



Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Kukui Center

A gathering place for those who serve vulnerable children and families

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Winter 2014

Happy Holidays from the Kukui Center



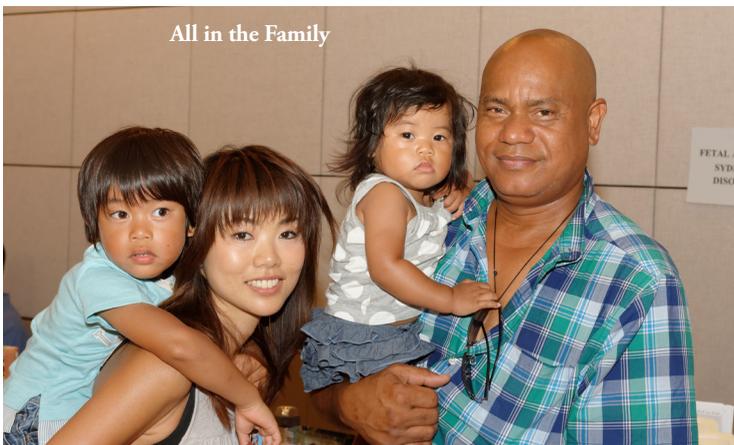
Kukui Childrens Foundation



Feeling Cozy



Satisfied Customers



All in the Family



Look What Santa Brought



Play Time



Homework Time Too



Rocking the Kids' Zone



Kukui Center Leadership Team

HIJC provides legal services and outreach to immigrant communities



Families attended a 20th anniversary celebration of the federal Violence Against Women Act in October at the McCoy Pavilion.

It's hard to believe that 2014 is almost over! It has been a very productive year for the Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center at the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii. From the beginning of January until mid-November, we have assisted with 278 legal cases, affecting more than 600 adults and children. In addition to serving our clients, HIJC at Legal Aid has conducted over 100 outreach activities

in our community, reaching more than 3,000 people. The outreach informs the general public, as well as isolated immigrants in their own language, about domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking and shares about resources for help. Some of the other highlights of our year include:

- 1) Presented "Immigration 101," to more than 70 service providers in attendance, to help better understand the immigration process and to avoid disseminating inaccurate information about how immigrants can become a legal permanent resident or a U.S. citizen.
- 2) Helped organize the 20th anniversary celebration at McCoy Pavilion of the federal Violence Against Women Act for survivors and their families, to recognize their journey from violence and crisis to safety.
- 3) Learned that two of our attorneys, Calleen Ching and Bow Mun Chin, were honored by their peers with the Hawaii State Association's Champions of Social Justice Award, for their dedicated work with immigrant victims.

Our work will continue in 2015, renewed by our clients' stories of courage which inspire us to work on. This is one client's story:

I was a victim of DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. . . I was told that I was never good enough. I was told that I do not have the right. I was told that I could never see my daughters again. . . My only fear was not for me, but for my daughters. I fought for them . . . My journey wasn't an easy one. Many times I gave in and almost give up. I was lost in the dark and tried several times to take my own life. But . . . I have won my battle. I am a survivor not a victim anymore."

Imua Kakou helps former foster youth reach independence

It's an exciting time to be working in the field of foster care services in Hawai'i, as support and benefits for youth continue to be expanded. On July 1st, the State of Hawai'i began a new program to provide youth who age out of foster care at age 18 with the opportunity to continue to receive assistance voluntarily until the age of 21. The program is called Imua Kākou, meaning "Moving forward together". Hale Kipa, along with many other partner agencies, state personnel and foster youth, were involved in a year long, extensive planning process in preparation for the program start up. Hale Kipa was selected to provide the Case Management services for youth involved in Imua Kākou. One grateful participant shared the following regarding her involvement:

"With Imua Kakou's program it reduced that huge weight I carried on my shoulders in just a couple months, it allowed me to save money from when I was hired with my part time job and even a little from the program's check. The program gave me peace of mind during the times I was unable to reach life stability, and it also helped me reach towards that goal [of stability]."

