



Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Kukui Center

A gathering place for those who serve vulnerable children and families

Volume 1 Number 3

Fall 2011

Collaboration defines us

By Judy Lind

“Collaboration and cooperation; avoiding duplication and maximizing scarce resources; innovation and creativity”. These are nice concepts which often surface as the lofty goals of grant applications and new projects. We used them ourselves in describing the Kukui Childrens Foundation’s vision of how the Kukui Center would operate.

Fortunately for us, many people were willing to support the vision and the community responded with overwhelming support which enabled us to open in 2009. This edition of the newsletter highlights the many ways and levels in which we collaborate and cooperate in the Kukui Center. Some are the obvious things that we hoped would happen when we co-located eight social service agencies that serve children and families. Clients who come to the Kukui Center now have a variety of services available under one roof, greatly expediting their ability to access needed and different types of help. Some were less obvious but



Community Partners at Brasserie Du Vin: Back row: (L-R) Becky Harrison, Habilitat Inc.; Danny Katada, Habilitat Inc.; Barbara Dwyer, Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority; Bob Grossman, After School Art; Betsy Hannah, Junior League Sustainers; Michelle Johnson, Pepsi Beverages Inc.; Robin Kobayashi, Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing; Maile Zambuto, Joyful Heart Foundation; Patria Weston-Lee, Consuelo Foundation. Front Row: (L-R) Sheila Black, Arcadia Retirement Residence; Vonnie Turner, Arcadia Retirement Residence; Jameen Shimamura, Hawaii USA Federal Credit Union; Val Neuman, Hawaii USA Federal Credit Union; Cheri Kishimoto, Hands In Helping Out.

just as valuable: sharing space, interns, staff, equipment, workshops and trainings.

Our Community Partners Program brings collaboration to a new level and grew out of the joint need to get resources and volunteers for all of our programs without duplicating effort. This was accomplished by networking the community contacts of all of the boards of our programs, a new level and type of collaboration which

was unprecedented and very exciting. Funded by Macy’s, Friends of Hawaii Charities and the Makana O Maui Fund of the Hawaii Community Foundation, one person coordinates this program, an efficient way to respond to the community’s interest and willingness to help while being able to better match the needs of eight programs and their clients to the interests and capabilities of the volunteers or donor.

The recent Community

Partner Appreciation event brought together the inaugural and enthusiastic group of businesses and service groups with the executive directors of our programs to receive their thanks. This was accomplished through the generosity of Brasserie du Vin, a Chinatown neighbor which uses its marketing budget to support nonprofits in our community, a wonderful partner.

What’s the next level of collaboration? We recently held a retreat which explored the many new ways that we can collaborate. The ideas we brainstormed include a staff training collaborative using the skills of our partner agencies and those of other community agencies, bulk buying and group purchasing, joint use of an HR firm, a truck for use by all tenants, collaborative fund development, a collaborative social media/marketing campaign to complement our website, and a Speakers Bureau.

In the two short years we have been open, the Kukui Center has demonstrated that Collaboration is not just a word!

Welcome to the Consuelo Family Center

By Patria Weston-Lee

Before the Kukui Center opened, Suite 102 was a shell of drywall and flooring. We knew the space had a lot of potential. As we chose a color scheme and furnishings, it became clear that we could create a Family Center that would be a welcoming spot for children and families involved in the child welfare system to have their supervised visits. We also knew it would be a comfortable space for various workshops and meetings.

Throughout the last two years, it has been used for around 200 child welfare family visits, 52 workshops and 50 community meetings. About 35 of these gatherings have been direct collaborations with other tenants.

Planning and implementing various activities and events that include multiple agencies under the same roof has been both convenient and enjoyable. We have great working relationships with the other organizations and everyone always helps out with set up, take down, publicity, etc.

Besides sharing space, we've shared two practicum students who were placed with Consuelo Foundation at the Kukui Center. Both practicum students had the opportunity to engage in direct service work with Kids hurt too



Agencies gather in the Consuelo Family Center

and Family Promise. This allowed the students to be readily exposed and assist with a variety of services. It also creates an opportunity for a student to try and develop something new. For example, one student started a parent/child activity group that met each month to learn about various topics and engage in a fun activity with their children. The group was open during the day to any parent with kids who came to the Kukui Center, but it ended up being targeted especially for clients of Family Promise. Opportunities like this are readily available, made easier with the co-location of agencies in such a comfortable and inviting center.

Center neighbors share practicum students



Children from Family Promise of Hawaii interact with MSW students

By Christy MacPherson

Family Promise has been truly blessed to have had such wonderful building neighbors here at the Kukui Center! Our immediate neighbor, the Consuelo Foundation, has some of the most helpful and friendly staff around.

