



## CHILDREN CREATE BEAUTIFUL AND MEANINGFUL ART for the KUKUI CENTER

It was back in 2009 when we had just opened the Kukui Center, that we were approached by Bob Grossmann, the founder of *Afterschool ART*. He explained that its purpose is to create projects that give at risk children an opportunity to be involved in art that has social justice value.

After discussing various possibilities, he proposed creating a mural for Family Promise Hawaii (FPH), a program for homeless families with children within their play area (see page 6). He recruited Jeff Pagay, a local artist, who with 6 youth from the Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center and 3 from Kids Hurt Too Hawaii (KHTH) ranging in age from 8-16 years old. From conception to execution, they were enthused and excited by the opportunity and came in every day for a week (using bus passes provided to them) to work on it. Their hard work created a lasting thing of beauty still enjoyed by all who visit.

Bob suggested another project in 2011 using UH art student Crystal Tezuka. Her theme was diversity and she came up with a banana design and invited kids from FPH to work with her

to learn about painting. Her one on one mentoring showed them one can do amazing things through art if you know how to do it. The design was to show that, in a place like FPH, diversity is a strength which is enhanced through being together-in a bunch!



**Crystal Tezuka**

Bob worked on both of these projects and then generously agreed to teach printmaking to clients of another Kukui Center program, Hale Kipa.

His most recent project with 6 lucky kids from KHTH involved working with local sculptor Kamran Samimi. You can learn more about it from reading their article.

Our children have also enhanced the outside of the center. First guided by well known Hawaii artist Michael Powell and later by an artist client of KHTH, they painted acrylic panels which hang on our fence and provide a unique experience to all who visit.

Notes Family Promise Hawaii, Executive Director, Samantha Church...*“having artwork in our building helps children feel welcomed and evokes a family-friendly environment for the guests we serve”.*



## Wood, Iron, Rocks

What do you get when you mix wood, iron, a bunch of rocks, energetic children, and a wildly imaginative artist? You get a living sculpture—that's what



KHTH participant, artist-Kamran Samimi

you get! Kids Hurt Too Hawaii (KHTH) welcomed Kamran Samimi from Hawaii Island to the Kukui Center on August 15, 2019 to do "a sculpture." We had no idea what to expect; only that we were informed our Healing Young Heart's children and family members would enjoy themselves. And that, they did!

Arranged by Bob Grossmann, also in attendance at the event with his wife and KHTH's former Board Member, Geri Marullo, creating this

unusual sculpture began as a mystery, then became a work of living art.



Completed Sculpture

This event was one of many Community Mentoring Activities used as a part of our healing programs for grieving children, youth, and caregivers. These activities have a way of taking your mind off sadness, even if just for a few moments, and focusing it on what life still has to offer after suffering the loss of a loved one.

We are grateful to Kamran, Bob, Geri, our families, and all the community partners who help arrange these special events for our families. Lucky we live Hawaii. Lucky we tenant at the Kukui Center!



## How Our Unique Shelter Works

Family Promise of Hawai'i's innovative shelter model connects families in need of shelter with existing community resources. We partner with congregations of all faiths who offer a temporary place for families to call home.

Congregational partners provide a safe sleeping space and meals for the families enrolled in our shelter program for one week at a time. During the day, families work alongside our staff and are connected to resources to help them move into housing of their own as quickly as possible.

Our model gives volunteers the opportunity to make a direct impact on the lives of families



experiencing homelessness. How does the model work?

Families wake up at the congregation host site and leave for the day around 7am. Parents and children then go to work and school or to our Family Day Center. Around 5pm our van driver picks up the families from our Day Center and drives them to the congregation host

site where they are greeted by volunteers who provide them with a meal and overnight accommodations. Families rotate to a different congregation host site weekly. On average, families stay in the shelter program for about 70 days before they are able to move into housing.



Hale Kipa Staff participated in the 2019 'Ohana is Forever Conference facilitating a hands on Self-Care workshop for approximately 70 youth and young adults from foster care. The youth chose small groups for discussion and to create sensory items that they could use to cope with stress, improve self-care and increase their overall wellbeing. The youth were involved in discussion about different aspects of self-care and were able to choose items that they felt would help them the most.

Youth learned about aromatherapy and made aromatherapy bracelets, learned ways to use the sense of touch to self soothe and made pocket pals of different textures to keep with them, created sensory water bottles and learned how to use their senses to distract or focus their minds when needed. They created Affirmation stones using positive and encouraging phrases to help them think more positively.

