



Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Kukui Center

A gathering place for those who serve vulnerable children and families

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Five Years and Thriving

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Kukui Center, which opened in 2009, is owned and operated by the Kukui Children's Foundation (KCF). Our mission is to support abused and vulnerable children and their families.

We were very fortunate to receive CDBG funds from the City and County of Honolulu to purchase the building and create our beautiful nonprofit multiservice center which is dedicated to serving children and families.



The Bead Gallery in Honolulu is one of the Kukui Center's Community Partners. They donate funds to help the center, its agencies and provide workshops for KC children.

A generous and supportive community of over 100 businesses, service groups and individuals donated goods and services valued at more than \$1,000,000 to renovate the building. Additional renovation funds were received from local foundations and HUD.

As a nonprofit, the Kukui Children's Foundation keeps the rent low and has not raised it since we opened. We have a profit sharing orientation and provide significant support to our tenants. A newly installed photovoltaic system will further help us keep our overhead under control.

"If you build it they will come"! Thousands of people walk through our doors each year seeking help from 10 independent nonprofits who work collaboratively and help children who are homeless, have lost a parent, current and former foster children, children with disabilities, victims of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault, low income or immigrants and provide housing, counseling, peer support, literacy, and legal services. Many others enter to attend meetings, conferences and trainings in our conference room hosted by one of our programs.

Collaboration is a buzzword these days but the Kukui Center "walks the walk" at all levels. The programs provide services to each other's clients and

training to each other's staffs. They have shared office equipment, space, videoconference centers, technical know how and resources, students and even vans. Boards of directors of all of the programs provide and attend training in nonprofit governance as well as offer vital contacts for community partners.

Building on the incredible community support we initially received to renovate the building, the Community Partners

Program (CPP) was started in 2010

to bring the help of that same caring community to support the children, families and staff in the center in a collaborative manner. In less than 3 years, more than 40 partners have been recruited to help the Kukui Center agencies in a variety of ways. They donate goods, services and volunteer time to enable our small agencies to stretch their scarce dollars and serve more people.

We believe the Community partners Program is a unique and innovative approach to helping businesses, service groups, schools and individuals bring their unique talents and resources to assist our very vulnerable and needy clients. One person coordinates the offers of help for all of the agencies with the community partners as well as seeks new partners to satisfy newly identified needs. This avoids duplication of effort to recruit volunteers and helps match offers of help with those who need it.

In a relatively short time, the Kukui Center has become an important community resource and we continue to expand and find new ways to make a difference. You can learn more about the Kukui Center at www.kukuicenter.org.

HIJC @LASH participates in Convoy of Hope Outreach



HIJC staff showcase the crafts that children decorated at the Convoy of Hope. Photo by Sarah Miller

Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center @LASH staff participated in the Convoy of Hope outreach event on July 27, 2013 held at the Aloha Stadium where 14,000 community members attended according to the Convoy of Hope website (convoyofhope.org).

This one-stop shop of community agencies and resources provided a wealth of supplies and information to Hawaii families. In addition to the community service tent where HIJC at Legal

Aid was available to distribute valuable immigration information and provide a fun craft for kids, the following services were provided by other agencies: 1,785 backpacks; 645 haircuts; 752 family portraits; and 2,425 new pairs of kid's shoes.

HIJC at Legal Aid's community consultants and law clerk were present to provide both legal information and information on nonviolent, healthy relationships to children and their families. They were also able to provide information in Spanish and Japanese.

"To me, the Convoy of Hope was a reminder of what a multicultural, multinational and multiethnic melting pot Hawaii is, and the ever present need for accessible immigration services in the community," said law clerk Sarah Miller. "The most rewarding moment for me that day was when I was able to use my Japanese to reach out to a Japanese grandmother, and provide her with information about the kinds of services that we offer, that she otherwise may have never known about."

HIJC at Legal Aid's services seek to offer hope to indigent immigrants through immigration and other legal assistance.

