



The Sewing Hui

Creating for Maui

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2023**

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INTRODUCTION

A year filled with surprises, obstacles, milestones, and new friendships traversing the globe. 2023 was a year of resilience, challenge, care, and community. Through the challenges of the fires on Maui in August, the island witnessed the most beautiful acts of kindness and what the community is capable of when we come together.

We began the first half of 2023 focused on creating **dance costumes** for local performing arts organizations, **Hawaiian apparel** for schools cultural events, and **wheelchair/walker bags** for the kūpuna. We were deep into the work of these projects and simultaneously we were beginning the tedious process of becoming a 501(c)3.

In August, following the fires on Maui, we mobilized quickly to respond and offer the help our organization was most capable of---*sewing of course!* What began as a modest **pillowcase drive** quickly evolved into something much larger than us. Sewing guilds and quilters from all over the **United States (30+ states)** and **internationally** begin creating pillowcases, walker/wheelchair bags, and sleep masks. We were overwhelmed with the outpouring of support across the island and globe! It was beautiful to witness the willingness and eagerness of so many people. We built a whole new network of sewist and quilter friends from around the world.

Thanks to all the contributors we were able to donate **3,500+ pillowcases, 170+ pillows, 100+ wheelchair/walker bags, and 150+ sleep masks.** We also collected sewing machines and sewing supplies which were donated to 24 individuals

who lost all of their sewing supplies in the fires. And lastly, we collected and donated **545 Christmas stockings** for keiki which went to Makana no nā Keiki. Sewists and quilters from across the globe came together with their talents to offer a hand and gift something made with love to the many people who lost everything in the fires. It was an emotional, moving, challenging, and fulfilling time.

Towards the end of 2023, The Sewing Hui was busy with the annual production of *The Nutcracker Ballet* by **Alexander Academy Performing Company**. TSH has been creating and altering costumes for this show since 2021. In 2021 the first production began in the middle of the pandemic, with many restrictions and closures. The performances were held in a half-built home in Kula. In 2023, here we were at the Castle Theater in the **Maui Arts & Cultural Center** where so many big names have performed on this same stage over the years. It was a big step, and very well deserved. The students were over the moon to be performing here! These performances were nothing short of magical!

continued...



INTRODUCTION continued

In 2022, we began welcoming Maui visitors to join our sewing hui. In 2023, our volunteer interest *more than doubled*. We had **107 volunteers** join us during the year and of those volunteers **33 were visitors** and **74 were residents**.

With the influx in volunteers and interest in The Sewing Hui, we had a wish to share the art of sewing with more people in the community. We began a new sewing skills course, ***Sewing 101***, supported by the **Atherton Family Foundation**. It is a beginning sewing skills course taught over 4-weeks, free to volunteers of The Sewing Hui. We look forward to continue to offer this course in 2024!

It was a big year for The Sewing Hui! Each year our little organization is continuing to ***grow and grow***. And with that, we seem to keep out growing our studio space. Hence, in 2024 we will be moving to a **larger new location** to accommodate all of our various sewing initiatives and the increase in volunteer interest. Stay tuned to see our new sewing home!

What a year it was! Filled with emotion, community, perseverance, and many big steps forward. We are incredibly grateful to the many volunteers and supporters who have contributed their **talents, spirit, and hearts** to our organization and the Maui community.



It is humbling to see what is possible when we move and work together. Mahalo for believing in what we do! We look forward to what 2024 will bring!

OUR STORY SO FAR



OUR MISSION

The Sewing Hui's mission is to help the Maui community by creating hand-sewn items for organizations in need. We hope that through our organization we can exemplify the power of community, generosity, and creating together.

WHO WE ARE

The Sewing Hui volunteers are a dedicated team of over 50 sewists and craftspersons, made up of residents and visitor-volunteers, who create projects for Maui's healthcare providers, schools, and community organizations. We have created face masks, fleece blankets and wheelchair/walker bags for kūpuna, shorts and bags for the unsheltered community, apparel for schools and dance organizations, curtains for non-profit organizations, and more. TSH is a registered Hawaii non-profit corporation, fiscally-sponsored by Alexander Academy Performing Company, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Previously we were fiscally-sponsored by Maui Makers, Inc. from 2020-2022.

