



# Telipeti "Bet" Fonua

## Professionally Speaking . . .

Bet came to Waves as a Licensed Realtor in Alabama, and a Community Association Manager for another company, serving both Alabama and Florida. It was hurricane Sally that let him know he had found the industry that best fits his service-oriented love of helping others. While he often jokes that Hurricane Sally left him with PTSD, he says it also left him with a clear understanding of what it takes. From engineering and reconstruction to working with insurance companies, attorneys, owners and board members to help restore communities, and make them whole and better than before. Bet now has five years in the Community Association Management Industry and says, "Engineers are some of my favorite people to work with. I wish every condo member could shadow their engineers during inspections and learn about their buildings to get a complete picture of the care needed to protect their investment."

Having dealt, personally, with many water intrusion events, Bet chose to certify as a Water, Mold, Fire, and Disaster Specialist and Estimator. While he is qualified to work as a Remediation/ Restoration professional, Bet chooses, instead, to use his certification and experience to better serve his Associations and the Waves Association Management team.

Bet very much enjoys working with proactive, on-the-ball Boards of Directors and owners to implement all the improvements that elevate their building and property value. He says, "I get the most satisfaction from the smiles and the pride my client/owners have in how much better their

properties look after we have worked together to make them better."

Bet says, "Jimmy Johnson, the race car driver, summed up my way of thinking, in both my personal life as well as my work life when he said, "The difference in ordinary and extraordinary is that little extra."



## On A Personal Note . . .

Bet is a first-generation American whose ancestors are from a group of tiny islands that make up the Kingdom of Tonga, in the South Pacific. His mother immigrated to California five years before he was born, and his ethnicity is 100%, DNA certified, Polynesian (Tongan and Samoan). However, when asked, he will always tell you, "I'm 100% American." Bet was adopted much later by an American family. Both families deeply love and respect one another, giving Bet a combined loving family of seven siblings. With no wife or children of his own (currently), Bet loves supporting his twenty-two nieces and nephews in their activities. When he takes time off work, chances are, he's in another state for a wedding, baptism or graduation. Absolutely nothing is more important to Bet than his family where faith, trust, loyalty and love are strong on all sides.

Bet served a church mission in New Mexico and Arizona, which included three separate Native American tribes, on tribal lands. Since moving to Baldwin County, almost twelve years ago, Bet has most enjoyed volunteering with his church to help with Hurricane cleanup and relief in multiple states. He hasn't been able to do that again since he's been an association manager/agent, but he hopes to be able to do that again, when needed.

Something you would never guess about Bet is that while attending college, Bet was genuinely surprised, three years in a row, to receive the "Music Student of the Year" award. Bet has a Studio Engineering Technology degree, and for six years he ran his own sound design business for multimedia projects, while licensing his own music through BMI as a member songwriter, composer and producer. Raised in both a very musical, Tongan-speaking household and in an English-speaking world, music was Bet's first language. Today, music gives him only pleasure and peace.