In the first 3 months of the program, 31 former foster youth were enrolled in the Imua Kākou program on Oahu. Any youth who was in the foster care system when he/she turned 18, or was adopted or



Staff member Melissa Willke (left) and Imua Kakou participant at Hale Kipa dinner.

taken into legal guardianship from the foster care system after his/her 16th birthday is eligible to apply for this benefit that is available to young adults ages 18 through 20. The young adult must qualify under one of five categories, including working toward a high school diploma, attending college or a vocational program, working at least 80 hours per month, participating in an employment program, or being medically disabled and can apply for the program. Visit imua21.org for more information, or shakatown.com to apply.

Hawaii Literacy helps children and adults with reading skills

- When parents becomes better readers, their children's quality of life and education improve too. Children whose parents cannot read are more likely to remain illiterate and leave school before graduation.

- There are over 150,000 adults in Hawaii considered functionally illiterate, which means they lack basic reading and writing skills often needed for everyday life.

- Children who attend family literacy programs have better school attendance, grades, and are more likely to graduate.

- Children who have access to both books AND educational technology make the greatest reading gains. On December 1, Hawaii Literacy kicked off a "100 Kindle drive", to bring e-books and educational apps to over 800 youth at 8 public housing sites. Visit www.hawaiiliteracy.org to help us reach this goal!

- 65% of everything a child reads in elementary school is made up of just 300 common vocabulary words. Our programs teach and test these words with hundreds of youth each year, helping to increase reading fluency and comprehension for struggling students.

- Last year, Hawaii Literacy's four programs: Adult Literacy tutoring, Family Literacy Libraries, Bookmobile, and English Language Learner (ELL), served over 2,800 people, and 75% were children under 14.

- In 2013, over 400 volunteers worked with Hawaii Literacy to help teach reading and writing skills to adults and children. We are recruiting youth and adult literacy tutors across O'ahu now. Visit www.hawaiiliteracy.org if you would like to help change a life!

Family Promise families get fit

Family Promise of Hawai'i has had a fruitful year! We have also been fortunate to receive funding from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to provide rental assistance to Native Hawaiian families. This is such a well-needed support for the families we work with. For many of them, not having enough money for a rental deposit or first month's rent is a real barrier to them securing housing. We were able to provide 12 Native Hawaiian families with housing assistance in the amount of \$1,250. This assistance helped house families faster so they could start a new chapter in their lives.

We are also pleased to be providing Zumba and Yoga classes to our families! Funded by the HMSA Foundation, our families are given gift cards to purchase exercise shoes and clothes so they can participate in the classes. Geri Marullo is our Yoga instructor and creates an inviting, relaxing and healing environment for our families to take care of themselves and find some much needed relief from stress. Our Zumba instructor, Kala, has been an absolute delight and our families enjoy dancing and shaking to his energetic and fun routines! They have been able to lose weight, boost their metabolisms, release endorphins and work towards a healthier lifestyle!

Another highlight of this year was a very successful 5K Fun Run/Walk in August with approximately 350 participants. This was an enjoyable and memorable family event in Kailua that brought the community together.



Zumba classes for FPH Families are on Fridays.

Kids Hurt Too helps out at Sea Life Park



The youth had time to interact with the dolphins.

Kids Hurt Too Hawaii and 14 youth ventured to Sea Life Park Hawaii on the 2nd of November to contribute to the park's natural surroundings by completing three hours of community service. Sea Life Park Hawaii gave the youth free entrance in exchange for half a day's worth of team building and community service involvement through the removal of unwanted weeds in the park.

With the assistance of Kids Hurt Too Hawaii mentors and facilitators, the 14 youth spent the morning digging into the ground and removing all the weeds in a turtle pod of the amusement park. By noon, the youth had gathered over ten large plastic bags full of the remnants from the morning. With proud faces and high-fives, the group happily gathered together to show their efforts well-done in a group photo.

The afternoon was spent in laughter and cheer as the youth experienced an amusing performance from the Sea Life Park Hawaii dolphins.

Furthermore, the youth were rewarded by going back-stage to a VIP area to pet the dolphins. Each youth was allowed a few minutes alone with the dolphins. They were also taught how to give commands and how to properly interact with dolphins. The dolphins splashed, jumped, and performed for the youth with each command given.

Through this extraordinary experience all the youth gained community service hours, team building skills, and a new profound connection with the Hawaiian community as well as with Sea Life Park Hawaii.

