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Bro Tom Heinle and a few of the volunteers take a break from preparing for the Christmas on campus hospitality event for the homeless. Seen here visiting the Nativity Scene as it was being set up on the Kalaepohaku campus by St. Louis School are: (from left) Volunteers Norman Capinpin and Ives Morei, both Business Management majors, now in their junior year; Jeannie Pinpin, a sophomore majoring in Communications and Bro. Tom Heinle, Campus Minister who leads the organization of the Christmas event for the homeless.

Christmas on Campus

The Chaminade *ohana* welcomes those in need

By Lisa Benoit

For the fifth year, Chaminade University made Christmas a little brighter for 15 homeless families now living at the Institute for Human Services, (IHS). On December 6th, under white tents adorned with bright Christmas lights at the Henry Hall courtyard, students, faculty and administration treated the families to “Christmas on Campus”—a night of good food, entertainment and games sponsored by campus ministry.

Marianist Brother Tom Heinle, campus minister, said that the Christmas on Campus program was an opportunity for the school to help families during the holidays.

“We do it to help the homeless—to help people in need and make them feel part of the Chaminade *ohana*,” Brother Heinle said. “We do so much of our community service by going out, but this is an opportunity to invite people in need to be part of our campus community and I think that is very special.”

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the Chaminade *ohana*.

—Brother Heinle

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Representatives from the school's student clubs, sports teams and resident halls each selected a family, now living at the IHS temporary homeless shelter, to host for the evening. After transporting the families from IHS, students accompanied their guests while they enjoyed the buffet-style, full course Christmas dinner, including turkey, ham and hot dogs for the kids, dressing, potatoes, rice, beverages, fruits, and Christmas desserts. The meal was donated by ARAMARK and served by administration and faculty members.

"I joined Campus Ministry to continue to have the kind of spiritual guidance I had in high school when I went to St Anthony's in Kalihi. Helping in this event is important to me because everyone needs to know that they have someone to turn to: not just other people, but the Lord as well."

Jeannie Pinpin, Communications major

"I came to Chaminade because I wanted a school that had a religious feel to it. Helping with this event helps me sustain the sense of community I felt at the Awakening Retreat."

Norman Capinpin, Business Management major

Students also provided entertainment and served as Santa's helpers, giving presents to the children, who ranged in age from one to 18 years old, as well as their parents. Different campus clubs and athletic teams donated \$100 gift certificates to buy gifts for the children and for grab bag prizes. Proceeds from a raffle drive on campus were donated to the IHS shelter.

Caring for Oahu's homeless isn't new to Chaminade students and faculty. Throughout the year, members of the campus ministry program go to the IHS shelter to prepare and serve meals.

"We do it to reach out to the larger community, especially where there is need," Brother Heinle said. "They come as total strangers and they leave us after a few hours as our friends. Some of the kids from the families cry when they have to go back on the bus. That gets to my heart." 🌟

Spotted on Campus...



Prof. Robert Santee, Director of the Master of Science in Counseling Psychology Program (MSCP) takes his students through a midday tai chi session under the watchful gaze of the Madonna and Child. The process of T'ai Chi Ch'uan consists of sequences of very slow, controlled movements. In Chinese philosophy, it is also a path to reality and to discerning yin and yang and the source of all creation.

"I include T'ai Chi Ch'uan as part of my course in Taoist Psychology because it allows students to experience what is discussed in the classroom." The integration of these two approaches (theoretical and experiential) to learning provides a deeper understanding of Taoist Psychology. It allows for a harmonization of mind, body and environment.

My students generally find that, they become relaxed, centered and focused, not only while practicing T'ai Chi Ch'uan, but also for the rest of the day. They are quite amazed about how it impacts on their daily life," said Prof. Santee.

Prof. Santee, who has a Ph.D in Philosophy and in Educational Psychology from the University of Hawaii, is also the Chair for Behavioral Science. Among his special interests are Buddhist and Taoist Psychology and the Psychology of T'ai Chi Ch'uan. 🌟