



Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Kukui Center

A gathering place for those who serve vulnerable children and families

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Spring 2012

Programs Expand to Meet Community Needs

A wise person once observed that “flexibility is a sign of good mental health” and there is a corollary for human services programs. We are happy to report that the ability to adapt is alive and well at the Kukui Center and is helping us collectively meet the challenge and even flourish in these tough economic times.

There is no program that has not been touched by cutbacks in funding, both public and private. Charitable giving is down and the need for social services is up. In these pages you will read about some innovative strategies and tough decisions our programs have used to weather the finan-



cial storms and address our community’s growing needs. Whether it’s creating new programs to address lengthening wait lists for services, partnering in house and with existing community programs to provide new services, finding new sources of support, or expanding

opportunities and connections, all of our programs are doing more with less and have adapted in resourceful and creative ways.

To do our part, the Kukui Children’s Foundation created the Community Partners Program (CPP), an innovative and collaborative

approach to volunteerism. A part time coordinator works with a network of 10 tenant boards of directors to mine their contacts and connect them with the center to benefit all.

In its first full year of operation, the CPP grew from 10 to 30 partnerships of wonderful businesses, service groups and just plain folks who are listed below. Please help us grow to 50 in 2012 by visiting our collaborative website at www.kukuicenter.org and let us know if you or a friend can provide something on our Wish List.

There are so many who need help and so many more who can provide it; we just need to make the connections.

Mahalo Nui Loa to our Community Partners

Donations of Services:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Ace Security and Locksmiths | Joyful Heart Foundation |
| Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing | Koshiha Agena and Kubota |
| Anthology Marketing Group | Leonui Communication Systems |
| Brasserie du Vin | Scott Gaylord |
| HACBED | The Bead Gallery |
| Hagadone Printing | Winners Camp Foundation |
| Hawaii Self Storage | Young Brothers, Limited |
| Hawaii USA Federal Credit Union | |

Donations of Goods

- Building Blocks for Tots
- Pepsi Beverages Company
- Vim and Vigor

Donations of Funds

- Friends of Hawaii Charities
- Ili’Ili Fund
- Macy’s
- Aloha Fund

Volunteer Support

- Arcadia Retirement Residence
- Habilitat, Inc.
- Hands in Helping Out
- Junior League Sustainers
- Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority
- MOMS Club of East Honolulu
- Rotary Club of Downtown Honolulu
- Bruce McEwan

Family Promise creates new program for families on waiting list

Family Promise of Hawai'i, like most other agencies, has been experiencing the challenges resulting from a tougher economy and limited resources. Some of our volunteers, who were once able to donate a lot of their resources, have had to cut down due to recent unemployment or increased obligations and challenges of their own.

Therefore, our organization has had to "do more with less." One way in which we have been doing this is through our Wait-list Program. This program utilizes student interns who provide services to families while they are waiting for an opening in our regular (overnight) program. Many of these families come to our Honolulu Family Center between 3-5x/wk. They are assigned a case manager and work on weekly goals that address budgeting, employment and housing. They have complete access to all of our facilities including: storage, kitchen, resting areas, showers, laundry, computers, and playroom. We are making better use of the space we have at the Weinberg Kukui Center by serving more families.



Lauren Balkin, Katherine Castle, Mary Saunders, Christy Macpherson

Another way we do more with less is by collaborating with other agencies to help meet the needs of our families. We are currently working with the City and County of Honolulu Rent-to-Work Program, Catholic Charities Housing Placement Program, Weinberg Village Waimanalo, Vancouver House, Loliana Housing, EFNEP (Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program) and others. These collaborations have been a blessing to Family Promise because we would not be able to provide housing, subsidies, rental deposit assistance, and specialized workshops by ourselves.

Consuelo Foundation to make ABC program more available



Amanda Majors and Patria Weston-Lee

Consuelo Foundation launched a pilot of the Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-Up Intervention (ABC) in January of 2010 which provides in home parenting support for young children and their families. Economic stresses were high for the families, workers and agencies affiliated with our Child Welfare System (CWS). We were seeking referrals for a new pilot project while the CWS system underwent major cuts and losses. Caseloads grew to overwhelming sizes. Families were under tremendous strain, as were the professionals trying to serve them. While these issues still remain, we must remark on the responsiveness from many workers and units.

Workers spoke with families and made referrals, knowing that their families needed extra support.

To accommodate extra referrals we received, we saw a number of families outside of the pilot. These were families who were not eligible to participate for a variety of reasons, but still wanted the intervention. In response to the unexpected number of referrals we received to work with families during their CWS visitations, we coordinated a training opportunity for the CWS community. We flew Marty Beyer, PhD to Hawaii to share about her visit coaching model that included a variety of tools to work with children and families during their crucial visits.