Donations of Services

- Ace Security and Locksmiths
- After School Art
- Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing
- ALTRES
- American Massage Therapy Association-Hawaii Chapter
- Anthology Marketing Group
- Brasserie du Vin
- Carr, Gouveia, Matsumoto CPA's
- HACBED
- Hagadone Printing
- Hawaii Digi Doc
- Hawaii Self Storage
- Hawaii USA Federal Credit Union
- Law Offices of Neal K. Aoki
- Learn to Love Yoga
- Michael Powell Art
- Nathan J. Richards + Associates
- Seymour Kazimirski
- The Bead Gallery
- YMCA of Honolulu

Donations of Funds

- Aloha United Way
- Evans Fund
- Friends of Hawaii Charities
- IliIli Fund of the Hawaii Community Foundation
- Jhamandas Watumull Fund

Mahalo Nui Loa to our Community Partners

Our Community Partners Program (CPP) continues to grow and new partners regularly join the effort to assist the Kukui Center's (KC) agencies. Our community is generous and wants to help whenever possible and the CPP gives them the opportunity to do just that. In 2014, children served by agencies at the Kukui Center went back to school with new backpacks and school supplies, agencies' staffs attended training workshops and yoga sessions on site at the Kukui Center, agencies served donated refreshments to clients and volunteers at events and meetings. Our newsletter was delivered to a mailing list of over 500 people. All of this and more was made possible by our Community Partners and we extend our sincere appreciation for their support.



Winner's Camp



HawaiiUSA Federal Credit Union



Hawaii Legal Administrators Association



Stephanie Evans



Auntie Sally's



Pepsi Beverages Inc.



Learn to Love Yoga



Islander Group



Hawaii Self Storage



Habilitat



American Massage Therapy Association -Hawaii



Waianae HS Skills USA Club



Hagadone Printing



Arcadia Retirement Residence



Hands in Helping Out

Donations of Goods

- Auntie Sally's
- Big City Diner
- Central Pacific Bank
- Hawaii Association of Legal Administrators
- Honolulu Sign Company
- Islander Group
- Pepsi Beverages Company
- Soderholm Bus Sales and Leasing
- Vim and Vigor

Volunteers, Service Clubs and Non-Profit Organizations

- Arcadia Retirement Residence
- Bruce McEwan
- Habilitat, Inc.
- Hands in Helping Out
- Hawaii Association of Legal Administrators
- Junior League Sustainers
- Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority
- Luke Center for Public Service at Punahou School
- Rotary Club of Downtown Honolulu
- Trees of Hawaii
- Waianae HS Searider Productions Skills USA Club
- Winners Camp Foundation

JHF invites you to participate in Hawaii Says NO MORE



Share your photo holding your sign on social media and post, "What's your #NOMORE?"

NO MORE is a unifying symbol designed to galvanize greater awareness about ending domestic violence and sexual assault. NO MORE is gaining support with Americans nationwide. In January 2014, Joyful Heart convened over 40 leaders from key organizations throughout Hawaii that work to address domestic violence and sexual assault. Now called the Hawaii Says NO MORE Core Team, they are working to bring the national NO MORE initiative to Hawaii.

Helping people talk, rebuild relationships and resolve conflict creatively

2014 was another busy year for the Mediation Center of the Pacific (MCP). Between January and mid November, MCP helped 7,095 people to prevent and resolve conflicts through mediation, other dispute resolution processes and training. In more than half of the 1,129 cases that were mediated by MCP, the participants were able to reach written agreements. This means that: divorcing and unmarried couples successfully developed co-parenting plans to support the needs of their children; schools and parents of children with special needs agreed on services to support the educational development of the child who was the focus of the mediation; and adult siblings created family plans to provide care and support for an elderly member.

Through MCP's work, 1,426 minor children were directly impacted. For example, following one mediation session involving an unmarried couple, one participant said, "Mediation helped us put our emotions aside and helped us focus on our son and the bigger picture."

To provide quality services, MCP conducted 202 hours of trainings and workshops throughout the year. Through the training program, family law attorneys were recruited and trained to provide pro bono mediation services for divorcing and unmarried couples with children, 23 high school students were introduced to conflict resolution skills and 36 high school students learned about resolving conflict through the peer mediation process.

in a way that has relevance for local communities.

The goal is to increase the visibility of these issues by sparking new conversations that fuel the momentum for NO MORE, which in turn helps to break the social stigma surrounding domestic violence and sexual assault. The signature blue vanishing point symbolizes moving toward our end goal when we have zero incidences of child abuse, domestic violence or sexual assault.

