and kitchen. The other side of the foyer opens to the living room with new lighting and wood flooring. Just around the corner, there's a redesigned nurses' station to improve work processes and the adjacent chapel now has air conditioning for additional comfort. The bright, cheery patient rooms along the wing that was added to the original home each have new air-conditioning units as well as new flooring and lighting, and sleeper-loungers for a family member to spend the night. New furniture and window treatments use soothing, earthy colors. The rooms also feature new head wall units, state-of-the-art beds with pillow

speakers and flat screen TVs to enjoy the LodgeNet interactive TV system.

## Another First for St. Francis

LodgeNet, a first for a health care facility in Hawaii and a first for a hospice facility nationwide, is similar to what is available in hotel rooms. With a remote control, patients and their family members can obtain information about St. Francis Hospice, patient/family services, education, as well as video-on-demand movies and games.

Video conferencing capabilities are already being put to good use, allowing patients to stay in close touch with and sometimes say good-bye to family members and friends who are unable to visit. A patient was able to express a poignant thank you to her family in Holland. A comfort cart, filled with magazines, books, pillows, stationery, and other niceties, will also be brought to the patient's room upon request.

Despite all of these upgrades the Nuuanu facility has artfully retained the character of the original two-story kamaaina home built in 1917, which St. Francis acquired, restored and turned into a beautiful hospice facility in 1988. Architects Pacific, Inc. provided the architectural design, and Tomco Corp. was the general contractor.

Similar renovations are nearing completion at the Maurice J. Sullivan Family Hospice Center, which opened in 1997, including interior and exterior painting, sliding glass doors at the entrance, new flooring and furnishings in the common areas, and a new air-conditioning chiller.

## No One Dies Alone: A Compassionate Companion Program

Ensuring that everyone dies with dignity has been a hallmark of St. Francis Hospice. Now, St. Francis is going one step further by making sure that everyone in the hospice program has a friend at their side in their final life transition.

St. Francis is introducing a new program to the Islands called "No One Dies Alone (NODA)," a compassionate companion program to provide support for those in need during the final stages of life.

"No one is born alone, and no one should die alone," says **Joy Yadao**, executive director of St.

Francis Hospice. "St. Francis Hospice is pleased to bring this free volunteer program to Hawaii and offer it to our inpatients who may not have family and friends available to be at their bedside. I'm excited to report that we already have a handful of volunteers signed up."

NODA was originally founded in 2002 by **Sandra Clark**, a critical care nurse at Sacred Heart Medical Center in Eugene, Oregon. The program is now offered at hospitals and long-term care facilities nationwide.

Volunteers do not need a medical background; they simply have to be there with a willing heart and desire to simply hold a hand, fluff a pillow, talk or listen. It's a chance to offer physical, emotional, spiritual, social and intellectual support at a time when someone needs it the most.

**Nancy Conley** is the volunteer coordinator for NODA. If you would like to be a volunteer for the No One Dies Alone program, call **Sallyanne Pekelo**, volunteer manager for St. Francis Hospice, at 547-8142 or email her at [spkelo@stfranchawaii.org](mailto:spkelo@stfranchawaii.org).



## Generous Grants

St. Francis Healthcare Foundation of Hawaii recently received four generous grants to support various St. Francis programs.



On hand for the check presentation from left to right are Sharon Shiroma Brown (First Hawaiian Bank Foundation President), Myron Tong, Jerry Correa, John Keene, Sister William Marie Eleniki, Jeffrey Higashi (First Hawaiian Bank VP & Team Leader), and Sister Agnelle Ching.

