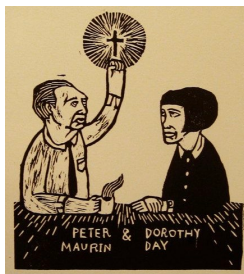

Wallyhouse News



A Franciscan Catholic Worker at St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church,
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Second Issue - September 17, 2018

Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin founded the Catholic Worker movement on May 1, 1933 with the inaugural distribution of the *Catholic Worker* newspaper in New York's Union Square. The paper continues to proclaim the CW vision based on the radical life and message of Jesus. Today, over 200 CW communities, in cities and on farms throughout the world, are committed to nurturing the poor in body, mind and spirit, non-violent resistance of oppression and practicing radical acts of kindness. Wallyhouse, the Honolulu Catholic Worker founded in March 2018 by David Catron, tssf and barbara bennett, tssf, aims to do the same by living our lives in a "different way".



Dorothy Day on Peter Maurin and the Catholic Worker:

"Slowly, I began to understand what Peter Maurin wanted: We were to reach the people by practicing the works of mercy, which meant feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the prisoner, sheltering the harborless, and so on. We were to do this by being poor ourselves, giving everything we had; then others would give too. Voluntary poverty and the works of mercy were the things he stressed above all. This was the core of his message. It had such an appeal that it inspired us to action—action which certainly kept us busy and and got us into all kinds of trouble besides."

What keeps us busy and sometimes gets us into trouble:

This, our second issue, is dedicated to what we do here at Wallyhouse. When we arrived in January 2018 to open a CW house in Honolulu, beginning as a house of prayer for all people, we didn't do anything else...or we did the most important thing: we listened. We listened, and continue to do so, during our daily Morning and Night prayers. We listened to our houseless neighbors for their needs and how we might best serve them. We listened to the house for what was suitable to its structure and its location behind St. Elizabeth's. We listened for the Spirit and what we were being called to do by way of service to the poor and action against unjust social structures. By March, we opened our doors to begin with...

Aloha Laundry

We call it Aloha Laundry in honor of its predecessor. The original idea had been a diocesan grant to give the houseless community enough quarters and laundry detergent for them to go to a nearby laundromat; then things changed. Not long after we arrived at Wallyhouse our washer sprung a leak and flooded the floor. Over the next weeks, the entire floor had to be replaced. In the same period the dryer too blew a fuse and it too would have to be replaced. Now we were without washer, dryer and flooring.



The good news was that this fiasco stimulated the new Aloha laundry project. The diocese agreed to allow us to purchase a new commercial washer and dryer so that we could offer a place right

here for the houseless to have their laundry done. Once the machines were delivered, we printed some handouts with a strict schedule with days and times for washing. We figured we could serve maybe five persons a day, times three days, to equal fifteen persons a week! (We guessed low.)

Our first stop was Robert, a 60ish man who has been living in the driveway to the rectory for six years. We imagined he would jump at the opportunity to have his clothes washed right next door. "Naw," he said. "I have a lady friend who lives nearby. She does my laundry. But thanks for offering."

Determined, we visited every encampment on the street, handing out our tickets and asking folks to reserve a slot. Not one person did so, politely offering one excuse or another. We began to feel like the rich man who threw a banquet and nobody came.

But shortly after, there came a soft knock at the door. It was Robert, arms full of dirty clothes. "Do you suppose you could wash these few things for me?"

Robert was only the first. We abandoned the schedule and used Robert's model: we take in the wash, dry it and fold it ourselves, about 30 loads per week! All the houseless need do is pick it up.

Feeding the Hungry

Fr. David, our rector at St. E's, has long distributed bags of non-perishable food to those who ask for it. With our ongoing presence and his limited hours due to the need to make pastoral calls and attend meetings, we took over the food distribution. During our open hours, we provide simple bags consisting usually of three canned foods: a meat (Spam is popular here), a pasta and a fruit; also included are a beverage, a granola bar, and when lucky something salty and something sweet. This is a great activity for our volunteers to go next door to the food pantry in the church building and make bags for distribution and/or hand out the bags to the folks that come asking for them. During the down time, a volunteer can fold laundry.

"You need to make a sign with hours of service," Fr. David came over to say after we had been at it for a month or so. "We don't want you to burn out." It took awhile, but we finally settled on:

Wallyhouse hours of service:



Monday-Friday 8:00am - 12:00pm and 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Saturday 8:00am - 12:00pm

Saturday afternoon and Sunday: CLOSED

In addition to the food bank and laundry, we added device charging and mail distribution for those who use St. E's address.

Our friends from the street are somewhat good at observing the hours; and when they don't, we are sometimes good at saying we are closed. But sometimes we tend to a friend who shows up in need no matter the time. Liz, for example, came to us at 9:30pm desperate for her laundry. "Someone stole my stuff," she said. "I have no blanket and nothing to wear! It's cold...please auntie!" —What is a Worker to do? Be kind, open the gate and give Liz her scant things.

Kay's Cafe

Volunteers Wally and Kay Inglis, felt Wallyhouse needed to serve a fresh meal at least once a week and so opened a "cafe" for lunch on Tuesdays. Our houseless guests are welcomed at the House to sit at one of our outdoor tables and enjoy a tasty lunch handmade fresh by Kay, with a little help from Wally.



On Tuesday, August 14, our first lunch was served with great success. Around 40 houseless friends came at staggered times, to sit, talk story, and eat a delicious meal of chicken sandwiches with pasta salad. The following week our chefs prepared and served Kay's signature tortilla soup. It was especially welcomed because our food pantry was near empty making the canned food distribution meager. Our third cafe day was a pizza party thanks to Kerry's (Fr. David's friend) keen ability to nab a plethora of individual pizza crusts from the food bank.



