



Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Kukui Center

A gathering place for those who serve vulnerable children and families

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Kukui Center agencies key to its success

When the Kukui Children's Foundation set out to find nonprofit agencies to co-locate and collaboratively provide services in our new center for abused and vulnerable children, we had no specific programs in mind but we did know what qualities were most important. We wanted a range of programs so that we could provide comprehensive services. We preferred free standing programs which were free to make commitments and have flexibility as new needs and opportunities arose. Their reputation in the community had to be first rate. And we sought ED's and staff that could work and play successfully with others. We were less concerned with the traditional issues for a landlord such as financial stability or a successful record of fundraising as we felt if anyone was in a moral and practical position to take a risk with small nonprofits to give them some help it was our foundation. And we certainly didn't want someone who was just looking for "cheap" rent.

With that in mind, we talked with many prospects and selected an eclectic mix



Board and staff of the Kukui Children's Foundation with the kukui tree planted for the dedication.

of programs to become the first tenants in the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Kukui Center. We took a risk by selecting two programs which had never had offices, working out of homes and borrowed space: Kids hurt too (for children who have lost a parent) and the Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition. Family Promise of Hawaii, a program for homeless families with children brought expertise in crisis intervention and housing. The Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center at Legal Aid could provide their experience with legal and advocacy services for immigrant victims of abuse and family violence to our mix. The Consuelo Foundation with its track record of excellence providing

services to victims of child abuse in our community was a welcome addition. The Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii would bring their success in helping families of children with disabilities gain needed educational services from the DOE to the children in our building who needed such services and Maxcorps brought legal expertise. When the economy caused one program to leave and another to downsize, Hale Kipa and the Mediation Center of the Pacific easily transitioned in.

So how's it working? Unbelievably well! What's been amazing is the give and take, flexibility and willingness to help each other in large and small ways. But it's not just by chance. Be-

fore we opened, we spent a year together planning our operations and how everyone could collaborate. We held an offsite facilitated Team Building Day for all the staff working in the building to plan our working together on all levels. Out of that came plans for quarterly potlucks and wellness activities. Even our boards are working together on our Community Partners Program.

But working and living together is not without its challenges. Quarterly Tenant meetings address issues and jointly make decisions, update each other, and plan new initiatives. But there never seems to be enough time so we recently held a special meeting of ED's and program staff to discuss collaborations going forward. Now that's commitment that leads to success!

The Kukui Center feels good to walk into and good to work in. Our collaborative brochure, newsletter and website reflect who we are and what we are about. You can learn more about us and our Community Partners Program by visiting our website at www.kukuicenter.org.

Consuelo Foundation



Patria Weston Lee

Consuelo Foundation has had a presence in the Kukui Center for nearly two years. We are an operating foundation, which places us in a unique position to engage in providing some direct services. Our Kukui space was selected to serve as the base for the ABC Pilot Project. ABC stands for Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-up, which is an intervention developed to improve outcomes for young children in foster care. The ABC Intervention was the result of 10 years of research by Dr. Mary Dozier and her team at the University of Delaware. Consuelo Foundation found a role in funding a local pilot of this evidence

based intervention here on Oahu. The ABC Pilot works with young children and their caregivers referred through Child Welfare Services. During the home based sessions, caregivers learn nurturing techniques for young children who have experienced stressful events, such as a placement into foster care. The ABC Pilot began in January 2010 and ends in August of 2011. We are working on a plan which would allow this intervention to continue within several organizations across the state.

Consuelo Foundation's office at the Kukui Center includes a beautiful and soothing space to host visits between parents and their children in foster care. Child welfare workers have been welcome to use our space for these visits. Our space has also been made available for multiple organizations and community groups to conduct meetings and workshops focused on children and families. Several families whom we have served through our work, have had the benefit of learning about and linking up with the other agencies in this building.

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1/3 the cost of traditional homeless shelter programs because much of the work is done by volunteers and we use existing community resources. Approximately 80% of our families transition into housing within 3-4 months.

Family Promise of Hawaii



Mary Saunders

Family Promise Hawai'i utilizes existing community resources to aid homeless families with children transition to sustainable independence. We partner with 65 multi-denominational congregations and over 1,500 volunteers to house and feed our families. At our Family Centers, case managers connect families with community resources for job training, education, life skills, health concerns and housing. This provides a comprehensive approach to helping our families in their time of need. Our close proximity to other social service programs in the Kukui Center allows Family Promise, as well as those we serve, easy access to other needed services.