- **Mel Iwaki of Electricians, Inc.** made a \$50,000 pledge over five years with a first payment of \$10,000 to Our Lady of Kea'au. The company also donated a new, 25-cubic-foot chest freezer to replace an older freezer that had recently broke down, as well as five Farmer John hams and 10 pumpkin pies for a Thanksgiving meal for the homeless at the retreat center in Waianae. "The company has done well, and I wanted to give back to the community," said Iwaki. He said he had read about the visiting Unvers Foundation volunteers from Japan who had helped the volunteers at Our Lady of Kea'au cook and serve meals for the homeless and wanted to support the program. The St. Francis subsidiary provides hot meals every Wednesday for up to 160 individuals living on the beach and in the bushes.
- **First Hawaiian Bank Foundation** awarded St. Francis Healthcare Foundation a \$50,000 grant that will be paid over a two-year period. The grant will be used to support St. Francis Hospice's modernization project. Following completion of renovations, the 12-bed Sister Maureen Keleher Center and the 24-bed Maurice J. Sullivan Family Hospice Center are now state-of-the-art facilities. (See front page story in this issue.) A check presentation was held on Dec. 29.
- **The May Templeton Hopper Fund of the Hawai'i Community Foundation** awarded an \$81,000 grant over three years with a first payment of \$27,000 to Franciscan Adult Day Center. The funds will be used to support individuals 62 years and over who have limited income and need adult day services. The adult day center is licensed for a maximum daily attendance of 35, and the grant will help at least 10 individuals with their fees. The Franciscan Adult Day Center has received support from the May Templeton Hopper Fund of the Hawai'i Community Foundation since 1997.
- **The May Templeton Hopper Fund of the Hawai'i Community Foundation's Persons in Need Program** awarded \$150,000 with a first payment of \$50,000 to St. Francis Health Services for Senior Citizens. The grant will be paid over three years. The funds will be used to support frail elderly individuals age 65 years and older who need assistance with bathing, grooming, shaving and other personal care needs. Services are provided free of charge to clients who qualify under city, state and federal guidelines. Funds will provide an additional 4,285 personal care visits.

## Meet Our Newest Medical Staff



**Wen-yu Lee, M.D.**, medical director for St. Francis Hospice, also serves as a palliative care and pain consultant at Straub Clinic and Hospital. Her background also included serving as a hospitalist and founder of

the hospitalist program at Straub and at Castle Medical Center. She is board certified in hospice and palliative care and internal medicine. Dr. Lee has been associated with St. Francis since 2003 as a fellow of The St. Francis International Center for Healthcare Ethics. She completed her internship at the Illinois Masonic Medical Center in Chicago and her residency through the University of Hawaii Integrated Medical Residency Program.



**Aida Wen, M.D.** has been named medical director for St. Francis Palliative Care, a newly established service. Dr. Wen, who specializes in geriatrics, is also board certified in hospice and palliative medicine. Prior to relo-

cating to Honolulu, she provided palliative care consult services in both the hospital and nursing home setting at various teaching sites with Harvard Medical School. She also served as a consultant for the Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS) in the development of guidelines for pain management and for Mariner Health Care, Inc. that participated in the CMS-sponsored Corporate Nursing Home Improvement Collaborative Project relating to pain assessment and management. She is an assistant professor at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine and is on the medical staff at various medical centers. She is president and founder of the Hawaii Chapter of the American Medical Directors Association and serves on St. Francis Healthcare System of Hawaii's Ethics Committee and Kokua Mau, A Partnership to Improve Care at the End of Life. Dr. Wen completed her internship and residency in internal medicine from Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, Massachusetts and her fellowship in geriatric medicine from Harvard Medical School and Hebrew Rehabilitation Center for Aged.

# Connecting the Dots for Seniors

## “Stay Healthy at Home” Fills Niche in Health Care Continuum

In keeping with the Franciscan tradition of going where the needs are and a renewed focus on community-based care, St. Francis Healthcare System of Hawaii is launching a new service that fills an important void in Hawaii’s health care continuum.

“People want to live at home in a familiar setting as they get older and St. Francis is helping them to do that,” says **Pamela Witty-Oakland**, chief administrator of St. Francis Residential Care Community. “Our new *Stay Healthy at Home* program offers an affordable alternative to long-term care that allows seniors to remain independently at home for as long as possible.”

### Letting Seniors “Stay Healthy at Home”

“*Stay Healthy at Home*” perfectly describes the essence of this new health and wellness program. When health care services are needed, *Stay Healthy at Home* puts seniors in touch with supportive services, empowering them to take charge of their own health to prevent hospital stays or the premature need to go to long-term care facilities. With the rising cost of health care, the growing elderly population and a limited number of long-term care beds in Hawaii, the membership program fills a great need in our community.

