



CATHOLIC  
CHARITIES HAWAII

# HopeConnection

SUMMER 2018 • CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII NEWSLETTER

## Aging with Grace Meheula Vista Senior Housing



Meheula Vista senior housing resident Mary enjoys meeting people and helping others. On the mainland, she was a baker who worked her way up in the operation. After she retired, she enjoyed spending her time volunteering and spending time with her husband. She spent more time helping at her church and lived on a

fixed income. After her husband and best friend passed away, she decided to move to Hawaii to be closer to her daughter. The cost of living, however, was initially a shock, and living on a fixed income she needed to find an affordable place to live. With the help of her family, she learned about our Meheula Vista senior housing complex in Mililani Mauka, which opened last year. When fully completed, the complex will have 300 affordable rental units for our kupuna.

Being surrounded by other seniors, one of the best features of living at the senior apartment complex is that it is quiet - she feels safe and she has her own space to age in place with others who are doing the same. When exercise classes were first offered, Mary was so excited and texted, emailed and called her neighbors to join the activity. Staying active and healthy is an important part of her life. She knows that some of the residents do not have family or a support system so she spends time with them or offers to help if needed. She and some of the other residents go walking at least once a week. She is also interested in volunteering in the community.

CCH provides on-site case management services at Meheula Vista to help residents with the assessment of their needs, service coordination, counseling and

advocacy. When Mary needed help to get some of her personal affairs in order, they helped her access documents to transfer her driver's license, get her car registration and insurance updated, and organize her bills so she could be self-sufficient. This experience gives her more of a sense of independence.

They are gracious, kind, compassionate..."she describes her CCH case managers at Meheula Vista, "there are not enough words, they have helped me so much."

Mary feels blessed by her experience and wants to continue to live a healthy and active lifestyle. She is excited to see the senior living complex grow around her and looks forward to new friends and activities in the future.



*Catholic Charities Hawaii recently dedicated the second phase of Meheula Vista senior housing complex in Mililani Mauka. Meheula Vista provides low-income seniors with an affordable permanent living option, offering supportive services so residents can "age in place." When all four phases of the housing complex are completed, the complex will offer a total of 300 affordable one-bedroom rental units for kupuna.*

# Message from the Board Chair and the President & Chief Executive Officer

Aloha,

Our ability to adapt to the changing needs began with the Maryknoll Sisters as they embarked on their journey in the 1940's to provide for the needs of the community in Hawai'i. From our early beginnings in helping orphans and provide family counseling, today we serve people in need through homeless and housing services, foster resource family homes and training, counseling, services for seniors, advocacy for immigrants, outreach and intervention for at-risk families, disaster recovery services and more.

As affordable housing continues to be a big issue throughout Hawai'i we continue to look for solutions to ease this critical need. In 2015, we broke ground to build our first dedicated housing project for seniors on the island of Oahu. This year we dedicated phase two of that project which along with phase one dedicated in 2017, now provides 150 affordable rental units for seniors. We shared this with you in our cover story and will keep you updated as we complete the last two housing phases in the future.

Recent natural disasters have overtaken our thoughts and prayers in Hawaii. Many of us have family and friends who have been affected by the flooding on Kauai and Oahu and the volcanic activity on Hawai'i Island. Relief and recovery efforts are underway and we are working with our community partners to determine the gap needs where we can best provide assistance.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i has been awarded \$20,000 in emergency seed grants through the national organization, Catholic Charities USA, for both areas being affected by the recent natural disasters. Public donations and other qualifying CCH funding supplementing the emergency grant money will go directly for rent subsidies, emergency home repairs and other related needs to those who apply and qualify. Visit our website to make a gift at [www.CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org).

Our strategic plan to strengthen programs serving mission-aligned populations and pursue innovative endeavors is the focus of our goals. Our plan has three main objectives: 1) increase services on our neighbor islands to provide more resources for the growing needs; 2) strengthen our brand identification for better recognition of our work through improved branding efforts; and 3) develop an improved volunteer system to further our mission and transform engaged supporters.