OUR HISTORY

TSH evolved out of the Maui Face Mask Project. www.mauifacemaskproject.com. Conducted in the Spring of 2020, the project worked to address the critical shortage of N-95 face masks on Maui. The project created 10,000 high quality filter face masks for Maui's healthcare providers. After we completed the project on May 15, 2020, the volunteers wanted to continue sewing for Maui and The Sewing Hui was born.

OUR VALUES

Aloha→ caring, compassion for others, love
Ho`omau→ preserve, perpetuate
`Ike Pono→ to know, to feel, to understand
Kokua→ help, assist, comfort, support
Kuleana→ privilege, responsibility
Kupa`a→ stand firm, steadfast
Laulima→ many hands working together
Lokahi→ unity, agreement, accord
Mahalo→ thank you
Malama→ caring, nurturing others, to protect
`Ohana→ family
Pono→ right, good, moral, fair, just

100+ RESIDENTS AND
VISITOR-VOLUNTEERS
JOIN US TO SEW ANNUALLY

OUR 2023 GOALS

1

Identify current community needs and be ready to act to support those needs.

We focused on (1) Maui's youth and local dance organizations through providing costume support. (2) Kūpuna through creating walker/wheelchair bags and fleece lap blankets. And (3) Individuals and families impacted by the Maui wildfires through creating and donating various items. As the fires were an unexpected event in the community, TSH quickly adapted to respond to the needs of the community. During 2023, we had several other spontaneous sewing initiatives arise as well.

3

Reach different populations in the community.

As an organization, we are passionate about connecting to all groups and demographics across the island. Each year we strive to reach different people in the community to offer support to. This year we assisted the unsheltered community, individuals impacted by the Maui fires, kūpuna, youth, dancers, schools, volunteers in the national parks, and the visitor population.

2

Make the art of sewing more accessible on Maui.

As sewing enthusiasts, we recognize the tremendous health benefits of sewing, as well as the beautiful community it creates when done together. This year, we were passionate about sharing the art of sewing with more people and making it more accessible on Maui. Hence, we launched our beginning 4-week sewing course, *Sewing 101*, free to volunteers of The Sewing Hui, we created sewing kits for the keiki on the island, and we opened our doors to the visitor population to join us to sew during their visits to Maui. Our volunteer interest more than doubled in 2023!

4

Support and contribute to the thriving arts and culture on Maui.

We believe it is important to support and uplift the arts and culture on Maui. Hence, we love to offer apparel and costume assistance for local organizations. Through partnerships with local dance organizations and local school's Hawaiian cultural events, we were able to offer costume and apparel support for these various performances and events.

OUR 2023 SEWING INITIATIVES

Our four major sewing initiatives included:

- Dance costumes for the youth in arts
- Maui wildfire response sewing initiatives
- Heart and care for kūpuna
- Other spontaneous community projects