After pilot programs at Honuakaha and Kukui Gardens, two affordable senior apartment complexes, the program is now ready to serve more of Hawaii’s

seniors. With the new year, St. Francis retirees on Oahu have been extended a free one-year membership, and the program is also available to the public.

“We’re bringing back the personal touch with a convenient concierge for senior care,” Witty-Oakland says. “It’s our way of helping seniors connect the dots for better care.”

### A Senior-Friendly Program

The program is designed to be collaborative and senior-friendly. Seniors or their family caregivers simply have to call one centralized phone number for a range of services instead of having to find and evaluate these services individually on their own. This ends fragmented, piece-meal care and helps ensure seniors do not forgo care altogether.

The program also connects the dots internally and allows for the cross-promotion of all St. Francis services. Those who call *Stay Healthy at Home* for help can be referred to services currently offered within St. Francis Healthcare System or to credible, pre-screened providers in the community. Among the partners in *Stay Healthy at Home* are Catholic Charities Hawaii, City and County of Honolulu’s Elderly Affairs Division, Hawaii State Department of Health, National Kidney Foundation of Hawaii, and Allstate Insurance.

### Concierge for Care

*Stay Healthy at Home* is a fee-based, independent living program with membership open to healthy seniors with an active lifestyle, those living with a chronic condition, as well as adult children who are caregivers to their parents. Benefits of membership are resource and referral, a home safety evaluation, health education and screenings by a registered nurse, follow-up assessments, chronic disease self-management, pharmacist medication reviews, and financial planning.

Other services that are available on a fee-for-service basis are companion services, housekeeping and yard services, transportation, adult day care, respite to family caregivers, shopping and errands, meal planning and preparation, hospice care (palliative and end-of-life care), and more.

Cost for a one-year membership is \$600 a year. Seniors with limited means may apply for a discounted membership.

With oversight by St. Francis Residential Care Community, the *Stay Healthy at Home* staff includes **Jacob Silva**, RN, BSN, program director, and **Jamie Fukui-Chiang**, LSW, ACSW, social worker.

For more information about *Stay Healthy at Home*, call 547-6500 or 1-866-788-6188 toll-free from the neighbor islands.



## A Tribute to the Sisters of St. Francis: “An Evening of Aloha” Celebrates Women of Strength

Brave, strong and full of verve. These are the characteristics that come to mind about the Sisters of St. Francis following “An Evening of Aloha: Na Wahine Kupa’a – Women of Strength,” held at the Hawaii Convention Center on October 4.

Presented by St. Francis Healthcare Foundation of Hawaii and Hawaiian 105 KINE, the signature concert event was a tribute to Mother Marianne Cope and the Sisters of St. Francis for their numerous contributions over the past 125 years in the Islands.

Brilliantly and creatively produced by **Randie and Jamie Fong**, the event was an entertaining multi-media event from start to finish that

celebrated the strength of women who have shaped Hawaii’s past and are having a positive impact on the present and future.

Many health care innovations that have been introduced to Hawaii – organ transplants, kidney dialysis, home care, hospice care, and others – have been the result of the perseverance and hard work of the humble Sisters, who may not have received their due credit, being satisfied simply to know Hawaii’s patients are receiving the best care possible.

Touching videos, dance and music by Hawaii’s most popular female performing artists were beautifully woven together with the spotlight

TOP: Dancers from *Ka Pa Hula O Ka Lei Lehua* performed a hula kahiko.  
MIDDLE: Sister William Marie Eleniki and Bernadette Baraquo.  
BOTTOM: Mike Kelly, Myron Tong, Gisele Kaahanui and Robz Yamane.



# Expansion and Accolades for Liberty Dialysis

By Laura Colbert, Director of Operations, Liberty Dialysis-Hawaii



The Waipahu Dialysis Clinic is another state-of-the-art facility.

The year 2008 was filled with many positive changes. Maui Dialysis received a statewide recognition for excellence in healthcare facility construction, Kaimuki Dialysis doubled its capacity, a new clinic in Waipahu opened, and Liberty Dialysis-Hawaii was nationally recognized for going green.

## Maui Dialysis Receives Excellence in Construction Award

Liberty opened the Maui Dialysis Clinic in August, and the clinic was recently awarded the Associated Builders & Contractors Hawaii 2008 Excellence in Construction award.

