Blind Vendors Ohana, Inc.

Shared Vision

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President's Message-Filo Tu



Aloha to all of you good people! I'll tell you, time sure flies by so fast! We are half way home till our 16th year, and while we are still in this bad economy, I am proud to say that all of us are still working. Yes, we are not out of this bad economy yet, but your President and Managers are the good leaders of Blind Vendors Ohana and we will continue to do whatever we can to make sure that all of us will be around for our 16th year anniversary. Of course, we are counting on all of you to help out in any way you can to make things easier for the managers, Garret, Alan, Jim, our trainer, Julia, and also my secretary, Maricen. I believe if we all work together, we will survive these hard times.

Please remember our Company motto. Just in case you have forgotten, here is a little reminder, YES, I CAN!

Now, I would like to take just a little time to thank Maricen and her committee for a superb Christmas party! Blind Vendors Ohana has been known for putting up some of the best Christmas parties. Thank you to you and your committee. Great job!

I want to wish all of you and your families a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Operations Manager's Message-Garret Suzuki



I want to take this opportunity to thank all of Ohana's employees for helping Blind Vendors Ohana achieve a successful 2009 business year. You came through and I sincerely appreciate all of your efforts.

As I daily visit our shops, I still observe that some of you are not consistently observing rules pertaining to good customer relations. To help you become outstanding Ohana

employees, remember the word PRIDE.

PRIDE: Be proud of yourself, Blind Vendors Ohana, Ohana shops, and all the products Ohana carries.

If you are proud of yourself and Ohana:

1. You should try to keep the shops neat, clean and orderly.
2. You will make every effort to familiarize yourself with all the products in Ohana's shops and where they are located. You should also get to know what other shops and facilities are located around Ohana's stores.
3. You will carry out all of your responsibilities with no hesitation.
4. You will be compassionate and try to understand what the needs and interests of the customers are.
5. You will render good customer service when dealing with patrons.

Let's all try our best to help make Blind Vendors Ohana be even more successful in 2010. I know you can do it!

I extend my sincere wishes to all of you for a joyous Holiday Season! May 2010 be filled with good health, much happiness and prosperity!

Pa'ahana Award Winners



Our first Pa'ahana Award winner is Lourdez Ramos. She can be found working at the Inter-island, Commuter and International Terminals. She is a very pleasant, calm and conscientious Sales Associate.

Lourdez says that she has learned a great deal working at Ohana. Her workmanship surely exhibits that. She displays good customer relations, handles her money very well and has established a good relationship with her co-workers and Leads.

Her life is centered around her family. Most of the things she does during her spare time are for her family: cleaning her house and yard, cooking, baby sitting, etc. Her dreams and wishes for the future are to do everything she can for them, so they can have a good and bright future.

Lourdez is not very worried about the economic situation the State is in as long as she has a job with Ohana. She says, "Thanks to Blind Vendors Ohana and its staff for taking care of its employees. Ohana is a good company."



Marcelino Alqueza is receiving the Pa'ahana Award for the second time. He is employed as a warehouse worker. He says he enjoys working for Ohana because his co-workers are very supportive. He feels he has learned a great deal. Marcelino is a very conscientious man who is very well motivated and industrious.

"During my spare time, I try to spend as much time as possible with my wife. I also enjoy the outdoors and going to the mall."

Marcelino is married and has four children. He says he is very pleased with his children. They are all living very successful and happy lives.

Our Pa'ahana Award winner feels that the economic situation we face today is very hard. "However, working at Blind Vendors Ohana is not hard for me. So long as there is unity and teamwork, I believe progress and success must follow."



Elena Calupe is our next Pa'ahana Award winner. She is a Sales Associate at the Honolulu International Airport. She is personable, well informed and a very conscientious employee.

The positive aspect of Ohana, Elena says, is their willingness to recognize and appreciate the performance of its employees. Most importantly, Ohana cares about the personal development of each employee.

Elena is married and is a mother of three children, two boys and a girl. Her wish for her three children is that they will become responsible adults and have a successful future.

"My goals for the next ten years are to own a house in Hawaii, to see my children be successful in their chosen career and take a cruise to Paris, France," Elena said.

When asked about the State's economic situation, Elena states that she is optimistic that the economy will get better and there will be more opportunities for people to improve their lives.



Our final Pa'ahana Award winner is Angelina Cortez. She is Ohana's Human Resources Clerk and she works out of the main office. Angie is an energetic, well organized and efficient person.

This Pa'ahana Award winner finds her position as very challenging, coupled with fun and laughter. At the same time she has very high regards for BVO's owners, managers, and employees.

Angie has many interests. She is an avid reader, and excellent shopper, (she has beautiful blouses and dresses), she loves music and surfing the internet and looks forward to her weekly calls to her children in the Philippines.

This fantastic woman is married and has three children, (2 girls, and 1 boy). They are all degree holders and are working in their own chosen fields of interest.

While living in the Philippines and working for the Philippines government, Angie did a tremendous amount of traveling. She has visited many countries in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Australia, and North America.

Angie intends to continue to work at Blind Vendors Ohana until her retirement. She intends to enjoy the fruits of her labor and continue traveling to places she has not yet been to and eventually return to the Philippines at least once a year.

Angelina states, "....despite the economic downturn I am happy to note that Blind Vendors is still surviving and prospering, thanks to all the astute stewardship of the

owners, managers and employees. I am happy to be with Blind Vendors Ohana."