The ABC Pilot Project finished in the summer of 2011. We found that there were enough benefits to justify making the ABC Intervention more broadly available in Hawaii. We are coordinating a training in March of 2012 with the ABC developer, Mary Dozier, PhD. A group of professionals across our state will be trained to offer this exciting program to families they serve. Consuelo Foundation will cover the costs for these professionals to receive the training and consultation. This is being offered at a time when staff training funds are very scarce. We hope that it is also an opportunity for organizations to leverage further funding by implementing a new, evidence based intervention.

Dedicated staff of Hale Kipa and HFYC strive to do more with less

There are relatively few social service organizations that have not been adversely affected by the downturn in the economy. Human services have been hit hard and Hale Kipa is no exception, experiencing a dramatic reduction in our operating budget from a peak in 2007.



Michelle Kinimaka, Pomai Villalon, Rachel Whipple, Jaque Kelley-Uyeoka

At the core of social work and human services is a set of values about our belief in providing for those identified in our mission as recipients of our services. With that in mind and staying true to our mission, Hale Kipa has engaged in a range of revenue-generating and cost-cutting activities, including one of the saddest which was to lay off staff. We have looked at and engaged in collaboration both externally and internally. And if we've been able to do a lot more with less, it's because our staff has stepped up, taken on more responsibility and filled in many resulting gaps to assure that those who have historically received services can continue to do.

It is a true expression of our core values and a tribute to our staff, that in spite of already demanding jobs, they have so willingly taken on additional work to serve the youth and families. In difficult times it is the human resources that make the human difference and Hale Kipa is proud to have so many caring, committed staff.

Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition (HFYC) is fortunate to have the support of the Department of Human Services' Child Welfare Services' Independent Living Programs and the Geist Foundation. Despite decline in grant support, we are making the most of our resources to continue providing outreach to current and former foster youth statewide. In these uncertain times, we find that the best resources we have are our people. Combining our talents, networks, and collective creative energy, HFYC has been able to get more community support and engage more youth. Kids Hurt Too Hawaii's interns and federal work study staff are jumping in to help wherever they can.

The first "TheShindig" event, which brought all Oahu HFYC chapters together to build skills while having fun, was held at Dave and Busters who donated game cards to all who attended - and discounts on food and space. HFYC staff and volunteers tap into their network of family and friends to build mentors for youth and opportunities to do more for less. These contacts have donated not only goods for fundraising events and giveaways, but they also donate their time sending volunteers to help staff events. HFYC is partnering with the Weed and Seed project of HPD and teaming up with other programs in the Kukui Center. We, at HFYC, value our staff, community partners, and volunteers, as they are what make our organization healthy and grow.



Erin Bunda and Jo-Lyn Kabala Minczer

Kids Hurt Too increases services despite shoestring budget

Panic set in when we moved into the Kukui Center because the economy was in crisis. Having our own space was the dream. Here it was manifesting at the worst possible time. We forged ahead knowing we could reach more children and improve services. For three years we faced the unstable economic troubles of our country wondering how it would impact us. Each year we had miraculous growth, increasing the number of family's from 60 in 2009, to 74 in 2010, and 84 by the end of 2011. We increased the number of mentoring activities per year from 54 to 93 last year. Support stayed strong. And we were able to expand grief and trauma



Hiro Ito and Cynthia White

services to the children impacted by the March 2011 disasters in Japan. Kids Hurt Too Hawaii is stronger than ever with a dynamic board of directors, numerous community partners, loyal donors, and committed volunteers.

We managed to grow on a shoestring budget in the past three years because of the combined efforts of many. The Kukui Children's Foundation has been a godsend. They had our back when finances were pinched. Having nine other programs in the same building sharing a passion for improving the lives of those hurt by loss, neglect, abuse, or other tragedies is like living among angels. The Na Lei Aloha Foundation provided three years of significant support that was our silver lining, allowing us to concentrate on long range plans for sustainability. Finally, we could not do this work if it were not for the volunteers. Board members, facilitators, mentors, collaborators, community partners, donors, and participant families have connected in a seamless flow of healing energy that made giving and receiving the same thing.

LDAH collaborates to meet challenges

Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii (LDAH) has been serving Hawaii, statewide, since 1968. During that time, the organization has been through economically challenging times such as the present, but has managed to persevere through the efforts of its dedicated board, organizational leadership, employees and volunteers, organizational collaborations and innovative, cost-effective programming.