Due to our unique and innovative model, we operate at

We operate two Family Centers, one in Windward Oahu and one in the Kukui Center where we moved in 2009. The Family Center has computers, family storage lockers, a large playroom, shower facilities, internet access, laundry facilities and lots of room for our families to rest and prepare meals while looking for employment or meeting with their case manager. There is also an outdoor playground and a basketball area for our children to use. Many of our guests utilize the bus system and this central location allows easy access to major bus routes. Our move to the Kukui Center enabled us to expand the number of homeless families we serve by more than one third by starting a Day Program for families on our waitlist. It will also allow us to expand our operations in the near future so we can serve more of our local homeless families. We are grateful to be a part of the Kukui Center collaboration to serve Hawaii's children.

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Hale Kipa-Step Up



Jaque Kelley Uyeoka

Since moving in as a late-comer to the Kukui Center in its second year of operation, Hale Kipa has felt very fortunate to be part of such a synergistic initiative. The concept of a one stop shop for social services, particularly for those that Hale Kipa typically serves, provides exceptional opportunities to

assure that youth can, in the simplest and easiest way possible, access critical and essential services.

We truly value this model for foster and former foster youth who can acquire housing and independent living services through our Step-Up and Independent Living Program

as well as walk down the hall and visit the Hawai'i Foster Youth Coalition to take advantage of their services, and meet other needs from our neighbors in the complex. Requiring youth to move from agency to agency and location to location as they visit various service sites is not conducive to assuring that they are linked to the services that will maximize the probability that they can be successful. Removing at least one barrier is a step in the right direction.

In addition, the location of Kukui Center is extremely helpful. For instance, we have young adults who live at the Hale Pauahi Tower housing project, as well as in the vicinity, and the Center's downtown location and accessibility to the bus greatly facilitates our young people obtain services.

Finally, Hale Kipa's ability to access many and varied donated goods and services from our Community Partnerships Program has allowed us to stretch our limited funds to continue to serve our youth.

Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center at the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii



Calleen Ching

HIJC at Legal Aid is a non-profit organization that provides legal services for indigent immigrants, both children and adults, and community outreach and education on immigration and related issues. It serves more than 100 immigrants annually, including abused children. As one of the

original tenants of the Kukui Center (KC), HIJC at Legal Aid and its clients benefit from the active collaboration among the other tenants.

HIJC at Legal Aid's clients are mutually referred for services; children and parents are informed of classes and

educational presentations in the building. The KC also encourages the growth and development of relationships of all of the agencies in the building by regular meetings and other events, all to better serve the children of the community.

The location of KC in Chinatown has also helped HIJC at Legal Aid in reaching out to immigrant communities. One of its projects is the Chinese Family Violence Awareness Project (CFVAP), which provides bilingual information about domestic violence and sexual assault and community resources to Chinese immigrants. CFVAP conducts an annual outreach event, an art contest for Chinese immigrant children grades K – 12, with the theme of family harmony. Active participation by nearby Chinese language schools and neighboring Chinatown merchants is encouraged. Judges are invited to lend their expertise to the contest, including artists, agency heads and Chinese community leaders.

Kids hurt too and Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition



Cynthia White

Before Kids hurt too and the Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition (HFYC) moved into the Kukui Center in January 2009, the offices had been in the home of the Executive Director. Kids hurt too only had the capacity to serve 60 children, using borrowed spaces in two locations. Now that we have our own home in the Center and with the generous support of many individuals, Kids hurt too has quickly grown, providing services to 133 children and operating 51 mentoring events in 2009. In 2010, services reached 235 children and 76 mentoring events were held.

When the economy declined in 2009, there was a lot of trepidation about how the two programs would survive. It's 2011 and we are still here.

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HFYC's funding remained stable through generous grants from the Geist Foundation. Transitioning youth drop in every day receiving support and guidance. The youth led group has developed a new opportunity for transitioning foster youth. It's called Jump Start Your Future and has three components. First, youth come to the computer lab to complete on-line career assessments, financial aid applications, and scholarships. The second component is called the Real World Event which offers workshops on banking, budgeting, credit, job interviewing skills, and insurance. The all day event culminates in a practice session where they try to gain necessary aspects for independent living within a budget based on a career interest. Feedback from the youth revealed that budgeting was the hardest part.

