In collaboration with Helping Hands Hawai‘i and the Hawai‘i State Department of Health, Catholic Charities Hawai‘i launched the Hawai‘i Pathways Project (HIPP) to address homelessness on O‘ahu through a “housing first” model. Through this effort Helping Hands Hawai‘i focuses on providing health services, while Catholic Charities Hawai‘i focuses on the housing element.

“Regardless of the reason why a person or a family may become homeless, our mission calls us to advocate for the dignity and compassionate treatment of all people, regardless of their faith,” explains Jerry Rauckhorst, President and CEO of Catholic Charities Hawai‘i. “We believe that homelessness cannot be solved without the increase of affordable housing rental units. Hence, our programs are designed to help people move into or maintain affordable permanent housing and attain self-sufficiency.”

Hawai‘i Pathways Project services provide interim housing, housing placement, counseling, financial and material assistance, case management, employment training, budgeting and tenant education including workshops on the Landlord-Tenant Code. Priorities include funding for the development of “micro-units” that are small efficiency apartments; and for the Housing First program, including expansion to the neighbor islands and continued support for the Rental Housing Trust Fund.

The current Hawai‘i Pathways Project team consists of a mental health professional, a psychiatrist, a housing specialist, and a nurse, among others. “The incorporation of assertive outreach, accessibility to service team members 24 hours per day, and individualized, time-unlimited services is what makes this project unique,” explains Adrian Contreras, HIPP Program Coordinator at Catholic Charities Hawai‘i.

“Pathways gives me more than rent and a place to live. They’ve given me a team of people that I can honestly talk with,” explains Damien, one of Hawai‘i Pathways Project’s current clients. “I feel like people care about me and that I matter.” Another client, William, a 61-year-old man who grew up with a father who enforced physical discipline at all times, sees himself living for at least 25 more years. “I can see by how much they call and visit me and take care of me that they really do care.”

To date, the Hawai‘i Pathways Project has enrolled 64 chronically homeless single adults into its program, and referred another 134 clients who potentially meet eligibility.
A message from Christopher Dang, Chairman of the Board and Jerry Rauckhorst, President and CEO

At Catholic Charities Hawai‘i, we are a community of hope that promotes the dignity of each person by helping others empower themselves through programs and advocacy efforts. And, often this takes collaboration with others in our community.

For the past four years, Catholic Charities Hawai‘i, in partnership with Child & Family Service, Goodwill Industries, Lanakila Pacific and Partners in Development Foundation, has been spearheading collective impact methods/initiatives to further political and community will toward more public-private partnerships that have real impact in addressing complex social problems.

Collective Impact is defined as the process through which organizations from various sectors agree to solve a specific social problem using a common agenda, shared measurement, continuous communication, and mutually reinforcing activities among all participants.

With the help of leadership from both the private and public sectors, real social change is being made. For example, the Homeless Work Group, co-chaired by Catholic Charities Hawai‘i’s own Rona Fukumoto, Housing and Referral Programs Division Administrator, has made strides toward reducing Hawai‘i’s homeless rates through the use of a Collective Impact framework.

Together, with over 38 different nonprofit and government agencies, significant achievements have been made, including adoption of a common assessment form used by all government and nonprofit providers, alignment of City and State contracts for Housing First and coordination of referrals through a single entry point, and positive activity on O‘ahu in identifying, assessing and providing permanent housing for the most vulnerable and chronically homeless.

More is needed, but we’re confident that many of our most serious social problems can be alleviated if nonprofits, governments, businesses and the public continue to be brought together around a common agenda to create collective impact.

We’re proud of the role we’re playing and hope we can continue to count on your support to make the greatest impact.

Mahalo for supporting Catholic Charities Hawai‘i.

OUR MISSION:
Helping people in need to help themselves, regardless of their faith

OUR CORE VALUES:
Dignity of each person calls us to reverence the God-given life and dignity of each person at every stage and condition of life.
Students from the Center for Tomorrow’s Leaders teamed up with Catholic Charities Hawai‘i to hold its first Landlord Summit on February 12, 2015 in the Friends of Catholic Charities Community Hall. More than 30 landlords attended the event, which showcased Catholic Charities’ Housing First Program - the Hawai‘i Pathways Project. This program is a collaborative project of Catholic Charities Hawai‘i, Helping Hands Hawai‘i, and the Hawai‘i State Department of Health.

