
Wallyhouse News



A Franciscan Catholic Worker at St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church,
720 North King Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817; stelizabeth720.org
(805) 535-5677; wallyhouse720@gmail.com Eighth Issue - December 2020

Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin founded the Catholic Worker movement on May 1, 1933 in NY City with the inaugural edition of the Catholic Worker newspaper. Their vision, based on the radical life and message of Jesus, continues today in over 200 CW communities, in cities and on farms, throughout the world. Wallyhouse, the Honolulu Catholic Worker founded in March 2018, too, is committed to nurturing the poor in body, mind and spirit, non-violent resistance of oppression and practicing radical acts of kindness.



We have all known the long loneliness and have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes with community. — Dorothy Day, *The Long Loneliness*, 1952.

A personalist is a go-giver, not a go-getter. He [sic] tries to give what he has, and does not try to get what the other fellow has. He tries to be good by doing good to the other fellow. He is altro-centered, not self-centered. He has a social doctrine of the common good. He spreads the social doctrine of the common good through words and deeds. He speaks through deeds as well as words, for he knows that deeds speak louder than words. Through words and deeds he brings into existence a common unity, a common unity of a community.

— Peter Maurin, "The Personalist Communitarian" in *Easy Essays*, 1961.

Community: Building Up... by barbara bennett, tssf

"You need to incorporate the ladies more into the community," observed Iowa Catholic Worker, Michael Gayman, at the end of his week long visit to Wallyhouse in February 2020. I agreed with him but was also feeling stumped about how to go about it. The "ladies" he was referring to were two women, Lovely Reiger and Jinna Stevens, who, in August 2019, moved off of the street into the refashioned shipping container that sits just a few feet away from the Wallyhouse Catholic Worker. The container, dubbed Elizabeth House, has beds and electricity but no running water. We gave the ladies access to a section of Wallyhouse where they had full water and laundry facilities. The arrangement seemed to be working well except there was definitely a division between us, the Wallyhouse folk, and them, the ladies.

A few weeks after Michael's visit, we had the opportunity to apply for a Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) grant. The purpose of the grant was to establish a skills development program for the women who reside in Elizabeth House. At the outset of their stay, Lovely and Jinna agreed to attend some type of counseling or AA-type program, to meet regularly with the manager of Wallyhouse to assess needs and positive steps being made, and to help in simple ways with the ministries of Wallyhouse and /or St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church. After their initial year with us, we realized that we needed to beef up the program to include some skills training in order to help the women gain employment, self-confidence and use idle time productively. (The women say that when they are bored is when they get into trouble.) We saw the grant program to have a double benefit of changing the status and purposefulness of these two women. We believed that they would find new meaning in their lives to help them rise above their current isolated status. When the poor are empowered with skills and self-confidence, the structures that routinely oppress them



Jinna Stevens and Lovely Reiger

begin to crumble. Each person helped to rise out of the poverty of little or no education, each person helped to realize her dignity as a beloved human being, each person helped to become a contributing participant in the larger community, changes the structures of oppression.

Wonderfully, the real effect of the grant program reached far beyond our wildest dreams! The grant program was implemented by designing an intern program. Three mentors, who themselves are low-income, were given stipends to teach Lovely and Jinna useful skills that complemented their interests. Jinna leaned to sew masks which were then given out to the guests at our Wallyhouse door. Lovely focussed on learning how to maintain and harvest our newly completed Peace Garden, where produce is grown for our hungry guests. And together, the ladies learned the skill of cooking for large numbers. They took on planning, shopping and preparing meals for Kay's Cafe, our Tuesday hot lunch program which currently serves around 175 persons each week. At the weekly meeting with the Wallyhouse manager, Lovely and Jinna completed time sheets detailing the hours and work accomplished the previous week, and they were given a small stipend in gratitude for their contributions.

