

This article was first published in the May 2018 issue of the Sylvia Woods Harp Center e-Newsletter. It is part of Sylvia's ongoing series about living on Kauai, Hawaii.

Volcano and Flood Update

Last month I told you about the historic flooding here on Kauai. And this month, the volcanic eruptions on the Big Island have been in the nightly news throughout the country. Luckily for us on Kauai, we are over 300 miles away from the volcano. The people in the eruption area of the Big Island are not so fortunate.



Things here on Kauai are starting to get back to normal in the flood areas. There's still a lot of work to be done, but we are on the "road to recovery."

Several communities here on the north shore were completely isolated for weeks, and were only accessible by boat or helicopter. One lane of the road is now open for local residents part of every day, which is a BIG step forward.



I'd like to send a special "thank you" to an amazing group of people who are making a big difference here on Kauai: **Samaritan's Purse**. According to their [website](#), they are "a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped meet needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ. The organization serves the church worldwide to promote the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ."

Here in the US, "Samaritan's Purse mobilizes staff and equipment and enlists thousands of volunteers to provide emergency aid to victims of tornadoes, hurricanes, wildfires, floods, and other natural disasters in the United States. We often stay behind after our initial response to rebuild or restore houses for needy families."

A wonderful Samaritan's Purse group from North Carolina has been helping people here in Kauai by tearing out waterlogged drywall, removing and suppressing mold, rebuilding walls, foundations, and roofs, and making other necessary repairs.

One homeowner that they have helped is my friend Rayven Hockett. She has been a harp customer since 1988, and was the first person that I knew on Kauai. Her home in Hanalei suffered major damage from the flood. You can read part of her story on the [Kauai page of Samaritan's Purse website](#). I'm so grateful to Samaritan's Purse for their assistance to Rayven and others.





One of my neighbors, Marsha Southworth, has been helping Samaritan's Purse by volunteering to do their laundry. Since the Samaritan volunteers do hard, dirty, exhausting work, laundry is a daily need. Several of us here in our condo complex have happily donated the use of our washers and dryers to "Marsha's laundry service." We're happy to do our small part to help this amazing organization.

Here are two links from Samaritan's Purse's website regarding their work here on Kauai.

[This is the article that features Rayven](#)

[Here is an earlier article about Kauai](#)

A recent update on their site states: Samaritan's Purse is also now supporting relief efforts on the Big Island (Hawaii) in light of recent volcanic eruptions. We are distributing thousands of half mask respirators that filter both particulates and sulfur dioxide gas. Residents have already expressed their relief and thanks upon receiving these items. In addition, Billy Graham Rapid Response Team chaplains are ministering to the displaced.

Photo credit: Photos are from the Samaritan's Purse website, and are used here by permission.