



# Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Kukui Center

*A gathering place for those who serve vulnerable children and families*

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## More businesses partner with Kukui Center to help children and families

The Community Partners Program (CPP) at the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Kukui Center is growing at a rapid pace. Welcome to new partners: Altres Global Business Inc., Carr, Gouveia & Associates CPA, Central Pacific Bank, Honolulu Sign Company, Soderholm Bus Sales and Leasing, and Seymour Kazimirski, President of Global Consulting Company Inc..

These companies and individuals join the expanding roster of Community Partners committed to donations of goods and services, supporting the 10 non-profit agencies that co-locate at the Kukui Center serving needy, abused, neglected, homeless and disabled children and help ensure sure they get the help they need.

Through the generous support of **Central Pacific Bank**, foster youth, literacy programs and homeless families have access to 15 laptops. **Altres** provided CPR training and now 10 tenant agencies' staff are certified. **Soderholm Bus Sales and Leasing** plans to donate a van to provide mobile vision and hearing screening in order to reach more children island wide and **Honolulu Sign Company** is offering the agencies discounts.

Individuals help as well. **Seymour Kazimirski** is reaching out to his contacts to recruit others to provide support. Agency boards will receive training in Nonprofit Finance from **Ron Gouveia**, CPA. **Abner Udon** of **Trees of Hawaii** is providing loving care for our special kukui tree.

Students are also making an important contribution. News of three school service groups who are volunteering for our agencies was featured in the Pacific Business News. Students from **Punahou School's Luke Center for Public Service**, **Island Pacific Academy** and **Searider Productions Academy at Waianae HS** have helped at keiki fairs, book mobiles and with kids onsite at the Kukui Center.

These partners are a great example of what a caring community



*Agency representatives completed a CPR certification course provided by Altres.*

can provide. Launched in 2010, the CPP is the Kukui Center's collaborative volunteer program that provides a streamlined process to directly match offers of help with the agencies who need it.

Volunteers, businesses and local organizations provide valuable resources with their generous expressions of aloha and save these small non-profits time and money, allowing them to focus their scarce resources on

the vulnerable children and families that they serve.

Ongoing needs include donations of office supplies, household items and furniture for the newly housed and services such as translators and grant writers to help overworked staffs.

"The Community Partners Program has helped the Mediation Center's Board of Directors and staff run a more efficient operation and better serve our clients in a broad variety of ways," said E.D. Tracey Wiltgen." For example, the various workshops conducted by several partners, provided up-to-date facts and best practices for non profits, that we incorporated into our daily operations. The availability of the community rooms at the **HawaiiUSA Federal Credit Union** enabled us to support our volunteers with more trainings and workshops with the added benefit of free beverages from **Pepsi**. The free storage donated by **Hawaii Self Storage** freed funds to strengthen direct services to clients. **Arcadia** saved our staff hours of precious time with their help preparing mailings. These are just a few examples of how the Community Partners Program makes a significant difference in the ability of a nonprofit like the Mediation Center, to better serve Hawaii's communities."

Our goal is to grow from 38 to 50 partners in 2013. To learn more about how to help, please visit our website at [kukuicenter.org](http://kukuicenter.org) and click on the Community Partners page. Or call CPP Coordinator Lorraine Gershun at 387-9284.

## Kukui Center staff feed students in McKinley autism program



Feeding the hungry is a common theme at this time of year. As food banks exhaust Thanksgiving and Christmas reserves, renewed efforts begin to refill their coffers.

Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii (LDAH) is partnering with the McKinley High School Special Education Department as part of our “Sharing the Commitment” (STC) collaboration with the Hawaii Department of Education Po`okela Project. One of LDAH’s primary roles is to bring together parents, school staff, students and community members to collaboratively address the needs of students with autism.

Students served by STC at McKinley are a diverse group, some with serious needs. Several students are homeless and receive many of their meals and home-life amenities at school. Among many educational projects, McKinley personnel developed a vocational program in which students learn skills and earn tokens they can spend at a store on campus. The store provides useful items donated by school staff or others, including school supplies, socks, belts and food. In February, LDAH learned the student store was also in need of new stock.

An idea sprang up from Parent Consultant, Joe Kernan, lead LDAH staff for the STC–Po`okela Project. At the March Kukui Center tenant potluck hosted by LDAH, he asked attendees to bring canned goods for McKinley’s student store. Shown in the accompanying photo are Parent Consultants Joe Kernan and Marsha Robinson with the bounty of food donated by this small, big-hearted group of nonprofit agency staffers. We were delighted by the response as was McKinley!



