

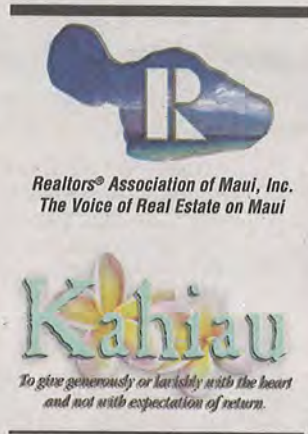
A marathon is a really big deal...and a good beginning

By JOSEPH W. BEAN

Workplaces roll along comfortably for everyone if the work is getting done, but more pleasantly if coworkers have some shared interests. Imagine an office where a substantial part of the staff shares an interest in marathons. Elite athletes? That's not it. Although, one of the men in the office we're talking about – Coldwell Banker Island Properties in the Shops at Wailea – has run plenty of marathons, the shared interest in the races doesn't involve running.

Led by Broker Jim Wagner, the Coldwell Banker crew has become a fixture of the Maui Oceanfront Marathon. "Yes, I've been spearheading our efforts for the past few years. Ken Smith has run the marathon a number of times." That's how it started for team Coldwell Banker, five years ago. "We had such a good time the first year we did it," Wagner added, "we kept on doing it. There are a number of aid stations along the way. We've always done the Maalaea Station."

If any of the Coldwell Banker crew went to the hos-



pital on marathon day, you'd expect it to be Smith. Running more than 26 miles for speed is a massive physical stressor. But, no. It was aid-station captain Wagner. "Nothing particularly funny has happened," Wagner said when asked for an anecdote, though after I put everything together in 2011, I had to go to the emergency room with viral pneumonia, and someone else had to drop off all the stuff we give out while I was in the hospital!" True enough. That was surely not funny when it was happening, but more than a year later, with Wagner well, happy and working, it does feel just a little funny



The Maui Oceanfront Marathon crew from Coldwell Banker included, left to right, Charlie Keller, Jennifer Lake, Elizabeth Wood, Jim Wagner, Leon Witkowski, Ron Ross, John Lyle, Diane Pool, Chris Haywood, Rhonda Hay, Morgan Lee Makalananimakamae Rigel, Velva Ribble-Padgett, and Ken Smith, who is not in the picture.

that the team arrived on the field with no captain, and folks from Indiana, Virginia, Lahaina, and Hungary flew in and out of the aid station on their way to taking the first four places in the marathon... never knowing they were depending on an "unguided" station to urge them to success. They won anyway.

The January 2012 Coldwell Banker crew included Wagner, Smith (not running this year), Charlie Keller, Jennifer Lake, Elizabeth Wood, Ron Ross, John Lyle, Diane Pool, Chris Haywood, Rhonda Hay, and Velva Ribble-Padgett. Wagner said he did "nothing," this year, that

"it was all the agent volunteers," but it was still the Coldwell Banker crew, and they still had a great time supporting the Maui Oceanfront Marathon.

"The event promoter provides sports drinks, some cookies, and water," Wagner said. "We bring ice, music, fruit and anything else. The full marathon begins in Wailea and goes to Lahaina. There is a half marathon from Lahaina. This year, I also talked my friend Pierre Langeron, a pediatrician, into being the doctor for the race."

One of the things these coworkers have in common is the marathon, but in a broader

sense, what they have in common is a feeling that Maui is a community worthy of their time and attention – their service.

Wagner explained, "Others in our team donate time to almost every race or marathon out there. Several of us have served on the Board for Montessori Hale o Keiki, including Dave Richardson and myself; and we've helped them both as board members and as Realtors, sometimes waiving commissions for them in the sale or purchase of property. Dave is helping them acquire a new home right now. Others serve on the Board at Seabury Hall and are

on the Kamalii School Parent Teacher Association, and one of the Kamalii parents – Rhonda Hay – heads up a program called Backpack Buddies where they pack bags of food for kids to take home so they won't go hungry over the weekend. A number of our agents were coordinators for the Realtors Wishing Well... for Maui Students program. All this is in addition to coaching soccer and other sports. We've had people deliver meals to shut-ins, cook food for the homeless and raise money for countless charities. In addition, a number of us have served the Realtors Association of Maui at various levels: myself as president and Realtor of the Year, Rhonda as both secretary and treasurer, a number of us as directors and committee members. All in all, I think the people I work with are amazingly generous and involved in their community. I'm proud of every one of them, and I believe I've only scratched the surface of what they do."

All that, and great marathon aid-station service, too. Makes you wonder what else you should be doing. No?