Doing a lot with a little--Hawaii Literacy relies on volunteers

As a community non-profit organization that does a lot with a little, we depend on volunteers and donors who share our belief in literacy as the key to a better future. Over 40% of our total budget is covered by volunteer time and in-kind gifts. Here's how you can help...

- Volunteer in a program: Our work would not be possible without the over 400 volunteers that commit to tutoring or reading with someone in need.
- Join a Workplace Giving Campaign: Hawaii Literacy is proud to be part of Aloha United Way's Workplace Campaign. You can make a huge difference by designating Hawaii Literacy for paycheck donations, using our unique AUW code: #96240. Or each September, you can donate to Hawaii Literacy at any Foodland or Sack N Save store, and your donation is matched. Our Give Aloha number is #77509.
- Help with Events, Marketing, or Fundraising: Make a real difference on our four volunteer committees: Public Relations & Marketing, Programs, Event Planning, and Fund Development, and work with our board to help organize events, solicit in-kind and financial donations, plan program activities, or help with media outreach.
- Make a Donation or Sponsor a student: Help increase literacy by joining our annual appeal or sponsoring someone learning to read & write. For example, a \$50 donation provides a month of homework help and reading tutoring for a child in public housing and a \$350 donation supports free literacy tutoring for a struggling parent for a year.



More than 250 volunteers regularly read to and tutor keiki living in public housing in Hawaii Literacy's Family Literacy Libraries and Bookmobile programs

- Check our Wish List or Hold a Collection Drive: Help us stretch each dollar holding a collection drive for high need items, or donate items from our 'wish list' or for our annual silent auction.
- Spread the word: Let others know about Hawaii Literacy's free programs...or invite Hawaii Literacy to talk to your work place, Rotary Club, or community group! If you are on Facebook, you can help by sharing events and campaigns with others at www.facebook.com/hawaiiliteracy.

Current volunteer opportunities, wish list, and much more can be found at www.hawaiiliteracy.org. Creating a stronger, more literate community and reaching thousands of keiki in need takes many hands, helping in many different ways. Mahalo!

Family finds support in time of crisis at Kids Hurt Too



My children's beloved father died from a rare aggressive form of brain cancer. It was unexpected because he was so healthy. Our family became participants in Kids Hurt Too Hawaii. We found the program through the owners of Prudential Advantage whose staff member was a participant. Her husband had died also so she knew what we were going through. We would not have known about the

service without their support. We were too much in crisis to look for or even think about resources. It is a difficult journey because we thought that I would go first since I have a life threatening condition. Another difficult part is that my girls have been bullied in their school because other children don't understand. It is difficult for me to advocate for them because of discrimination of my disability.

