

caring for kupuna • keiki • community as `ohana WAIKIKI COMMUNITY CENTER IMPACT REPORT 2017/2018





1978: Governor Ariyoshi at Waikiki Community Center opening ceremon

#### Aloha Kākou!

In 2018, the Waikiki Community Center (WCC) marked its' 40th year of caring for kupuna, keiki and community as 'ohana.

Waikiki and our surrounding communities have experienced a huge surge in need for kokua due to the rising cost of housing; limited availability of affordable, quality preschools; homelessness; reduction of other assistance programs; and the aging of our growing senior population.

Despite these challenges, WCC had a banner 40th year with tremendous growth in serving as a "one stop shop" for human services, social support, education, and wellness for Waikiki's families, keiki and seniors. Through our preschool, senior, visitor and community programs, more than 20,000 individuals annually receive the assistance they need to be healthy, safe and prosperous. Through our six partner non-profit organizations located on the WCC campus as well other community groups, we serve as a gathering place for over 95,000 people each year.

With your help, we can create a community where we all thrive.

Mahalo nui loa for your support!





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# Kupuna We helped 6,923 kupuna lead active, meaningful lives, both contributing to community and receiving support.

#### Two seniors in crisis are helping one another...

At 84, Selitha (right), was terrified she would become homeless when her rent increased by \$400 per month. Although she works as a caregiver to supplement her small social security income, the increase meant she had to draw from her meager savings that would run out in a few short months.

Meanwhile, Chieko (left), was experiencing significant memory issues, causing her to forget to pay her bills and even to eat. WCC staff put the two ladies together and they hit it off. Selitha rented a room in Chieko's condo for a reduced rate in exchange for helping. But Selitha doesn't assist Chieko out of obligation - they have forged a wonderful friendship.

However, they still faced challenges as Chieko could no longer work. At the end of 2018, Selitha became one of the first recipients of a new rental subsidy program for seniors in need that WCC started in partnership with the Institute for Human Services. The assistance puts her on more stable financial footing.

# **Active Aging**

WCC promotes lifestyles that keep seniors engaged physically, mentally and socially. Having meaningful, rich lives through the end of our lives keeps us healthy and active as we age and allows us to continue contributing to community. Our Active Aging initiatives focus on VOLUNTEERISM, EMPLOYMENT & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT.

#### "Given the rapid growth of the older adult population, it is unlikely that Hawaii will ever have enough resources...for long-term supports... attention needs to be placed on...an active aging approach."

-The State of Active Aging, Executive Office on Aging



# Chieko & Selitha

# Helping Seniors in Need

often have a variety of urgent challenges that cannot be addressed by one program, service or even agency. We fill this gap by...

# Coordinating Services

We help seniors overcome the BARRIERS to resources.

ACCESS - Often seniors cannot access existing services due to unawareness, complex qualification requirements and/or application processes.

MANAGING MULTIPLE SERVICES - Most seniors in need have multiple challenges that require many different services/programs. Each resource has its own set of requirements and processes, which can be overwhelming.

## Partnering

We work with a wide array of individuals/institutions to help some of our most vulnerable seniors stabilize and move forward, including many at risk for becoming homeless. At times there is no service to meet a need. We put together creative, individualized solutions working with other nonprofits, government agencies, businesses, individual volunteers, landlords, and others who are willing to work with us in support of our kupuna.





#### AT-RISK CHILDREN WHO DON'T RECEIVE HIGH-QUALITY EARLY LEARNING ARE...

**25%** more likely to drop out of school

**40%** more likely to become a teen parent

**50%** more likely to be placed in special education

**60%** more likely to never attend college

**70%** more likely to be arrested for a violent crime

# closing the achievement gap for Keiking of the achievement gap for % low-to-moderate income families\* % met developmental benchmarks\*

\*2018

# 1 million

...the number of connections a baby's brain forms per second. Birth to age five is the most rapid period of brain development, setting the foundation for all future learning and success.