The youth and staff had a great time and each youth left with several sensory items and a pocket card to help them remember positive self-care techniques and coping skills.

**Grounding**  
Body & Senses  
Taste – savor it  
Sound – Music,  
Sight – Colors, m  
Feel – grass, sand  
Smell – oils, lotion  
food

**Distraction**  
Talk or think ab  
things, read, do  
clean, watch a  
listen to music

**Emotional  
Release**  
Yell, run, cold  
let yourself cr  
dance, shred p  
vigorous exer  
someone how

**Love  
Yourself**  
Self Soothe, ap  
brush hair, ma  
something spe  
yourself, pamp  
clean your spa  
your spiritual s

**Positive  
Thoughts**  
Challenge neg  
thoughts with  
ones, write do  
positive thoug  
motivational c



**First Lady, Dawn Amano-Ige  
Speaks at the  
Bookmobile Blessing**

## ***New Honolulu-based Bookmobile Hits the Road***

In August, Hawaii Literacy held the blessing ceremony and kick-off event for our brand-new Honolulu-based Bookmobile! We were honored to have First Lady, Dawn Amano-Ige join us for this ceremony to share a few words about the ways that literacy can truly change someone's life. We strongly share this belief, so when our Bookmobile program, which had been solely based in Waianae, started getting urgent requests for visits from communities outside of the Leeward Coast, we knew we had to act quickly. Thanks to the generosity of many partners and donors, including the State of Hawaii Grant-in-Aid, we were able to begin service with this new town-based Bookmobile shortly after the school year started!

We are visiting about 5 sites each week with this new Bookmobile, with additional sites to be added in the near future. These sites include Kahauiki Village, Kukui Gardens, and Papakolea Hawaiian Homestead. In these first few weeks of visits, the new Bookmobile has seen high attendance and tons of enthusiasm from the new keiki and families we are now able to reach and serve.

The Bookmobile visits low-income, transitional housing, and homeless shelter communities to bring free book lending (with no late fees or lost fines, ever!), homework help, literacy tutoring, school supply awards, reading campaigns, and educational apps and technology each week.

As this is a brand-new program, we are eagerly seeking wonderful and caring new volunteers that can help on weekday afternoons. For the most up-to-date schedule and information on how to get involved, please see our website: <http://hawaiiliteracy.org/bookmobile>.



THE MEDIATION CENTER  
of THE PACIFIC

## MEDIATION AND FAMILY CONFERENCING SKILLS HELP THE U.S. VETS KEEP VETERANS IN HOUSING



MCP Staff

In response to the Rapid Re-housing initiative designed to help the homeless transition into housing and stay in their housing U.S. VETS - Barber's Point reached out to the Mediation Center of the Pacific (MCP) to provide their staff with mediation skills. Following several discussions regarding the specific issues the U.S. VETS wanted to address, MCP designed a customized two-day training to provide the participants with mediation and family conferencing skills. The mediation skills and process focused on assisting Veterans with resolving conflicts with their roommates. The family conferencing process on the other hand focused on helping veterans to reconnect with their families and engage in discussions about having the Veteran move into the family home.

Twenty staff members from the U.S. VETS and Catholic Charities participated in the training that was conducted by MCP's

staff. The two-days included hands-on coaching during the practice sessions by MCP's dedicated volunteer mediators and facilitators. The participants unanimously agreed that the training was valuable and the skills they learned would help them to assist Veterans. More specifically comments included:

*"Loved and enjoyed all of the information provided to help provide Veterans with support and to be the middle person/ impartial mediator, for the Veteran."*

*"Thank you for the awesome training . I recommend the training to all agencies."*

The MCP staff and mediators were honored to present the training and work with the members of the U.S. VETS and Catholic Charities on this important initiative. MCP looks forward to further collaborations to help veterans and others prevent and resolve conflict that will enable them to stay in their housing.



healthy  
mothers  
healthy  
babies

COALITION  
OF HAWAII

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies welcomes Sunny Chen as our new Executive Director. A nurse by training, she also holds an MBA from the Paul Merage School of Business, UCI. As a nurse, she specialized in obstetrics/pediatrics and is a certified Lactation Consultant. She also spent some time in the corporate world and over the years has held a variety of different jobs in the field of nursing and business.