"We have teamed up with Arita Poulsen General Contracting to build Liberty's clinics in Hawaii. Each new clinic has been designed to be more patient friendly and is a beautiful addition to our family of clinics," says Dr. Eugene Wong, Medical Director for Liberty Dialysis-Hawaii.

## Kaimuki Dialysis Doubles Its Capacity

In December, the Kaimuki Dialysis clinic participated in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)/Department of Health surveys and received approval to expand from the original 12 stations to a full set of 24 stations.

In addition to launching the expansion, Oceanic Time Warner Cable provided live pay-per-view telecasts of the UH football games for the 2008 season for the enjoyment of Liberty's patients. The kick-off was held at the newly expanded Kaimuki Dialysis site.

## Waipahu Dialysis Opens

The newest member of the Liberty family of dialysis clinics had a soft opening in early November 2008 and will be opened to receive more patients this February. The 24-station dialysis clinic has heated recliners, flat screen televisions, and DVD players for the patients. This clinic also offers the state-of-the-art Braun dialysis machines, similar to the machines in the Kaimuki Dialysis Clinic.

"In reviewing the patient census, we found that a significant portion of our Leeward Dialysis population resided in Waipahu. Rather than expand the existing clinic located in Ewa Beach that has been operating at more than full capacity, Liberty decided that creating a new clinic in the heart of Waipahu would better serve our patients," says Jane Gibbons, Executive Vice President of Liberty Dialysis, Hawaii Region.

## Liberty Dialysis-Hawaii Is the Green Giant

In November, Liberty Dialysis-Hawaii received national recognition for being the "Green Giant" in the dialysis

industry. As our planet's population continues to grow, so does the sustainable growth rate of the dialysis patient population," states Dwight Morgan, President of MCM Environmental.

It's easy being green. Some of Liberty Dialysis' environmental initiatives include:

- Reprocessed patient treatment medical devices;
- Biodegradable chemicals for medical device sterilization and for onsite biohazardous waste treatment;
- Energy savings, low temperature, biohazardous waste treatment systems;
- Onsite waste treatment eliminating costly waste transportation;
- Volume reducing biohazard waste treatment technologies prior to disposal in community landfills;
- Recycled sharps containers; and
- Renewable energy whenever possible.

Liberty's commitment is to protect the community. The pristine environment of Hawaii's islands have long been the envy of the world, considered by most to be one of the environmental jewels of the world. Liberty Dialysis is the "enviously green healthcare provider."

squarely on the Sisters so they could rightfully be recognized for all they have done for Hawaii's people.

"There's a certain amount of pride and sense of responsibility in knowing that we are following in the footsteps of Mother Marianne Cope," said Sister William Marie Eleniki, OSF, chief administrator of St. Francis Healthcare Foundation and minister of the Sisters of St. Francis in Hawaii.

"She set the bar by fearlessly stepping forward to leave the comfort of the hospital she oversaw in Syracuse, New York, to head for an uncertain future to care for those with Hansen's disease in the middle of the Pacific. Each day, as Sisters and as women, we take risks to make a difference for Hawaii."

TV personality Bernadette Baraquio, who said she was inspired and influenced by the Sisters, was the event's gracious mistress of ceremonies. A special reading of Mother Marianne's memoirs was presented by Joan Manke, St. Francis Community

Health Services board chair and a former St. Francis Healthcare System employee, who now works for the Neighborhood Board Commission. She also honored the women mentors in her own life.

Another woman of strength featured that evening and making one of her last public appearances was artist Peggy Chun. (She passed away on Nov. 19, 2008.) A video showed that her life was much more than her beautiful artwork; there is a beautiful person behind the art. All along, this vibrant woman whose charisma has touched so many, deliberately chose to live life to the fullest knowing that, as with her grandfather, mother and twin sister, she too would be overtaken by Lou Gehrig's disease.

According to her daughter-in-law Kimi Chun, Peggy would do anything for the Sisters. In fact, she allowed St. Francis Hospice to use her paintings on the new LodgeNet system to brighten the lives of patients and their families who are staying at the hospice facilities.