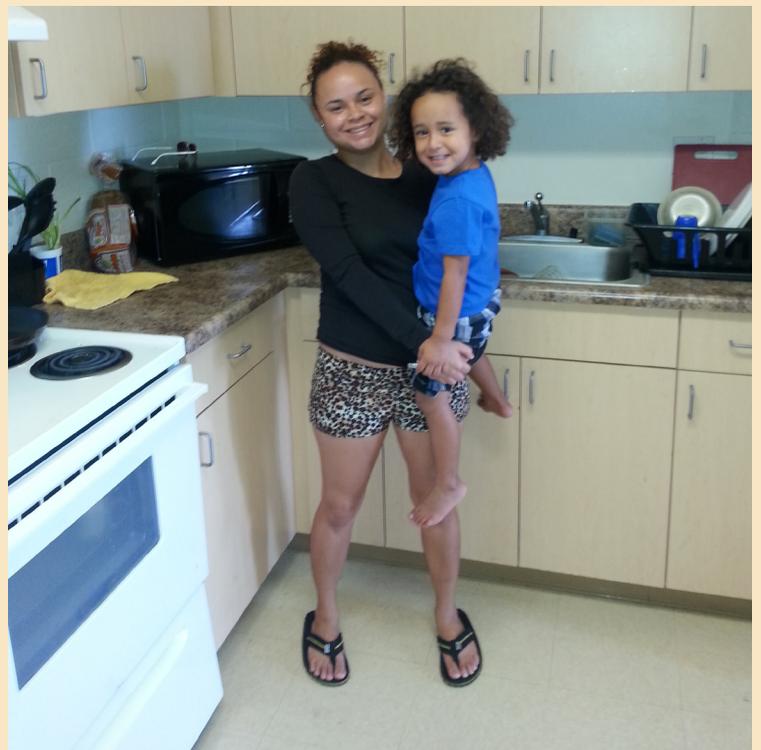
Kids Hurt Too Hawaii is a safe, happy, enjoyable place where we can be ourselves and trust others who are able to have compassion, understand and have experienced grief and loss of dear loved ones - one of the toughest life challenges that our family faces constantly. Kids Hurt Too Hawaii also provides vital support, activities, fellowship, and a safe haven where there otherwise would be none. We are truly blessed & would like to thank Ms. Cynthia, Mr. Hiro, the Kids Hurt Too Hawaii facilitators and staff from the bottom of our hearts. Thank you for being there for us year after year.

Love Always,
S & S

Former foster youth need household items

Remember the excitement of getting your first apartment and scrambling around to find furniture and kitchen supplies? With the help of Hale Kipa's Step Up program and the Section 8 program, many of our youth who have aged out of foster care are able to experience this much sooner than they would have anticipated. As with any young person moving into their first home, they usually lack the financial resources to be able to purchase many of the things they need. Unfortunately, they often lack strong social and family connections as well, which limits the amount of help they get with hand me down furnishings such as dressers, microwaves, and dishes, like many of us relied upon when we started off on our own for the first time.

Donation of items that would assist these youth on their new journey of independence could include sets of dishes, utensils, pots and pans, rice cookers, toasters, microwaves, cleaning supplies, and toiletries. Non-perishable food donations to help them fill their pantry would be helpful as well. Gift cards to places like WalMart, Long's, Bed Bath and Beyond or any place that would have household items would also be a fantastic way to assist. Larger items such as sofas and dressers are also needed from time to time, but due to limited storage



Step Up participant moves into a new apartment.

ability, would be accepted on an as need basis.

For more information about making donations please call 853-4660. Help us give Foster Youth a STEP UP with their future!

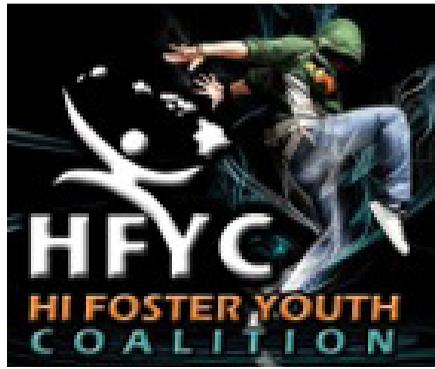
Working together for a future that promotes peace, safety and healing



Mariska Hargitay, JHF founder, with students from UH, working to raise awareness. Photo by Cathrine White

Child abuse, sexual assault and domestic violence are serious issues for our community. In 2010, Hawaii's Child Welfare Services (DHS) received 4,199 reports of child abuse. In Hawai'i, 1 in 7 women is raped, up to 50,000 women a year experience domestic violence and as many as 44,000 children witness domestic violence each year. Whether or not we are aware of these alarming statistics, violence in our communities does permeate our consciousness. All of us know someone, a friend, sibling, aunty, co-worker or neighbor, who has experienced violence in their dating relationships, from their spouses or, sadly at the hands of those who are supposed to protect them - their parents or caretakers.