She has always kept a pulse on helping mothers, children and babies. One interesting fact about Sunny is that at one point in her life, she was an aspiring professional golfer. Today, she's lucky if she gets out on the golf course once a year because the most important hat she wears is being a mother to a creative daughter and two high-spirited boys. She is also a military spouse and has a strong passion for helping those who serve.

## Welcome Sunny Chen



*"I am so grateful for the opportunity to lead HMHB of Hawaii and it feels as if my career is coming full circle. Being a part of the Kukui Center just makes sense-it makes our collaborative efforts to help our community easier because every bit of help collectively, can make a huge impact! We are all here to serve the community to make our Hawaii ohana stronger." Sunny*



LEGAL AID  
SOCIETY OF HAWAII

**PUBLIC BENEFITS OVERVIEW**



Tatjana Johnson Executive Director and  
Melissa Wong, Staff Attorney for Legal Aid

Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center at Legal Aid hosted the Public Benefits Overview Training on August 22-23, 2019. The 2- day legal conference introduced participants to public benefits for families and immigrants living in the State of Hawaii. Pankaj Bhanot, Director, Department of Human Services gave a key-note address and shared with participants his vision for the future. Other presenters included John Egan, Esq., who provided an introduction to immigration, and Puanani Burgess, who shared her stories and wisdom with us on building a beloved community.

The subject-matter of immigration laws and policy was timely as the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (“Homeland Security”) has recently announced several important changes that will impact immigrants living in Hawaii. In September 2019, Homeland Security announced that citizens of the Freely Associated States will only have to show their passport and I-9 record to obtain a REAL ID Act compliant driver’s license or state identification card.

This is a reversal of an April 2019 policy that mandated overnight COFA migrants to obtain an Employment Authorization Document (“EAD”) to be REAL ID compliant—a process that can take 2-3 months. The flip-flop caused havoc in the COFA community and left many people disparate as the DMV wouldn’t issue them a driver’s license without an EAD.

Other major changes in immigration policy included a new public charge rule that seeks to deny lawful permanent residency or admission into the United States to low-income immigrants, especially those receiving public benefits. The expanded definition of public charge will have a

negative impact on immigrants living in Hawaii. HIJC plans to host a legal training on the new public charge rule for our community to learn more about what it means and how it may impact our community.



**Leadership in Disabilities & Achievement  
of Hawaii Got KIDZONE?**

For 12 years LDAH has been hosting a statewide Traveling Mini-Conference for parents, professionals, and community on special education issues, best practice, behavior interventions and approaches that impact children with disabilities and their families. Why is this conference unlike any other? We provide childcare for children at our conferences. We collaborate with a variety of Behavioral Health Providers to assist with supervision in KIDZONE, and it’s been a perfect match. Not only do we benefit from trained RBT’s or Registered Behavior Technicians in KIDZONE, but it helps to promote their business.

KIDZONE is structured play using developmental milestones such as, personal-social, fine motor, gross motor, problem solving and communication. Have you ever played Giant Jenga and thought, what muscle groups are used, or the effort it takes for a three-year-old to take turns? Think about a simple game of Battleship using communication and critical thinking skills to sink a ship. When it fails the determination and self-control to overcome failure is what a child needs to have success.

A parent writes, *“I am so grateful LDAH provided this service, I was able to attend the conference while my child made friends with other children and was included in all the activities.” “I hardly attend workshops or conferences because of childcare; I finally can attend a conference.”*





*Afterschool ART Family Promise Hawaii Mural*

*Mahalo* to Anne Komatsu, Executive Director of the Aloha Diaper Bank (middle) for their generous donation of diapers to Samatha Church, Executive Director and Jason Tannahill, Housing Case Manager of Family Promise Hawaii

*"The mission of Aloha Diaper Bank is to raise awareness of diaper need in Hawaii and generate donations of dollars and diapers, so that all babies in Hawaii remain clean, dry and healthy. Aloha Diaper Bank is committed to supplementing families of low income and those in crisis with their critical diaper needs through our partner agencies, churches and organizations that support these families and their babies. Together we will work to end diaper need in Hawaii."*

Anne Komatsu, Executive Director  
[info@alohadiaperbank.org](mailto:info@alohadiaperbank.org)