### Mediation Center of the Pacific

#### Important facts about us:

- Mediation helps people talk, rebuild relationships and resolve conflicts creatively.
- Mediation provides the least costly, least stressful approach to resolving conflicts of all kinds, including divorce, family matters, workplace, landlord/tenant, special education, and more.
- The Mediation Center provides the only affordable mediation and dispute resolution option on Oahu for individuals in the low income population.
- A significant number of cases are about the needs of children or involve children.
- Last year, the Mediation Center of the Pacific assisted more than 5,000 people, including 988 children, to prevent and resolve conflicts creatively through facilitation and mediation processes, as well as training in conflict resolution and mediation.
- Through facilitation and mediation, schools and parents of children with special needs, were assisted in agreeing on plans and solutions to meet the unique needs of the child.
- Through facilitation, we helped representatives from the Department of Education, Family Court, Department of Health, Department of Human Services, the Office of Youth Services and EPIC O`hana Conferencing, to agree on the needs and a plan to meet those needs, for youth in the Child Welfare System.
- In 2012, the Mediation Center assisted 322 divorcing couples and 109 unmarried couples with children.
- 57% of the divorce cases mediated by the Mediation Center resulted in written agreements that created co-parenting plans that focused on the needs of the children.
- 73% of the cases involving unmarried couples with children resulted in written agreements resolving issues of where the children will live and how co-parenting will work.
- 95% of the people who participated in mediation at the Mediation Center last year reported that it is a valuable process.
- 79% of the people who participated in mediation at the Mediation Center last year reported that the process helped to improve communication between them and the other person, including divorcing and unmarried couples who reported that the process helped them focus on the needs of their children.
- 60% of the people who participated in mediation at the Mediation Center last year reported that the process helped to improve their relationship with the other person.





## What you should know...

- Family homelessness in Hawaii increased from 2011 to 2012.
- Family Promise of Hawaii found housing for 100% of our regular guests in 2012.
- 95% of our families had at least one parent employed.
- Family Promise served 63 families in 2012, that's 245 parents and children.
- Through the end of May, thirty-seven parents and children in our program have secured housing this year.
- Our day program serves an additional 25 parents and children, at a time, who are currently on our waitlist.
- Some of our day program families are able to secure housing before having to enter our regular overnight program.
- Families save an average of \$1,500-2,000 while in our program. This can be used towards rental deposits and debt reduction.
- Volunteers provide an estimated 30,000 hours per year to help shelter and feed our families.
- In 2013, Family Promise national will celebrate its 25th year of service to homeless families with children. This amounts to over 500,000 parents and children served nationwide since 1988.
- Family Promise of Hawaii will host its First Annual Family Fun Run on Saturday, August 17, 2013. Visit our website [www.familypromisehawaii.org](http://www.familypromisehawaii.org) for more information.

# Foster youth get warm welcome to the Real World

Recent studies have established that foster youth are more successful at achieving independence if they have a consistent support system through the age of 24. Extending stay in a foster home for a longer time helps foster youth achieve their goals for successful independence.

Addressing this issue, Hawaii legislators recently passed a law (SB1340) that allows foster youth to voluntarily stay in a foster home until the age of 21. These youth have to work hard for success and are faced with various levels of trauma. For them, post traumatic stress disorder is three times higher than war veterans. Homelessness looms with 43% of foster youth in Hawaii at risk of becoming homeless after leaving care. Social stigma is another hurdle. Combine all of that with multiple changes and there is much that can adversely affect healthy development and academic success.

For twelve years, the Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition (HFYC), a youth led organization, has provided a consistent presence of support for displaced youth throughout the state.

HFYC gives these youth a voice. They participate in legislative changes by submitting written and oral testimony. Their concerns are channeled into the foster care system, helping with program improvements.

They listen to each other. And, they learn



*Real World Speakers. Seated: Susie Lee, Emy Yamauchi, Daniel Cheung, Brother Noland, Jasper Wong. Standing: Kecia Littman, Seymour Kazimirski, Rayna Hawkins.*

from and teach each other.

Not only does the coalition advocate for the youth, they provide hands on experiences to help them get ready to face the intricacies of living on their own.

The fourth annual HFYC Real World Event, an independent living skills training sponsored by the Department of Human Services, was held on May 11, 2013, turning the Kukui Center into a real world simulation.

Youth, ages 16-21, gathered to practice tough life skills. They attended workshops on banking, budgeting, credit, insurance needs, finding housing, and social skills for job interviewing. During lunch, they were greeted by KC Community Partner Seymour Kazimirski who recruited nine volunteers to share how they became successful including Brother Noland who also entertained.

