



CHELSEA GROUP LIMITED

Chelsea Group Ltd and BOMA Hawaii have a positive vision for the Hawaii community this holiday season.

Andy Beth Miller

Family is highly prized here at Chelsea Group, Ltd., and nothing brings family together quite like the holiday season—especially at Christmas time. Yet not every Hawaii family has the luxury of lavishing their keiki with dozens of presents under the tree each year, so when Chelsea Group CEO George Benda heard about an opportunity to help support a local cause that would aid island families in providing their children with gifts from “Santa”—Salvation Army Hawaii’s annual Angel Tree program—he was more than eager to jump on board in support.

“BOMA Hawaii introduced me to the Angel Tree program many years ago to my great delight. The simplicity of the method to spread some joy to children who might not otherwise have anything warms my heart,” explains Benda. “Paying it forward is my way and the Chelsea Group way.”

The Angel Tree program runs every year during Christmas, and works tirelessly to provide local underprivileged children and seniors with gifts for the holidays. The program places Christmas trees with tags, complete with the information of a needy keiki or senior “angel,” in strategically located areas, including various shopping malls, as well as several Central Pacific Bank (who also sponsors the program) branch locations.

Those locals—be it business or individuals—from the community who are wanting to participate in blessing these “angels,” are invited to then pick a tag from the tree which corresponds to a child or senior with a special wish for Christmas, purchase the requested gift (or equivalent) and then return it to the same Angel Tree location along with your tag. The program takes it from there, ensuring that each gift is delivered to your chosen “angel” before Christmas. And for those who want to get involved, but may not be able to physically make it to the locations for retrieving tags themselves, cash and online donations for the Angel Tree program can be made to support an Angel, and are greatly appreciated as well.

Just this past year, thanks to the generous donations and participation of many local Hawaii individuals, and businesses such as Chelsea Group, the Hawaii community was able—through a strong, collective effort—to make Christmas bright, providing more than 20,000 gifts to keiki and kupuna.

Having a direct hand in connecting Benda and Chelsea Group to this worthy charity was Joshua Tokars, who is the General Manager of Armstrong Building Maintenance, as well as a



Angel Tree donated gifts

representative of BOMA Hawaii. Since becoming a BOMA Hawaii member in 2013, Tokars has served on the social committee—assisting with the community service projects—and now sits on the Board of Directors, chairing the community service committee and acting as BOMA's 2017 treasurer and secretary.

For more information on the Angel Tree program and how to donate visit:
<https://www.prisonfellowship.org/about/angel-tree/how-does-angel-tree-work/>

"This year, we really amped up our community service efforts," Tokars says. "BOMA has begun partnering with Kakaako Cleanup and the Salvation Army Angel Tree program, where, [this year] as an organization, BOMA gave to 150 children and families in the local Honolulu area."

The positive impact that supporting such a cause has made upon Tokars is undeniable, who himself describes the indelible impression made yearly by the Angel Tree. "This is a great opportunity for us to give back to the community at large, especially affecting children here in Honolulu." A part of which Chelsea Group has had a direct hand in aiding, with Tokars estimating that Chelsea Group has sponsored several angels over the course of the last two years of the company's participation. "They adopted these children, and went out and purchased these specific gifts, and then returned it to us, and then, at our annual Christmas luncheon, for the past two years, we were able to donate to more than 150 children and families."

But Tokars' good impression and gratitude for Chelsea Group's inclusion within the BOMA Hawaii's and Salvation Army Hawaii's efforts do not conclude here, as the current BOMA member explains that, "On top of that, George [Benda] also personally contributed to my personal efforts—a project—a CEO sleep out—where business leaders in the Honolulu area all got together and slept out in the State Capital rotunda for one night—sleeping in cardboard boxes—to really try to put ourselves in the shoes of people who have this challenge of being homeless."

Specifically, Tokars shares of how impressed he was with Benda's own individual involvement and investment to the cause: "He personally made a contribution for Chelsea Group to sponsor my personal efforts, and I believe I raised almost \$2,800 dollars for that."

As a whole, Tokars explains that Chelsea Group's endeavors have served to also encourage and inspire him in regards to seeing the involvement of the next generation, who will become the leaders of Hawaii's future. "Chelsea Group also partners with BOMA Hawaii in supporting the Special Olympics Hawaii 'Over The Edge' event, I know, and it's just such a great thing to see young adults in the business community growing in Chelsea Group, and just being a part of helping others," Tokars shares.

And that helping others is the crux of all that Tokars sees as being the real message of importance of getting involved and pitching in. "It's really just part of our efforts to give back to the community—as business professionals and members of this community on Oahu—it's our responsibility to give back and really take our eyes off ourselves and to help other people, and through BOMA Hawaii, Chelsea Group has definitely used that as a vehicle to [help] get that message across."

Wondering what's next for BOMA Hawaii? "We are doing a huge Kakaako Cleanup that's on the horizon," says Tokars. "That's our big push project that I've been part of for several years now. Steve Sullivan [Vice President Operations at The Shidler Group] really helped me get into it, and I just really look up to him as a professional...he's really shown me what it looks like and means to give back to others in this local business community platform, especially."

In addition to its collaboration with Salvation Army Hawaii, Chelsea Group has had the privilege of partnering with a few more of Hawaii's best to aid outreach to the local community, including coming alongside such programs as Special Olympics Hawaii, Hawaii Public Radio, and Molokai Land Trust.

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ABOUT Chelsea Group

Chelsea Group is a Hawaii-based building science consulting firm specializing in preserving and enhancing the mechanical infrastructure in existing commercial office, institutional, retail, and industrial facilities. For more than 25 years, Chelsea's building scientists and engineers have solved problems and found opportunities that add asset value to these properties. The Chelsea team is widely recognized for its thought leadership in sustainable, high performance buildings.