

# The Kukui Center Welcomes New Executive Directors



*Patria Weston Lee*



*Tatjana Johnson*



*Rosie Rowe*



*Samantha Church*



*Sulma Gandhi*

The Management team of the Kukui Center (KC) has been remarkably stable with very little turnover since we opened in 2009. Unfortunately, change is inevitable. We wish Cynthia White, Calleen Ching, Michael Moore, Mary Saunders and Kata Issari a warm aloha as they leave to pursue other opportunities and thank them for all they have done to make the Kukui Center such a special place. They will be missed.

Of the eight programs in the center, five will have new ED's by July 1 and we'd like to introduce them. Our longest serving "new" ED is Patria Weston Lee at Kids Hurt Too Hawaii. We welcome her back, having worked at the KC during her first two years with Consuelo Foundation, Patria operated the ABC Pilot Project, a program designed to support healthy attachment between infants and their caregivers. She hit the ground running and you can read about their new initiative for foster children elsewhere in this newsletter. Patria has a broad perspective when it comes to foster children's needs and this project is a great example of her ability to think outside the box.

Following Patria into the KC was Tatjana Johnson, the new Program Manager for the Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center at Legal Aid. An attorney and UH Law school grad, this local girl previously worked as a staff attorney at the Domestic Violence Action Center. She brings a spirit of enthusiasm, energy and dedication to the group and we are so happy to have her with us. Tatjana is "excited to be part of the KC family".

LDHA has selected Rosie Rowe as their new Executive Director. Rosie is no stranger to the KC having been the program's Education and Training Manager for several years. Rosie is one of the original staff at the KC having been with us since we opened. She is a great team player and has enthusiastically helped with holiday events and strategic planning sessions. Her wide experience with the center will make her a valued member of the management team.

Next to come onboard is Samantha Church, the new ED of Family Promise Hawaii. A graduate of the UH School of Social Work and a fellow at the East West Center, she is a former Peace Corps volunteer in the Phillipines. She has served as the Executive Director of the Epilepsy Society and Manna Project International, a nonprofit that operates health and education programming in Nicaragua and Ecuador.

Joining us in July is Dr. Sulma Gandhi, the new Executive Director of the Joyful Heart Foundation, Hawaii Region. Sulma is currently the Director of Student Health and Wellness Programs at UH Hilo and has a long history of working with Joyful Heart. She serves on the "Hawaii Says No More" Core Team and UH Hilo is a pilot site for the Heal the Healers project. She has had considerable experience in Joyful Heart's target areas: child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault.

We look forward to working with these new executive directors and welcome them to the KC family.

# Developmental screening helps keiki



*Desmond (Dad), Jean (Mom), Teherimiti, Tabitoa Teves, Tapirieveva, and Terahiti Teves*

Early childhood developmental screening is an important step for parents to provide for their children. The earlier parents are aware of a concern and get help, the better their chances are for their children to be ready to start school.

The Teves `Ohana received services through Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii's (LDAH) School Readiness Project and successfully transitioned their son Teheremiti to a Hawaii department Of Education preschool. He is receiving special education as a result of a developmental screening activity conducted in November 2016.

Teheremiti Teves received hearing and vision screening as part of our school-wide program offered to preschools. At the time, both hearing and vision screening results were completed and Teheremiti passed with flying colors. However, both parents and his preschool teacher came to us with developmental concerns. They requested we conduct an Ages & Stages developmental screening as a way to rule out what they may have been noticing

Both parents are very grateful and appreciative of everyone who played a role in Teheremiti's progress. He continues to grow and develop. Desmond and Jean said, "Thank you to the counselors, teachers, staff members and most of all, LDAH for their continued support through all of it. By us sharing our experience we hope it will help other families in the community utilize the resources that are available to them. We encourage them to trust and go through the process to help their children be successful not just in school but in life."

## Learning to listen helps families build bonds

The Mediation Center of the Pacific (MCP) helps to strengthen families and communities by empowering people to talk through and resolve differences without resorting to violence or litigation. This is accomplished by both providing mediation and other dispute resolution services to resolve immediate conflicts, as well as teaching people skills to prevent and reconcile differences before they escalate. Resolving conflict early allows people to mend and strengthen their relationships and move on with their lives. At MCP we believe that if every child and every adult learned mediation and conflict resolution skills, Hawaii would be an even better place to live and work.

