

Application: 11705

Gozun, Melissa Malia

Page: Applicant Information

This is the application form for the Program of Excellence (PoE) Award for FMIG/SAACOPP's at medical schools. If you have any questions as you complete the application, please email studentorgfunding@aafp.org.

This application form will allow you to save and return to your work at a later date. You can also invite others to help you complete this application by clicking the "Manage Collaborators" button. For more details about this program, as well as specific instructions for family medicine student groups, visit the [AAFP website](#)

Applicant's Name

Gozun, Melissa Malia

FMIG/SAACOPP Group Name

JABSOM FMIG

Award Application Type

Overall Award Application > Overall Award Application - US MD Program

International medical school

Not Applicable

Medical School State

Hawaii

Medical School Name

University of Hawaii at Manoa John A. Burns School of Medicine

Medical School City

Honolulu

Main or branch campus

Main campus

Students on campus

MS/OMS I, MS/OMS II, MS/OMS III, MS/OMS IV

FMIG Network Region

Region 1: Western (AK, AZ, AR, CA, CO, HI, ID, LA, MT NV, NM, OK, OR, TX, UT, WA, WY)lue 1

Mailing Address

651 Ilalo Street
Honolulu Hawaii 96813 US

Number of Students

~300

Branch Number of Students

NA

Active FMIG/SAACOPP members

~20 (though students do not need to be considered an active member to participate in events)

Students serving in Leadership Positions

9

Applied for Award in the past

YES

Won Award in the past

NO

Page: Group Leadership

Please complete the following information about your group's faculty advisors.

Faculty advisor name

Dr. Jill Omori, MD

Faculty advisor email

jill.omori@hawaii.edu

Family physician?

Yes

Add to Faculty Advisor Online Community

Yes

Additional faculty advisor name**Additional faculty advisor email****Family physician?****Additional faculty advisors**

Please complete the following information about your group's staff support.

alias394a7c658f5641ce8d6ac2cd2a02b05c

No

Please complete the following information about your group's student leaders.

Students in Leadership Positions

9

Leadership transition

March

Primary student leader name

Jennifer Yokoyama

Primary student leader title (ex: FMIG president)

FMIG President

Primary student leader class year

MS/OMS I

Primary student leader email

jayokoya@hawaii.edu

Additional student leader name (2)

Nataliya Panova

Additional student leader title (2)

FMIG Co-Vice President

Additional student leader class year (2)

MS/OMS I

Additional student leader email (2)

npanova@hawaii.edu

Additional student leader name (3)

Kiersten Chong

Additional student leader title (3)

FMIG Co-Vice President

Additional student leader class year (3)

MS/OMS I

Additional student leader email (3)

kmychong@hawaii.edu

Additional student leader name (4)

Maya Matsumoto

Additional student leader title (4)

FMIG Secretary

Additional student leader class year (4)

MS/OMS I

Additional student leader email (4)

mayamats@hawaii.edu

Additional student leader name (5)

Michelle Stafford

Additional student leader title (5)

FMIG Treasurer

Additional student leader class year (5)

MS/OMS I

Additional student leader email (5)

mvs808@hawaii.edu

Additional student leaders

Melissa Malia Gozun, AAFP Liaison, MS I, mmgozun@hawaii.edu

Anna-Kaelle Ramos, FMIG Historian, MS I, ramosa86@hawaii.edu

Jaimee Kato, Co-Tar Wars Masters, MS I, jaimeek@hawaii.edu

Keith Nishihara, Co-Tar Wars Masters, MS I, ktnishih@hawaii.edu

Page: Overall or Categorical Award and Group Information**Category or Special Consideration**

N/A applying for Overall Award

FMIG Operation

The John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) FMIG is a primarily student-led interest group. Our student board plans and organizes all events, workshops, and programming, which are open to all JABSOM students to participate. JABSOM FMIG typically hosts approximately 20 events annually, though this had to be scaled back due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These events encompass the values of continuity of care, community outreach, and professional development, among others, in line with our mission statement. Each event is led by up to three board members who are considered the points of contact in terms of organization and logistics. These students are responsible for recruitment of volunteers and physicians or other community partners, preparing the necessary supplies, and providing notes for program leads to reference for future events. However, all students who are on the board or members of the interest group are welcomed to participate in planning and provide support in order to ensure that each event runs smoothly. This structure allows students to have the freedom to participate in FMIG to varying degrees from growing their leadership skills to having the ability to enrich their own learning.

