



FALL 2022

WITH THE HELP OF A CARING COMMUNITY



by Judy Lind
Executive Director

The Kukui Children's Foundation (KCF) purchased the Kukui Center building to assist vulnerable children and families. We bought the building, with a CDBG grant from the City and County of Honolulu, in 2006 and raised funds while the existing leases terminated in 2007. We spent 2008 doing the renovations and opened in 2009. Not a bad timetable for Hawaii.

We knew that we would have to carry out extensive improvements to make it a warm and welcoming home for the clients who come for help and the staff who work there. It was no small task as there was no elevator, it needed a completely new air conditioning system, and everything updated on the inside and outside, as well.

We are a very unique landlord. We were committed to assisting our small nonprofit partners in creating customized space for each of their programs. So, for example, Family Promise was operating a Day Center for homeless families and needed showers, bathrooms and a kitchen area. Other programs, like Kids Hurt Too Hawaii, was holding group meetings for children of all ages and would benefit from a playground. The needs were very individualized, compelling and necessary.

Like most building projects, it was far more costly than anyone expected and that's where the community came in. In addition to generous grants from Hawaii's major trusts and foundations, we received over \$1 million in donated goods and services from professionals and businesses. Everything from paint and drywall to bathroom fixtures. Service groups, including Rotary Clubs and HPD volunteered their time and assistance and we got the renovation project done on time and on budget.

*"We are a very
unique
landlord"*

After we opened, we turned the positive energy and support for the building project into the Community Partners Project to bring that same level of community support to the programs, clients and staff. We have listed on page 8, the 75 community partners who are our invaluable allies in the important work we do. We are always looking for more helpers and would love to hear from you with ideas. You can also visit our website at www.kukuicenter.org and learn more about the Kukui Center.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF IMPACT



Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii celebrates 30 years of legacy this year. Our organization continues to evolve by not just being active in advocacy and policy work, but also providing our communities with social services and more recently, the addition of a new clinical arm. Over the years we have developed many partnerships with local, statewide, and national organizations that have helped uplift our mission. HMHB has also seen many board members, executive directors, program coordinators, interns and volunteers come through, and each and every person has helped HMHB leave a lasting impact on birthing families across Hawaii. We've been a local resource for moms and families before, during, and after pregnancy. We ensure equitable access to health care through clinical services such as reproductive health care and vaccinations. We supply families with basic needs - cribs, food, diapers, and wipes. We are here every step of the way. Stay connected with us through the end of the year as we celebrate our 30th anniversary and highlight 30 stories of impact



FAMILY PROMISE WELCOMES



Ryan Catalani
new Executive Director



The legislative session led to some major outcomes for housing and homeless services. Family Promise secured a \$200,000 grant-in-aid to support the creation of our homeless resource center for families. A number of bills were passed to increase affordable housing and resources for homeless services.

One that Family Promise was especially supportive of was SB206, related to rental discrimination. Beginning May 1, 2023 landlords will no longer be able to discriminate against Section 8 vouchers or permanent supportive housing vouchers. We have all seen the rental postings online with a bold, "No Section 8" statement across the bottom. Honolulu is one of the largest metropolitan areas in the US that still allows this practice. SB206 will change that, ensuring that voucher recipients are able to equitably access housing. Our community has seen an increase in housing assistance vouchers in recent years, but many have struggled to find landlords willing to accept these vouchers.

This is progress. Let's advocate for continued progress on resources to help families experiencing housing instability not just survive in Hawaii, but thrive!

HAWAII HEROES & HEROINES ON THE BOOKMOBILE

Our Bookmobile team developed cultural and aina-based educational activities based on stories of Maui, Kawela, Hi'iaka, Hina, Pele, and the Eel Man of Waianae using acting, puppets, and talk story. Acknowledging that literacy embraces mo'olelo and mele as well, our staff learned songs about the areas we visited. Through these place-based and cultural lessons, not only do keiki improve their literacy skills in areas such as comprehension, but they also gain a sense of their place in the cultural fabric of Hawaii.

