

Kukui Center welcomes students and Americorps workers

The variety of people who walk through our doors is truly gratifying. They represent a cross section of everyone who lives in Honolulu. Young and old, citizens and immigrants, homeless and housed, clients and staff, volunteers and neighbors—all are welcome and part of our truly unique nonprofit center.

One growing group is the student interns and Americorps volunteers who spend many days a week learning and contributing their talents and enthusiasm. We have many UH students in several fields: Family Promise is hosting 6 BSW and MSW social work interns who are learning about providing services to homeless families. The Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center at Legal Aid currently has one intern from the UH law school and hosts 2 more law interns in the summer months. Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii has a student intern who is getting a master's degree in accounting and Hawaii Literacy and Kids Hurt Too each has an Americorps volunteer. Kids Hurt Too Hawaii also is hosting an undergraduate who is in a federal work/study program. That's a lot of brainpower and energy as well as students who are interested in giving back to the community.



*Gabe Torno, Sophia Schmitt-Daskalos, Kadijah Harris, Helena Rose Morales, Jon Gonzalez
Missing: Alex Nagelvoort, Lavinia Taukolo, Glenn Barayuga, Deannie Nakaza*

There is a natural synergy within the center that spills over into the student's experiences because they are co-located with other programs. In a discussion with some Family Promise interns, they referenced receiving a referral from Hale Kipa, located just upstairs. Similarly, they mentioned that some of their clients do not speak English well and can benefit from the services of Hawaii Literacy

which they are more

likely to access in a one stop shop. Being in a multi-service center makes them realize that they have clients who could use other types of services and will be more likely to refer them because of the convenience.

Gabe Torno, a local boy who is an Americorps volunteer, has been with Kids Hurt Too Hawaii since July. He says he likes collaboration and everything the KC has to offer including the yoga classes through which he has met others who work in the center. "Everybody is very nice and it feels like a family or neighbor". That's a very special comment to be able to make about your work setting.

For information on how to find an internship or volunteer, visit our website at www.kukuicenter.org.

Kids Hurt Too Hawaii gears up to launch new program

In February of 2017 we celebrated the 16th anniversary of Kids Hurt Too Hawaii! Looking back at all the amazing groups, activities and events it is an incredible tapestry of people and community woven together in loving support.

We are working to launch a new project under the Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition arm of our work. Our effort is to respond to the clear need for employment support to young people transitioning out of foster care. We have the kind of grass roots, nimble enough organization to act on the major areas of need with the youth we serve. Since we have seen the struggle of young people trying to gain work experience in safe and supportive environments that prepare them for personal success and making a living wage, that is exactly where we intend to focus our youth mentoring efforts.

More information will be forthcoming about how the Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition will enter its new phase of work. Currently, we have wonderful opportunities for professional volunteers who would be interested in teaching young people basic business skills.

We also continue to welcome anyone interested in learning how to facilitate with children who are facing major losses in their life in our weekly evening

support groups. All facilitators must be at least 16 years old and they will have the opportunity to attend an incredible four day training event to learn about techniques to support children and youth. It's one of the best clinical trainings out there about helping to heal trauma and grief in children. For more information call (808) 545-5683 or email patria@kidshurttoo.org

Volunteer to Help Keiki Read Better

Hawaii Literacy has been volunteer-driven since it formed in 1971, and we are always looking for great new people to join our nearly 50-year tradition of volunteer literacy tutoring in Hawaii! Afternoons and Saturday mornings, volunteers can work to help keiki become better readers at our Family Literacy Library sites in Mayor Wright Homes and Kuhio Park Towers in Kalihi, and Leeward volunteers can help out on the Bookmobile after-school at a dozen sites along the Waianae Coast. Caring volunteers work to help keiki build the fundamental reading and writing skills they need to read at their grade-level and to thrive in school, and can be a role model and cheerleader for many keiki too.

Our volunteers are working professionals, retirees, college students, and come from many backgrounds. No special job experience or education is needed to be a volunteer! Our experienced staff provide an initial training and ongoing support. One-to-one attention is one of the most successful ways to help someone learn to read, and your encouragement can make a big difference for each child you work with!