The afternoon was spent in a real world simulation to practice the skills they learned in the morning

Over 50 volunteers helped, including community partners: Arcadia, Habilitat and Rotary Club of Honolulu.

## Hawaiian culture helps survivors connect and heal

Joyful Heart Foundation is proud to partner with Dr. Kalei Kanuha to conduct Namelehuapono, an innovative Hawaiian cultural group for adult survivors of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault. JHF will also

collaborate with Dr. Kanuha to further develop the curriculum, including adding specific group services for children. Developed under the guidance of Hawaiian cultural practitioners, Namelehuapono integrates Hawaiian culture with other therapeutic approaches. Dr. Kanuha describes it as “a pathway to healing social problems such as child abuse and sexual assault; it is a culture- and land-based healing method.” Past participants have credited this model for its exceptional ability to help them on many levels:



*Mariska Hargitay, President and Founder of Joyful Heart Foundation with Dr. Kalei Kanuha*

“...I’ve been in other support groups, and they helped at the beginning of my healing. But it was a time when I needed to connect again...I cannot tell you how much Namelehuapono has reminded me of who I am, as a Native Hawaiian...[now] I’m fearless.” Others share, “I’m so grateful and blessed to have been able to have the opportunity to be a part of Namelehuapono... [it] brings so much to one’s soul and spirit, and it is beautiful to be part of it.” Finally, “... It was empowering to see the relevance of each ‘ōlelo no‘eau (Hawaiian proverb) that coincided with the topic at hand.... Collectively, we knew that we are not alone in our suffering but that we were one in mind, in body, in spirit and in ancestral blood. It was so very empowering for me.”

## Youth embrace family library after school



*Children play educational games at Kuhio Park tech lab*

Hawaii Literacy’s Family Literacy program operates two free libraries in Mayor Wright Homes and Kuhio Park. Each day after school, dozens of youth come to the Libraries to check out books, get help with homework, practice reading, complete writing logs, play educational games, use the computers, hear stories and have a healthy snack.

Even though coming to the Libraries is voluntary, over 500 youth visit each year to work on reading and writing when other children are hanging out outside. One

library is even next to a playground and the kids still come!

They love the Library. “Before I came to the Family Library, I didn’t know what to do,” said eight-year-old Leila. “Here I can do homework, play games and do worksheets. I would rather do that. Before I did not like reading or math, now I do.”

“The Library makes me happy and smart. We do our homework and if we don’t know, Ms. Tamara or Ms. Jasmine helps us,” added Kassi who is nine years old.

“I am thankful because when I need help, they [Junior Leaders] just come up to me and say I will help you,” Tyres, age 10, said. “I have great friends at the Library, and I am very happy there.”

Kassi ended by saying, “It is fun and special at the Family Library. The teachers are kind to us, and they want us to learn new things. We are grateful for the Library because we learn, and have story hours with new people. We get to meet people outside Mayor Wright here.”

Kids Hurt Too Hawaii  
Healing Young Hearts

## You can make a difference in the life of a grieving child

Kids Hurt Too Hawaii has a vision to heal young hearts broken by loss from parent deaths, divorces, or separations. We help children and families continue bonds with those they are missing and surround families in crisis with a community of supportive people and accessible resources. You can help too.

**Volunteer your time:** You can volunteer to facilitate a children’s group. We will train you at our four-day semi-annual workshop. We provide a safe, nurturing environment for children to heal trauma and process grief in bi-monthly or monthly peer support groups. A volunteer facilitator’s commitment includes four hours twice a month or once a month. Many volunteer facilitators say they get more out of being with the children than they give. In 2012, 4,234 volunteer hours were logged.

**Make a donation:** Kids Hurt Too Hawaii relies on donors for funding with 79% of all income from individuals and businesses. We hope to increase resources to assist over 50,000 needy children in Hawaii. Donations can easily be made through our website. We are grateful to our loyal donors who generously give every year and hope to encourage new donors who want to see trauma and grief care resources grow in Hawaii.

**Tell a friend about us:** Kids Hurt Too Hawaii has specialized expertise in children’s grief and trauma and believes that a family’s hope for tomorrow lies in healing young hearts today. Parent loss is a heart-breaking event in a child’s life. Grief is a natural reaction to that loss. A child needs a supportive and healing environment to nurture his or her broken heart. Without support, the risk of emotional and behavioral problems increases. Kids Hurt Too Hawaii believes that all grieving children deserve a safe place to connect and heal.



