

Bank Employees Say 'Yes' to Helping Others

Barbara Lum Lee holds *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* open to a brightly colored illustration. As she turns the pages of the classic picture book, the kindergarten and preschool-aged kids in front of her inch forward ... spell-bound. A child stands so close, her nose almost touches the drawing. Other kids want to help turn the pages.

Last fall, Lum Lee volunteered for Read Aloud America, a literacy program supported by the First Hawaiian Foundation. At each of the six hour-long evening sessions at Iroquois Point Elementary School, she read to a couple dozen attentive youngsters.

When she read a book illustrated with animals, Lum Lee encouraged the children to sound off. Kids trumpeted like elephants. They roared like tigers. Shown the picture of an owl, she said, laughing, "everybody was hooting like crazy."

Read Aloud is designed to instill a love of reading from childhood. The sessions are held in the evenings. Lum Lee, the bank's Kapolei branch manager, would leave work about 5 p.m.; pick up Ewa Beach manager David Shimabukuro (another Read Aloud volunteer); arrive at the school and start reading at 6. She'd finally pull into her driveway around 7:30.

"But you're not tired when you're done," Lum Lee said. "You're energized. I really enjoy it. I feel like I'm doing something good because reading is the key to everything."

Lum Lee and Shimabukuro are just two of hundreds of First Hawaiian Bank employees who volunteer in neighborhoods where they live or work. Throughout the year, YesTeam members stepped forward on weekends at charity events, like the Hawaiian Humane Society Pet Walk, American Heart Association Heart Walk and Health Fair and Big Brothers & Big Sisters Bowl-a-thon. They rolled up their sleeves and cleaned up the areas around Waikiki Beach and the Ala Wai Canal on National Make a Difference Day.

And our employees donated an extraordinary \$522,000 – a record for the bank – to Hawai'i's United Way campaigns. All of this is First Hawaiian tradition: When others need help, our employees without hesitation always say, "Yes."

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Barbara Lum Lee
Kapolei Branch Manager,
First Hawaiian Bank

