



# Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Kukui Center

A gathering place for those who serve vulnerable children and families

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## What Value Added Means in the Kukui Center

By Judy Lind

I first heard this concept on a webinar for nonprofit centers. I like it because it is concise and descriptive. So I was very pleased by the enthusiastic response when I suggested at a tenant meeting that this issue of the newsletter be dedicated to the concept of “value added”. One ED even suggested there be a contest for who can come up with the most examples. Now that’s embracing and recognizing the value!

From the landlord’s perspective, when I think of what our programs gain by co-locating in the Kukui Center, several things come to mind: our willingness to help fund and customize their space; profit sharing with our tenants to reduce their costs; increasing the visibility for small nonprofits who might otherwise be “invisible”; providing opportunities for gaining funds they would not otherwise have; participation in marketing their services and increasing community awareness through our collaborative brochure, newsletter and website; and training for board members and staff.

One thing that I am sure will be mentioned is the Community Partners Program. The



Attorney Robin Kobayashi conducts training in non-profit governance for tenant agency staff and board members. Pictured are: Tracey Wiltgen, MCP; Ann Wills, KHTH; Judy Lind, KCF; Susan Doyle, Nancy Downes, Lauren Thielen, Andrea Snyder, FPH.



The Kukui Center held an open house to raise community awareness. Guest Pastor Paul Chan is welcomed by Michael Moore, LDAH; Tracey Wiltgen, MCP; Lorraine Gershun, CPP Coordinator; The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, KCF; Paul Luu, HIJC and Judy Lind, KCF.

new partners and activities in recent months are incredible and so varied. **HACBED** provided tax return assistance to clients from several programs. **Trees of Hawaii** consulted on our beloved Kukui tree and the rest of our foliage. Mike Broderick, CEO of the **YMCA**, and his staff are working with

us on employment, mentoring, internship and volunteer activities as well as partnerships for memberships, water safety lessons and leadership training for Kukui children, foster youth and families. Robin Kobayashi and Zachary McNish of **Alston Hunt Floyd and Ing** provided a three part

board training on governance issues for nonprofits including legal issues and Bylaws. Lori Abe of **McNeil Wilson Communications** has agreed to present training in PR and Media relations in July. **Big City Diner** and **Zippys** gave gift certificates as incentives for youth achievement. **Hawaii USA Federal Credit Union** renewed our credit for free use of their conference room. And the wonderful residents at **Arcadia Retirement Home** have completed multiple projects for us. All this on top of the ongoing support of our current partners. What incredible value added.

And it goes both ways. We are so fortunate to have committed, creative and mutually supportive programs that are open to new ideas and ways of doing things. Our tenant meetings are bubbling with ideas. For example, when someone suggested that we have an Open House for our neighbors, the response was immediate and very positive. We agreed on a Saturday morning and all of our programs opened their doors to share what they do and how they help others. What a great example of value added to our community.

## Homeless moms from Family Promise receive training in KHT computer lab

By Mary Saunders

Family Promise has had several ways that value has been added to our program by being located in The Kukui Center. Ohana Komputer has been doing computer classes for the women in our program that was made possible by a grant from the Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation. The classes are easy for our moms to get to because we are utilizing the computer lab upstairs at Kids Hurt Too.

We have volunteers come in and help watch the children while moms learn more about building a resume or developing job skills.

Another surprising and unexpected value has been the number of people who are affiliated with our program through their individual congregations. Many of the Kukui Center occupants are members of congregations who shelter and feed our families each night. Almost every organization located in the Kukui Center has an individual affiliated with



*A community volunteer watches the children while their moms attend computer classes.* one of our host or support congregations. It's heartwarming to see how far our program has come and how many volunteers have become involved in a relatively short period of time.

Lastly, the Community Partners Program allows us to further explore ways in which our community can come together to serve those in need. The YMCA recently became a community partner and that opened many new doors for us: potential job opportunities, summer programs for children and discounted memberships for families to name a few.



*Hale Kipa Deputy CEO of Outreach Services, Jaque Kelley-Uyeoka*

## Kukui Center location is a real bonus

By Jaque Kelley-Uyeoka

From our consumers point of view, it's all about location, location, location. It is easily accessible and has free parking. It allows us to have a base to better support our young adult residents at Hale Pauahi Towers. It offers a town space for financial literacy, college preparation and other life skill groups. It has allowed us to more easily ensure youth obtain

the services needed for success from our neighbors, such as advocacy, mediation, legal and support from other youth in foster care.