We now invite you to participate by sharing "What's Your NO MORE?"

1. Download and fill out the NO MORE "____" at <http://bit.ly/NOMOREblank>. Complete it with whatever feels powerful to you: NO MORE ignorance. NO MORE excuses. NO MORE silence.
2. Take a photo of yourself with the sign.
3. Share your photo holding your sign on social media. In the post, ask people, "What's your #NOMORE?" and encourage your friends to share their own photos.

NO MORE calls on all of us to end the silence and speak out against the violence experienced by people of all genders, races/ethnicities and age groups. Together we will end domestic violence and sexual assault!



Mediators learn the importance of non verbal communication in mediation.

Finally, MCP provided 26 hours of facilitation for various groups such as WRAP Hawaii that assists children in the welfare system. Altogether, MCP's services helped to reduce stress in the lives of individuals and families, enabling them to focus on the needs of their children. As one mediation participant noted: "I am so appreciative for this mediation process. This enabled me to gain some mental clarity about my situation. I was so full of stress beforehand. Now I'm more focused."

Vintage year for LDAH



Michael K. Moore congratulating Ivallee Sinclair. Photo: Arthur W. Neilson III

Celebrating over 45 years of service to special needs statewide, Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii (LDAH) threw a memorable reception dinner in February for its network of supporters and stakeholders. Ivallee Sinclair was honored as a key employee who helped build LDAH from the ground up in 1968.

Another milestone for the agency was the surprise presentation of the Outstanding Community Contribution to Persons with Disabilities recognition award from the Center on Disability Studies to Executive Director Michael K. Moore at this year's Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity.

Our Parent Training & Information Center (PTI) Traveling Mini-Conference 2014 offered movie nights on Oahu and six locations on Neighbor Islands recognizing the contributions of brothers and sisters to their siblings with disabilities. PTI personnel emphasize training parents to advocate for their children with any disabilities to ensure they receive a free and appropriate public education. Supporting us in these efforts are 15 newly developed "Parents as Partners" volunteers. They significantly extend our capacity and reach.

Our School Readiness Project, focused on the Waianae Coastline, commenced service of our new mobile Screening Van, donated in 2013 by community partner Solderholm Bus Sales and Leasing, to determine possible developmental, hearing or vision problems throughout the Coastline for two through five year old children. We believe the earlier the intervention, the better for the child's ultimate success in school and life.

Much needed eyeglasses were among purchases made from financial awards presented to children through our Persons in Need Program funded by the Kitaro Watanabe Fund at Hawaii Community Foundation. This year, over eight children will receive financial assistance to address a particular disability, health or education related problem.

Surrounded by like-minded, nonprofit agencies at the Kukui Center, LDAH hopes for many more years of vintage productivity.

Foster Youth recruit board members

The Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition (HFYC) has been in the midst of change. We have been reaching out, recruiting, and collaborating. We collaborated with Hale Kipa and Susannah Westley Community Center for our Real World Event. This year's Real World Event was a great turn out. We doubled our numbers from the past two years.

We are also recruiting new board members. We are looking for former or current displaced or foster youth who are at least 16-26 years of age, and committed to responsibilities to join our team. HFYC has also been throwing events recently. For example, on November 14, 2014 HFYC and Kids Hurt Too Hawaii collaborated to host a Game Day event. The turnout was great.

We also held a Thanksgiving Dinner on November 26 for current or former foster youth that did not have a place to go for Thanksgiving. It was hosted by Seymour and Sue Kazimirski and included delicious turkey with all the trimmings. The Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition is changing for the better for former and current displaced



Foster Youth learned about financial literacy and other life skills at the Real World event.

youth. "We will not be a statistic, we will be the next Doctors, the next Psychologist, the next President of the United States, and we will be proud to be Former Foster Youth" –Lehua Kaopio

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Winter 2014



Harry and Jeanette Weinberg
Kukui Center

Our Family Of Social Services

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President

Clyde Namu'o
Vice President

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Executive Director

Lorraine Gershun

Community Partners

Program Coordinator

Kukuchildrensfoun@hawaii.rr.com

Family Promise of Hawaii

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

Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center at LASH

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

Hawaii Literacy Literacy and lifelong learning services

(808) 537-6706
www.hawaiiliteracy.org

Joyful Heart Foundation

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

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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