The student board consists of nine positions: president, two co-vice presidents, secretary, treasurer, AAFP liaison, historian, and two students who lead the Tar Wars program, also known as the Tar Wars Masters. The president is responsible for planning board meetings, working with committee chairs to maintain the agenda and overseeing the events for the upcoming year. The co-vice presidents aid the president in overseeing events and maintain the constitution. The secretary organizes all FMIG documents, sends out emails to FMIG members, and records times and attendance. The treasurer ensures events are funded and that the group recognizes the organizations supporting each of our events. The AAFP liaison helps to recruit members to AAFP and maintains contacts with AAFP representatives. The historian takes pictures, manages our Instagram page, and ensures we are showing appreciation to the organizations that donate supplies to help make the events successful. Lastly, the Tar Wars heads organize a program that sends medical students out into the community to local elementary schools, teaching students about the dangers of tobacco. Although each position has specific roles, the board all works together to support each other and ensure the events run efficiently.

Our student board is uniquely composed of a first and second year student in each role. For the first half of the academic year, second year students will take the lead for each event. Their first year counterparts, in turn, will "shadow" the position in order to learn more about the role as well as assist the board as needed. In the second half of the year, the first year students transition into leading events and meetings to allow the second year students to prepare for their upcoming board exams. Second year students are still available as a resource to the first year students, if needed. Having this first and second year involvement on the board provides a structure that allows both the first and second year students to gain leadership skills. It also sets up the future success of JABSOM FMIG through smooth transitions of leadership.

Goals

JABSOM FMIG aims to showcase the values of continuity of care, community outreach and patient education, while providing a community for students who are enthusiastic about Family Medicine. Our five main goals are derived from our mission statement: enrichment, community service, networking, homeless outreach, and education. To achieve this, we host events that will empower students to develop on a technical, professional, and personal levels, and encourage students to live out the values of JABSOM FMIG. We hope to serve not only the community on the island of Oahu, where JABSOM is located, but also those of the neighboring islands as well.

Faculty Advisor

Though JABSOM FMIG is primarily student run, we are fortunate to have the constant support and guidance of our advisor, Dr. Jill Omori. Dr. Omori helps plan the logistics of our events within the larger JABSOM community as well as keep our group organized and mission focused. In addition, we are lucky to have various Family Medicine physicians assist our group throughout the year, such as Dr. Teresa Schiff and Dr. Kelley Withy. Together, the three are prominent members of the Family Medicine community in Hawai'i and allow us to make connections with the Hawai'i Academy of Family Physicians (HAFP), local Family Medicine physicians, and community organizations.

Page: OVERALL PROGRAM/PROJECT/INITIATIVE #1

Title of Program

Tar Wars

Date and Time

September 24, 2020, October 21, 2020, October 22, 2020, November 23, 2020, November 24, 2020, November 25, 2020, December 9, 2020, January 25, 2021, February 2, 2021, various times depending on the schools

Work Hours to Organize

25 hours

Participation

20

Choose Categories

Community Service: This is something your FMIG/SAACOFP does to promote professional and/or leadership development among your members., Promoting the value of family medicine as primary care: This is something your FMIG/SAACOFP does to tell members about the role of family medicine in enhancing primary care. This could include the patient-centered medical home, primary care workforce, National Primary Care Week Activities, or other collaborations with Primary care interest groups. , Current issues or innovations in family medicine

Description

Tar Wars is a nationwide community-based free educational program for 4th and 5th grade students designed to teach them about the health effects of tobacco smoking, costs of tobacco use, and advertising techniques tobacco companies use to market their products. Tar Wars was founded in 1988 and is currently owned and operated by the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) under guidelines by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The goals of the Tar Wars program are: 1) to increase knowledge and awareness of health effects caused by nicotine and tobacco use, 2) to illustrate the financial impact of tobacco use and how money could be better spent, 3) to identify reasons people use tobacco products, and 4) show how tobacco companies market their products to youth. The Tar Wars Hawai'i program is organized by the JABSOM FMIG student organization and is specifically aimed at reaching public school students across the state on all islands. Tar Wars Hawai'i is a foundational component of many public school youth tobacco prevention curriculums. Our Tar Wars lead officers are responsible for coordination of all Tar Wars presentations between the schools and volunteer presenters. At the beginning of each school year, the lead officers obtain contact information for all of the public elementary schools in the state and send emails inquiring if the schools are interested in participating with our program. As schools express mutual interest, the lead officers act as liaisons to coordinate appropriate dates and times to meet the needs of each school's request. Once the date is set, the Tar Wars liaisons are responsible for obtaining, debriefing, and advising volunteer presenters on the logistics and expectations for upcoming the Tar Wars presentations. Each presentation lasts for about one hour and most of the volunteers are fellow medical students, ranging from 1st years to 4th years. The Tar Wars liaisons also give presentations if available. In the rare event that there are issues with an inadequate number of medical student volunteers, Dr. Omori, our FMIG faculty advisor, assists with recruitment of residents, practicing physicians, or medical faculty members to fill enough spots for the presentations.