For our external partners and collaborators, it has access to conference rooms where we can host meetings focusing on bringing more services to youth.

For our agency, it's been a blessing to have reasonable rent and an understanding and flexible landlord. In addition, participation in its Community Partners program has resulted in new collaborators and benefits (e.g. access to food, community meeting space, storage, volunteers) as well as stretch our dollars in this tight economy. The site is also wonderfully maintained allowing our staff to focus on providing services versus attending to maintenance issues.

And for all: It's a friendly, inviting, uplifted place to be! It manifests a holistic environment, a sense of community and a focus on sharing. It truly is a daily reminder of it takes all of us to make an impact!

## Community connections increase potential for foster youth success

By Cynthia White

The Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition engages youth in leadership activities and works to improve the foster care system for others. Youth who come to the Kukui Center find a place that is welcoming, a hugely important component for engaging displaced and foster youth. The youth space functions as a think tank that turns ideas into actions, nurturing the youths' creative drive to succeed. Foster youth and other displaced youth offer a well spring of positive directions that address their needs from a developmentally appropriate and culturally sensitive perspective. The value added to their endeavors from being in the Kukui Center is the unlimited potential for community support and connections that serve their capacity for success. Everyone at the center and especially the Kukui Children's Foundation are committed to HFYC achieving it's' mission and to the



*Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition Board*

accomplishment of each individual youth that enters the Center. Challenges are met with patience and belief in each young person's worth. For them to have a place for their collective consciousness to shine means their voices are heard and do make a difference.



*Joyful Heart staff provides training for other KC programs' staff and volunteers.*

## You are never lonely at Kukui

By Kata Issari

What a delight to return to the Joyful Heart Hawaii (JHF-H) office after two weeks of work at our main office in New York to be greeted by the smiling faces of Kukui Center program staff. Although I am the sole staff person for JHF-H, I never feel lonely because I have the built-in

peer group that our tenancy at the Kukui Center provides. As an organization that promotes wellness in the workplace through the balance of mind, body and spirit, Joyful Heart is truly blessed to reside in such a lovely building with like-minded individuals who share our commitment to strengthening children and their families.

This appreciation for the beauty of the building and the warmth of the program staff is often commented upon by visiting community members or clients. Members of our support group for Hawaiian survivors of abuse, Namelehuapono Wahine, have readily shared how much they value meeting in the nurturing environment of the Kukui Center. A sister program generously allowed us to borrow space for childcare for this group - so both mothers and children have been lucky enough to have comfort in their surroundings. One of the Namelehuapono clients recently commented that her 4-year-old son misses coming to the Kukui Center between sessions. Each time she picks him up from school, he invariably asks "are we going to that group place tonight?"

## Kids Hurt Too families gain greater access to resources

By Cynthia White

Kids Hurt Too Hawaii was thrilled to be accepted as a tenant at the Kukui Center in 2009. It was at that time that the economy took a turn for the worse. It was the first time our organization had our own place and paid rent. Being co-located with nine other non-profits increased the value of our program enabling it to operate more effectively through having access to other programs that benefit our clients who could smoothly and readily access other services; that had the effect of reducing families' crises and increasing their sense of hope.

Our program is designed to assist families with children at risk for abuse or neglect, who have been abused, and who have experienced the loss of a parent through death, divorce, or separations. It is common that ensuing problems require multiple resources.

The Kukui Center offers nearly seamless access to care that means greater utilization of services. The prestige in being a



Mentors teach grieving youth how to play the ukulele

part of such a collective of services seems to have helped our program expand in spite of economic struggles, providing more visibility and increasing community confidence. Collaboration, both in and outside of the Center, increases resources that benefit participants and help sustain programs. And honestly, the camaraderie with other Executive Directors and the profound concern for all of our success provided by the KCF sustain me as a non-profit leader.



HAWAII  
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AT THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF HAWAII

## Sharing space provides room for HIJC to serve larger groups

By Calleen Ching

Being a tenant at the Kukui Center is about more than just attractive, clean and well maintained office space. It has allowed Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center at Legal Aid (HIJC) a firm foundation to build bridges of collaborations across the State.

