



local, direct support for families in

Maui



When our beloved community members Marilyn and Patricia arrived in West Maui, they were looking forward to a relaxing week to celebrate Patricia's upcoming retirement. Shortly after, the area they were staying in lost power due to high winds, and our friends decided to get in their car and drive through Lahaina to find food and services. Over the next hours they watched in horror from the highway as devastating wildfire, propelled by the winds, swept through the countryside and destroyed this historic town, along with the lives of its local residents.

Roads were now closed as emergency workers tried to respond to the unfolding disaster along the coast, and Patricia and Marilyn found themselves stuck on the highway, with none of their possessions except for the clothes they were wearing. With nowhere to turn, they slept in their car in a parking lot that night, hoping and praying that when the next day dawned a way forward would be clear.

Though they were never able to return to their residence to retrieve their belongings, the rescue they were seeking came in the form of the family of **June and Jon Harper**. They had never met these people before, but the Harpers learned about the need, and invited Marilyn and Patricia into their home, eventually making it possible for our friends to get to the airport for an evacuation flight the next day.

As lifetime native residents of Maui, the Harpers are deeply connected to their community, and have committed themselves to showing up in this time of greatest need. Shortly after Patricia and Marilyn departed, they made arrangements for a family of five, whose home was destroyed in Lahaina, to move into their house through at least the end of the year. The Harper's own children are now sleeping on the floor of the garage, as there aren't enough rooms available in their modest home. And without a functional washing machine and dryer, the family spends much of their time trying to assist with the daily needs of their guests, including locating neighbors' homes where they can wash clothes and bedding for 10+ people.

Many in Seattle have asked about how we can most effectively assist the local residents of Maui in this season, as the scope of the suffering often makes it feel hopeless that any of our efforts can make a real impact. At Emmanuel, we are choosing to directly support the Harper family and the new family of five now living with them by providing for some of their tangible and immediate needs. These are the real people, doing the real work, of standing alongside the community they know and love.

Please join us in making a donation to our [Maui Response Fund](#) today. As resources become available, the first items that will be provided for the Harper family will be a new **Washing Machine/Dryer** and a set of **Bunk Beds** for the children in the garage. After those goals are reached, all additional funds will be given to the two families living in this home, as they seek to not only rebuild their own lives but also the lives of others.



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(indicate "Maui Response" in giving notes)