PROJECTS	DETAILS	OUTCOME
Dance Costumes for Youth	Partnered with Alexander Academy Performing Company to create, alter, and embellish costumes for their <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> Production and for their annual <i>The Nutcracker Ballet</i> Production at the Maui Arts & Cultural Center.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created and altered nearly 500 costumes for Alexander Academy Performing Company • Created and altered over 200 costumes for <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> Production. • Created and altered over 200 costumes for <i>The Nutcracker Ballet</i> Production.
Maui Wildfire Response	In response to the Maui wildfires in August 2023, TSH mobilized quickly to create a Pillowcase Drive, Sewing Supply Drive, and Christmas Stockings for Keiki Drive. 148 sewing groups and individuals from 30+ states of the USA and Canada contributed to these drives. Items went to organizations, shelters, hubs, or directly to families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created, collected, and distributed 3,500+ pillowcases, 179 pillows, 109 wheelchair/walker bags, 156 sleep masks, and various other items in smaller quantities • Donated sewing machines and sewing supplies to 24 sewists or quilters impacted by the fires. • Created and collected 545 Christmas Stockings for keiki impacted by the Maui fires. They went to Makana no nā Keiki.
Heart and care for kūpuna	Showing care, love, and appreciation for the kūpuna in our community has become an important part of our organization. The majority of our volunteers are 55+. This year we made walker/wheel chair bags and fleece blankets for the kūpuna.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created 280+ wheelchair and walker bags for kūpuna • Created 17 fleece lap blankets • Partnered with AmeriCorps Seniors & Kaunoa Senior Center for their Retired & Senior Volunteer Program
Other community projects	Often we get various spontaneous sewing requests from schools and organizations throughout the year. This year, in between our main sewing initiatives, we also partnered with schools, national parks, and community organizations to create sewing kits, garments, aprons, uniforms, and more.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created 35 sewing kits for Boys & Girls Club of Maui • Created 184 traditional Hawaiian kīhei for Carden Academy and 1 holoku dress for Ha'ikū Elementary School • Helped Haleakalā National Park add volunteer patches to 50 of their park uniforms • Repaired 30 chair organizers for Pukalani School's kindergarten class • Created 20 keiki garden harvest aprons for a gardening program offered through the UH extension office

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMS + ACTIVITIES

The Sewing Hui's statistics and achievements in 2023:

- Created 282 wheelchair and walker bags for Hale Makua Wailuku, Roselani Place, Bayada Home Health Care, Kaunoa Senior Center, Meals on Wheels participants, Kula Hospital, Kelea Foundation
- Created 35 Sewing Kits for the Boys & Girls Club of Maui
- Created and altered over 200 costumes for Alexander Academy's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* Production.
- Created 184 traditional Hawaiian kīhei for Carden Academy for their Ho'ike celebrations
- Created 1 holoku dress for the May Day Queen for Ha'ikū Elementary School
- Maui Wildfire Response efforts included creating, collecting, and distributing 3,500+ pillowcases, 179 pillows, 109 wheelchair/walker bags, 156 sleep masks, and various other items in smaller quantities including baby blankets, children's books, toys, art supplies, drawstring bags, face masks, and key fobs. All the items went to various organizations, shelters, hubs, or directly to families impacted by the Maui fires
- 148 sewing groups and individuals from 30+ states of the USA and Canada contributed to our Maui Wildfire Response sewing initiatives
- Created a Sewing Supply Drive where we collected sewing machines and sewing supplies to donate to professional sewists and home sewists who lost their equipment in the Maui fires. We helped 24 individuals
- Helped Haleakalā National Park add volunteer patches to 50 of their park uniforms
- Repaired 30 chair organizers for Pukalani School's kindergarten class
- Launched our first *Sewing 101* course, a beginning sewing skills course taught over 4-weeks to volunteers of The Sewing Hui
- Created 20 keiki garden harvest aprons for a free 4-week gardening program for pre-kindergarten keiki offered through the UH extension office
- Created and altered over 200 costumes for Alexander Academy's *The Nutcracker Ballet* hosted at the Maui Arts & Cultural Center.
- Created and collected 545 Christmas Stockings for keiki impacted by the Maui fires. They went to Makana no nā Keiki
- We had 107 volunteers join us in 2023! Of these, 74 were resident volunteers and 33 were visitor volunteers
- In total The Sewing Hui had over 3,476 hours of volunteer time
- In 2023 we created, collected, and donated a total of 5,463 items for the Maui community

107

Volunteers

3,470+

Volunteer Hours

10,000+

People reached in the Maui community

Further details on our various sewing initiatives can be found on our website at www.thesewinghui.com/initiatives

2023

Sewing Initiatives

DOCUMENTATION

From the studio to the Maui community



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Sewing Hui
www.thesewinghui.com
thesewinghui@gmail.com
@thesewinghui

The Sewing Hui extends its thanks and gratitude to the many volunteers, supporters, partners, recipients, and community who have been involved in one way or another. Thank you for your support and believing in the work we do for the Maui community. Mahalo nui loa!