Collaborations with agencies such as Hawaii's Departments of Education and Health; Aloha United Way (AUW); Hawaii Community Foundation; Hale Na'au Pono; the University of Hawaii Center on Disability Studies and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) have allowed LDAH to continue and/or expand its programs benefitting children and youth with disabilities. Collaborations have been vital to staying afloat during recent economic challenges.

With grants from OHA and AUW, for example, LDAH has developed and maintained a School Readiness Project targeting 3 to 4 year-old children in the Waianae-Nanakuli area preparatory to affording children and getting them to the pediatricians for developmental screenings. Through this project, LDAH also provides case management to help families resolve potential problems detected in their children.

Along with community collaborations, LDAH is targeting new funding opportunities through grants, memberships, planned giving and major gifts. As well, the LDAH website has been upgraded to afford online giving opportunities for the first time. Visit the LDAH website at <http://www.ldahawaii.org/donate.html> and check out our new donation and membership web pages.



Antonio Benevides, Marge Neilson, Colleen Weir, Nettie Stillwell, Michael Attocknie, Marsha Robinson, Rosie Rowe, Joe Kernan, Michael Moore, April Yokotake, Debbie Kobayakawa, Jocelyn Galase, Jocelyn Sotero, Melissa Kanae, Adrienne Sanders, DeAngela Venable, Shauna Imanaka, Leilani Ujimori

MaxCorp markets their services to needy clients

As a small non-profit legal services center, Maximum Legal Services Corporation (MaxCorp) is impacted by the depressed economy differently than other social or human services non-profit organizations. MaxCorp is a fee-for-service agency, which targets clients who might not otherwise be able to afford legal services such as conservatorships or trusts. Economically challenging times

do not decrease the need for legal services and may, in fact, increase the need. Therefore, MaxCorp has been able to weather this economic storm with less negative financial impact than other typical non-profit agencies.

Conversely, the economy has decreased the availability of resources on which MaxCorp depends, i.e., the availability of legal personnel within state departments. This hinders MaxCorp's ability to provide services in a timely fashion. The economy also causes MaxCorp clients to rely more heavily on their personal savings as their investment earnings decline. When savings are depleted, clients' need for our services diminish. A decrease in the number of MaxCorp's clients and their respective assets could financially impact the agency.

MaxCorp's response to current economics has included changing its billing timelines to ensure steadier cash flow. As well, MaxCorp has increased its marketing to ensure appropriate clients will find us, ensuring the existence of continuous clientele. As MaxCorp charges far less than the market value for its legal services, these efforts, in turn, also benefit our clients.

HIJC provides pro bono legal services to immigrants



HIJC at Legal Aid staff, volunteers, Narcissus Princesses and City Managing Director at the Chinese New Year Parade, January 2012

Impacts of the economic recession started to hit home with Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center about 2 years ago, leading to a merger with Legal Aid Society of Hawaii. Now known as Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center at Legal Aid Society of Hawaii ("HIJC at LASH"), our nonprofit im-

migration services still prioritize victims of crime, human trafficking, and domestic violence and sexual assault. But HIJC at LASH had to cease working on asylum cases and cases involving the undocumented population who are not victims. The HIJC staff of 10 dwindled down to 6, and now even Legal Aid is facing cutbacks. Hawaii has one of the highest per capita populations of immi-

grants, and HIJC at LASH remains the only legal services non-profit providing pro bono direct legal services to immigrants on immigration and related legal issues statewide. President Obama echoed previous presidents in saying we've always defined ourselves as a nation of immigrants. This is equally true of Hawaii; we are a state of immigrants. Almost 20% of Hawaii residents are foreign-born. Between 2000 to 2009, the foreign-born, limited English proficiency (LEP) population increased 7.3% among Hawaii residents age 5 and above.

Volunteers and fundraisers help sustain HIJC at LASH during these difficult economic times. HIJC at LASH continues to value and work with volunteers who are able to assist in interpreting, translating, and other case management issues. On April 15, 2012 HIJC at LASH will be hosting a fundraiser in support of its 5th Chris Iijima Fellow and the new Leni Marin Scholar. Through efforts like these, HIJC at LASH remains dedicated to serving indigent immigrant families in Hawaii.

Strategic steps to restructure allow MCP to reduce costs

Over the past several years, the Mediation Center of the Pacific (MCP) strategically restructured to weather the economic storm. Thanks to a proactive Board of Directors, dedicated staff and generous volunteers and supporters, we rose to the challenge of doing more with less. As the MCP's funding sources declined by more than \$100,000 annually, its client numbers grew by more than 31% and their needs increased. Although the outlook looked bleak, the Board of Directors and staff adhered to the core values that: 1) the provision of direct mediation services to the low income and vulnerable populations had to be maintained; and 2) every action taken to maintain services had to be strategic.