We are grateful for your support in our work to serve the community and its ever changing needs. Working together, we are here for the long-term. Thank you for walking alongside with us as we continue to reach out to help those with the greatest need.



David Shanahan  
Chair, Board  
of Directors



Terry Walsh  
President & Chief  
Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Shanahan".

David Shanahan, Col. Ret.  
Chair, Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T.L. Walsh Jr.".

Terrance L. Walsh Jr., MBA, MSW  
President & Chief Executive Officer



## Donor HIGHLIGHT Karyn Tercy

I was given up for adoption to Catholic Charities shortly after my birth. Fortunately, I was adopted by a wonderful young couple. Two years later, they adopted a baby boy through Catholic Charities. Sadly, a year and a half later our mother died of a heart attack and my father was left alone with two children under the age of five.

Our father was a wonderful man who attended Mass regularly. He found a widow through church who also had two children and they married. Suddenly our family grew from three to six. Our parents had three more children over the next few years. We all worked together to care for each other and the house Dad built for us.

When I was 19, I dropped out of college and moved to California to seek my fortune. I unexpectedly got pregnant and was ashamed of myself, so I told no one. The baby's father was nothing like my father and although he offered to marry me, I turned him down since I did not want my baby to grow up with him. I thought about the wonderful family I had because of adoption and decided to give my baby that chance. I knew this would be the hardest thing I would ever face in my life, but I knew if I could do it, my baby had good odds of being raised by people who loved him.

*Karyn named Catholic Charities Hawaii as a beneficiary in her charitable remainder trust to leave a lasting legacy and show appreciation for all the work CCH does in the community. Mahalo Karyn, for sharing your story and for your support!*

I married a few years later, and my husband and I moved to Hawaii and I have been here ever since. Sadly, my husband died before his 49th birthday.

Twenty years ago, my son found me and we have been a family ever since. His parents supported his search and were very supportive of both of us.

In December of last year when three of my siblings and their spouses came to Hawaii to celebrate my youngest brother's birthday, I had an amazing experience. We spent a week together playing tourist and spending quality time with each other. At three o'clock in the morning of the day three of my family members were leaving, I woke up and saw a flash of light in the dark room. I was overcome with a feeling of love and gratitude for being adopted by this family. I shared this experience with my siblings. God had a reason for bringing us all together.

Thank you to Catholic Charities for making this possible and for giving me my wonderful family.

---

## PATHWAYS TO POSSIBILITIES

# Horizons Youth Transition Program

As a former foster youth, Billy experienced many challenges during his childhood. He was raised by a mother consumed by drug addiction. He eventually developed his own addictions at a young age, followed by a number of rehabilitation programs. He was temporarily placed in foster care and this experience proved to be deeply traumatic. Confused and full of self-doubt, he was shuttled from one foster home to another.

Eventually his older sister was able to serve as his legal guardian and she helped him through his remaining school years. Despite his challenges, he was a great student, graduated from high school and attended University of Hawaii on a scholarship. But Billy found his newfound freedom overwhelming. He was distracted and missed classes – he felt lost and had to re-evaluate his priorities.

A community outreach program recommended that he seek CCH's Horizons Program, which provides an independent living

program and outreach to young adults ages 18 to 25 who are transitioning or stepping-down from foster care or other youth services. The Horizons team helps the young adults gain a sense of stability, determine their goals to enhance their life skills and provide a home in a group setting with other young adults.

Billy shares, "I highly recommend that if someone is interested in the Horizons program, they see what it is all about. Horizons has been an incredible support for my growth."

Billy's CCH transition specialist Ryan Toma mentors him as he seeks advice towards his personal development. During his time at the Horizons home, Billy restarted his education at LCC, earning a 4.0 grade average last semester and is focused on building a plan for the future.

We are excited to see Billy's path unfold as he fulfills his true potential!