- **Volunteers** - Andrea Futch, Angie Wagner, Anjollie Safron, Anna Higa, Annabelle Loi, Annalea Black, Anne Gregory, Beth Fox, Carolyn Rivera, Cathleen Lukrich, Catriona Ross, Celeste Enochs, Celia Haines, Cheryl Bien, Cheryl Hamilton, Christie Benker, Christine Castillo, Christine Yonemura, Daniella Vingelin, Deb Duren, Debbie Shimabukuro, Deborah Evans, Diana Woods, Diane Williams, Dina Mezheritsky, Donna Lobel, Dotty Higa, Elaine Gima, Elaine Shaw, Elizabeth Ashley, Emma Carter, Fruzsina Regeczy, Gail Pickholz, Hallie Hunt, Heather Goldin, Heather Greenwood, Helen Vincent, Ildiko Kalmar, Imola Osapay, Jennifer Oberg, Joyce Wilson, Judy Ross, Julie Scouten, Julie-Anne Saroyan, Kathy Wilk, Katie Whiticar, Keala Storm, Kelly Keating, Kim Raymond, Kim Richards, Lan Tran, Lana Procopenko, Leah Omura, Leonie Kuemin, Lili Regeczy, Lili Kalmar, Linda Burkett, Lisa Daly, Lisa Murphy, Lisa Pestana, Lynne Donaldson, Madeline Reese, Mallory Armstrong, Mary Ward, Megan Sterling, Meleen Gradert, Micah Oberg, Miriam Kriegers, Murray Donaldson, Nancy Schmidt, Nancy Betts, Nancy Chavaria, Nichole Procopenko, Oksana (Ana) Weter, Pamela Patrick, Patti Brummel, Patti Lee, Patty Davis, Pauline Fiene, Randy Keller, Rhonda Barut, Rita Avancini, Salena Makia, Sally Nespor, Samantha Sheehan, Sandy Rice, Sara Oberg, Shannon McCaffrey, Shannon Tara Ames, Sharon Agar, Sharon Labao, Sheryl Carter, Stacey Pagud, Susan Semla, Tammy Norton, Tanner Wagner, Terri Simms, Terry Hibbs, Terry Ann Heller, Tori Speere, Vicki Shortell, Vickie Conmy, Vicky Gray, Viola Wolsey, Nancy Wolsey, Yasmine Lindskog
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- **Recipients** - Alexander Academy Performing Company, Bayada Home Health Care, Boy Scout Camp Maluhia shelter, Boys & Girls Club of Maui, directly to individuals and families impacted by the fires, Ha'ikū Elementary School, Hale Makua Wailuku, Haleakalā National Park, Hyatt in Ka'anapali for the keiki temporarily housed there, Kanani Adolpho servicing a kūpuna neighborhood in Keawela Mauka, Kaunoa Senior Center, Kelea Foundation in Kahului, KThei Elementary School, Lahaina fire fighters and their families who lost their homes, Lahaina Gateway Hub, LDS Church in Kahului for their shelter, Makana no nā Keiki, Maui Rapid Response, Meals on Wheels participants, Napili Marketplace Hub, Pacific Birth Collective, Project Vision Hawai'i, Pukalani Elementary School, Roots School, Roselani Place, Secondhand Heaven, sewists and quilters impacted by the Maui fires, Sheraton Hub, Upcountry Strong Hub, War Memorial Shelter
- **Lunch Donors** - Gail Kuba, Gail Pickholz, Hungry Heroes Hawaii, Julie MacMillan, Lynne Donaldson, My Thai Maui, Matthew White
- **Fiscal Sponsor** - Alexander Academy Performing Company
- **Studio Space** - Jennifer Oberg Atelier

CONTINUED



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MAHALO NUI LOA
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN
OUR PROGRAMS


The Sewing Hui
Creating for Maui