The lineup of entertainers, each with their own personal stories of triumph and victory as women, included Haunani Apoliona, Karen Keawehawaii, Melveen Leed, Pomai Keawe Lyman, and culminated with a performance by Na Leo Pilimehana. In addition, Ka Pa Hula O Ka Lei Lehua under the direction of kumu hula Snowbird Bento performed a hula kahiko and Marcelo Pacle's 24-7 Danceforce provided a contemporary, youthful interpretation of women of strength. A hula performance by multiple halau topped off the evening.

A special mahalo to our presenting partner Hawaiian 105 KINE, the sponsors, show production team, and entertainers for making it truly "an evening of Aloha" for all in attendance. Proceeds from the special event will benefit the Sisters' health care ministries in Hawaii.

# A Full Year of Celebration



*Special liturgies, commendations, concerts, pilgrimages to Kalaupapa, and a reenactment of the historic arrival of Mother Marianne Cope and six original Sisters were among the many ways in which the Sisters of St. Francis observed their 125th Anniversary in Hawaii.*

## Opening Liturgy

The Sisters of St. Francis began their yearlong celebration on November 8, 2007 with a joyful opening liturgy at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Peace. Celebrant **Bishop Larry Silva** praised the Sisters for their role through the years as “women of vision and women of risk” and for their mission of serving the people of Hawaii.



*Sister Florence Remata, right, stands next to artists Karen Lucas and Sister Dorothy Santos who created the mosaic of Mother Marianne Cope.*

## Mother Marianne's Feast Day Celebrations

On January 19, 2008, the Sisters of St. Francis, special guests including a descendent of Mother Marianne Cope, and Kalaupapa residents gathered for a mid-morning Mass in the 100-year-old St. Francis Church in celebration of Mother Marianne's Feast Day. Members of the St. John Vianney choir joined the Sisters in the annual visit to Molokai.

On January 23, an original *mele* in honor of Mother Marianne Cope preceded a liturgy in the Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa. Female members of the Honolulu Symphony Chorus and

Kamehameha School Alumni performed “Na Mele No Lawehana” (“The Servant Song”) written by songwriter **Sean Tiwanak**. Bishop Larry Silva lauded Mother Marianne for her extraordinary accomplishments as a “great messenger of God.”

The Immaculate Conception Parish on Kauai commissioned a 36” x 60” mosaic of Blessed Marianne Cope, which was created on Oahu and shipped to the Garden Island for a blessing and unveiling during a Feast Day celebration.

## Special Commendations

On April 1, the Sisters of St. Francis convened at the State Capitol, where they were honored with certificates from both the Hawaii State Senate and Hawaii State House of Representatives for service in health care and education in the Islands. **Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland** and **Representative Michael Magaoay** introduced the resolutions in their respective legislative bodies.



*Several of the Sisters of St. Francis gathered in front of the Father Damien statue at the State Capitol following commendations by the Legislature.*

On July 23, the Honolulu City Council also presented the Sisters of St. Francis with a certificate initiated by **Council Chair Todd Apo**.

**Governor Linda Lingle** and **Lieutenant Governor Duke Aiona** proclaimed November 8, 2008 “Sisters of St. Francis Day in Hawaii.”

## Pilgrimage to Kalaupapa



*Pilgrims from St. Francis Healthcare System arrive at Kalaupapa Airport, ready for an unforgettable experience. Sister Candida Oroc, second from left, was a tour guide.*

Nearly 60 individuals had a rare opportunity to go on a special, one-day pilgrimage to Kalaupapa in early June. The pilgrims “walked in the footsteps” of Mother Marianne Cope and Father Damien de Veuster and visited the sites where the two labored and lived among those with Hansen's disease. Among the points of interests were Bishop Home, St. Elizabeth Chapel, St. Francis Church, St. Philomena Church, and the grave sites of Mother Marianne and Father Damien. The pilgrimage was coordinated with Damien Tours.



# St. Francis Home Care Services-Kauai Introduces Telehealth Monitors for Kauai Patients

## Anniversary Concerts

The Sisters of St. Francis presented a free public concert by the Royal Hawaiian Band on Aug. 9 at Kapolei Hale. During the concert, the band played "Ode to St. Anne," a musical piece that bandmaster **Capt. Henry Berger** first presented to Mother Marianne Cope and her patroness St. Anne back in 1917. **Mayor Mufi Hannemann** made a special appearance, presenting the Sisters with a proclamation.