Earlier this year, MCP collaborated with the Judiciary's Center for ADR to conduct a mediation workshop for 43 Girl Scouts. Through the workshop, the Scouts learned skills for effective listening; identifying common ground; and negotiating to resolve conflict creatively. Following the workshop, they reported that they gained valuable tools they would use both at home and at school:



*Volunteer mediators attend training sessions to learn more about conflict resolution.*

"At home, I'll listen to what my sister needs to say in arguments. In school, I'll remember that everyone has their own opinion and situations;" "I will be a good listener and listen to all parties;" and "I will try to work things out before jumping to a conclusion."

This is just one example of the value of conflict resolution and mediation skills. Just imagine if every child and adult in Hawaii learned these skills! Conflicts would be prevented and families, schools, workplaces, and communities would ultimately be strengthened.

## Hawai'i Says NO MORE holds rally for Kalama Intermediate students

On May 10, Joyful Heart Foundation partnered with Salesforce, a national cloud computing corporation, and 1,400 of their top sales staff for a series of awareness and community service events across Maui.

The day began with a workshop facilitated by Joyful Heart for over 500 Salesforce staff at the Andaz Hotel, focused on Joyful Heart's national ENOUGH campaign and led by CEO Maile Zambuto and Board Members Amanda Stephens and Danielle Herzlich.

Meanwhile, Development Associate Brie Arnolde led a Hawai'i Says NO MORE presentation and rally for 250 students at Kalama Intermediate School, with an appearance by fashion designer and Hawai'i Says NO MORE PSA participant Kini Zamora. With the support of 100 Salesforce volunteers, as well as local volunteers from Child & Family Service Maui and the Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, students participated in a series of activities including a photo booth with Hawai'i Says NO MORE challenge signs, Hawai'i Says NO MORE t-shirt crafting with Kini, games, and lei making.

Salesforce volunteers also participated in beautification projects at the Women Helping Women domestic violence shelter and the Hui Malama Learning Center with the support of Friends of the Children's Justice Center, as well as put together over 500 care kits for the women and teens at each center.

The Salesforce volunteers and participants alike experienced a very moving and full day of education, awareness, and collaboration. Joyful Heart was proud to have been a partner on this moving and impactful day of service.



*Students and professionals participate in awareness activities facilitated by Joyful Heart Foundation.*

## Retail incubator give youth hands on experience



*Former foster youth renovate space to open up shop in July.*

Kids Hurt Too Hawaii is developing a project for young people ages 17-24 years old who have spent time in foster care and are transitioning out of the system. HI Rising is an incubator for young people interested in graphic design, art, crafting, fashion design, jewelry making, interior design and furniture restoration. They will have a chance to develop their ideas and skills and have access to a market in a retail shop environment at the Kukui Center. We will provide the initial funds to develop their products.

In addition to the creative areas, we intend to support learning of useful and basic business skills in areas such as: marketing, business planning, bookkeeping, orders and inventory in addition to support around a variety of life skills. This is a hands on learning environment; we will be refining our business model with participants involved in running all aspects of the enterprise. We offer a trauma informed safe space to gain work experience. Any revenue generated will fund the operation and the learning stipends for participants.

We are currently meeting with interested young people, preparing the space and making plans to open the shop in July of 2017 with a grand opening event soon to follow. We are currently accepting applications and looking for volunteers with the skills and interest in supporting this endeavor. Contact us for an application and more information. We can be reached at (808) 545-5683 or by email at [info@kidshurttoo.org](mailto:info@kidshurttoo.org)

## Our Community Partners have been busy helping the Kukui Center and our tenant agencies



In April, **Michael J. O'Malley Esq.** joined our roster, providing training on best practices in non-profit governance for Kukui Center agency Board members and Executive Directors. Fifteen attendees representing the various KC agencies attended the presentation and question and answer forum. According to Family Promise Board Member Michelle Bartell, "Michael O'Malley's session on nonprofit governance was extremely helpful in bringing transparency to the responsibilities and obligations of board members and for

sharing nonprofit board best practices. Boards play such a critical role in the effective functioning of nonprofits and in their ability to effectively deliver their missions." She expressed appreciation for the opportunity for "Empowering board members with this valuable information!"

**Aunty Sally** continues to make sure that our staff and clients have the items that they need. She donates strollers and toys for small children in Family Promise and young parents who are former foster youth. LDAH benefited from her generosity, outfitted with new small appliances in their office kitchen. She also made sure that the foster youth who graduated from high school this year had goodie bags for their Hale Kipa grad party. Aunty Sally is always at the ready to donate items that are on the wish lists of our agencies.



Another group of partners is coming together to support Kid Hurt Too Hawaii's new initiative HIRising (see page 3 for project description) including new addition **Trade West**. Others include **Islander Group** and **Seymour Kazimirski**. They are all helping the youth with products, marketing and displays at their new store.