The Tar Wars program plays a vital role in the community and Family Medicine. Family Medicine involves care of the person as a whole, especially with diet, exercise, and tobacco use, all of which are important in prevention and reducing risk factors for illnesses. We communicate the values of Family Medicine in these presentations by instilling the practice of good lifestyle choices and how it plays an important role in health. Long-term tobacco use is a widespread problem among many age groups and is a significantly detrimental factor in general health. Thus, tobacco cessation counseling is an important aspect in patient care for Family Medicine physicians. By educating elementary school students on the dangers of tobacco and nicotine use at an early age, youth tobacco smoking prevention will be more effective. Many kids are exposed to tobacco smoking through parents, relatives, or friends and the Tar Wars program aims to support them in making healthy lifestyle choices through education and raising awareness of the health-related consequences of their actions.

Due to the pandemic, we shifted our in-person presentations to a virtual format. Although the change to online learning was challenging, we overcame issues with engagement with having longer question sessions at the end of presentations and encouraging students to try activities at home with their families. After experiencing the flexibility of online learning, we plan to emphasize teaching elementary students on the outer islands as well. The Tar Wars program initiative has consistently received positive reviews from participating schools, teachers, and students. We are proud to continue the Tar Wars program each year and maintain a strong presence in our local community and public school education.

Page: OVERALL PROGRAM/PROJECT/INITIATIVE #2

Title of Program

The Hawai'i Inter-Island Coalition for Primary Care Pathways

Date and Time

Last Tuesday of every month, 5:30 PM HST

Work Hours to Organize

40 hours

Participation

17

Categories

Professional development: This is something your FMIG/SAACOFP does to promote professional and/or leadership development among our members. , Exposure to family medicine and family physicians: This is something your FMIG/SAACOFP does to expose its members to family physicians in your medical school or the community

Description

The Hawai'i Inter-Island Coalition for Primary Care Pathways (HICPCP) is a project started last year by JABSOM FMIG alongside the Primary Care Leadership Collaborative (PCLC) to address the growing physician shortage across the Hawaiian islands. In Hawai'i, there are currently 3,693 physicians providing care to Hawai'i patients for a total of 2,903 Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) of direct care to patients. The national demand model states a need of 3,358 FTEs for the state of Hawai'i. Therefore, there is a physician demand of 487 FTEs. Of this shortage, the greatest specialty shortage across all islands is primary care with a shortage of 283 FTEs. Along with the physician shortage, there is a shrinking number of students from rural areas matriculating into medical schools nationwide. Through HICPCP, we wanted to address the physician shortage by developing a program that will assess the needs of Neighbor Island students, then establish or facilitate access to resources to address those needs. There are three primary goals that we hope to accomplish through HICPCP. First, we intend on alleviating the scarcity in resources by implementing more individualized pre-medical and application process guidance, holding educational workshops, and providing role models and shadowing opportunities for interested students. Secondly, we are hoping to increase the number of Neighbor Island medical students committed to return home to serve as primary care physicians in their respective communities. Lastly, we wish to grow an interest in primary care amongst our current and future student body through ongoing participation in our project. HICPCP is entirely student run, with most of the leadership responsibilities being held by JABSOM's second-year medical students. Oversight of HICPCP is maintained by our mentors Dr. Teresa Schiff, Dr. Jill Omori, and Dr. Jean Shiraki. We have monthly meetings with our mentors to organize and brainstorm ideas for our project. The FMIG leaders have separated into different teams for each Neighbor Island county (Hawai'i county, Maui county, and Kaua'i county). The team leader will be the main points of contact for communication with high school advisors, undergraduate counselors, and community partners on each island. Through relationship building with students, stakeholders, and community members in each Neighbor Island, team leaders exercise the important skill of active listening in leadership. Since this project is in its initial planning phases, the students involved are the current FMIG leaders, but when the project moves to program implementation, we will open HICPCP to any medical student who is interested in family medicine and mentoring the next generation of physicians for the Neighbor Islands. Third year JABSOM medical students completing their longitudinal clerkships on each of the neighboring islands will also serve as points of contact for in-person communication. Lastly, the FMIG leadership participates in the American Academy of Family Physicians's Primary Care Leadership Collaborative, which will provide us with organizational and leadership tools to build effective teams and to create long-lasting structures.