Congratulations are sent out to Ron and Beth Flormata upon the arrival of their first grandchild. Their daughter, Eula, gave birth to a beautiful little girl on June 25, 2009. She weighed 6 lbs. 12.5 oz. and was 18.5 inches in height. Ron describes little Samantha as an adorable and cuddly bundle of joy. Whenever he talks about Samantha his face lights up and he has the biggest smile anyone has ever seen.

Congratulations to the proud grandparents and parents of little Samantha!



Blind Vendors Ohana wishes to extend its congratulations to Camila Paglingayen, a Sales Associate at the International Terminal, for earning the 2008 Oahu Branch Rehabilitant of the Year Award.

Camila came to Hawaii with her family seeking a better life and hopefully, services that might allow her to become more independent and eventually work. She attended Nanakuli High School and attended the Wai'anae High School's Adult Continuing Education Program.

Camila has an infectious enthusiasm and can-do attitude that led her to attend cashier training at Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, where she began learning a skill that would allow her to become employed.

The collaborative efforts of Island Skills Gathering, Goodwill's Job Placement Program, and the VR Specialist, enabled Camila to find her "perfect" job at Blind Vendors Ohana. Camila has grown into her job where she has an employer and numerous co-workers that treasure her friendship. Camila was one "perfect" employee looking for that one, "perfect" job and she found it at Blind Vendors Ohana, Inc.

2009 Christmas Party

On Saturday, December 5, 2009, Blind Vendors Ohana celebrated its' Christmas party at the Ohana Honolulu Airport Hotel.

From the comments of the employees and guests, it was a Christmas party that left a memorable and unforgettable impression. The atmosphere was filled with lively, cheerful, enthusiastic, grateful employees and guests. It was a "Hawaiian Christmas Party" and everything was just great: from the festive decorations and Hawaiian-style centerpieces, to the bountiful array of pupus and buffet menu, to the entertaining program, which consisted of an employee Talent Contest, Best Dressed BVO female and male employee in their Hawaiian Attire, "Gimme Gimme" game, and Special Numbers by our President, Filo Tu, the Christmas Party Committee, HR Manager, Jim Kahue & his wife Josephine, Kenneth Johnson, and Erica Flormata, and of course, the giving away of

door prizes.

Thank you to the contestants who participated in the Talent Contest. The judges had a hard task of determining the winners. The Talent Contest winners were:



1st Place $200.00 Ronald Flormata – sang "Kawai Punahele"
2nd Place $150.00 Sa Ortiz - danced to "Alika"
3rd Place $100.00 Rachelle Villanueva - sang "Party in the USA"
4th Place $50.00 Juanita Dela Cruz - sang "Open Arms"



The Best Dressed BVO female went to Mamerna Bio who wore an elegant, fitted, black, red & white mu'umu'u, with a Christmas Lei & Poinsettia in her hair. Ronald Uchida was the winner for the best dressed male. He wore a beaded Aloha Shirt with Jeans.

Special thanks go out to our vendors and friends who donated door prizes that helped make our party complete. We are grateful that every employee who was working and attended the party received a door prize.



The three grand door prizes included a $500.00 Walmart Gift Card donated by the Madden Corporation and the lucky winner was Juanita Dela Cruz. Pepsi and the owners of Blind Vendors Ohana donated Las Vegas trips and the lucky winners were Marcelino Alqueza and Mayrose Galo. Congratulations!



The Christmas party committee did an excellent job planning and executing a smooth and enjoyable party. Special thanks to: Maricen Olipares, Angelina Cortez, Virginia Rizalda, Ronald Flormata, Ronald Uchida, Priscilla Griffin, Mamerna Bio, Ofelia Lisk, Rosita Baguio, Crystalyn Dapdap, and Linda Fuchigami. Well done folks!

Something Good to Remember – Jim Kahue, HR Manager



As this year winds down I wanted to remember some of the "good" things that happened at Ohana in 2009. The following is my list of "goodies":

1. *We all have a job!* More than that, we have a great job and place to work!

2. *We did not lose any pay and benefits!* In fact, we gained because Ohana paid the increased cost for bus passes, parking and medical plans which helps a lot!

3. *We had two minor work accidents and no costly or serious work injuries!* This meant our employees did not suffer and Ohana saved unnecessary costs!

4. *We hired 12 new employees and promoted 5 to full-time!* New hires and promotions mean we are giving people jobs and a chance to earn a living and some benefits; more than 50% of our hires were blind, disabled or disadvantaged persons!

5. *We had several special events that all our employees enjoyed!* Celebrating Ohana's Anniversary day on June 1st with food and bonuses; giving Thanksgiving day lunch tickets to employees working on the holiday; recognizing employees for their good work at the Pa'ahana Awards luncheon; and having fun at our annual Christmas party where employees and guests were treated to a great evening filled with good food, music, gifts, and prizes! A big Mahalo and Hana Hou to Ohana's Christmas party committee comprised of employee volunteers who planned, organized and successfully handled the party!

6. *We work for and with good people who care about each other, our customers and Ohana*! It is always great when you work with people who care!

Although 2009 is almost over, I feel grateful and happy about all the good and wonderful things that happened. I look forward to 2010 being an even better year for Ohana and us. IMUA! *Mele Kalikimaka & Hauoli Makahiki Hou!*



2009 Blind Vendors Ohana Christmas Party