We also began a Youth Leadership Group at the Waianae Boys and Girls Club in March 2022. Thus far we have held four sessions and have resumed in August. We have worked with groups of up to 12 intermediate and high school students and used poems, literature, storytelling, talk story, writing, and other activities to reflect on and discuss issues of identity, confidence, bullying, and our gifts. Another new initiative—Talk Story with Hawaii Literacy is an ongoing video series exploring the power of reading, writing, and storytelling. We sit down with local authors, artists, and community leaders who share the inspiration behind their work as well as the different challenges and accomplishments they've experienced along the way.



INFINITE POSSIBILITIES

Imagine a world where everyone is able to learn, play, communicate and access information equally. It's not that hard to picture this world; for the majority of the population, the world is accessible.

Driving to school, taking notes, talking with friends, or watching a movie are not challenging for most. But for the 19,000 children in Hawaii who are identified as having a disability, seemingly everyday activities can be a challenge. Thankfully the world can be made accessible through Assistive Technology.

Assistive Technology or AT is any device that is used to help a person accomplish daily activities. AT can be a simple low-tech device like a pencil grip or a high-tech device like a speech-to-text "app." AT allows people to accomplish tasks that were previously thought impossible or too hard.

For example, Jake, a 12th grader with a physical disability, is told by his counselor he cannot take physics because the course requires a lot of note-taking. With an AT device, Jake can digitally record the lecture and listen to the teacher later, at his own pace.

Although AT can level the playing field, for it to work, it has to be tailored to an individual's strengths and needs and selected based on his or her personal preferences. The tasks that are accomplishable with the use of AT are only limited by our imagination.



NO CHILD HURTS ALONE

In Hawaii, one in 15 keiki will lose a parent or a sibling by the age of 18. That's 80,000 keiki living with grief. Thousands more are separated from one or both parents and traumatized from domestic violence, abuse or neglect. These experiences cause life-long health problems without intervention.



"KHTH makes me feel like I belong in the world, and makes me happy to be here."
Izirie, age 12, separated from both parents.



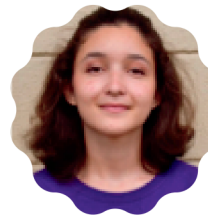
"Kids Hurt Too is helpful for me because it shows me how many other kids have the same situation that I'm going through, and how they cope with it." Faith, age 13, separated from father.



"Kids Hurt Too takes my stress away."
Merahcle, age 8, separated from both parents.



"Kids Hurt Too really helps, and I'm not sad anymore."
Ezekiel, age 8, father died.



"No one should feel alone in grief. There should always be a place where you can come to feel welcomed and supported, and listen to other people talk." says Kanani, age 17, father died.

Kids Hurt Too Hawai'i provides early intervention for keiki coping with grief and/or trauma. All services are free, supported by grants and donations. For more information, visit our website at www.kidshurttoo.org.



HALE KIPA SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

Aloha. Hale Kipa participated in two recent community events. Hale Kipa was pleased to support Aloha United Way's 2022 Campaign Kick-off Event for the 2022 AUW Workplace Giving Campaign. The event brought in 200 employees from non-profit partners of AUW and over 100 corporate campaign workplace employees. Hale Kipa, along with more than 2000 others, participated in HLTA's 43rd Visitor Industry Charity Walk. Over 100 charities on O`ahu alone are supported by this event which is expected to raise more than \$2 million dollars for non-profits statewide.

Hale Kipa would like to introduce two new case managers with the IHI (Independent Living/Higher Ed/Imua Kakou) Program. Deena Klotzman is an MSW graduate student from Hawai'i Pacific University who has been living on island for four years. Deena interned at HUGS Hawai'i, Heart Horses, and NASW. Deena enjoys relaxing on the beach, driving around the island, snorkeling, and hiking. Frances Harimoto earned a B.S degree in Criminal Justice from Ashworth College and is currently working on her second B.S. in Psychology. Her interests include finding fun places to eat, going to the beach, and brunch dates with friends and family. Both look forward to getting to know everyone at the Kukui Center. Mahalo.



Deena and Frances at the HLTA 43rd Charity Walk".



CELEBRATING CITIZENSHIP

September 17th was Citizenship Day. At the Hawaii Immigration Justice Center at the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii we celebrated all of our clients who we have helped become citizens.