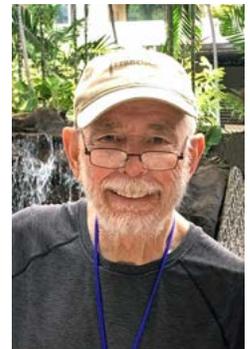
The marvel is that not only did Lovely and Jinna master the selected skills, but in the process they became fully incorporated into the community. As their (and our) confidence grew, they took on getting to know all aspects of running Wallyhouse. They began to call themselves the "go to" or "911" team. When we needed help, or anything at all, we need only call on them, and one or both was there to lend a hand. By the end of the grant period, we knew that these women could, in a pinch, run Wallyhouse. Lovely and Jinna have gained our full respect, they have a new happiness and pride, and the community is brimming with gratitude for the success of the grant program. But most of all, we are grateful for the gifts Lovely and Jinna bring to our community. And I personally am grateful to love them as friends and colleagues. What a joy it has been to grow and learn together. We thank Michael for his encouragement and CCHD for their support. Mahalo!

...and Loss

With a heavy heart, we share the news that our companion, Catholic Worker and Society of St Francis, Third Order member, David Catron, died on August 24, 2020. David was stricken during a walk on Sunday afternoon, August 23, and never regained consciousness. He was 81 years old.

We shall always remember David as the brilliant, hilarious, deeply insightful man who, following the call of God, left his entire former life behind to devote himself to serving and living in solidarity with the poor, first in the U.S., then in Brazil and then to those in need here in Palama, where he and Barbara founded Wallyhouse, the first ever Catholic Worker house of hospitality in Hawai'i.

When David's daughter Ruth asked him why he decided to come to Hawaii, he said: "I'm glad I have the opportunity to serve even though I feel quite incapable anymore. My body is declining and my mind is getting fuzzy. My speech is strained. But I am glad if I can offer anything — that is really great. The alternative is to lay down somewhere and die. I'd rather die on my feet." Which is exactly what he did! (a more complete obituary may be found at <https://legcy.co/2Zc4Fob>).



Rest in Peace



Dear Friend

How about those stimulus checks?



We, at Wallyhouse, had the pleasure of hosting Robert Kinslow, the secretary of The Interfaith Alliance Hawai'i, who is an expert in helping people, especially the houseless, to obtain their \$1,200 stimulus checks. Robert gave up his Saturdays (one being his birthday) in October and November, to sit at our outdoor table with his computer and help guests who came to our door for food to register for their as-yet-unreceived stimulus funds. We are not the only ones Robert assisted. He trained over 147 folks via Zoom to help clients across the state of Hawai'i to navigate the IRS registration process.

The process was rather simple (it ended on November 21). Providing the person had and knew their social security number, Robert registered each person on the IRS site "Non-Filers: Enter Payment Info Return." This site was for people who did not file an income tax return in 2019. Once completed, the registrant was given a pin number. Eventually, many of those who registered received a stimulus debit card that could be activated with that pin number—and we hope more will come in.

It was a joy to get to know Robert a bit and to have him working in our midst. Mahalo, Rob!



A proud recipient of his stimulus check.

Oregano, who knew?



Back in January of 2020, if any of us can remember that pre-pandemic world, we completed our peace garden. The raised beds were filled with dark, rich composted dirt from Hawaiian Earth Recycling and ready for planting. Our dear friend, Gigi Cocquio, founder and caretaker of the Hoa 'Aina O Mākaha Farm brought us our first plantings which were cuttings from his farm. He brought lemon grass, Ti, and oregano. I did not recognize the appearance of the oregano because it was a succulent but its scent was distinctive. What is this? I asked Gigi. And he confirmed that it was indeed oregano. Curious I googled "succulent oregano" and found that it is actually called Cuban oregano or Mexican mint. Not a true herb of the *oreganum* family but from the mints, it is used just like oregano, which is especially common in Italian style cooking. Fond of pasta, this was great, I thought, and planted it in our first raised bed just outside our kitchen window.