The collaborations have been formed among the tenants and in the wider community. HIJC's prior office space

was in a historic building but lacked a welcoming meeting or conference room. Here we have access to a spacious conference room where we can hold meeting and trainings for up to about 25 people. The addition of the Community Partners Program has offered us space at the neighboring building to hold larger events.

In a state which has the sixth largest immigrant population per capita and where about 25% of the residents over the age of 5 speak a language other than English at home, the use of the conference rooms has allowed us to gather together a large group of participants and advocates for meetings or training to focus attention on such issues as language access and family violence in immigrant communities.

## Hui provides resources that meet Mediation Center's needs

By Tracey Wiltgen

The Mediation Center of the Pacific's Board of Directors and staff are extremely grateful to be part of the Kukui Center. It isn't just the lovely building and easy parking that made the move into the building so attractive. It was the value added from being part of a hui of non profits working together to serve the community.

The positive environment of the Kukui Center alone makes a difference for staff, volunteers and clients. "I feel so comfortable here," noted one client who had participated in her first mediation session at the Mediation Center's prior location. "This building is so much better," the client continued, "I feel like I can really talk and solve my problems here."

Since the Mediation Center transitioned to the Kukui Center, the "valued added" has continued to grow. Services are more accessible and the number of "walk-in" clients is higher

than ever before. Through the Community Partnership Program, the Mediation Center has benefitted from many opportunities such as the use of the training room at the HawaiiUSA Federal Credit Union, free storage space at Hawaii Self Storage, the assistance of Arcadia volunteers, and more.

The value added also comes from working with the other tenants in the building. We share resources such as a professional shredding service. We share our experience and knowledge to assist each other and our respective clients. We share our frustrations and a lot of laughter. Together we work more efficiently to better serve our clients and the community.



*In a great example of value added, Tracey Wiltgen provided training in conflict resolution to staff of other Kukui Center programs.*

## Quarterly KC tenant meetings energize Executive Director

By Michael Moore

As Kukui Center tenants, the staff at LDAH could rave endlessly about the benefits of being in this building. It is the only one-stop-shop of its kind in Honolulu providing a diverse mixture of services benefitting children who are at risk; children with various special needs and disabilities; children who have been mistreated, abused, neglected, abandoned or who are homeless. The immediate value to clients is that a family entering the building in need will more than likely get their need met by one or more of the agencies within it.

Continuous promotion of the Center's Community Partners Program by the building owner, the Kukui Children's Foundation, has stimulated a seemingly endless list of individuals and agencies willing to contribute time, services and products to benefit the Center's families. It is extraordinary to witness how people are willing to give to benefit children. But the added value of being a tenant at the Kukui Center doesn't end here. A regular procedure, which



*LDAH Staff: Executive Director Michael Moore, Rosie Rowe, Nettie Stillwell, Marge Neilson, Michael Attocknie*

began more than a year before the tenants moved in, still continues. That procedure is our tenant meetings. Originally held monthly, they are now convened quarterly. All tenant executives join these meetings to discuss agency highlights and progress while planning for the future of our combined efforts to benefit children and families. In my career I've not experienced such an opportunity where dialogue between agency executives can lead so quickly to the stimulation of new ideas, possible collaborative projects, potential funding and increased efficiency in service provision.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Harry and Jeanette Weinberg  
**Kukui Center**

## Our Family Of Social Services

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### Consuelo Foundation

*Programs for abused and neglected children and families*

(808) 526-3232  
[www.consuelo.org](http://www.consuelo.org)

### Joyful Heart Foundation

*Helping victims of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault*

(808) 532-3520  
[www.joyfulheartfoundation.org](http://www.joyfulheartfoundation.org)

### Family Promise of Hawaii

*Resources for homeless families with children*

(808) 548-7478  
[www.familypromisehawaii.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.halekipa.org)

### Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii

*Training center for parents of children with disabilities*

(808) 536-9684  
[www.LDAHawaii.org](http://www.LDAHawaii.org)

### Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition

*Advocacy and independent living skills training for foster youth*

(808) 545-5683  
[www.facebook.com/fosteryouthspeak](http://www.facebook.com/fosteryouthspeak)

### Maximum Legal Services Corporation

*Legal services for management of Conservatorships and Trusts*

(808) 585-0920  
[www.maxcorp.hi-org](http://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](http://www.hijcenter.org)

### Mediation Center of the Pacific

*Conflict resolution for cases involving children and others*

(808) 521-6767  
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