One of my favorite things to do as a legal attorney is to attend citizenship oath ceremonies with our clients. I get to share in a moment of their joy.

To be eligible for citizenship, in general a person must have had Lawful Permanent Resident status (LPR status - often known as holding a green card) for 5 years but many people qualify after 3 years and members of the military may qualify after just one year. U.S. Nationals (such as citizens of America Samoa) may apply after just 3 months of residency in the U.S. All applicants for citizenship must show that they have good moral character and are permanently residing in the U.S and have lived in the state where they are applying for 3 months. There are other requirements as well such as showing competency in the English Language and passing a civics exams. In some cases, some requirements are waived. Citizenship is well within reach for many Hawaii residents.

We welcome individuals interested in citizenship to call the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii intake line at 808-536-4302 or send a message to our online intake system by going to www.legalaidhawaii.org

Rebecca Leibowitz

WISH LIST

The agencies at the Kukui Center need the following goods and services for the vulnerable children and families that they serve. If you can help in anyway, please contact Marlene at mamong@kukuicenter.org

Mahalo Nui Loa

KIDS HURT TOO HAWAII

- See thru Plastic Bins
- Air Purifier
- Gift Cards for Lunch
- Shredder
- Volunteer to digitize/scan documents

HALE KIPA

- New tablets & laptops
- Working Condition Microwaves, New Pillow Cases, Sheets, Furniture

HEALTHY MOTHERS HEALTHY BABIES

- New GRACO Pack 'n Play Travel Cribs
- Folding Chairs
- Gift Cards for Lunch
- Shredder

LEADERSHIP IN DISABILITIES & ACHIEVEMENT IN HAWAII

- Gift Cards & School Supplies
- Volunteer Graphic Artist
- Volunteer AV Tech to help with virtual conferences

HAWAII IMMIGRANT JUSTICE CENTER

- Volunteers to assist the elderly & disabled families move into housing

HAWAII LITERACY

- Locally Published Books for Keiki (new or gently used)
- School Supplies & Back Packs
- See thru Plastic Bins
- Shredder

The agencies also need translators in Korean, Chuukese, and Marshallese.

6 COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



As a professional organization serving our local community, the Hawai'i chapter of the Association of Legal Administrators ("ALA Hawaii") takes seriously our kuleana to use the chapter's influence and resources to improve the lives of our neighbors and to care for our 'āina. Since 2014, ALA Hawaii has partnered with the Kukui Center by sponsoring a fundraising campaign for one of its agencies through our annual community connection project.

This fall, our goal was to raise \$1,500 to purchase three coding robot kits for **Hawaii Literacy** in time for the launch of their **Coding as Another Language** program during the 2022 fall break. Through the generosity of our members and business partners, we far surpassed that goal by funding the three robots plus one new Chromebook for the Kalihi Waena tutoring program, two portable PA systems for indoor/outdoor presentations and read alouds, and a new library of locally published children's books. We could not have done it without our premier business partners that individually sponsored a coding robot kit (Indevtech Inc. and Chun Kerr LLP) and the two PA systems (SurePoint Technologies).

We are so grateful for the work that **Hawaii Literacy** is doing to improve digital literacy and are delighted to support this innovative program.



Jill Takasaki Canfield
Executive Director-Hawaii Literacy
&

Katelyn Shelly
Chief Operating Officer-Chun Kerr LLP
and Member of the Hawaii Chapter of
Legal Administrators





From left - Jill Takasaki Canfield-Hawai'i Literacy, Lama Chang-Family Promise, JORDAN ODO-Jordan and Cara Odo Scholarship Foundation, Marie Ramos-Hawai'i Literacy, Hiro Ito and Walter Rowsey from Kids Hurt Too Hawai'i

Jordan and Cara Odo Scholarship Foundation

Mahalo Nui Loa

for your generous donation of 70 back-to-school backpacks for the Keiki at the Kukui Center

The Jordan & Cara Odo Scholarship Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization driven to support the next generation of leaders in Hawai'i. Since its inception in 2014, the Foundation has awarded more than \$50,000 in scholarships. Additionally, with the help of many volunteers, the Foundation has hosted a number of leadership development programs, including the Hops & Higher Ups pau hana series and the seven-week Next Gen Leaders Program. In 2022, college and graduate students participating in the Foundation's third annual Next Gen Leaders Program worked in teams to research and develop solutions for Hawai'i's housing crises, all while receiving mentorship from community leaders.