This past school year, we were fortunate to have the Foundation's MSW practicum student, Laraine McDonell, work with the guests in our program by providing various parent-

child interaction activities for them. The parents in our program who stay at our Family Center with their young ones during the day are mainly women. They really appreciate the extra-curricular activities that are provided. These activities enrich their lives and give them something meaningful to do with their children.

Laraine would post announcements for upcoming activities around our Center and then come and gather our guests on the day of the activity. Sometimes the mothers would do arts and crafts with their children while "talking stories" about different topics with Laraine as the facilitator. The participants told me how much they enjoyed themselves and would show me the arts and crafts they made or share the subjects they discussed.

Like so many of the other organizations in the Kukui Center, the Consuelo Foundation is focused on children just like Family Promise. It comes so naturally to blend our activities together. What makes this building so special is the environment that has been created- an environment of sharing resources, kokua and learning from one another.

Hall buddies: Hale Kipa and Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition

By Jaque Kelley-Uyeoka

Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition (HFYC) is a premier advocate for youth in foster care and Hale Kipa Independent Living and Step-Up Programs focus on assisting youth currently in or have exited from the foster care system with resources and skills!

How great can it be that these two programs are co-located making it much easier for young people who don't have lots of time, cars and resources to have a one-stop opportunity to access two programs and so much information and expertise?

HFYC and Hale Kipa have shared numerous youth who stop in for financial literacy classes. They get help with accessing housing at Hale Kipa and then go up the hall to learn leadership skills and connect with other foster youth.

As satisfied customer Shanelle says: "It's easy for me to have the support and services in one building especially next door to each other, because it's hard and takes extra time for



Staff of the two programs meet with Shanelle

me to get to places. (Shanelle is in a wheelchair). If it wasn't for Hale Kipa, I wouldn't have known anything about Section 8 assistance, renting an apartment, money management and budgeting."

She also likes it that she can go next door to the coalition and do volunteer hours with Erin Bunda, including data base entry, internet research or other computer tasks. She even helps with organizing and keeping the office clean.

It's a perfect situation!

Agencies lend spaces to help meet needs



The conference room is available to KC agencies for meetings and workshops

By Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center at LASH staff

The Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center at the Legal Aid Society, recently held a "Client Services Day". Our office would not be able to hold such events without the collaboration and aid of other agencies within the Kukui Children's Foundation.

For this event, our clients received medical exams from a licensed physician. These exams took place in the Kukui

Children's Foundation Conference Room. This room is shared by all the tenants in the building, and we had to schedule the entire day for the use of these examinations. Often times, if the room is reserved by another agency, we may request to see if that agency would be willing to rearrange their scheduled time, or perhaps offer space in their office. Mediation Center of the Pacific and the Consuelo Foundation have been generous in offering space.

The agencies in our building also collaborate on different tasks, such as the pick-up of beverage donations from PepsiCo. Different agencies take turns to pick up the donations made by PepsiCo each month. We then stock the conference room refrigerator with donations and then distribute a number of cases to all of the tenants in the building. During our client service day, we used those beverages to hydrate our volunteers and the doctor that came to service the clients. Our office depends on the aid and collaboration of the agencies in the Kukui Children Foundation building, and we greatly appreciate the symbiotic relations that we have with each other.

Knowledge and resources under one roof gives strength

By Cynthia White

Kids hurt too receives referrals from other organizations in the buildings and makes referrals to other programs as well. When a family became homeless, we were able to walk the mother and children downstairs to Family Promise and get services started. When a parent shared about a child's need for special education, we walked down the hall and gathered great information from our neighbor, Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii. We consistently send former foster youth to the Hale Kipa office that is only one door away.

Most recently, our downstairs neighbor, the Consuelo Foundation, brought a mother to my office and we were able to enroll her in services that day. The mother cried because she was desperate for help with her child. We had just what she needed. The transition between referrals is smooth.

I like to know when I make a referral that the family got the services they needed. In the past, we spent time doing follow up phone calls to make sure the referral was helpful. But now, we know how helpful it is the instant we make a referral because we are standing right there and get to see the



Mentors work with children at a grief and loss support group meeting

relief and encouragement on the faces of distraught parents.

Sometimes working in the Kukui Center reminds me of living with friends. We borrow each other's stuff and help out when we can. The wealth of knowledge and resources under one roof has helped us to stay strong in a rough economy and to grow reaching more families than ever before.

Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii showcases Kukui Center at regional conference



Region 6 site visit to Kukui Center hosted by Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii

By Michael Moore

LDAH, as Hawaii's Parent Training & Information Center, hosted the 2011 Western Region Parent Training Center Conference at the Prince Kuhio Hotel in Waikiki this May. This three-day conference focused on embracing culture. The Keynote speaker, Dr. Kimo Alameda, Director of Multicultural Services, Department of Health in Hilo, made a powerful impact with opening remarks on the importance

of understanding and embracing one's own culture when teaching diverse children to survive a mainstream educational system. Dr. Alameda brought warm aloha, his wonderful comedic use of Local Pidgin, and a personal Hawaiian Oli that set the tone and atmosphere for the three-day conference.

