



Our Beginnings

In a world where there are so many ways to help others, it is overwhelming for parents to decipher all of their options. There are many different avenues in which to explore philanthropy. As a child I was exposed to the act of giving very early in my life. There were no fancy black tie fundraisers where large donations were requested, nor were there non profit organizations recruiting the well intended on my tiny island of Maui, Hawaii. In fact, I didn't know what philanthropy was back then, I just knew how my parents lived in service of others and I have learned to mirror their actions. That is why I believe so strongly in setting an example for my children through my own deeds and intentions.

My parents offered help to many. In the 70s, I vividly remember having at least 20 people camping out in front of our home. These gentle hippies chanted songs late into the night. The still waters and beautiful reef that bordered our home was the perfect respite for our accidental, but welcomed guests. My mother would feed these "guests" and even take some of the homeless in and clean them up. Because my mother had a career in real estate, she was able to offer numerous odd jobs to those that needed. She told me that "if you do something kind for another, the same will be offered to your children." This invaluable lesson has taught me that the cycle does in fact continue to prosper. I listened to our son being asked about why he was doing something kind for someone in need and his answer summed it up better than I ever could. Tristen said at 13 years old, "It is something that we must do in our lifetime to be complete." So simple, so sweet and so true.... Our hope is that one of our actions will touch someones heart. Someone who may not even realize that within them lies the ability to change a life for the better through a simple gesture of kindness.