Our houseless community also enjoys a hot breakfast across the parking lot, in Shim Hall on Saturday mornings, provided by St. Elizabeth's.

Enjoying the Cuisine of a Peacemaker

On September 18, Kay's Cafe will enjoy a meal prepared by guest chef, the Rev. Dr. Ha'aheo Guanson. Ha'aheo is a cultural practitioner, peace educator and advocate in Hawaii and internationally. Co-founder of the Pacific Justice and Reconciliation Center, she has recently organized the Pacific Peace Center at the public housing Towers of Kuhio Park. We were fortunate to attend the opening on September 15. Their mission is "to create a culture of peace and nonviolence for the children of Hawaii and the world". Ha'aheo is a true example of Hawaii's Aloha spirit: following in the justice, nonviolence, and reconciliation of Queen Liliuokalani, that justice and mercy would emerge for all the people of Hawaii and the world.



(photo: Niambi, Queen Lili, David and Ha'aheo)

New Life at Wallyhouse

Speaking of Tuesday August 14, on that very same day, our new Catholic Worker live-in volunteer arrived. She is just what the house needed: young, energetic, friendly and musical. But we will let her speak for herself:

"Hello my name is Niambi Mercado, I came to Wallyhouse to follow my call to serve. I moved to Hawaii with my cat Trinket and my cello Joy, \$200 in my bank account, and a deep faith and trust in God. I have started my process to become a member of the Third Order Franciscans as well finding a way to make it possible to be a full time Catholic Worker Volunteer. As soon as I stepped foot on Hawaii soil I felt a sense of belonging I have never felt before. Walking into Wallyhouse I felt a weight lifted off my shoulders. The

work is hard and tedious, but exactly what needs to be done. Give me soaked laundry, unpredictable houseless and street parties at 2am; Jesus is needed here, so here is where I will be. I know I have a lot to learn from Barbara, David, and Wallyhouse. I am grateful for every moment I have here."

Monthly Peace Vigil at State Capital

On January 13, 2018, Hawaii residents were terrified when a cellphone alert warned of an incoming ballistic missile attack. The false alarm resulted in widespread panic and confusion since state officials took 38 minutes to relay an all-clear alert. The outdoor sirens, which had its first tests only a month before, failed to go off!

Monthly since January—as the sirens are tested at 11:45am on the 1st working day each month—peace activists gather at the State Capital in front of the Fr. Damien statue for a ½ hour vigil, 11:30-noon, to call attention to the danger of nuclear war and to

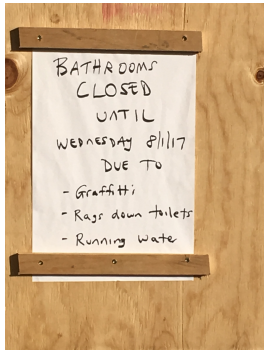


plead for the abolition of all nuclear weapons. The new Honolulu CW community, including Angie the dog, in the spirit of nonviolence taught and practiced by founders Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin, is committed to this monthly witness for peace.

We invite you to stand with us each month, just as we invite you to volunteer for other CW traditions: practicing the works of mercy that are central to the gospel message of Jesus. -Wally Inglis

Showers: what to do?

Across the parking lot, St. Elizabeth's Shim Hall provides bathrooms and showers for the houseless community, originally from 7a.m. until 7p.m. A few months ago, the sewer line backed up and caused inconvenience for all of us who live on campus. At about the same time, problems of vandalism and assault escalated in the space. We found no alternative other than to close the bathrooms. By a miracle, during the closure, a shower truck showed up for the first time in the parking lot of the Kamaukapili UCC church next door. The truck houses 3 showers and toilets, and comes supplied with toiletries, security and janitorial service. They are scheduled to park next door every other Thursday morning. Not enough, but good news on that day.



One of our original plans for Wallyhouse has been to install a full bathroom for the houseless to use individually during our open hours. This would allow for a regular, simple and safe bathing experience. We have the space identified but need to raise the funds to remodel it into a suitable bathing space. First step is to install a floor drain.

In the meantime, we have tried to open the Shim Hall bathrooms upon request. That has not worked too well due to problems with oversight availability and cleanliness. Now the bathrooms are closed again until the houseless come up with a plan to clean and secure the bathrooms. One plan for the women and one for the men. The shower truck company, HieHie, is interested in parking at St. Elizabeth's multiple days a week because we are a central location for houseless communities. We are excited about that and hope it comes to pass. In the meantime, we continue to wring our hands, pray and wonder. If you, our readers, have wisdom, please do pass it on to us.

More about [Artfelt](#), our open art studio for the houseless and at-risk youth, [Clarification of Thought](#), and our [vegetable garden](#) in our next issue. Until then, please

COME and VOLUNTEER if you are local, and/or

MAKE a tax-deductible Charitable Contribution!

You can contribute directly to Wallyhouse or to St. Elizabeth's with a memo for Wallyhouse. Both methods qualify as tax deductible. Send your donation to: St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church, 720 North King St., Honolulu, HI 96817.

In Kind Contributions are great too. We can always use:

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| +snack food | +new underwear | +toiletries/hygiene products/diapers |
| +art supplies | +trash bags | +laundry soap in pods |
| +towels | +simple can openers | +your time... |

—The greatest challenge of the day is: how to bring about a revolution of the heart, a revolution that has to start with each one of us. When we begin to take the lowest place, to wash the feet of others, to love our brothers and sisters with that burning love, that passion, which led to the cross, then we can truly say, "Now I have begun."
—Dorothy Day