On the first night of the conference, LDAH hosted an onsite visit to the Kukui Center for all conference participants, which was followed by a traditional Hawaiian luau. The success of the event came from the collaborative energy behind it. The Kukui Center's community volunteers were the backbone for the event supporting the dedicated staff of LDAH and other Kukui Center tenant agency personnel. The kind folks from Habilitat set up the tents, tables and chairs and provided us with a monster-size barbecue. And, they took it all down when the event was over! Pepsi Company supplied most of the drinks.

Working with a shoestring non-profit budget means that any volunteer help can be a lifesaver, as it was in this case. The time and goods donated allowed LDAH and the other tenants to put on a wonderful event with a tiny budget, which came mostly from contributions.

Mediation center to train staff of other programs

By Tracey Wiltgen

The Mediation Center of the Pacific is grateful to be a part of the Kukui Center and to have the opportunity to collaborate with the unique hui of not-for-profits that co-exist within the building. While we each work to support abused children and vulnerable individuals, we use different approaches and tools to do so. Together, we strengthen each other's ability to better serve our clients and Hawaii's communities.

At the Mediation Center, we help people talk, rebuild relationships and resolve conflicts creatively through direct mediation services and training. Because we have seen the positive impact of these services, we believe that one of the valuable assets that we can share with our fellow tenants and their clients are the tools and skills used by our mediators to prevent and resolve conflicts. We are therefore creating two workshop opportunities to offer to the employees and eventually clients of the other Kukui Center's tenants, to help them learn tools and processes for managing and de-escalating conflict.

Conflict is a fact of life and can be extremely costly. In the workplace, 30 – 40% of a manager's time is spent dealing with conflict. Productivity decreases, relationships are dam-



Mediation training workshop held at Hawaii USA FCU in May 2011

aged, financial and human resources are wasted. The impact can be devastating for any business, particularly a not-for-profit. The good news is that through the Mediation Center's trainings, anyone can learn skills to proactively manage conflict thereby minimizing the negative impact and in some instances, creating even stronger relationships and positive outcomes. The Mediation Center looks forward to sharing these tools and approaches with our neighbors in the Kukui Center.

Community Partners take collaboration to the next level



Kukui Programs at Community Partners Appreciation Event at Brasserie Du Vin

By Lorraine Gershun

When we launched the Community Partners Program (CPP) last summer, we had no idea what kind of response we would get and are just thrilled by its success. Over 25 businesses, organizations and individuals are committed and involved in supporting Kukui Center agencies. They have helped in numerous ways, providing goods, services and volunteer efforts that include free storage space for all agencies, workshops for children, beverages for agency activities, volunteers for events and funding for programs, just to name a few.

New partnerships are being formed on a regular basis due to the extensive network of each of the agencies' Boards. Every agency from the Kukui Center has provided contacts including one board member who came to a center pot luck and taught Scottish dancing to our staff and the daughter of another board member who provided drama workshops for immigrant children.

We are also working to share the good news about the CPP with the wider community. The Kukui Center website has seen some small updates and is slated for complete renovation with links to popular social media sites like Facebook. The first quarterly newsletter debuted in March to a wide audience extending from across the state to various national locations.

Combine the generous support of our Community Partners with the passionate people working in the programs at the Kukui Center and you will find a team of people who are committed to improving the lives of neglected, abused, impoverished and disabled children and their families.

If you know of a service group, business or individuals who would like to become involved, please contact Lorraine Gershun at lgershun@kukuicenter.org or (808) 387-9284.

Kukui Children's Foundation
245 North Kukui Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Harry and Jeanette Weinberg
Kukui Center

Our Family Of Social Services

Board of Directors

John R. Dwyer, Jr.

President

Clyde Namu'o

Vice President

Karen K. White

Secretary

John Garibaldi

Treasurer

Suzanne Chun Oakland

Patricia Kay

Sue Landon

Jim Reinhardt

Judy Lind

Executive Director

Kukuchildrensfoun@hawaii.rt.com

Consuelo Foundation

Programs for abused and neglected children and families

(808) 526-3232

www.consuelo.org

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.facebook.com/fosteryouthspeak

Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center at Legal Aid Society of Hawaii

Legal services for immigrant victims of abuse and domestic violence

(808) 536-4302

www.hijcenter.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

Maximum Legal Services Corporation

Legal services for management of Conservatorships and Trusts

(808) 585-0920

www.maxcorp.hi-org

Mediation Center of the Pacific

Conflict resolution for cases involving children and others

(808) 521-6767

www.mediatehawaii.org

www.kukuicenter.org

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please send your email address to lgershun@kukuicenter.org.