#### Keiki Building Community



"...rubbish goes down the sewer into the ocean and the sea animals eat it and get sick." Classroom Mano chose to explore the effect of litter on our oceans as part of a 'water' theme for our Keiki Building Community (KBC) program. Students walked around the neighborhood picking up trash and used it for an educational mural (photo left). Then, to reduce trash, they created vertical gardens with single-use plastic bottles. KBC is a service learning program unique to WCC preschool. Service learning is a proven teaching/learning strategy where children make connections between classroom learning and community issues.

# FAMILY SKILLS

**DOING U** 

Family engagement in the early years is linked to success in kindergarten and beyond by the Harvard Family Research Project.



**6**\* more confident supporting their children's learning at home

% engaged with teachers

**%** participate in family education activities

\*increase from 2013 to 2018

# Community WE'RE STRONGER TOGETHERI

Sticks in a bundle cannot be broken. - African Proverb

**NON PROFIT PARTNERS** WCC partners with other nonprofits on our campus so community members can access a wider array of programs and services.

Hope Chapel Waikiki Legacy Foundation **United Self Help** Waikiki Beach Chaplaincy \*2018 partners

# of people served through our emergency food pantry **1,877**\* FEEDING THE HUNGRY

**HELPING KUPUNA IN NEED** # of case management contacts with kupuna in need

**COMMUNITY EDUCATION** 

6,06

cumulative # of participants in education, cultural & wellness activities

13,633\*

#### **GATHERING PLACE**

# of people gathering for community events such as community projects, condo associations and the Waikiki Neighborhood Board



# mobilizing community Disaster Preparedness ...taking action with/for our community

The January 13, 2018 false missile alert was a wakeup call. Our community members expressed concern about improving disaster preparedness, particularly for some of our most vulnerable residents. What would happen to our more than 30% senior residents, many of whom are low-income, live alone and have mobility issues in case of a real disaster?

WCC collaborated with nine agencies/businesses to help prepare low-income seniors for a disaster. Our coalition built an informal network to link seniors with Emergency Management information. We coordinated disaster preparedness trainings, built a database of buildings where our seniors live and created/distributed 350 emergency kits (photo right).

#### **OUR COMMUNITY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PARTNERS**

Age Friendly Honolulu • City & County Retired & Senior Volunteer Program • Hawaiiana Management • Hawaii Meals on Wheels • Institute for Human Services • Kapiolani Community College Service and Sustainability Learning Program • The Mindfulness Learning Center • Saint Augustine's Church • Waikiki Elementary School Food Farm



# \$20,000+

Aloha United Way Atherton Foundation The Cooke Foundation G.N. Wilcox Trust Hawaii Community Foundation McInerny Foundation Ouida and Doc Hill Foundation Samuel N. & Mary Castle Foundation

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# Mahalo to Our 2017/2018 Donors!

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#### Walkiki Beach Activities

# \$1,000-2,999

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#### THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT...

Kimari, a single mom of three boys, is able to send her son Austin to WCC Preschool, where he loves drawing, monkeys and Star Wars. Kimari is grateful for the tuition assistance she receives, without which she could not afford preschool for Austin.

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#### Miranda & Basilio Give/Get Aloha

One day, Miranda and Basilio, emergency food pantry customers, noticed that the food pantry volunteer had not been at the Center for a while. Our staff, Han, told them the volunteer was no longer able to come. The couple wanted to give back since the food pantry had really helped them. They started helping to bag and distribute food and are now regular volunteers. Their smiles are infectious - Basilio is soft spoken, while Miranda enjoys meeting new people and talking about life, family and her volunteer work. Their help allows us to serve throusands of other food pantry clients annually.





310 Paoakalani Ave. • Honolulu, Hawaii 96815 • (808) 923-1802 info@waikikicommunitycenter.org • www.waikikicommunitycenter.org



[Audited financials prepared by Ohata, Chun & Yuen]



