

# Planting Seeds For The Spring ParaGenius Foundation 2025



## In This Edition

2024 In Review,  
2025 In Bloom

Volunteer Spotlight

On-Farm Housing &  
Volunteer Initiative



## 2024 In Review

We began the year with our sights set high, intending to provide a comprehensive program for wildfire survivors. *Life, however, had other plans!*

Here's how we pivoted...



- Our founder Carolyn privately loaned 'Okō'a Farms funds to purchase the neighboring unit to their Upcountry Storefront, inspiring our charity to launch the **Nourishing Maui: Farm Store Expansion Project**.
- We launched a **Farmhand Assistance Initiative**.
- We continued our Volunteer Food Distribution program.

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### Farm Store Expansion Project

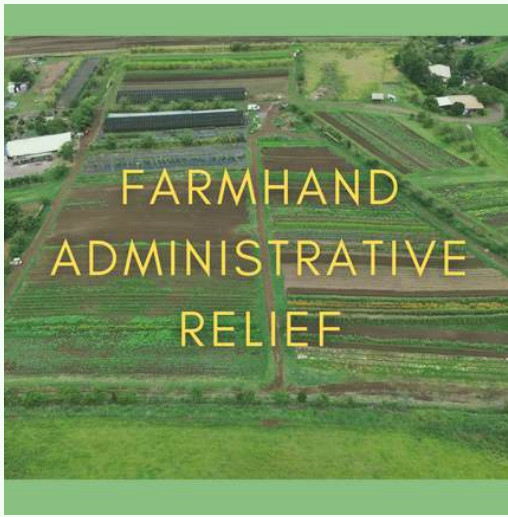
#### *Build-Out of Maui's Premier Produce Market*

Oko's upcountry market has quadrupled food access for our island since opening in 2023. Now, through private donations of **\$21,000** to PGF, plus another **\$19,000** direct to 'Okō'a Farms, we are poised to expedite the farm store's expansion.

The adjacent unit to the Kulamalu storefront, purchased last fall, will enable 'Okō'a to feature hot food, additional provisions from local vendors, and of course, even more of the eclectic bounty of organic produce from many dozen more family farmers.



[Donate](#)



## Farmhand Assistance Initiative Grant Writing and Admin Support

PGF provided 450 hours of pro-bono grant writing and admin aide to our beloved family farmers in 2024.

These efforts translated to over **\$150,000 in grant funding**, as farmers work to modernize equipment and improve efficiencies to better feed our community.

## Volunteer Food Distribution Fresh Food; Fair Prices

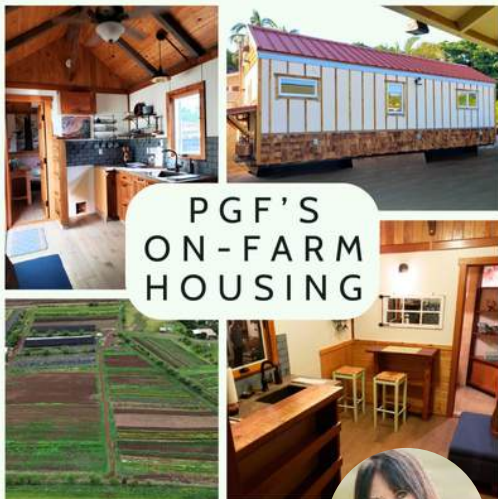
Our team provided **1,176 hours** of volunteer power in 2024.

*Mahalo to our own Sally Dean for getting the word out about our weekly presence through Nextdoor. Her communications reached thousands with each post and profoundly expanded our reach at the Tuesday market!*



Join Us

# 2025 In Bloom



Julie

## PGF Dedicated Housing On Farm For Long-Term Helpers

We are excited to announce a mainstay for our longer-term volunteers and interns! This off-grid, custom-built charmer has arrived on Okoa's main farm property and can house 1-2 PGF guests as they support us in farm and market activities.

**Mahalo ke akua** to our inaugural on-farm support, Julie Dickey, who will help us in our **GROWING FUTURES** program, nurturing youth through hands-on Agriculture.

## Meet Our Current Volunteer Team:

# Our Volunteers



Carolyn

I'm a serial volunteer. I just can't help lending a hand when a hand is needed. Currently I'm bankrolling an incredible biodynamic, organic farm in Kula and volunteering in the farm booth at the Tuesday Farmer's Market. It's the highlight of my week to meet n' greet, get to know our customers, and ring up the goods we offer. We are often met with big smiles and lovely compliments about our efforts.

**Below are some of the wonderful folks who join me in the volunteering efforts!**



Patti

Patti Cipro helps run the whole market with its 20 vendors, but she spends most of the morning setting up our display tables and answering the many questions we get from our produce-loving customers.



Cheryl

Cheryl is a retired anesthesiologist who loves to talk up our incredible fruits, vegetables, herbs, mushrooms, sourdough bread, jams, jellies, and much more! Cheryl is the Queen of upsell and is an incredibly healthy example of a long-time vegetarian.



Bo

Bo Xavier is a new volunteer who is in awe of our Farmer, Ryan Earehart's commitment to eventually feed all of Maui healthy organic food. Bo's bright smile and serene energy gives back to our team and our market-goers in spades!



Ashley

Ashley and her husband come to Maui from Oregon during the winter months. She has her own farm in Oregon but she sought out the Farmer's Market and immediately offered to volunteer to stay connected to her love of sustainable organic farming.

## Stop By And Say Hi!

Wailea Farmers Market Tuesdays 8-11am

100 Wailea Ike Dr

## Before we go, we wish to express sincere gratitude to Kinexa Digital...

We connected with Alexa Kyler of Kinexa Digital, thanks to [Taproot Foundation](#) - a wonderful nonprofit connecting emerging charities like PGF with skilled volunteers.

If you're looking for a website redesign and a professional with a clear vision, check her out!

[Learn More](#)



**Until Next Time,  
Be Well and Live Aloha**