"Our goal, if you can encapsulate it into one sentence, is to help those who want to help others," said Jordan Odo, President of the Foundation. "Cara and I have been so inspired to see the community truly come together to support our cause and the young leaders who we're supporting."

Mahalo Palena 'Ole

Gratitude Beyond Measure to our 2022 Community Partners for your continued support of goods and services. With Aloha, the Staff and Agencies at the Kukui Center

Partnerships for Donations of Services

Ace Security & Locksmith
Advanced Fencing Solutions
AESolutions LLC
Afterschool Art
ALTRES Global Business Services Inc.
American Savings Bank
Anthology Marketing Group
Bodhi Massage Therapy
College Directions Hawaii
Denton US LLP
Wendell Elento
HACBED
Hawaii Digi Doc
Hawaii USA Federal Credit Union
HONBLUE
IPR Hawaii
Dennis Kim
King's Kustom Tinting
Law Offices of Neal K. Aoki
Leonui Communications
Michael J. O'Malley
Ohana Komputer
Pacific Data Services
Professional Image Hawaii
RSI Roofing & Building Supply
Take2 Production
The Bead Gallery
The CPA Collective
YMCA of Honolulu

Partnerships for Donations of Funds

Aloha United Way
Clarence T.C. Ching Foundation
Evans Fund
Friends of Hawaii Charities
Ili'ili Fund
Izumo Taishakyo Mission of Hawaii
Watumull Fund
Na Lei Aloha Foundation
Women's League of Central Union Church
Ekkebus Charitable Foundation

Partnerships for Donations of Goods

Aloha Diaper Bank
Big City Diner
CS Wo & Sons
Assn. Legal Administrators
GWIZ Promotions
Honolulu Sign Company
Kirk Hovious
Islander Group
Junior League Sustainers
Jordan and Cara Odo Scholarship Foundation
Servco Pacific
Soderholm Bus and Mobility
Soldat Construction
Vim and Vigor

Partnerships with Volunteers, Service Clubs

& Non-Profit Organizations

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

Aloha,

If you know of any individuals,
businesses, or organizations that can
offer their support and interested in
joining our Community Partners
Program, please email
mamong@kukuicenter.org.

Mahalo nui loa!



Fall 2022

Harry and Jeanette Weinberg
Kukui Center

A gathering place for those who serve vulnerable children and families

**245 North Kukui Street - #103
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817**

OUR FAMILY OF SOCIAL SERVICES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John R. Dwyer, Jr.
President

Clyde Namu'o
Vice President

Pat Kay
Secretary

Lauren R. Sharkey
Treasurer

Lori Abe

Jayson Harper

Suzanne Chun Oakland

Geri Marullo

Jim Reinhardt

Victoria Schneider

Sue Landon

Karen K. White
Board Member Emeritus

Judy Lind
Executive Director

Marlene Among
Community Partners Program

kukuichildrens@hawaii.rr.com
www.kukuicenter.org

FAMILY PROMISE OF HAWAII

Resources for homeless & low income
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
info@halekipa.org

HAWAII LITERACY

Literacy & lifelong learning services
808-537-6706
www.hawaiiliteracy.org

HEALTHY MOTHERS HEALTHY BABIES COALITION OF HAWAII

Advocacy & direct services for pregnant
& birthing people so that babies can be
born healthy & raised in a safe &
nurturing environment
808-737-5805
info@hmbb-hawaii.org

KIDS HURT TOO HAWAII

Support for grieving
&
traumatized children
808-545-5683
www.kidshurttoo.org

LEADERSHIP IN DISABILITIES & ACHIEVEMENT OF HAWAII

Training & screening center
for parents of children with disabilities
808-536-9684
www.ldahawaii.org

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF HAWAII

Legal services for immigrant victims of
crime, including domestic violence,
sexual assault & human trafficking
808-536-4302
www.hijcenter.org