*The Royal Hawaiian Band performs at the anniversary concert.*

The Sisters of St. Francis were also honored with song and dance at "An Evening of Aloha, Na Wahine Kupa'a: Women of Strength," at the Hawaii Convention Center on Oct. 4 (see story in this newsletter).

## Historic Reenactment

The anniversary year culminated on Nov. 8 with a reenactment of the Sisters' historic arrival in Hawaii, complete with pageantry and a horse-drawn replica of the royal carriage. The procession began at Wilcox Park, up Fort Street Mall to the Cathedral of Our Lady of Peace, where Mass was celebrated by Bishop Larry Silva. He praised Mother Marianne and the Sisters of St. Francis for coming to make the lives better for the poor, the hopeless and the helpless. Guests enjoyed a luau as the Royal Hawaiian Band entertained.



*Women from Halau Hula O Maiki portrayed Mother Marianne Cope and the six original Sisters during the historic reenactment.*

## Mahalo

The Sisters of St. Francis extend a special Mahalo to **Eugene N. Tiwanak** and his wife **Mary** for chairing the 125th Anniversary Year Celebration.



*FRONT ROW: Sylvia Talkington, HomeMed telehealth consultant, left, gathered with Corinne Suzuka, St. Francis Home Care Services (SFHCS) executive director, Tad Miura Jr., Vidinha trustee. BACK ROW: Jill Dice, SFHCS special projects manager, Fred Jumayao, information services engineer, and Dardanelle Kaauwai, SFHCS-Kauai director for the telehealth launch on Kauai.*

Patients on Kauai recovering from surgery or who have chronic medical conditions are now able to take an active role in managing their health without leaving the comfort of their own home, thanks to the help of new, state-of-the-art telehealth monitors. St. Francis Home Care Services-Kauai is the first on the Garden Island to provide this new service. St. Francis Home Care Services on Oahu plans to start using the monitors by March of this year.

The telehealth monitors were made possible through a \$60,000 grant from the Antone and Edene Vidinha Charitable Trust. St. Francis Home Care Services is leasing the monitors to reach more patients.

"We are extremely grateful to the Antone and Edene Vidinha Charitable Trust for this generous grant," says **Dardanelle Kaauwai**, St. Francis Home Care Services-Kauai director. "We believe telehealth monitoring will be able to improve patient outcomes and reduce visits to the emergency room as well as recurrent hospitalizations. More home health agencies across the country are using telehealth, and we are excited to be at the forefront on Kauai."

Telehealth monitors are ideal for patients who are able to use the monitor themselves or have a family member to help them, and allow nurses of St. Francis Home Care Services-Kauai to stay in constant touch with their patients. The equipment is set up in the home and prompts patients to check their vital signs such as weight, blood pressure, blood sugar level or pulse oximetry (oxygen in the blood). It also reminds patients to take their medications. The information is sent through a phone line to the home care office for nurses to review. If the patient's medical condition is changing, the home health nurse can then provide immediate attention and follow-up with the patient rather than wait until the next scheduled visit. The patient's physician will also be notified to determine whether the patient's care plan needs adjustment. Once the patient no longer requires home health services, the unit will be removed from the patient's home.

"Home health nurses generally visit their patients two or three times a week to monitor and assess their patients' medical condition. Telehealth monitoring allows our nurses to be in contact with their patients on a daily basis and spot any significant trends in their medical condition such as an increased blood pressure or pulse, fluid retention, weight gains and variables in their blood glucose levels," Kaauwai explains.

The Antone & Edene Vidinha Charitable Trust (Bank of Hawaii, trustee) was established by Kauai's late mayor, **Antone "Kona" Vidinha** and his wife **Edene**, to assist non-profit organizations that provide services to the people of the Garden Island.

Understanding that people recover faster in their own comfortable surroundings, St. Francis was the first to introduce home health services to Oahu in 1962 and expanded by establishing St. Francis Home Care Services-Kauai in 1977.

# Because of You, The Legacy of Caring Continues

Thank you all for your support. The donations listed below are those received from June 3, 2008 to Dec. 31, 2008.

We have made every effort to provide an accurate listing of all donors. Please call 547-8031 to report errors or omissions.  
Mahalo Donors!

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