Kukui Center staff continue to benefit from the professional development training opportunities that **Altres** makes available to us. From updating their CPR and emergency response training to developing managerial skills in the the Supervisor series, agencies embrace these highly valuable workshops so that they can better serve their clients.



Mahalo to several local businesses, including three new partners, who pitched in to ensure the safety of the children who come to the Kukui Center and the playground equipment that they enjoy. **Darren Martinez and IPR Hawaii** repaired the the deterioration of the Playground Safety Surface, performed a preventative maintenance service, and donated a special graffiti remover for the playground equipment that does not damage or fade the plastic. **King's Kustom Tinting** installed privacy tint for the downstairs back windows of the conference room and sliding doors of the Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition space. **Ronald Ching and Advanced Fencing Solutions** donated labor and materials to repair our back fence. **Scott Gaylord** oversaw the installation of additional security cameras and donated equipment to accommodate the changes.

## Donations of Services:

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

## Donations of Goods :

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

## 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

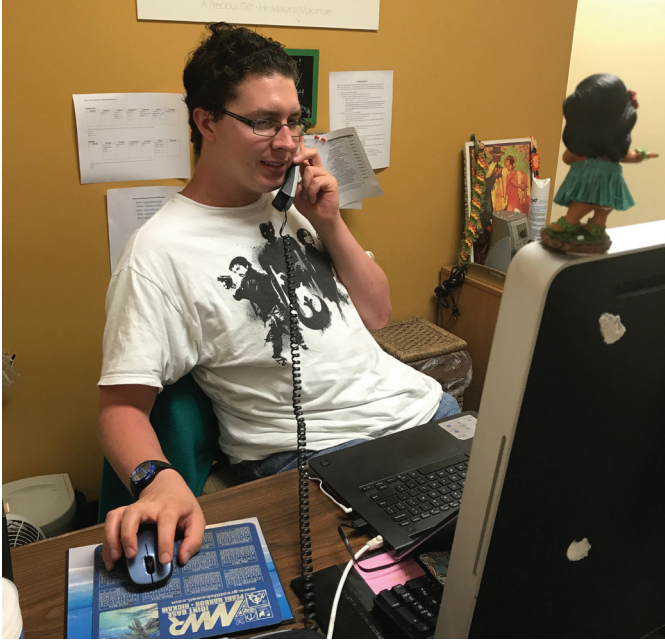
## Donations of Funds:

Aloha United Way  
Evans Fund  
Friends of Hawaii Charities  
Ili` Ili Fund  
Jhamandas Watumull Fund  
Na Lei Aloha Foundation



**We would like to extend a special  
Mahalo Nui Loa to  
Learn to Love Yoga  
for providing lunch time yoga  
sessions for KC staff members  
and other yoga opportunities at the  
KC to promote well being for all.  
Namaste**

# Office Angels Welcome!



Shawn, longtime Office Angel, talking to a family in need

At Family Promise, volunteers are the heart of the program. We partner with local congregations of all faiths, as well as community members, to host or support our homeless families with children at their facilities overnight.

Family Promise has over 1,500 volunteers who help our program, but we can always use more! We recently initiated a Community Volunteer Orientation that is held once a month at the Kukui Center for those volunteers who do not belong to a congregation and who would like to get involved. As summer approaches, we are calling for volunteers to be our “Office Angels” who provide coverage and other support at our family centers at the Kukui Center and in Kailua.

These centers serve as a safe space during the day for the families in our program. It is a place where they can come to receive case management and apply for jobs and housing, wash clothes, take showers, eat, and rest.

Office Angels help answer phones and assist the families with various center activities, keep our center organized and allow us to remain open 9-5, 365 days a year. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Whitney Blandford at [volunteer@familypromisehawaii.org](mailto:volunteer@familypromisehawaii.org) to fill out an application and learn about our next monthly orientation.

## Agencies collaborate to help homeless with documents

Family Promise of Hawai‘i and the Hawai‘i Immigrant Justice Center at Legal Aid (HIJC) partner to provide free legal assistance to homeless families. For example, some of the homeless families are citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. These countries have a special agreement with the United States called the Compact of Free Associations (“Compact”) and citizens can travel to the US without a visa and live and work in the US.

HIJC partners with Family Promise to help homeless families from these countries who need replacement immigration documents, like the I-94 arrival / departure document. The “I-94” is what a citizen covered by the Compact needs to show employers in order to work lawfully in the US. Many have their I-94 documents stolen or lose them due to homelessness. HIJC helps homeless families regain stability by replacing this critical document. It costs a single person \$445 to replace this document. For homeless families, this fee is prohibitive.