For Joyful Heart Foundation this knowledge is a call to action – an invitation to create lasting, meaningful change – for survivors and for Hawai'i by working together for a future that promotes peace, safety and healing for us all. We envision a community that fosters an open dialogue about how to collaboratively end violence, that values and dedicates resources to those that have been affected by these issues, that is empowered with the knowledge, courage and compassion to help survivors of child abuse, sexual assault, and domestic violence heal mind, body and spirit. We know that here in Hawaii we can -- and will! -- build a community that says to survivors: we hear you, we believe you, we are here for you, we are willing to work together to bring you healing and all of us lasting peace.



Foster youth face many challenges when moving from home to home

Myth: In Hawaii the state's jurisdiction over youth in the foster care system ends when the youth turns 18 years of age.

Fact: Some youth may remain in care past their 18th birthday under certain conditions, i.e., if they are on track to completing their high school degree or getting their G.E.D, if they have a disability or special need, or if Family Court determines it is in the youth's best interest. And, now a new law that takes effect July 2014 allows youth to voluntarily remain in care until they are 21 if they are in higher education, trade school, or employed. There is evidence to suggest that young adults in extended foster care (i.e., after age 18) are more likely to stay in school and pursue higher education.

Myth: Foster children did something to get put into foster care. They behaved badly, attacked someone, killed someone, or are juvenile delinquents.

Fact: In the majority of cases, foster children are in care because they have been abused, neglected, or abandoned by their bio-parents. THEY ARE THE VICTIMS and did nothing to wind up in foster care!

Myth: Foster children might kill your pets and rape your other children and burn your house down.

Fact: The MAJORITY of children in care do not do these things. The majority of foster children are more likely to hurt themselves instead of hurting others. And yes, they will act-out until they feel safe. Acting out includes yelling, not listening, hitting, writing on walls, breaking things, running away, stealing, etc. But in time, with understanding, compassion, help, guidance, and love, many of these behaviors are eliminated.

Myth: Foster children are all developmentally delayed.

Fact: Most foster children are fine but have problems with schooling and other tasks because living in foster care impacts their academic performance. Every time a child is moved, the child falls behind in school. You can't learn correctly when you are worried about where you are going to live. You can't learn correctly when you are worried about being so different compared with everyone else. You can't learn correctly when the teachers and foster parents DON'T CARE. We aren't developmentally delayed at birth.....we become delayed in the school system for many reasons.

Myth: All foster kids are going home therefore I don't want to adopt through social services, because I can't deal with losing the child.

Fact: In Hawaii there are hundreds of children WAITING right now to be adopted. They need a home. Not all children can go home!

LDAH educates, guides and gives hope to parents of children with special needs

“Mahalo for all you do. LDAH makes a difference. When our son was first diagnosed, we were thrown into another dimension, one of uncertainty and sadness. LDAH was one of those organizations that helped us and continues to help us understand, be hopeful and guides us through the maze of disability services.” This quote comes from a parent served by Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii (LDAH).

Parents usually come to us after learning their child has a disability, though through our School Readiness Project, we are often the ones delivering the difficult news. It's a rude awakening for parents; one that comes with fear, multiple concerns, responsibilities, and also with opportunities and possibilities. Each child with special needs can be included with their nondisabled peers. They can be successful. Every child with special needs deserves society's acceptance. But, how does a fearful young family make all this happen?

The energy demanded of parents of a child or children with disabilities varies greatly depending on the family's resources, i.e., supportive family members, finances, etc. Despite a family's resources for dealing with a new disability or special need, most families still follow Elisabeth Kubler-Ross' five stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance; though not necessarily in that order.

As Hawaii's Parent and Training Information Center, LDAH strives to educate, mentor, guide, and give hope to the many parents of children with disabilities we serve throughout the state. There is more that must be done. If you are interested in being a part of our work, please contact us.

