

A Day of Training for **A Cup of Cold Water: A Community Care Van Outreach of the Episcopal Church on Maui**

Our first 'boots-on-the-ground' training day, on May 4, was attended by a full house of 22 volunteers. There were participants from the four Episcopal parishes, Trinity by the Sea, Saint John's, Holy Innocents, and Good Shepherd, which have joined to create this Shared Ministry, as well as from Pukalani Nazarene. It was an intensive training day with presentations from eight seasoned Maui professionals who volunteered their time.

Our day started with Captain Donald Kanemitsu, Vice Commander in the Maui Police Department, addressing personal safety issues: establishing relationships with a point person in each camp; where to park the van; how to work in pairs; using all of our senses and keeping alert to all cues; what to look for; when to stay and when to leave.

Captain Charles Hirata (ret.) discussed driver safety, basic traffic safety, and contacting 911 and taking photos. Not only did he remind us of basic driving practices but also of keeping three seconds distance from the vehicle in front, and especially how important it is to leave our own troubles in the parking lot; aggressive driving is often the cause of accidents.

Duke Sevilla, Maui County Aquatics Supervisor, with humor, demonstrations and personal stories gave us over an hour of basic first aid training. He drilled us on the steps to follow when there is an emergency first-aid situation, including the value of using a speaker phone while in contact with 911.

Barbara Cooke, a Mental Health Kokua Outreach worker, helped us understand the broad-spectrum of challenges within the homeless communities. Barbara will help direct many of our referrals.

Mark Saxon of the Salvation Army and Don Foote, a former Salvation Army Outreach and Case Manager, shared their own personal stories of homelessness. Their presentations were informative, direct, sobering and encouraging. Don Foote reviewed the Cup of Cold Water Operations Manual and gave some practical advice, including distributing female hygiene products in paper bags, and avoiding distribution of canned goods or food in bulky packaging which contribute to the trash problems at the camps. He also suggested that, as we offer to make contact with someone who can help sort things out, we do not use the words 'mental health'.

A Cup of Cold Water is coordinating with the Salvation Army and will be making its runs on days when other services are not available.

Lisa Darcy, Executive Director of the private Ho'omoana Foundation, spoke passionately about tenacity, compassion and hope in building and sustaining A Cup of Cold Water. Lisa is an active leader of the Maui Homeless Commission.

Our day was wrapped up by Reverend Linda Decker of Good Shepherd. She reminded us that this work is grounded in our Baptismal promises to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of all human beings. Mother Linda offered three guidelines: 1. We don't know the answers to another's problems. 2. Listen, ask more questions. 3. Trust that God is working through us. If we are asked for a prayer or blessing, summarize the requests and pray for what is being asked.

Keku Akana, our Board President, sent us home with an Operations Manual and a draft of the Cup of Cold Water brochure.

The support for this new ministry is heartening and humbling. We are grateful for the steady faith, prayers, and commitment of the volunteers, and for all that is being done by the Maui community to help mobilize 'A Cup of Cold Water'. We have applied for grants to purchase the van, and each parish is beginning to collect bottled water, rubber slippers, food, and hygiene supplies for the runs in their area.

Please don't hesitate to contact us at acupofcoldwatermaui@gmail.com. If you are interested in a copy of our brochure, include your mailing address. We would be happy to email you our brief Cup of Cold Water prayer and reflection (about every ten days to two weeks).

Until the incorporation of this Shared Ministry under the diocese is complete, checks may be made out to Good Shepherd Church with a notation for *Cup of Cold Water*, and mailed to 2140 Main Street, Wailuku HI 96793.