crossnotes



A publication of the American Red Cross of Hawaii

Fall 2018

Your kindness helps families recover from home fires

Lance and Asia Siazon lost everything they had in a Nuuanu apartment fire in February. Sadly, their puppy, Leohu, perished in the fire. In their time of despair, the Siazon family was grateful that the American Red Cross was there to help.

"Everything I've ever owned, ever worked for (was) gone," said Lance. "Just like that."

Lance and his wife, Asia, left their apartment around 10:00 a.m. to do an errand when suddenly their neighbors called and told them that their apartment was on fire. Within 15 minutes, their apartment was destroyed.

"You see disasters all over the world. You see the Red Cross is there."

Lance Siazon, home fire survivor

Shortly thereafter, American Red Cross volunteers came to their aid asking how they were and if they had a place to stay for the night.

"You see disasters all over the world. You see the Red Cross is there. It doesn't really hit you until it actually happens to you," said Lance.

Luckily, their children weren't home at the time of the fire. Their dog, Isa, managed to escape, but her paws were badly burnt.



The Siazon family reflects on how the Red Cross helped them after their unimaginable house fire.

A welcome distraction

Lance and Asia were especially touched when the Red Cross handed his children stuffed animals.

"We are huge Disney fans," said Asia. "They gave the kids Mickey Mouse. That was a really nice touch on top of everything else."

"Keep doing what you guys are doing. Keep helping." Lance added when talking about the Red Cross volunteers. "It is totally worth it."

To learn more about the Red Cross, visit redcross.org/hawaii.

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Here is how your support makes a difference



Opened over **1,400** shelters, providing nearly **1 million** overnight stays



Served over 20 million meals and snacks







On a Personal Note

Coralie Matayoshi, Regional CEO

It pays to be prepared. Anyone who's survived a hurricane, flood, home fire or similarly terrifying disaster can attest to that. September is National Preparedness Month, and thanks to you, the Red Cross stands ready to respond when communities need our help the most.

Your generosity has empowered our dedicated volunteers to make a real and lasting difference for so many who face disaster and emergency. On behalf of those we serve, thank you once again for standing with the Red Cross.

Coralie Matavoshi Chief Executive Officer American Red Cross of Hawaii coralie.matayoshi@redcross.org

Your critical role in Kilauea relief and recovery

The Red Cross has been on the ground. providing shelter and comfort during this highly emotional time as residents deal with the uncertainty of this situation. Shelters remained open for months for residents evacuated from their homes due to the Kilauea lava threat.

Comfort and care, delivered

Since the start of this response on May 3, the Red Cross, along with community partners, have distributed hundreds of blankets, sheets, pillows, futons, towels, masks, toiletry kits and other items, as well as thousands of snacks.



Puna resident Debra Smith was in need of much comfort when she came to our Pahoa Shelter. Volunteer Lizzy Stabo provided the care she needed.

The Red Cross worked with the Salvation Army to provide meals. Additionally, trained Red Cross nurses and mental health volunteers staffed shelters and provided over 10,000 health and mental health services to those in need.

Mahalo to our corporate sponsors for their support in helping local families

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