Enthusiastic and caring volunteers are the only way we can



Hawaii Literacy volunteers help keiki after school at the family libraries.

provide that attention and individual help for more of the 2,500 low-income keiki and families we serve each year. As a volunteer, you can help a kid to select and borrow books, assist with homework, have a child practice reading aloud to you, play a fun literacy game, help organize educational activities, and more!

Volunteers are most needed during weekday afterschool hours. More information and current volunteer opportunities can be found at www.hawaiiliteracy.org/volunteer.

Heal The Healers Hawai'i Project



Participants gain knowledge about and tools to deal with vicarious trauma.

With the generous support from the Atherton Family Foundation, Joyful Heart launched a multi-year Heal the Healers Hawai'i Project. The goal of the project is to build knowledge and skills about vicarious trauma for local victim service providers while collaborating with the leadership of their agencies to develop practices that maintain organizational wellness.

The six participating agencies in the project are: Ho'ōla Nā Pua, Parents And Children Together, The Hawai'i Immigrant Justice Center of the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i, The University of Hawai'i at Hilo Student Health and Wellness Program, The YWCA of Kaua'i, Women Helping Women of Maui and Lānai.

One of our program partners requested to share her experience on how the project effects her organization and staff.

"We are thrilled about our collaboration with Joyful Heart Foundation," says Sulma Gandhi, program director for UH Hilo Student Health and Wellness Programs. The programs at UH Hilo provide holistic care that integrates education and prevention efforts with medical and mental health services.

"The first (Heal the Healers) session gave our team skills and tools to effectively respond to vicarious trauma," explains Gandhi. "This further enhances our capacity to support students who are survivors of sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, and child abuse and neglect."

"We are grateful to Joyful Heart Foundation and look forward to the continued support for our staff," said Gandhi.

Support for military families with special needs children

By Rosie Rowe

I can only imagine as a military family what it feels like to live in multiple places not knowing where you would be sent each time. I imagine there's an element of excitement, anxiousness or even pressure to navigate through the elite of schools, neighborhoods and communities. Seeking out the right supports, the right programs, the right connections for your child with a disability.

The moms I've connected with present themselves as bewildered and perplexed at the idea of living, one, on an island surrounded by water, two, facing the possibility of losing eligibility in special education for their children with disabilities and three, because they moved from Fort Worth Texas to Wahiawa Honolulu and discovered State Administrative Rules which describes how IDEA will be implemented in the State of Hawaii is NOT the same as Texas. One of the greatest triumphs we experience at LDAH is the power of empowerment. We utilize the skills and experience we have as professionals and as parents of children with disabilities



Army spouses learn about navigating Special Education in Hawaii.

to impart our knowledge and to build skills necessary for military families to use while in Hawaii. Skill building, knowledge acquisition of HAR-Chapter 60, knowing where their child's records are being stored, getting organized or even preparing for when they leave Hawaii to their next duty station build's capacity for our military ohana. I can only imagine.

Donations of Services:

Ace Security and Locksmiths
 After School Art
 Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing
 ALTRES
 American Massage Therapy
 Association-Hawaii Chapter
 American Savings Bank
 Anthology Marketing Group
 Carr, Gouveia, Matsumoto
 CPA's
 Chaney Brooks
 Chef Aaron
 College Directions Hawaii
 Dennis Kim
 HACBED
 Hagadone Printing
 Hawaii Digi Doc
 Hawaii Self Storage
 HawaiiUSA Federal Credit
 Union
 Law Offices of Neal K. Aoki
 Learn to Love Yoga
 Michael Powell Art
 Ohana Komputer
 Seymour Kazimirski
 Take2 Production
 The Bead Gallery
 YMCA of Honolulu

Donations of Funds:
 Aloha United Way
 Evans Fund
 Friends of Hawaii Charities
 Ili' Ili Fund
 Jhamandas Watumull Fund
 Na Lei Aloha Foundation

Welcome to our new Community Partners

Our model of collaboration is very unique and it extends out into the community. Our Community Partners Program has grown to a list of over 50 generous businesses, organizations and individuals who donate goods, services and volunteer time to support the Kukui Center agencies. Our partners come to us from many directions. Agency Boards share their connections and resources, visitors who come to find out about the KC are often so inspired that they volunteer to help. This month, we welcome four new partners and say Mahalo Nui Loa to all for their support.

