Guy Marshall Gives Back

By Dr. Chuck Kelley

Outrigger and the Kelley family are proud to announce the establishment of the Cecil “Guy” Marshall Scholarship Fund at the Hawaii Community Foundation. This program, funded entirely through the generosity of the late Guy Marshall, will help Hawaii students attend college on the mainland. Guy Marshall was a long-time friend and business associate of Roy and Estelle Kelley, who for many years worked alongside Roy, helping locate Waikiki real estate opportunities and designing, building and running hotels.

Guy was born in 1912 in Hobart, Tasmania, the West Virginia-sized island off the southeastern tip of Australia, which must have been a wild and undeveloped place at the time. In the only photo I have seen of his mother, she is holding a large rifle! When Guy was just six, his father died fighting in the “New Zealand Expeditionary Force” in the final year of World War I.

As a young adult, Guy came to the University of Hawaii and studied stenography, followed by bookkeeping training in California. After a stint as a Radioman in the U.S. Coast Guard, he landed a job as an Auditor with the Internal Revenue Service and was eventually transferred to Hawaii in 1952 as a Division Chief. He had a sharp mind for numbers, and I suspect that he was very good at his IRS auditing job, as evidenced by his being honored in 1965 with the Albert Gallatin Award, the U.S. Treasury Department’s highest career service award, for outstanding service as a Special Agent.

Sometime in the early 1960s, he linked up with Roy Kelley, and they made a fantastic team. Guy would scour Waikiki on foot, talking with landowners and searching for properties that could be purchased, consolidated, and developed into hotels. Together they built many hotels in Waikiki, including the Waikiki Surf (now Wyland Waikiki), Waikiki Surf East, and Outrigger West (now OHANA Waikiki West).

After Guy retired, he remained very close to the Kelley family and lived in the OHANA Waikiki West Hotel for many years, until he passed away in 2005 at the age of 92. In those years, he was often seen around the properties, as he walked around every day and visited with many Outrigger employees with whom he became personal friends. He would often stop by the Front Desks or Housekeeping Departments to drop off small treats or just say “hello.”

I had the opportunity to spend quite a bit of time with Guy during the last few years of his life, as I stopped by every week to chat and make sure he was comfortable. I came to know him as a gentleman with a sharp financial mind who loved the challenge of battling with any bureaucracy that tried to keep him from receiving the benefits to which he was entitled.

Guy loved to save money and spent almost nothing on himself. While giving very generously to many charitable organizations and individuals, he refused to spend anything on his own comfort or sometimes even necessities. With his careful saving and business acumen, he managed to build up quite a portfolio of stocks and bonds, and he directed that it would all go to charity after his death.

After Guy passed away, my cousin Estelle Kelley, my sister Bitsy Kelley, and I worked to fulfill his wishes. His estate passed to the Hawaii Community Foundation, where the Cecil “Guy” Marshall Fund was established to benefit our community. The first large gift from the fund was a multiple-year commitment to help Hawaii’s local community health centers provide better patient care by implementing electronic medical records. This has been a tremendous and important project that continues to this day and benefits thousands of people in our community.

The second large gift – $1 million – endowed a new scholarship fund to help Hawaii students receive top-notch education at mainland colleges. The grants will support recipients through an entire four years of an undergraduate education, as long as they maintain their eligibility. Applications will be available through the Hawaii Community Foundation www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org starting January 1, 2009, for the fall 2009 semester.

Scholarship eligibility criteria are as follows:
• Demonstrated financial need
• Hawaii residency
• Minimum GPA (grade-point average) of 3.0
• For the initial grant, be a high school senior or enter college as a freshman after graduation from a Hawaii high school
• Attendance at a college or university in the continental United States

I believe that all of our ‘ohana can be proud of our friend Guy Marshall’s generosity and selflessness. These gifts from Guy’s estate are an undying testament to his love of Hawaii and its people, and a fine example of our Ke ‘Ano Wa’a values of Aloha and ‘Ohana. While living in Hawaii and working with Outrigger, Guy achieved great personal success, then he turned around and gave back to our community gifts that will help many future generations achieve their own success. Thank you, Guy Marshall!