



Hope

CONNECTION

CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII NEWSLETTER • SUMMER 2022

COMPASSION FOR THOSE FACING SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES IN SOCIETY

Hale Mālama, which means house of healing, is a specialized foster care program for infants and toddlers ages 0-3 with complex health care needs. The program's mission is to provide a safe, loving and nurturing environment allowing children to reach their full potential. It encourages and works directly with birth parents/families to learn to care for their child(ren).

Janine had a poignant realization when her six-month-old biological daughter was diagnosed with a hole in her heart and had to endure open-heart surgery at 20 months. The process was terrifying. During their stay at the hospital, there was a little baby next door who never received any visitors and she thought, "I could hold that baby. I could be his someone." That was when she started thinking about becoming a foster parent.

When she learned about CCH's Hale Mālama Program, Janine knew that this was what she wanted to do. Together with her husband, Jon, they became licensed specialized resource caregivers. Shortly after that, they received a call about a five-pound baby girl at the hospital who needed a safe place to call home. They were a little intimidated by her list of medical needs and family situation. But all it took was a few hours of cuddles to convince them that there was no turning back. Although reunification is a goal of foster programs, circumstances occurred and that was not possible for their foster infant. Janine and her family immediately felt a special connection to Jael and eighteen months later they officially adopted her. Today she is a healthy, thriving four-year-old.

A few weeks after their daughter's adoption they received another call regarding a toddler



boy with serious medical issues. He required an intense amount of time and attention along with numerous weekly trips to the hospital. He had a long list of challenges that only seemed to grow with every doctor's visit. It was grueling to manage his numerous weekly trips to the hospital and care for their children at home. The projected 2-3 months recovery period stretched to 27 months. It was not possible for Jayce to return to his family and he was wholeheartedly adopted by Janine and Jon this past December.

Foster care is not easy. It has brought Janine to the very end of herself, "and just when I think I have nothing more to give, somebody wakes up in the middle of the night and needs something more. CCH has always been by my side—whether it's helping carry kids and bags and paperwork in and out of the hospital, taking notes when the doctor is giving out important information, or just holding the baby for a little so I can drink my coffee while it's hot. The only way we've been able to endure the rollercoaster of emotions and the overwhelming responsibility of caring for a child with medical needs, is because of the support we've received from Catholic Charities." Her favorite aspect of Hale Mālama is that it works directly with the biological families. "Even though my two adopted children no longer live with their biological families, the connection that we share with their parents has been the biggest blessing. They will always be a part of our story and our lives."

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO



ROB VAN TASSELL
President & CEO

Aloha CCH Ohana,

While visiting with a group of social workers in Washington, D.C., Pope Francis exclaimed "We can find no social or moral justification whatsoever, for lack of housing." Catholic Charities Housing Development Corporation (CCHDC) was launched in 1999 to provide safe and affordable housing for people throughout Hawai'i.

Former Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) President & CEO, Jerry Rauckhorst, stated: "In the mid-1990s, CCH had the realization that having people housed in safe and secure housing was key to their success. While working with landlords was often fruitful, it also presented many challenges. A more direct strategy to achieve the deep, lasting and effective impact we were looking for was for CCH to develop its own housing."

CCHDC, a subsidiary of CCH, now serves more than 500 households on O'ahu and Maui. While CCHDC continues to plan and develop affordable rental projects, CCH continues to provide high quality, essential services. CCHDC's new developments are guided by experienced and knowledgeable CCH team members who are familiar with Hawai'i's housing needs. The team works together with our developers and community partners to help identify new housing opportunities and service population, site layout, unit design, amenities, programs and services that will be available to tenants.

Today, CCHDC serves low-income families and seniors as follows:

- Meheula Vista - 225 units of affordable senior housing on O'ahu, with 75 additional units under construction; a total of 300 units is scheduled for completion in the Spring/Summer of 2024.
- Kahului Lani - 165 units of affordable senior housing on Maui complete and fully occupied.
- Two other properties serving low-income families on O'ahu.

CCHDC has set a trajectory to continue developing and acquiring properties every year. In answering the call of Pope Francis, CCHDC has many more affordable housing properties in the pipeline including family housing on Maui and low-income senior housing in Honolulu.

As we look toward addressing future community needs, we know that real affordable housing will be the key to maintaining stable housing and keeping homeless numbers low. We truly value your partnership to continue to strengthen our island community.

With aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Van Tassell". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rob Van Tassell

DONOR HIGHLIGHT

BOB HARRISON

Bob Harrison has an infectious smile that lights up a room. His genuine kindness and concern for others is evident moments after meeting him. His philanthropic spirit began many years ago when he worked on the Fort Apache reservation in northeastern Arizona. While there he developed tremendous compassion for the people he met. "They had one of the most difficult existences I have ever seen - they had no hope. That's what struck me the most. They had things that were given to them that they didn't value because they weren't aligned with their culture. They didn't have hope to look to a better future. I think that one of the things that Catholic Charities does through its values, and its mission is to first get people stability, because without stability, it's hard to think past am I going to eat today? Am I going to have a place to sleep? Am I going to be safe? Catholic Charities gives people hope."

Since 2012, Bob has been the President and Chief Executive Officer of First Hawaiian Bank. He joined the Catholic Charities Hawai'i Board of Advisors that same year. Some of Bob's nonprofit board commitments (past & present) include: Aloha Harvest, Blood Bank of Hawai'i, Chaminade University and Hawai'i Community Foundation. He is the current board chair of HMSA, a member of Sacred Heart parish and served on the Diocesan Finance committee for 10 years.



The core values of CCH resonated with Bob's commitment to providing help and hope to those in need. He believes that CCH seeks to serve all people and has proven to be trustworthy for 75 years. "You do all the things all of us wish we had time to do to help the community. The support Catholic Charities provides to help the community allows us to feel good about helping those who don't have enough."

CCH is blessed to have pillars of the community, like Bob Harrison, as a member of our Board of Advisors. He brings us his business acumen, his valuable time, compassion and support. Mahalo to Bob for his continued commitment to our community and to First Hawaiian Bank for being the presenting sponsor for our 75th anniversary!

WAYS TO GIVE

Our mission is to provide a wide range of social services to all people especially those in greatest need, regardless of their faith and culture. Our vision is to be your trusted partner in advocacy.

This year we celebrate our 75th year of service and with your support we can continue the legacy of our founders. Here are ways you can make your gift:



Make a gift online:
www.CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org/donate



To make a gift by phone:
(808) 527-4820



Make checks payable to Catholic Charities Hawai'i and mail to:
**Catholic Charities Hawaii Development Department
1822 Ke'eumoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96822**



For more information and options, scan the QR code with your mobile device.

A MOTHER'S STORY ON OVERCOMING ADVERSITY

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many families faced unexpected hardships while already struggling to make ends meet - like Lauren, a young single mother who is on a limited income.

In 2019, a work accident left Lauren with crippling injuries and unable to work. She underwent surgical treatment, followed by rehab and numerous medical appointments. While still recovering in 2020, the pandemic created new complications and stress while she was still trying to heal from her injuries. She took out loans to cover her rent, her pre-teen daughter needed virtual classes for school while managing juvenile diabetes, and her housemates who covered part of the rent moved out.

Food drives and the food bank became their food source. It was a struggle to obtain healthy food options for her daughter. It was very stressful and uncertain. There was constant worry about how they could keep a roof over their heads.

Sympathetic to her situation, Lauren's landlord learned about Catholic Charities Hawai'i and encouraged her to reach out. She was so grateful when she was told that she qualified for COVID rent relief and was able to move forward.



Today in 2022, Lauren is caught up in her rent, she continues to regain her health, and remains housed. She recently received her GED and is working on furthering her education while working on her career goals. Her daughter is back in school in the classroom. Lauren shares, "Because of Catholic Charities, our lives have changed...we are beyond grateful for this rare opportunity and we intend to make the most of our precious lives here on earth."

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Housing Stability

Catholic Charities Hawai'i helped the following families, kupuna, and other individuals through emergency funding services.



52,192
QUALIFIED
RENTERS

\$146,556,662

FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE

(March 2020 – May 2022)

State Rent Relief and
Housing Assistance Program

21,911 RENTERS

\$37,823,197

*program has ended

State Rent and Mediation
Program

5,469 RENTERS

\$551,607

*program has ended

O'ahu Rental and Utility
Relief Program

19,488 RENTERS

\$76,146,768

Maui Emergency Rental
Assistance Program

5,324 RENTERS

\$26,635,090

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

CCH Around the Community



Blue Pinwheels Planted by Girls Scouts for Child Abuse Prevention Month



Children's Mental Health Awareness Month Sign Waving



CCH Celebrates its 75th Anniversary at Waikoloa Beach, Hawai'i



Kaua'i Office Blessing



2022 Board of Advisors Reception at The Pacific Club



Kaua'i Leadership Council and CCH Kaua'i Staff at the 75th Anniversary Celebration



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

www.CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org



OUR MISSION:

We are a community of hope that promotes the dignity of each person by helping others empower themselves. We provide a wide range of social services with compassion and a commitment to excellence. Through our programs and our advocacy for social justice, we lovingly serve all people, especially those with the greatest need.

