

## Brunswick Hills Township couple bring Kona Ice fun to northern Medina County

By Ann Norman, special to cleveland.com

BRUNSWICK HILLS TOWNSHIP, Ohio - Brian and Mollie Lockwood are putting a tropical spin and a snowy twist on the summertime ice cream truck tradition.

They recently opened a franchise of [Kona Ice](#), and have been bringing their shaved ice treats to sporting events, private parties and corporate events. "We got the truck at the end of July and started serving Aug. 3," Brian said.

The franchise territory covers the Brunswick and Medina areas.

Kona Ice is shaved ice - fluffier and more like snow than a crushed ice treat - topped with any of about 30 flavors or 500 different combinations of syrup made from pure cane sugar and stevia.

The flavors run from the traditional - cherry, grape, orange, lime - to the more unusual, such as wedding cake, bubblegum and the Kona Ice signature Tiger's Blood blend of strawberry and coconut.

"Our biggest seller is blue raspberry. We can't stock that fast enough. My personal favorite is black cherry mixed with chocolate," Brian said. The chocolate-cherry blend tastes a lot like a cherry Tootsie Pop.

Customers can ask for any of the flavors at the truck window, or top their ice themselves from the Flavorwave machine on the outside of the truck. The Flavorwave features 10 of Kona's most popular flavors that customers can mix and match however they want.

The Lockwoods also carry special adults-only flavors for corporate events, such as bourbon black cherry vanilla and sangria.

The flavor syrups are made from 50-calorie-a-serving Vita-Blend, which is naturally gluten-, fat-, nut-, dairy-, cholesterol- and soy-free. Sugar-free flavors are also available.

"It's simple, yet fun. There are no allergy issues - there's no corn syrup, no dairy, no GMOs, no gluten," Brian said.

"Why not be somewhat healthy, but have a nice, tasty treat, too?" he said.

The Lockwoods hire out the truck for parties and other community events and visit fairs, festivals and church events. Sometimes they take the truck out and drive it around neighborhood streets.

They also do fund-raisers, including for the Highland and Brunswick school districts and the Brunswick Youth Football League.

Twenty percent of all gross sales at a fund-raiser go straight to the group hosting the event, Brian said.

This type of community commitment is a key part of the Kona Ice franchising system. Nationwide, Kona Ice has donated more than \$40 million to community-based organizations since its launch in June 2007.

"The Lockwoods share our commitment to giving back," said Tony Lamb, founder and president of the Florence, Kentucky-based company.

"The family wants to have a positive influence on the people in their community, whether it's new textbooks, sports uniforms or simply a smile," Lamb said.

Brian said Kona Ice is an easy fund-raiser, since the organizations don't have to find volunteers. The Lockwoods just bring the truck to the event and sell the treats.

"It's especially nice for youth sports team," he said.

Mollie said that so far, it's been a good experience for the whole Lockwood family, which includes sons Connor, 15, and Carter, 7, and daughter Kylie, 10.

"It's fun. It's an opportunity to enjoy a unique, tropical treat," Mollie said.

"For a few dollars, you can experience the excitement of the truck, flavor your own Kona Ice, donate to an organization you care about and kick back for a few minutes enjoying the sounds of the tropics. It's an escape that everyone can enjoy," she said.

Brian said he had been looking for a franchise of some kind for a few years now, as something to do part-time in addition to his fulltime career.

"I've always wanted to have a business of my own," he said.

He said he enjoys getting out into the community and meeting people.

"It's actually fun to pull up and talk to somebody and get to know them a little bit," he said.

To learn more about Kona Ice or to book an event or fund-raiser, contact Brian at [blockwood@kona-ice.com](mailto:blockwood@kona-ice.com) or call 330-362-8901.