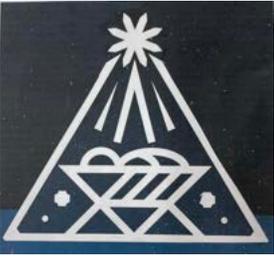
We tended and watered the oregano until it grew to overabundance. It was definitely time to harvest and share the produce with our guests at the door. We cut the oregano into manageable pieces, put them in a large bowl and set them out on our contact-free serving table that sits just outside our front gate. A few of our guests were pleased to take this unique oregano, others were curious, and then a group of Filipino women arrived who knew exactly what it was. Oh, this is a wonderful medicinal herb! one exclaimed. It is really good for coughs and congestion. I am so happy to have some. Another explained that they make juice from it and then use it for its medicinal purposes. The succulent property gives it moisture good for juicing. Those ladies took nearly every bit we had to offer and were happy as can be as they proceeded back to their car.

This story speaks to some of the joy we experience as Catholic Workers. We live in voluntary poverty and rely on donations from others to make our work possible. A plant was donated for our garden which gave produce that we in turn could donate, which in turn stimulated the recipients to share their pleasure and knowledge. We as workers, instead of poor, become rich in goods, knowledge and others' joy.

Not too much later, another woman came, saw what little was left of the oregano and asked to have it. This is good medicine, she chimed. Good to keep the flies away.



Annual Christmas Appeal



And the Word became flesh and pitched his tent among us.” John 1:14 (REV)

We can certainly try to grow in love, and it is good practice, this giving what we’ve got, whether it is a cup of coffee or money to pay the grocery bill. We ask you in the name of St. Therese, on whose feast I write, and in the name of St. Francis, whose feast comes tomorrow. It is always a feast where love is, and where love is, God is.

—Dorothy Day

Dear Family and Friends,

We are blessed to count you among our larger community, we are blessed by the love and support each of you give us here at Wallyhouse, we are blessed by daily opportunities of finding God dwelling in our midst. Yes, it has been a challenging year beyond anything any of us might have imagined, but pitched in the middle of it all has been love, and that carries us through to where we find a feast of gratitude. And grateful we are, dear ones. We say...

Mahalo, Thank you...

to our many donors, friends and volunteers who helped Wallyhouse rise to the occasion of the near overwhelming increase in those needing food and basic services during the pandemic. We could not carry on without you. You are our community for whom everyday we pray, Mahalo! Thank you!

Appeal, needs...

This rise in numbers of guests at our door has strained our budget and brought about some new expenses, including...

- ❖ an increased bill at the food bank where we obtain most of the food that goes into the near 5,000 bags of groceries we give out each month.

- ❖ an increase in cost to run Kay’s Cafe, our weekly hot lunch program. Not only has our number of guests increased, but because it is now take-out style, we have the added expense of serving the food in carry-out containers.

- ❖ the addition of a port-a-potty since folks can no longer come inside to use bathroom facilities.

- ❖ the addition of a cardboard recycle bin to accommodate the ridiculous amount of cardboard generated by the cases and cases of foods we give out. We can no longer justify allowing all of that cardboard going into the landfill.
- ❖ the end of the grant funds to offer a small weekly stipend to Lovely and Jinna (see lead article).

- ❖ We ask you to help in any way you can with your **tax deductible donation** which can now be made online with **Givlia** at St. E’s website: stelizabeth720.org, click on “GIVE” then follow instructions for Givlia. Choose “Catholic Worker Fund” on the “where do you want to give” dropdown menu.

Or, we still like checks which may be made payable to:

St. Elizabeth’s Episcopal Church, memo: Wallyhouse CW

Mail to: Wallyhouse at St. Elizabeth’s, 720 North King St, Honolulu, HI 96817.

Thank you for your gift to the Wallyhouse ministry! With gratitude and blessings of this Holy Season. May peace and good prevail, *barbara bennett, tssf, Wally & Kay Inglis, and Fr. David Gierlach, SCP*