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Kaua'i Retired Teachers Association

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Golden Apple Award Recipient: Edna Holdeman

*"Give me a fish,
And I will eat for today;
Teach me to fish,
And I will eat for the rest of my life."*

--Oriental Proverb

Edna Holdeman taught a generation of children to fish. After receiving her teaching degree from Taylor University in Indiana, Edna returned to Kauai to start her teaching career at Hanamaulu Elementary School. After two years on Kauai, she moved to Oahu, where she taught for 20 years and retired from Kapunahala Elementary School. But the classroom continued to call

after the Holdeman Family moved to the mainland, and Edna responded by teaching second graders at a private school, teaching as a substitute, and teaching Sunday School.

Edna met Keith Holdeman on Kauai while Keith was with the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association as an engineer. The newly married couple moved to Oahu where they lived for 20 years and where they raised their two sons Eric and Bruce. The family lived on the mainland the next 16 years, residing in Connecticut, North Carolina and Texas while Keith worked for GTE. In addition to exploring continental United States, the Holdemans traveled to Europe and Japan several times during those mainland years. Today, they travel near and far whenever they can.

Caring, Loving, Helping

Caring, loving, helping. They are the foundation of Edna's teaching philosophy. Her love for teaching started in high school when she taught Sunday School at Kalaheo Missionary Church. And Edna is now retired from teaching, but she continues to practice her lifelong philosophy of caring, loving, and helping in the community.

Born and raised on Kauai, Edna is the third child of Mitsugi and Kamee Nishihara of Koloa, who turns 96- in September and 91-years-old in October, respectively. Home is where the heart is, so it is not surprising that Edna and Keith returned to Kauai four years ago to enjoy their retirement and to take care of Edna's parents.

In addition to being devoted caregivers to Edna's elderly parents, the Holdemans are volunteers extraordinaire. Both are active with various activities at Kalaheo Missionary Church, where Edna coordinates the Food Pantry Ministry. She also coordinates the Senior Produce Program at Kalaheo Neighborhood Center. She helps entertain at various nursing homes on Kauai with her ukulele class under

the direction of Carolee Nishi. Edna's love for flowers drew her to work in flower shops while they lived on the mainland, and today, she volunteers at the National Tropical Botanical Garden's McBryde & Allerton Gift Shop by making floral arrangements. And always learning, she is a member of the Kauai Kado Ikenobo Ikebana class and shares her talents by decorating at her church. She also assists at the Kauai Museum with teaching lauhala crafts to children.

Keith is a docent at the Kauai Museum, an interpreter at the National Tropical Botanical Garden, and a hike guide at Kokee National Park.

The Holdemans call Kalaheo home. Their son Eric lives in Pasadena, California, and son Bruce in Cordova, Alaska.



Congratulations, Edna!

By Catherine Lo