Chef Aaron



Chef Aaron Ortiz catered the Kukui Center's annual Holiday Appreciation Event in 2016. We found him because his wife was working for one of the KC agencies. He did such a wonderful job that we invited him to join our Community Partner Program (CPP). He joined the CPP in January providing discounted catering to our agencies for events and meetings. He also volunteered to participate in healthy eating programs for foster youth and needy families who are learning how to cook nutritional meals on their limited budgets.

GWiz Promotions

Gayle Isono from GWiz Promotions started helping the Kukui Center in the summer of 2016 when she provided a discount on tote bags for the KC's Community Open House. She continues her help by providing that same discount on promotional items for all of the agencies. In addition she donates items that are helpful for youth such as notebooks and arts and crafts supplies. Agencies now have a direct source for personalized items that they can use for clients or to show appreciation to volunteers and supporters.



Waikiki Community Center Seniors Program



Kupuna from Waikiki Community Center

Waikiki Community Center serves seniors and the seniors are committed to serving the community. They are our newest Community Partner and they plan to help the KC agencies with projects that these seniors can do as a group. Among other projects, they will collate materials or prepare mailings, each of these saving staff precious time that they can use to focus on serving needy children and families.

Harris United Methodist Church



Harris United Methodist Church has a variety of ways that they can help the Kukui Center agencies. Because they are nearby, they have an interest in the community and contributing to its well being. KC agencies often provide training to large groups of people and we don't always have the space to accommodate the crowds. Neighbors such as Harris Church are a great resource when we need to find the right space. They also have a volunteer force that can help serve meals to the homeless or provide lunches for children during school breaks.

Donations of Goods :

Auntie Sally's
 Big City Diner
 Central Pacific Bank
 GWiz Promotions
 Hawaii Association of Legal
 Administrators Honolulu Sign
 Company
 Islander Group
 Junior League
 Junior League Sustainers
 Pepsi Beverages Company
 Soderholm Bus Sales and
 Leasing
 Vim and Vigor

Volunteers, Service Clubs & Non-Profit Organizations:

Arcadia Retirement Residence
 Bruce McEwan
 Habilitat
 Hands in Helping Out
 Harris United Methodist
 Church
 Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority
 Luke Center for Public Service
 at Punahou School
 Rotary Club of Downtown
 Honolulu
 Waikiki Community Center
 Seniors
 Winners Camp Foundation

The House-a-Family Challenge



A successful Family Promise family in front of their home

Finding homes for our homeless families with children can be very difficult. There is a lot more competition for affordable rentals than there was 5 years ago. Family Promise continues to try to find different ways to obtain rentals for more than 50 families a year. We are extremely excited to announce our new campaign- the House-a-Family Challenge! This challenge will utilize the great

networks and resources our 1,500 volunteers have.

We are asking each of our host and support sites and community groups to reach out to the members in their congregation, family and friends to see if they have any affordable rentals available or know someone who does. After making the initial connection to the landlord, Family Promise staff will then assist the family with every step of the application process.

We have had several congregational members rent their units to our families with great success. Those families are still living in those rentals years later and we would like to see this happen more often. This challenge will commence on February 15, 2017. If each of our host and support sites can find just one rental for a family, we could house all of our families this year and more.

The “prize” for anyone who locates a rental is recognition in our newsletter with a short story and picture about the family they found a home for.

Please contact Christy MacPherson, Housing Specialist with questions, ideas, and your rental connections! Call 548-7478 or email christy@familypromisehawaii.org

Family Plans support the needs of elder family members

Through mediation and other dispute resolution services provided by MCP, families have the opportunity to sit down with a mediator or facilitator in a non-threatening setting to talk and negotiate creative solutions. Through these processes, the individuals in conflict are given a voice to share their perspectives and negotiate customized solutions that work for them. Equally important, when agreements are reached, people are able to move on in their lives, saving money on legal costs and strengthening their personal lives and that of their family.

For example, in a Family Conference involving three adult siblings and their elderly mother in the late stages of Alzheimer’s, the siblings were not on speaking terms and one daughter refused to allow her sister to visit with their mother. Through the Family Conference, the siblings were able to put their differences aside and start talking about the needs of their mother. While relatively quiet throughout the process, when asked what was important to her, the mother replied “I want my children to stop fighting.”