HIJC has been encouraging citizens covered by the Compact to apply for another immigration document, entitled the “Employment Authorization Document” (“EAD”) which



Sample documents that U.S. immigrants need to show employers in order to work lawfully in the U.S.A.

Departure Number 813106636 11	
Department of Homeland Security CBP I-94A (11/04) Departure Record	
L1 12345 CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION ADMITTED USA 09/17/2007 Class Unit	
Family Name SAMPLE	Birth Date (Day Mo Yr) 22, 12, 50
First (Given) Name AHMET	Country of Citizenship PAKISTAN
20041122 US-VISIT 20050207 MULTIPLE	
See Other Side	STAPLE HERE

is free! The EAD verifies a person’s eligibility to work in the US. Moreover, individuals with an EAD can get a longer term driver’s license. HIJC is proud to collaborate with Family Promise to resolve the sometime insurmountable obstacles homeless families face on O‘ahu.

# From Homeless to Washington DC!

Brandy had never been outside of the Hawaiian Islands in her 21 years of life. That's not uncommon for someone who entered foster care at age 13 and remained in care until aging out. Her life has not been easy. In fact, she spent her first two years as an adult struggling with homelessness, addiction, and trouble holding a job.

In the last year she has really turned her life around and seems to have found her calling in the process. Through her involvement with Hale Kipa's Independent Living Program and Youth Outreach (YO!), she has begun to find her voice in advocacy for youth issues, especially homelessness.

Now, she has been given the opportunity to take her voice to the national level. She was selected to attend the 2017 Congressional



*Brandy (on left) and another Hawaii representative at the Supreme Court building.*

Foster Youth Shadow Program in Washington DC this spring. This was the first time Hawaii has been represented.

Participants stayed in the dorms and attended trainings and workshops on the campus of the Catholic University of America. Their four event filled days in DC also included shadowing a Hawaii Representative, a Foster Youth Forum, and a reception on Capitol Hill.

Brandy admitted that she was nervous about the ten hour plane ride and the potential culture shock of being in the mainland, however she believes that the opportunity to make an impact and contribute to positive change for other Hawaii youth in the foster care system is well worth it.

## Summer reading is key for our keiki!



*Youth enjoy summer reading and reinforce their literacy skills.*

Every summer Hawaii Literacy's youth programs work with 2,000 keiki from low-income backgrounds to increase out-of-school reading time.

If keiki do not read during school breaks, they can actually LOSE reading skills! But if a child reads 8 or more books on their reading level, this "summer backslide" can be prevented.

Here are some tips we use to help keiki in our Family Libraries and Bookmobile programs read:

- Have great books right in your home or program- public libraries and thrift shops are great places to borrow or buy inexpensive books, or swap used books with friends.
- Set aside 15-30 minutes (depending on age) each day as reading time
- Create a comfortable and relaxing environment
- Keep a chart to track books read or total reading time
- Let keiki earn a small prize or incentive to encourage them to reach their reading goal.
- Use a simple rule like 'Five Fingers' or 'Goldilocks' to help pick the right level books. (online or at [hawaiiliteracy.org](http://hawaiiliteracy.org))

The ability to read on grade level by Grade 3 is a major predictor of future school success. Summer reading is one key way we can help keiki make progress! Hawaii Literacy's goal is that every child in our programs will read at least 8 books during the summer. Help keiki in your life do the same!



Harry and Jeanette Weinberg  
**Kukui Center**

## Our Family Of Social Services

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*Community Partners  
Program Coordinator*

[Kukuchildrensfoun@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:Kukuchildrensfoun@hawaii.rr.com)

### Family Promise of Hawaii

*Resources for homeless families with children*  
(808) 548-7478  
[www.familypromisehawaii.org](http://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](http://www.halekipa.org)

### Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition

*Advocacy and independent living skills training for foster youth*  
(808) 545-5683  
[www.grievingyouth.org](http://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](http://www.hijcenter.org)

### Hawaii Literacy

*Literacy and lifelong learning services*  
(808) 537-6706  
[www.hawaiiliteracy.org](http://www.hawaiiliteracy.org)

### Joyful Heart Foundation

*Helping victims of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault*  
(808) 532-3520  
[www.joyfulheartfoundation.org](http://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](http://www.kidshurttoo.org)

### Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii

*Training center for parents of children with disabilities*  
(808) 536-9684  
[www.LDAHawaii.org](http://www.LDAHawaii.org)

### Mediation Center of the Pacific

*Conflict resolution for cases involving children and others*  
(808) 521-6767  
[www.mediatehawaii.org](http://www.mediatehawaii.org)

[www.kukuicenter.org](http://www.kukuicenter.org)

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