Catholic Charities Hawaii Island Advisory Board I-r: Terry-Lee Shibuya, Beth Murph (CCH Hawaii Island Community Dir.), Kathy Leopoldino, Shirley Dizon, Terry Walsh (CCH Pres. & CEO), Shirley David, Keoki Wood, Rebecca Yonamine (CCH Neighbor Island Dir.), Rev. Konelio Faletoi, Joanne Agdeppa, Cynthia Taylor Missing: Laura Camara, Craig Camello, Craig Higaki, David Kurohara, Rev. Stephen Macedo, Jody Montell, Michael Ross, Don Watson, Gail Watson, Rev. Paul Dong Min Li



Friends of Catholic Charities Next Gen held a Spring Pau Hana at The Townhomes at The Collection and DryBar Hawaii. Steering Committee Members: Doug Smith, Melissa Benjamin, Roger Wall and Tracy Wong.



Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center members and staff, AARP, Walk Wise Kupuna and other community volunteers took to the streets in May to remind drivers to drive with aloha by looking out for pedestrians.



CCH Kauai 'ohana and community partners gathered for a blessing and open house of CCH's new Kauai Community Office in Lihue in June. Back Row (L to R): Carol Simon, Linda Vass, Mayor Bernard Carvalho, Ella Marcil, Jennifer Marcil, Damione Verducco, Matthew Murray; Front Row (L to R): Crystal Caday-Bargayo, Debra de Luis, Frederick Constantino, Rebecca Yonamine, Tina Andrade, Terry Walsh, Councilmember Derek Kawakami, Kaulana Finn

*give*  
beyond your years



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

Catholic Charities Hawai'i is proud to be a partner with the Hawai'i Community Foundation in its Legacy Giving Campaign.

Consider remembering Catholic Charities Hawai'i in your will, making a gift directly from your IRA or establishing a charitable gift annuity.

Your legacy gift can be tailored to meet your own financial needs while at the same time providing a lasting legacy of support for Catholic Charities Hawai'i's programs and services. For more information, please contact our Development office at (808) 527-4820 or [development@catholiccharitieshawaii.org](mailto:development@catholiccharitieshawaii.org).



## Support Recovery Efforts on Kaua'i & Hawai'i Island

Your help is needed in the long-term recovery efforts of the Kaua'i and O'ahu floods and the volcanic activity on Hawai'i Island.

Make your gift today to Catholic Charities Hawai'i to make a difference in the lives of families and individuals who need direct support now.

Ways you can make a tax deductible donation:

Online: [www.catholiccharitieshawaii.org/relief-support](http://www.catholiccharitieshawaii.org/relief-support)

By Phone - Call (808) 527-4820

By Mail - Complete the donation form on our website & mail with your gift to:

Catholic Charities Hawai'i, 1822 Ke'eumoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96822

For more information visit: [www.catholiccharitieshawaii.org/relief-support](http://www.catholiccharitieshawaii.org/relief-support)



Photo courtesy of S. Johnson



CLARENCE T. C. CHING CAMPUS  
1822 Ke'eaumoku Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822-3001

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Honolulu, HI  
Permit No. 1242

CATHOLIC  
CHARITIES HAWAII

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

**1822 KE'EAUMOKU STREET • HONOLULU, HI 96822 • (808) 524-4673**

KAUAI: 4373 Rice Street, Suite 1 • Lihue, Hawaii 96766 • (808) 241-4673

HILO: 62 Kinoole Street • Hilo, HI 96720 • (808) 935-4673

KONA: 73-5618 Maiiau Street, Suite B201 • Kailua-Kona, HI 96740 • (808) 331-4673

MAUI: 2050 Main Street, Suite 3A • Wailuku, HI 96793 • (808) 873-4673

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

### OUR MISSION:

Helping people in need to help themselves, regardless of their faith of each person calls us to reverence the God-given life and dignity of each person at every stage and condition of life.

### 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.

**Compassion** calls us, as sisters and brothers, to be present with others in their suffering and need and to serve with a caring spirit.

**Dignity** of each person calls us to reverence the God-given life and dignity of each person at every stage and condition of life.

**Commitment** to Excellence calls us to serve competently and collaboratively.



Catholic  
Charities  
USA®