The three siblings agreed to put their differences aside to support their mother, and together they created a plan that would enable their mother to spend time with each of them at



A Family Conference helps families engage in difficult conversations to support the needs of their kupuna.

their homes. This plan ensured that the mother would not be moved to a nursing home and that all of the siblings and their respective families would equally share in the care and support of their mother. The plan created greater support for the mother and reduced the stress of caregiving by spreading the responsibilities among all of the family members.

Former foster youth to graduate from UH and be a teacher



Jasmine is a 23 year old who has had to come back from challenge after challenge in her life. She entered the foster care system at just 11 years old after being removed from her parents due to their drug use. She was in a couple of different foster homes and an emergency shelter, which resulted in being separated from her two younger brothers. They were finally reunited after they were all placed with her auntie when she was 13. This is when Jasmine finally felt she had a real “home”.

She credits her auntie for helping her to develop her connection to her Hawaiian culture and building confidence in herself. Having had to change schools more than once, Jasmine fell a bit behind in school. She was able to make up the work with determination and the help of supportive teachers. She enjoys cooking, art, and Hawaiian history, and tries to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Ever resilient, Jasmine went on to graduate on time from high school and enroll in Leeward Community College. During this time, she decided she wanted to move out on her own. Her first residence was in a Hale Kipa transitional home called the Haloa House, where she lived with 3 other girls in a setting that was designed to help her develop independent living skills.

Upon transferring to the University of Hawaii at Manoa, she was able to move into a shared apartment with a friend, where she is able to successfully navigate the world independently. Jasmine will receive a Bachelors degree in English this May, and has already accepted a position with the Teach for America program, where she will be placed in a Leeward Oahu high school teaching English when school begins in the fall.

As she goes out into the world, Jasmine still carries with her the memories of her experience as a foster child and the struggles that came with it. She admits that sometimes life can be overwhelming. She hopes to share her story through public speaking and help others kids in the same situation. This dedicated young woman hopes to be able to share her compassion with other children who are in similar situations and need to believe that they too can not just survive, but succeed and go wherever their dreams may take them.

The Continuing Work of HIJC@LASH



HAWAII
IMMIGRANT
JUSTICE
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AT THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF HAWAII

We live in different times as people who are looking for safety and freedom on our shores are not always welcomed. HIJC@LASH assisted 3 families with children to have better lives the United States during this past quarter.

In our first case, we assisted a human trafficking victim and his family, which included 2 teenagers, to get their “green cards”. This has been a long journey for this family, which endured many years of separation between the victim and his children, because of the

trafficking. Reunification only occurred a couple of years ago when the children were allowed to come to the United States. Now they are all “green card” holders. residing permanently in the U.S. In 5 years, the whole family can apply to become citizens of the United States.

In our second case, we are assisting a U.S. citizen and her 4 children to get legal status for the children’s father. If everything proceeds as planned, he can come to the United States and reunite with his family by the end of this year.

In our third case, we are helping to naturalize the single mother of a young child. If we are successful in getting the mother U.S. citizenship, it will be automatically passed on to her young child at the exact moment of naturalization. We will then assist the young child to get proof of her new U.S. citizenship.

HIJC@LASH will continue its work for the betterment of the immigrant community.



Harry and Jeanette Weinberg
Kukui Center

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Family Promise of Hawaii
Resources for homeless families with children
(808) 548-7478
www.familypromisehawaii.org

Hale Kipa
Outreach services for child abuse victims in, or transitioning out of, foster care to become independent
(808) 853-4660
www.halekipa.org

Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition
Advocacy and independent living skills training for foster youth
(808) 545-5683
www.grievingyouth.org

Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center at LASH
Legal services for immigrant victims of abuse and domestic violence
(808) 536-4302
www.hijcenter.org

Hawaii Literacy
Literacy and lifelong learning services
(808) 537-6706
www.hawaiiliteracy.org

Joyful Heart Foundation
Helping victims of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault
(808) 532-3520
www.joyfulheartfoundation.org

Kids Hurt Too
Support for grieving children who have lost a parent
(808) 545-5683
or (808) 256-3176
www.kidshurttoo.org

Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii
Training center for parents of children with disabilities
(808) 536-9684
www.LDAHawaii.org

Mediation Center of the Pacific
Conflict resolution for cases involving children and others
(808) 521-6767
www.mediatehawaii.org

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