Help us to help people resolve conflicts

Every day at the Mediation Center, parties in conflict are assisted with resolving their immediate dispute, as well as in improving communication and strengthening their relationships for the future. To provide these critical services, the Mediation Center relies on the generous support of individuals and businesses who provide both financial and human resources, as well as other in-kind contributions. To help maintain and grow its services, the Mediation Center needs continued financial support, as well as the expertise of: a PR professional; a software developer; and a web/social media master.

An effective PR program that reaches out to every community on Oahu would help people, young and old, understand the value of mediation. Nearly 90% of the Mediation Center's cases are referred from court or via statute or contract. If more people understood the value of mediation, they would



Volunteer mediators attended a workshop on effective communication.

likely choose it as the first step, before taking more formal action.

To provide efficient, quality services, the Mediation Center needs an updated case management program that is user friendly. Tracking the thousands of clients that access the Mediation Center's services, and ensuring that every person is paired with the appropriate mediator, requires software that both gathers data, but is also able to analyze that data to identify the best match between the mediator and the mediation participants.

Finally, like all businesses, the Mediation Center needs to keep in step with current community needs and trends. The Mediation Center has yet to embrace Facebook, because it does not have the human resources. With a dedicated person volunteering their time a few hours a week, the Mediation Center could become part of the social media movement and share its story on Facebook.

Homeless families need affordable housing



Kim and Koa's family in their new apartment.

Most of the parents who enter Family Promise of Hawai'i as guests earn anywhere from \$7.25 – \$10 per hour. This amounts to approximately \$1,000 - \$1,300 a month. After paying for car payments, insurance, gas, phone, and other living expenses, families are sometimes left with \$500 or less to use towards rent.

The average apartment rent within 10 miles of Honolulu, HI is \$1,766. One-bedroom apartments in Honolulu rent for \$1,495 a month on average and two-bedroom apartment rents average \$2,143. It would be almost impossible for most families experiencing homelessness to afford. What is the solution? Affordable housing. How available is affordable housing in Hawai'i? Let's take a look: There are only 6,500 units available with the Hawaii Public Housing Authority and a waitlist of 10,000 applicants. The present wait time to get into public housing is 7-10 years. The wait time for applicants to get into low-income housing units on the island is extremely long as well.

There are hundreds of families staying with relatives and friends illegally so they're not physically on the streets. These are the "hidden homeless" that you don't see, but they're there. Staying in their family and friends' apartments jeopardizes their ability to remain in their homes and causes a lot of tension and stress for everyone involved.

Some solutions are rental assistance programs like those at Catholic Charities of Hawai'i or the Institute for Human Services (IHS). They assist families with a deposit or first month's rent since this is one of the missing links that prevents families from being able to rent. The City and County of Honolulu Rent to Work program is also assisting homeless families with a 1-year housing subsidy. They require participants to work and attend budgeting classes to ensure a successful transition into housing.

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Fall 2013

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Harry and Jeanette Weinberg

Kukui Center

Our Family Of Social Services

Family Promise of Hawaii

Resources for homeless families with children
(808) 548-7478
www.familypromiseshawaii.org

Joyful Heart Foundation

Helping victims of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault
(808) 532-3520
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

Kids Hurt Too

Support for grieving children who have lost a parent
(808) 545-5683
or (808) 256-3176
www.kidshurttoo.org

Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition

Advocacy and independent living skills training for foster youth
(808) 545-5683
www.grievingyouth.org

Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii

Training center for parents of children with disabilities
(808) 536-9684
www.LDAHawaii.org

Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center at LASH

Legal services for immigrant victims of abuse and domestic violence
(808) 536-4302
www.hijcenter.org

Maximum Legal Services Corporation

Legal services for management of Conservatorships and Trusts
(808) 585-0920
www.maxcorp.hi-org

Hawaii Literacy

Literacy and lifelong learning services

(808) 537-6706
www.hawaiiliteracy.org

Mediation Center of the Pacific

Conflict resolution for cases involving children and others
(808) 521-6767
www.mediatehawaii.org

www.kukuicenter.org

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