### *E Komo Mai* to the Kukui Center 'Ohana New 2019 Community Partners

Bodhi MassageTherapy - HONBLUE - Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Assn.  
 Professional Image Hawaii - Aloha Diaper Bank - Hawaii Youth Services Network



Artwork by Kids Hurt Too Hawaii

## **Partnerships for Donations of Services**

Ace Security and Locksmiths  
 Advanced Fencing Solutions  
 AESolutionsLLC  
 Afterschool ART  
 Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing  
 ALTRES Global Business Services  
 American Savings Bank  
 Anthology Marketing Group  
 Bodhi Massage Therapy  
 Cushman & Wakefield ChaneyBrooks  
 Chef Aaron Ortiz  
 College Directions Hawaii  
 Dennis Kim  
 HACBED  
 Hawaii Digi Doc  
 Hawaii Self Storage  
 HawaiiUSA Federal Credit Union  
 HONBLUE  
 IPR Hawaii  
 King's Kustom Tinting  
 KFVE The Home Team  
 Law Offices of Neal K.Aoki  
 Learn to Love Yoga  
 Leonui Communications  
 Professional Image Hawaii  
 The CPA Collective

## **Partnerships for Donations of Goods**

Aunty Sally  
 Aloha Diaper Bank  
 Big Diner  
 Central Pacific Bank  
 CS Wo & Sons  
 Assn. of Legal Administrators  
 GWizPromotions  
 Honolulu Sign Company  
 Islander Group  
 Junior League Sustainers  
 Pepsi Beverages Company  
 Servco Pacific  
 Soderholm Bus Sales and Leasing  
 Soldat Construction  
 Trade West  
 Vim and Vigor  
 Kirk Hovious

## **Partnerships with Volunteers, Service Clubs, Non-Profit Organizations**

Arcadia Retirement Residence  
 Bruce McEwan  
 Habilitat, Inc.  
 Hands in Helping Out  
 Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Assn.  
 Hawaii Youth Services Network  
 Harris United Methodist Church  
 Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority  
 Luke Center for Public Services  
 Seymour Kazimirski  
 Waikiki Community Center Seniors  
 Winners Camp Foundation

## **Partnerships for Donations of Funds**

Aloha United Way  
 Ili'i Fund  
 Evans Fund  
 Jhamandas Watumull Fund  
 Friends of Hawaii Charities  
 Izumo Taishakyo Mission  
 of Hawaii  
 Na Lei Aloha Foundation  
 Women's League of  
 Central Union Church

This past quarter, the agencies and staff at the Kukui Center send a very special, heartfelt

*Mahalo Nui Loa*

to the following Community Partners for their donation of much needed goods and services that greatly benefit the children and families at the Kukui Center.

*Afterschool ART, Aloha Diaper Bank, Aunty Sally Kanehe, HawaiiUSA Credit Union, Altres, HONBLUE, Hawaii Lodging & Tourism Assn., Professional Image*

**If you know of an individual, non-profit or organization that can offer their support and interested in joining our Community Partners Program, please email [mamong@kukuicenter.org](mailto:mamong@kukuicenter.org).**



Harry and Jeanette Weinberg  
**Kukui Center**

*A gathering place for those who serve vulnerable children and families*

245 North Kukui Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

**Fall 2019**

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Program*

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

## OUR FAMILY OF SOCIAL SERVICES

#### Family Promise of Hawaii

Resources for homeless  
families with children  
(808) 548-7478

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

#### Leadership in Disabilities & Achievement of Hawaii

Training center for parents  
of children with disabilities  
(808) 536-9684

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

#### Hale Kipa

Outreach services for child abuse  
victims in, or transitioning out of,  
foster care to become independent  
(808) 853-4660

[info@halekipa.org](mailto:info@halekipa.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)

#### Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies

Advocacy for a child's right to be born  
healthy and raised in a safe  
and nurturing environment

(808) 737-5805

MothersCare Line

(808) 951-6660

[info@hmhb-hawaii.org](mailto:info@hmhb-hawaii.org)

#### Hawaii Literacy

Literacy and lifelong  
learning services

(808) 537-6706

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

#### Mediation Center of the Pacific

Conflict resolution for  
cases involving children  
and others

(808) 521-6767

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

#### Kids Hurt Too Hawaii

Support for grieving children  
who have lost a parent  
(808) 545-5683 or (808) 256-3176

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

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, send your email address to

[mamong@kukuicenter.org](mailto:mamong@kukuicenter.org)