

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release 10/24/2012

Contact: Sandra McMaster 823-4136



Pictured: Front Left to Right– Colleen McCracken (Dietary Manager), Helen Nishimura, Sharla Hasegawa (Occupational Therapy); Middle Left to Right – Edward Godnig (SKMC Board Chair), Melody Pasqual, Hannah Yoshida, Joyce Gushiken, Betty Matsumura (President, Mahelona Hospital Auxiliary), Madeleine Godnig (SKMC Treasurer); Back Row – Doug & Sandy McMaster (volunteer musicians)

MUSIC for MEMORY Program Raises \$1500+ for Mahelona Hospital Patient Programs

It was a night of Aloha at Mahelona Hospital last Thursday, October 18th, when locals, visitors, employees, and patients came together to learn about Music for Memory and enjoy a concert and movie. A team effort of the non-profit organizations of Mahelona Hospital Auxiliary, Mahelona Employees Association, and Slack Key Music Center put on the event and raised over \$1500 for patient programs. The ‘Music for Memory’ program at SMMH helps patients with memory problems from such things as dementia, injuries, and amnesia through personalized playlists on iPods.

According to Oliver Sacks, MD – a renowned neurologist and author – “ music can animate people with Parkinson’s disease who cannot otherwise move, give words to stroke patients who cannot otherwise speak, and calm and organize people whose memories are ravaged by Alzheimer’s or amnesia.” 100% of the ticket sales were donated to Mahelona Hospital Auxiliary for two programs, 1) Music for Memory iPod and iTunes cards purchase and 2) Equipment and fixtures for the patient rehabilitation laundry. The laundry ‘room’ helps patient residents enjoy normal home activities as well as prepare injured patients for returning to independent life at home.

Sandra Pantages, the President of Slack Key Music Center, said “This opportunity to help the Mahelona Medical Center was a perfect introduction to the community for Slack Key Music Center’s program called ‘Seeds of Aloha’ which seeks to get the traditional slack key music into healing centers, hospice, and other organizations where the soothing, healing power of the music can help people and their families.” (For more information about Slack Key Music Center visit www.SlackKeyMusicCenter.org)

The night of festivity was supported the Mahelona Employees Association, who created a local style ‘Snack Shop’ complete with Saimin, Ice Cream Sundaes, Hot Dogs, Soft Drinks and lots of other goodies to choose from.

Wally and Polei Palmeira played their beautiful serenades on guitar, xylophone, and bass. Polei’s hula was exquisite as always. Doug and Sandy McMaster shared their family slack key as well as several pieces from traditional players like Raymond Kane, Sonny Chillingworth, and Leonard Kwan.

For more information about the Mahelona Hospital Auxiliary, their programs, and how you can help, call (808) 823-4162.