2011 is the tenth anniversary for both organizations. There are no words to describe the encouragement from the Kukui Children's Foundation and partner organizations co-located in the building. All things combined have made the past two years an extraordinary experience.

Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii and Maximum Legal Services Corporation



Michael Moore

The new office suite of LDAH and MaxCorp (205) has been like a dream home for our teams. We were able to participate actively in the renovation of our own suite, which is nearly twice the size of our former one. It allows us to see clients on site, which is new and wonderful! The Kukui Center offers us a separate conference room for

Two and a half years have passed since we became one of the first tenant agencies at the new Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Kukui Center. Looking back, it seems like a whirlwind of events that led to our departure from the A UW building, longtime home of LDAH, to join several great agencies and

larger meetings, and parent trainings – one of LDAH's primary services – as the Parent Training and Information Center for the state. For MaxCorp, we now have a suitable waiting room, meeting rooms and a large office for the attorney.

The tenant group serves similar clients, but with different service options. Being in the building has created various opportunities, primarily for LDAH, to find and address the needs of its clients. LDAH has been fortunate to team with several of the tenant agencies to provide presentations, food for the homeless and to train parents on advocacy and alternative dispute resolution options. Our most recent joint venture was an open house for all the Parent Training Center directors from the Pacific Region, including American Samoa, Guam and Palau. Our visitors were very pleased to hear about the programs being offered to families in Hawaii at the Kukui Center. Hopefully, some of our ideas will be recreated in other states and territories.

Mediation Center of the Pacific



Tracey Wiltgen

The Mediation Center of the Pacific's Board of Directors and staff are delighted to be part of the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Kukui Center and are excited about collaborating with the other tenants to better serve our clients.

Founded in 1979, each year the Mediation Center of

the Pacific (the Mediation Center) helps more than 5,000 people, young and old, to prevent and resolve conflicts peacefully through facilitation, mediation and training.

While the Mediation Center currently serves a large number of people, there are far more children and families who need and can benefit from our services. Individuals in outlying communities who are not familiar with mediation

but need to negotiate agreements in the schools on behalf of their children with special needs; immigrants whose primary language is not English but find themselves caught in our confusing legal system; foster youth who are aging out of the system and would benefit from negotiation and conflict resolution skills to find jobs; parents of young children who need to agree on time-sharing arrangement and parenting plans. Through the unique partnerships we are building and growing with the other organizations at the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Kukui Center, we are laying the foundations to meet these many needs.

At the Mediation Center we believe that every time a dispute is resolved peacefully, everyone benefits. Relationships are improved. Families and communities are strengthened. Working together with the Kukui Children's Foundation and the other fine organizations who are our neighbors, the Mediation Center will help even more families and children to prevent and resolve their conflicts peacefully.

Community Partners Program "Wish List" for Clients

A needs assessment was conducted with the non-profit programs at the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Kukui Center to determine their clients' needs. The outcome was a wish list of goods, services and volunteer efforts that will make a significant difference in the lives of the people we serve.

Partnerships for Donations of Goods

- Baby food
- Household items and cleaning supplies
- Sports equipment
- Toiletries and Sunscreen
- School supplies
- Children's clothing
- Teen clothing
- Laundry detergent and dryer sheets
- Hand Soap, toilet paper, tissues, and paper towels
- Standard sized pillows and cases
- Disposable diapers sizes 4, 5, 6
- Gift cards for clients in need

Partnerships for Donations of Services

- Martial Arts, Dance, Gymnastics centers to offer free/discounted recreational classes for children
- Gyms to provide free/discounted membership for youth and others
- Driving Schools to provide lessons for youth

Partnerships through Use of Volunteers

- Assist clients with making appointments and filling out applications
- Assist clients with transportation for services
- Service Groups to create gift baskets for clients who have found housing and need kitchen, bedroom and bath items.

Partnerships for Recognition and Incentives for Client Achievements

- Restaurant Gift Cards (McDonald's, Starbucks, Jamba Juice, etc.)
- Movie Passes

If you are interested in joining our growing list of Community Partners who provide donations of goods, services and volunteer efforts for our programs and clients, please contact: Lorraine Gershun at (808) 387-9284 or email her at lgershun@kukuicenter.org

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Kukui Center

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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

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