

THE MAUI NEWS

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People who made a difference

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A thread that ties together this year's Maui News "People Who Made A Difference" is that all felt compelled to get involved when they saw a need in the community.

Granted, their motives were varied.

For Lehua Park Cosma, it was personal. Her mother inspired her to lead efforts to establish the county's first rural community dialysis facility. She saw her mother make grueling three-days-per-week treks from Hana to Central Maui to receive dialysis treatments, and she successfully lobbied to bring the life-preserving procedure home to her East Maui community.

Others, like attorneys Lance Collins and David Gierlach, were doing their jobs. But in doing so they did what others would not - challenge city hall by representing Kahului residents who found themselves neighbors to towering walls of dirt, which a Maui judge ruled was in violation of the county's height limit of 30 feet from the natural grade.

In doing her job as executive director of Hui Malama Educational Center, Pualani Enos has taken partnerships with other nonprofit agencies to new, successful heights to benefit the mostly young beneficiaries of Hui Malama's programs.

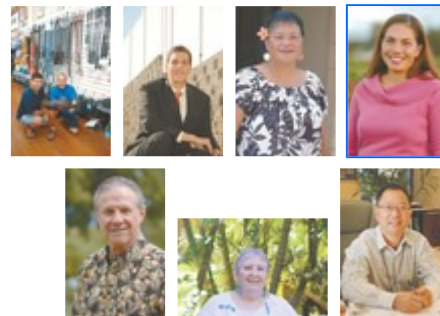
Dr. William Kepler could simply relax in his retirement after selling his pediatrics practice four years ago, but he chooses to serve as forensic examiner on Maui for the Hawaii Sexual Assault Response Team, doing the kinds of examinations many other doctors would rather not.

Retirement also has not kept Lanai resident Phyllis McOmer on the sidelines. After decades of community service, she's seeing fellow island residents benefit from one of her most recent projects - lobbying for the creation of the Lanai Community Health Center.

Others, like Maui County Corporation Counsel Brian Moto, go far beyond what their job calls for. Despite working 50-hour weeks as the county's lead civil attorney, he volunteers at least 60 hours a month doing pro bono legal work and serving on boards of numerous community groups.

And then there's Brian Yoshikawa and Darrell Tanaka, who took their passion for spearfishing and started a reef conservation program called the Roi Roundup. Instead of fishermen going after desirable fish to put

Article Photos



Pualani Enos

on the dinner table, their tournament went after the fish "bad boys," invasive fish that gobble up native fish at an alarming rate.

Their stories follow and prove instructive for the spectators in life who tend to stand on the sidelines, talking about what should or should not be done. These people who made a difference didn't just talk; they saw a need and took action. See how they made a difference in the community in the following stories.

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