We are currently nearing completion of the first phase of HICPCP, which involves development and administration of Needs Assessment Surveys for students, educators, and established programs, separated by each county. Due to the pandemic, the administration of our surveys was delayed, and we are now in the process of compiling the data and preparing for analysis. As the Needs Assessment Surveys continue to be returned, we will analyze the data and create a program that addresses the specific needs within each county. The results will also be published so that we can raise awareness of the needs in the Neighbor Islands and encourage other organizations to join us in addressing these issues. After the program is developed and launched, we will evaluate the programs in place and write up a progress report for the future FMIG leaders to continue to help the future physicians of Hawai'i.

Page: OVERALL PROGRAM/PROJECT/INITIATIVE #3

Title of Program

School Supply Drive

Date and Time

July 6, 2020 - July 29, 2020

Work Hours to Organize

300 hours

Participation

~60

Categories

Community Service: This is something your FMIG/SAACOPP does to promote professional and/or leadership development among your members. , Current issues or innovations in family medicine

Description

Please see Word doc from Keshia.

Page: OVERALL PROGRAM/PROJECT/INITIATIVE #4**Title of Program**

Pulse Check

Date and Time

August 17, 2020, 5:30 PM HST

Work Hours to Organize

4 hours

Participation

54

Categories

Professional development: This is something your FMIG/SAACOPP does to promote professional and/or leadership development among our members. , New event for this FMIG/SAACOPP , Other

Other

Student wellness and outreach

Description

Pulse Check is a new event created by JABSOM FMIG in order to address the challenges of attending medical school during a pandemic. Since transitioning to online learning, most of the students in the incoming class were unable to meet each other. The purpose of Pulse Check is to introduce first year and second year students to one another and to welcome the incoming class to medical school. It was held over Zoom during the middle of the first year students' block in order to pass down resources, advice, and studying tips as well as provide a chance for the first year class to relax and socialize before their midterm exams. It also served as a chance to introduce students to FMIG and its mission prior to our general meeting.

Board members were responsible for recruiting first and second years to attend the event as well as creating and facilitating different ice breaker games. Students were also sorted into different break out rooms in order to provide an opportunity for first year students to meet other students and ask questions about medical school. Prizes for the winners of each game were distributed after the event. Two thirds of the first year class were successfully recruited to attend the event. Surveys completed by students after the event also found the event to be successful and meaningful for students. Several students who attended the Pulse Check event later attended the FMIG general meeting after being invited during this event, some of whom later joined FMIG's MS1 leadership.

Family Medicine emphasizes the connections made by its physicians and the communities to which they belong. We aim to extend that mission to our own medical school. The pandemic has been isolating for many of us, including the first year students who were largely unable to meet their classmates in person until recently. Pulse Check allowed us to introduce the first year students to each other and the larger support system available at JABSOM. We hoped that it served as a reminder that though we are physically separated, they do not have to go through their medical school journey alone.

Page: OVERALL PROGRAM/PROJECT/INITIATIVE #5

Title of Program

Injection Workshop

Date and Time

September 23, 2020, 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM HST, October 1, 2020 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM HST (divided into two session)

Work Hours to Organize

5 hours

Participation

55

Categories

Professional development: This is something your FMIG/SAACOPP does to promote professional and/or leadership development among our members.

Description

The Injection Workshop is an annual event hosted by JABSOM FMIG at the beginning of the academic year. It aims to teach students the basics of providing injections or TB skin tests as well as provide opportunities for students to practice their newly acquired skills in a safe, supervised environment. In particular, the event serves as an early introduction to injection skills for first and second year students prior to their entry into the clinical years of the curriculum.

