Jingle to Mingle Toy Drive benefitting HUGS Hawaii
November 29, 2018 – 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Dave & Buster’s Pa‘ina Hale Room

HONOLULU – Jingle to Mingle, an event that benefits HUGS Hawaii by supplying donated toys to children of all ages, is coming back for its seventh year on November 29, 2018 from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Dave & Buster’s Pa‘ina Hale Room.

Jingle to Mingle was conceived when a group of business leaders were having a “pau hana” drink right after Thanksgiving in 2012. The group tried to figure out a way to get more business people to join their pau hana group with the goal of gaining new friends and giving back to the community.

The best idea that came out of those conversations involved attendees bringing a toy to enter a networking event. Jingle to Mingle was born, with “Jingle” to represent giving of a toy and “Mingle” because it rhymes with jingle and it covers the networking aspect.

The following week, the group decided that everyone should invite someone who would bring a toy to be donated to the Salvation Army Angel Tree. The first Jingle to Mingle resulted in 25 toys being donated to the nonprofit cause. The following year, with more planning and higher attendance, more than 50 toys were donated.

Over the years, the event has grown to have more than 300 attendees at times, and hundreds of toys being donated. The venues have changed over the years, being held at places like the Pearl Ultra Lounge, M Night Club, Odori-ko Japanese restaurant and Wisp Restaurant and Lounge. This year’s venue is Dave & Busters at Kakaako’s Ward Village.

The group decided that a local nonprofit has to be the beneficiary of the event to assure the toys stayed in Hawaii to help local kids. Door prizes were added in the last few years to further promote attendance. This year’s beneficiary is HUGS HAWAII.

The event has grown, and the last two years, the Rotary Means Business Fellowship of Oahu was added as a co-host of the event. From the beginning, the venue selection, event planning, marketing, solicitation of prizes, and Master of Ceremonies duties were left to one man, John Strandberg.

Now, with a team from Rotary assisting, the event’s organizers are expecting a larger crowd and even more toys. From a humble beginning of business people gathering to an annual business event that brings smiles to the faces of many of Hawaii’s local children, this year’s Jingle to Mingle looks to be an even bigger success.

(more)
About HUGS Hawaii: HUGS Hawaii provides comprehensive, long-term support to Hawaii families and each member of the family, helping them on their journey of caring for a seriously ill child, from diagnosis through treatment and beyond. Their mission is to strengthen Hawaii’s families and improve their quality of life as they face the emotional and financial hardships of caring for a seriously ill child. Toys donated will be used as Christmas gifts and for comfort of the ill children throughout the year.

About Rotary Means Business Fellowship: Rotary Means Business encourages Rotarians to support the success of their fellow Rotarians by doing business with them, and by referring others to them. The Oahu Chapter was founded in 2015 with five members. Rotarians and remains a growing force for business on Oahu. Anyone is encouraged to attend their fun monthly mixers to spread referrals and discuss business.

About John Strandberg: John Strandberg is currently the General Sales Manager for Hawaii Tech Support. He has nearly 30 years of experience in sales, marketing and management dating back to just after his prominent position as “Head Taco Slinger” for Taco Bell. John believes in sharing his success through service and has chaired a number of civic and nonprofit organizations. A networking guru and avid amateur chef, his twitter bio simply reads, “My Priorities... Family, Friend, Neighbor, Businessman”.

Event Details:
Date: November 29, 2018, 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Venue: Dave & Buster’s Showroom Pa`ina Hale Room
Details: Free to attend, No-Host Bar and Food. Special food menu and drink specials in the Pa`ina Hale during the event
Sponsors: John Strandberg, Rotary Means Business Fellowship Executive Committee
Venue Sponsor: Dave & Buster’s
Print Sponsor: Oahu Print, Jon Launer

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