Student leaders Sierra Doi, D.J. Carlos, Jeremy Liu, Kyla George and advisor April Nakamura worked diligently with Catholic Charities Hawai‘i staff to plan and carry out the event and presented an overview of the Housing First model and the need for more housing units. CTL identifies young leaders across our state and trains them in comprehensive, character-focused programs.

The Hawai‘i Pathways Project aims to give program participants all the support they need by housing them first and then providing individualized community-based services and support to achieve positive outcomes for a safe, stable and sustainable standard of living. As the project is currently facing a shortage of available housing units, the Landlord Summit was designed to encourage more landlords’ participation.

“It sounds obvious, but housing is the best way to help the homeless,” said President & CEO Jerry Rauckhorst. “The project covers all missing payments, as well as any damage that may occur during the time the client resides in the unit, so it’s a win-win for all involved. Landlords will gain a tenant and support a person in need while clients gain a roof over their heads.”

Mahalo to the Center for Tomorrow’s Leaders for their outstanding work in coordinating the Landlord Summit with the Catholic Charities Hawai‘i team!

CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI‘I CO-SPONSORS SOCIAL ADVOCACY FORUM

Catholic Charities Hawai‘i, PHOCUSED, and Hawai‘i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice co-sponsored the 2015 Social Advocacy Forum on January 9, 2015. The Forum, held in our Friends of Catholic Charities Community Hall, offered an opportunity for diverse non-profit groups to share with each other the priority issues they plan to support during the 2015 Legislative Session. It also created opportunities for partnerships and collaboration.

OUR CORE VALUES:
Compassion calls us, as sisters and brothers, to be present with others in their suffering and need and to serve with a caring spirit.
OUR CORE VALUES: Social Justice calls us to be a community of hope that works to achieve the common good, promotes individual rights and responsibilities, and advocates on behalf of those with the greatest need.
HAWAI’I ISLAND LEGISLATORS VISIT CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI’I’S IMMIGRANT RESOURCE CENTER IN HILO

On January 7, 2015, Hawai’i island legislators had an opportunity to meet with some of our program clients and their families from six different countries to learn more about their experiences and how our Immigrant Resource Center helped them.

“We do whatever we can to help our clients find solutions. If they need something we cannot provide, we help them find other resources,” explains Program Supervisor Linda Spencer, one of three people in the state who are partially accredited to do immigration work. “We want our clients to walk away understanding enough to satisfy some of their needs, and feel confident they are welcome to return anytime with other requests for assistance.”

Catholic Charities Hawai’i opened its Immigrant Resource Center in Hilo in late 2013 to support the Office of Community Services of the Hawai’i State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. Due to an extraordinarily large demand for immigrant services, Catholic Charities Hawai’i’s Immigrant Resource Center staff have been busy providing acculturation, referrals, citizenship, and English classes, as well as connecting clients with interpretation and translation assistance, assistance in filing for immigration benefits and other community and family service needs.

A LEGACY OF HOPE

Several years ago, the legacy gift left by Virgil and Carmela Blank helped to ensure a safe and supportive home for women facing unplanned pregnancies through our Mary Jane Home. With this legacy gift, the Mary Jane Program continues to touch the lives of women with little income or no family support, providing them with help and hope during a time of great need.

A gift by Will or Trust is a simple way to leave a legacy. Your philanthropic commitment today can help Catholic Charities shape a wide range of programs serving those in need – from keiki to kupuna – and will have an impact for generations to come.

Don’t Have a Will? You’re not alone! Now is a great time to start planning. Please consider including a bequest to Catholic Charities Hawai’i in your estate plans; contact us for suggested “bequest language” and our tax ID number to share with your attorney. For more information, please call Janice Nillias Knapp, Vice President - Development, at (808) 527-4822 or email janice.knapp@catholiccharitieshawaii.org.

If you’ve already included Catholic Charities Hawai’i in your estate plans, mahalo nui loa for your generosity and legacy of hope.

OUR CORE VALUES:
Commitment to Excellence calls us to serve competently and collaboratively.