## Foster youth aim for interdependent living

Hale Kipa's Independent Living and Step Up Housing programs at the Kukui Center provide outreach services for youth, ages 12-25, who are or have been in foster care to assist them in preparing for emancipation from the foster care system and transition into adulthood. There are many misconceptions about these foster youth and their care.

**Myth:** *Young people leave foster care.*

**Fact:** The truth is, the foster care system leaves the youths' lives. Not the other way around. Once the age of emancipation is reached, support from the system generally falls away completely: shelter, food, transportation, mental health support, mentoring, a place to do laundry. Once we recognize this, we realize the imperative to install supports that will last into adulthood.

**Myth:** *Children in the foster care system end up living with strangers.*

**Fact:** In Hawaii, the Department of Human Services is required to attempt to find appropriate family members to provide care for children who are removed from the home by Child Protective Services. Hawaii, in fact, ranks highest in the nation for the percentage of youth in care who are placed in the homes of relatives.

**Myth:** *We strive for Independent living*

**Fact:** Some child welfare systems state "independent living" as a goal for youth leaving the foster care system. According to our young people, having committed and reliable adult supporters is the number-one indicator of success for a young person transitioning from foster care. *Interdependent living* better describes what a young person should aim for.

**Myth:** *All teens in foster care are there because they are juvenile delinquents.*

**Fact:** Most teens in foster care are there for the same reason younger children are in foster care: because someone abused or neglected them.



Rachel Pettit, Step Up Case Manager

**Myth:** *"These children are damaged and cannot be helped."*

**Fact:** While most children and youth in care have experienced trauma and do have emotional issues to work through, they can and do learn to trust. Very often the loving environment provided in a foster home begins the road to healing from the pain of the past. **No one is beyond hope.**

**Myth:** *Single people cannot be foster parents.*

**Fact:** Single adults can be foster parents.

## Helping the parents means helping the children



AT THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF HAWAII

The Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center at the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii (HIJC at Legal Aid) provides free legal services for immigrant victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking who qualify for services. HIJC at Legal Aid also assists with general immigration cases for qualified immigrants who are not victims. Eligible applicants must meet income and assets eligibility under Legal Aid guidelines.

Recently a teenage girl came to the United States with her other family members from an Asian country to join their parents. At the airport they were somehow given a wrong class of admission by Immigration. As a result,

the girl was not able to enroll in school. She was in immigration limbo without proper identification. Without proper identification, normal life as we know it for a teenager is very restricted: they are unable to see movies where identification is required, unable to drive and unable to get a job. The family got word from the community that HIJC at Legal Aid could help. Shortly after they contacted us, we were able to help them correct their legal problem with Immigration. The girl was able to go to school finally. She was happy to be part of the world again, not shut away at home.

HIJC at Legal Aid also assisted a wife and mother of two teenage children who emigrated here from an Asian country. Her husband was physically abusive to her throughout their 14 year marriage. As part of his abuse, he never filed the immigration

papers that would allow her and their children to stay in the U.S. as permanent residents. She thought if she reported him to police that she would get deported. She lived in a shadow with her two children for years. Her husband was eventually deported back to their home country for his long list of criminal convictions. She finally summoned the courage to come to HIJC at Legal Aid for help with her immigration case and other legal issues. It took about two and a half stressful years of waiting, but her case was approved recently. She and her children will not have to live in fear that they may be deported back to the country where her abusive husband is now living. She and her children are glad to be living here in safety.

If you know of an indigent immigrant who needs help, call for more information at 536-8826 or 536-4302 for Intakes.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Summer 2013



Harry and Jeanette Weinberg  
**Kukui Center**

## Our Family Of Social Services

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### Family Promise of Hawaii

*Resources for homeless families with children*  
(808) 548-7478  
[www.familypromiseshawaii.org](http://www.familypromiseshawaii.org)

### Joyful Heart Foundation

*Helping victims of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault*  
(808) 532-3520  
[www.joyfulheartfoundation.org](http://www.joyfulheartfoundation.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)

### 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)

### Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition

*Advocacy and independent living skills training for foster youth*  
(808) 545-5683  
[www.grievingyouth.org](http://www.grievingyouth.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 Immigrant Justice Center at LASH

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[www.hijcenter.org](http://www.hijcenter.org)

### 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 Literacy

*Literacy and lifelong learning services*

(808) 537-6706  
[www.hawaiiliteracy.org](http://www.hawaiiliteracy.org)

### Mediation Center of the Pacific

*Conflict resolution for cases involving children and others*  
(808) 521-6767  
[www.mediatehawaii.org](http://www.mediatehawaii.org)

[www.kukuicenter.org](http://www.kukuicenter.org)

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