With these two core values as navigational guides, the Mediation Center successfully moved ahead through the last few challenging years, serving more clients each year. Staffing was strategically downsized and operational expenditures minimized. Financial operations were outsourced and independent contractors were used to cover some of the trainings and complex mediations. The salaries of the remaining staff were reduced by 20% and services were consolidated to Monday through Thursday. Volunteers were recruited to assist with day-to-day administrative needs, as well as for the provision of direct services. While the vision was to ultimately re-grow staffing in the future, the strategy enabled the MCP to meet the growing number of requests for mediation while still reducing costs.

At the end of 2009, the Mediation Center was extremely fortunate to be welcomed as a new tenant at the beautiful Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Kukui Center where it could better serve clients and share resources with seven outstanding nonprofit neighbors. Running lean and efficient in its new home inspired our board to raise the bar



Jessica Stabile, Kahala Dotson, Tracey Wiltgen, Kanoë Paauhau, Val Vegas and Theo Fujiyoshi

on fundraising to set and surpass ambitious goals to raise unrestricted funds.

Moving to the Kukui Center, increased fundraising strategies and expanded in-kind support together enabled the Mediation Center to begin its strategic re-growth. Following more than a year of reduced staffing and hours of operation, the staff has gradually grown and hours of operation have been restored with even more efficient systems in place. Workshops and trainings are once again being coordinated for the volunteer mediators and a new Deputy Director was hired. New programs in the areas of foreclosure, elder issues and divorce have been initiated.

The strategic steps taken to reduce costs and then slowly re-grow enabled the Mediation Center to survive the economic downturn. Outstanding board leadership, generous volunteers and committed supporters who gave even more during these difficult times, ensured that the valuable community resource provided by the Mediation Center, has been able to grow and flourish.

Joyful Heart helps leverage resources to benefit children



Maile Zambuto, JHF CEO, Kalei Kanuha, JHF Board Member, Kata Isari, JHF Hawaii Regional Director, Al Miles, JHF Board Member, Raylene Kawaia'e'a, JHF Hawaii Advisory Committee Member, Lani Yamasaki, JHF Hawaii Advisory Committee Member

Joyful Heart Foundation was delighted to celebrate our beautiful space at Kukui Center during our Open House on January 23rd. This day coincided with the beginning of the Chinese New Year as well as the season of the Makahiki thereby embodying our commitment to significantly growing our presence in Hawai'i to reflect the scope of our national work while remaining inclusive of local per-

spectives and needs. The start of 2012 proved to be the culmination of many Joyful Heart efforts that reflect our deep commitment to collaboration and pooling resources.

The year of the Water Dragon is said to be particularly auspicious for new businesses, relationships and children—a welcome reminder that we are definitely stronger together through our work at the Kukui Center.

A week before the Open House we helped launch the One Strong 'Ohana campaign as part of a partnership with the Hawai'i Children's Trust Fund. The campaign focuses on building social connections, reflecting studies that show that parents with a strong support network are less likely to abuse and neglect their children.

This month, we also initiated planning sessions with our sister Kukui Center programs to determine how to effectively leverage resources and craft collaborations that will benefit the children we serve. These meetings coincide with a series of community focus groups and meetings with policy makers to solicit input into how we can best support local priorities through our work. Also in early February, we started Namelehuapono Wahine, a counseling group for Hawaiian survivors of domestic and sexual violence as part of a partnership with Parents And Children Together.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Spring 2012



Harry and Jeanette Weinberg
Kukui Center

Our Family Of Social Services

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Jim Reinhardt

Judy Lind

Executive Director

Kukuichildrensoun@hawaii.rt.com

Consuelo Foundation

Programs for abused and neglected children and families

(808) 526-3232

www.consuelo.org

Joyful Heart Foundation

Helping victims of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault

(808) 532-3520

www.joyfulheartfoundation.org

Family Promise of Hawaii

Resources for homeless families with children

(808) 548-7478

www.familypromisehawaii.org

Kids Hurt Too

Support for grieving children who have lost a parent

(808) 545-5683

or (808) 256-3176

www.kidshurttoo.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

Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii

Training center for parents of children with disabilities

(808) 536-9684

www.LDAHawaii.org

Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition

Advocacy and independent living skills training for foster youth

(808) 545-5683

www.facebook.com/fosteryouthspeak

Maximum Legal Services Corporation

Legal services for management of Conservatorships and Trusts

(808) 585-0920

www.maxcorp.hi-org

Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center at LASH

Legal services for immigrant victims of abuse and domestic violence

(808) 536-4302

www.hijcenter.org

Mediation Center of the Pacific

Conflict resolution for cases involving children and others

(808) 521-6767

www.mediatehawaii.org

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