The Injection Workshop was divided into two parts: an online lecture delivered over Zoom and an in-person session for students to administer practice injections with other students. The lecture taught proper technique used to draw up doses, administer vaccines, and safely dispose needles and syringes. The in-person session partnered students to practice administering intramuscular, subcutaneous, and intradermal injections using saline. Participants were supervised under the guidance of those who had been previously trained to give injections. At the completion of the in-person training, students were evaluated by faculty on staff on their skills. Those who successfully demonstrated proper technique were approved to administer shots during vaccination clinics. JABSOM FMIG is in charge of advertising the event to the student body and recruiting participants. We also support the faculty presenter who delivers the lecture portion of the event and supervises injection practices. Two practice sessions were held for students in line with state and federal COVID-19 guidelines.

This year's Injection Workshop successfully trained several first and second year students. After their training, many went on to later serve as volunteer vaccinators for different flu and COVID-19 vaccination clinics throughout the island of Oahu. Their efforts helped mitigate the effects of the pandemic had on our local community.

Family Medicine emphasizes the importance of preventative medicine, including vaccinations, in its tenets. We hope to instill this value in our student body by providing educational and training opportunities outside of the regular curriculum. Though these have become limited due to the pandemic, JABSOM FMIG plans to continue to provide these opportunities for JABSOM students in the future.

Page: OVERALL PROGRAM/PROJECT/INITIATIVE #6

Title of Program

Savers FUNDrive

Date and Time

October 12, 2020 - October 23, 2020

Work Hours to Organize

60 hours

Participation

29

Categories

Community Service: This is something your FMIG/SAACOPF does to promote professional and/or leadership development among your members. , New event for this FMIG/SAACOPF , Collaboration with another campus group: Please include which group (SNMA, another primary care interest group, etc.)

Collaboration

Hawaii HOME Project (homeless outreach and medical care)

Description

The Savers FUNDrive is a new event held this year by the Hawai'i Homeless Outreach and Medical Education (HOME) Project, student leaders of the JABSOM FMIG, and Dr. Jill Omori. It took the place of the Halloween Spooktacular Thrift Shop and Bake Sale, which could not be held this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Like our previous Halloween fundraisers, it aimed to raise funds for events held by the Hawai'i HOME Project and JABSOM FMIG that survived homeless families on Oahu.

This year, FMIG and HOME partnered with Savers in order to raise these funds. FMIG student leaders solicited donations of gently used clothing, shoes, blankets, toys, and other household items from members of the JABSOM community. Donors had the option of dropping off their items in a designated area of the JABSOM lobby during the month of October or attending a drive-by drop off held on Sunday, October 18, from 10 AM to 2 PM. Volunteers then assisted in loading a UHaul truck with the donated items to be delivered to Savers. In exchange for the items, Savers made a donation to FMIG and the Hawai'i HOME Project. The partnership with Savers was arranged by Dr. Jill Omori, and both events were managed and arranged by FMIG and HOME student leaders.

Though the Halloween Spooktacular Thrift Shop and Bake Sale is a beloved event on the JABSOM campus, the COVID-19 pandemic required our FMIG to switch gears and adapt. By doing so, we were still able to fundraise for our events and continue to serve the local community. Despite the change of plans, the Savers FUNDrive successfully raised funds for FMIG and HOME. Further, our student leaders were able to learn the importance of resilience and adaptability, and we hope that they will carry these lessons with them as practicing physicians within our community.

Family Medicine encourages its physicians to recognize the social disparities present on our island, including those found in our local homeless community. This event in particular serves to provide funding for events that will allow us to address these needs. Additionally, it fosters collaboration and teamwork skills needed in Family Medicine through strategic partnerships with the Hawai'i HOME Project and various community organizations.

Page: OVERALL PROGRAM/PROJECT/INITIATIVE #7

Title of Program

Halloween Trick-or-Treat Basket Distribution

Date and Time

October 27, 2020, 1:00PM - 4:00 PM; October 29, 2020 - October 31, 2020, various times depending on the shelter

Work Hours to Organize

20 hours

Participation

27

Categories

Community Service: This is something your FMIG/SAACOFP does to promote professional and/or leadership development among your members. , Current issues or innovations in family medicine , New event for this FMIG/SAACOFP , Collaboration with another campus group: Please include which group (SNMA, another primary care interest group, etc.)

