

Ekei women's Association

President
Ochob Rachel Becheserrak
Secretary and treasure
Grace Yano

Main Activities

- Selling local produce and bento at the market
- 10% of their earnings from the market goes to the organization
 - Scholarships to attend universities
 - Christmas Candy Parade
 - Belau Games
 - Hospitals
 - Jail
 - Victims of burnt houses
 - Victims of abused women



Background of Establishment

In the '70s, the wives of people in Palau with status, such as government officials, judges, doctors and politicians, created this organization. Ekei in Palauan roughly translates to "female friends", so women will often say "Alii Ekei!" as a greeting. Today it has changed to a friendship group where any Palauan woman can join.

Purpose

To enhance the friendship of the Palauan women, volunteer, continue traditional culture, support socially vulnerable individuals, and support the students by giving scholarships to attend universities outside of Palau.



Member's Voice Ms. Agnes Rebetuu

Our goal is to provide scholarships for students attending university, donations to those in need, such as funerals, as well as participate in the traditional Christmas Candy Parade every year. As members, we sell our products at the market and use 10% of the earnings for the organization. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the morning markets have decreased from twice a week to just once a week on Thursdays, but our members continue to bring anything they grow in their own homes and farms, such as taros, bananas, and coconuts, and some make bento to sell at the market.

I decided to join this group in 2011 when my classmate recruited me at the market. Any woman in Palau can join this group with just a \$3 monthly fee and a \$5 membership startup fee.

Every last Sunday of the month, we have our monthly meeting where we collect 10% from the sales and we discuss which student should be selected to receive the scholarship. Our criteria look at their academia, as well as the degrees students choose. We choose the students who would most likely come back to Palau after their education and give back to the community.

Our monthly meetings are something we all look forward to every time. We follow an agenda to cover our monthly reports and also give us an excuse to meet and socialize. Sometimes, we even end up staying all day and having lunch and dinner together. It's a perfect chance for all of us to catch up and talk about our community instead of just watching TV at home. Most importantly, we like to have fun and be there for one another. However, our youngest member is in her sixties, and so we need to find younger members to join and bring in new energy and continue our organization.

Contact Information

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