Collaboration

Hawaii HOME Project (homeless outreach and medical care)

Description

Like many events of the past year, Halloween celebrations for families across the country needed to be scaled back in order to keep our communities safe. Hawai'i's homeless community, who struggle to celebrate the holiday even without the difficulties of the pandemic, was no exception. With the Halloween Trick or Treat Goodie Bags Distribution, JABSOM FMIG aimed to provide a chance for these families to enjoy Halloween festivities.

Traditionally, JABSOM FMIG hosts an annual Halloween Carnival in coordination with the Hawai'i HOME Project, a mobile clinic which serves different homeless communities across Oahu. The carnival offered the chance for children and their families to participate in different Halloween themed activities in a safe, supervised environment. However, due to the pandemic, we had to offer an alternative activity that would still allow the families to celebrate Halloween in a socially distanced way. This year, FMIG, HOME and other student volunteers prepared trick-or-treat baskets for children in six shelters across the island. Donations were solicited by student leaders from different community partners and organizations. Baskets were then created for children of all ages, ranging from toddlers to high school students. On the week of Halloween, FMIG members and volunteers dressed in costumes or festive outfits and visited each of the shelters to distribute baskets. Here, we were able to interact with the residents of the different shelters. Though it was much less grand than events of the years past, we were still able to directly see the effect our efforts had on these children and their families.

Family Medicine emphasizes engagement with the community in a manner that reflects the compassion shown in the physician-patient relationship. Though this event is primarily for the children and their families to enjoy, our students were also able to see the positive impact their work has on the community. We are able to show our students the importance of serving the entire family unit, even in small ways. Our partnership with other student interest groups, volunteers, and community organizations also taught our students valuable communication and leadership skills.

The pandemic has forced communities across the world to make adjustments in order to keep each other safe. However, that does not change JABSOM FMIG's resolve to serve those around us in most need. The success of the event can be measured not only by the number of baskets created by our students for the six different shelters, but also by the joy it brought to both ourselves and the shelter residents to share the holiday together. Even after pandemic restrictions are eased and we are able to host our Halloween Carnival again, we hope we can incorporate a similar event into its programming.

Page: OVERALL PROGRAM/PROJECT/INITIATIVE #8

Title of Program

Angel Tree and Christmas Wrapping

Date and Time

November 27, 2020 - December 24, 2020

Work Hours to Organize

120 hours

Participation

70

Categories

Community Service: This is something your FMIG/SAACOFP does to promote professional and/or leadership development among your members. , Current issues or innovations in family medicine , New event for this FMIG/SAACOFP , Significant changes/improvement made on an existing FMIG/SAACOFP program.

Description

The Angel Tree and Christmas Wrapping project is held annually by JABSOM FMIG in conjunction with other community outreach groups. Christmas is a time of both great joy and great stress for many families, especially those who are without a house to call their own. This project aims to spread the joy of the Christmas season with these families as well as the greater JABSOM community.

Each year, our FMIG gathers wishes from children who live in different shelters across Oahu and creates ornaments for each child that featured their names and some of the items they wished to receive. These were then displayed in the lobby of the medical school campus for others to choose. In addition, we implemented an online wishlist where community members could register to sponsor a child in order to further our reach to those who were unable to come to campus. Finally, those who wanted to give but were unable to sponsor a child were also encouraged to donate household goods that could be used by the shelters. As gifts began to arrive, FMIG also coordinated a gift wrapping event to sort and prepare these gifts for delivery and share the Christmas spirit among the JABSOM community in person. These gifts were later delivered to each of the shelters. Social distancing and PPE guidelines were followed at each event. The project is executed by members of the board and overseen by our FMIG advisors.

Like many of our other initiatives, the Angel Tree and Christmas Wrapping project exemplifies the connection JABSOM students and faculty have with our community, including those underserved communities throughout the island of Oahu. Many hands from across the JABSOM community come together in order to connect with these families in a personal, meaningful way. We aim to immerse ourselves in the community we intend to serve and address disparities within it in the same way the specialty of Family Medicine asks its physicians to do. It also allows us to be of service to the entire family unit. Further, the event reminds the children and their families that they are loved and cared for, which is essential to the health of any person.

As with our other events, several adjustments had to be made in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We added an online option for those who were unable to choose an ornament in person. This allowed us to broaden our reach and made our event more accessible. We plan to continue to utilize this website in the future. The project successfully fulfilled 380 wish lists and provided household supplies to those living in shelters or on the street. Not only were we able to meet some of the physical needs of those in need, we were also able to share the joy of the holiday season to dozens of families across the island. We hope to continue this tradition into the future.