

# Building Hope

The Newsletter of Family Promise of Hawai'i

*Building community, strengthening lives*

## From Our Family to Yours... Kim and Koa

There was a serious situation that I needed to take care of with my daughter and we could not live with our relatives anymore. So me, my daughter and husband moved out. We stayed with many different relatives of my husband's. I had a hard time living with his family because I always felt left out, and not part of the family. So we decided to call Family Promise. I talked to Christy and she told me that she could not help me at the moment, but I will be put on the wait-list. During the time I was waiting, I wanted to give up on life, and was ready to move to the mainland. We still stayed with his relatives and sometimes outside, until we got the call to come to Family Promise.

Family Promise pretty much had everything for us: shampoo, conditioner, razors, food and much, much more stuff. I have special diet needs and Family Promise did the best they could to make sure I had proper foods to eat. My daughter was the oldest child during most of our stay. She was like a big sister to the smaller children. She loved the computers and the play room.

My favorite part about staying overnight at the congregations was that they do make us feel welcome and comfortable. At one of the congregations, they were nice enough to buy foods that I'm allowed to eat just for me. I was and still am very grateful for that. My family



Kim and Koa's family in their new apartment with their landlord, Helen, a Family Promise volunteer.

received a Halloween gift basket from another congregation. It had backpacks for my daughter, and some other stuff.

Family Promise helped my family with bettering our relationship. I felt like I was always the one doing everything, and my husband and daughter seemed like they did not care that I was exhausted and burnt out. So Christy sat us down as a family so we could talk about how I was feeling. We got our feelings out, and are a much happier family.

Now that our time has come to move out of Family Promise, my family is happy and scared at the same time. Thank you so much to everyone at Family Promise.



## HOST CONGREGATIONS

Trinity Missionary Baptist Church  
First Baptist Church of Honolulu  
Church of the Crossroads  
Community Church of Honolulu  
Nu`uanu Congregational Church  
Temple Emanu-el  
Christ United Methodist Church  
Central Union Church  
United Church of Christ Judd Street  
First Christian Church of Honolulu  
St. John Vianney Church  
St. John's by the Sea  
St. Stephen's Catholic Church  
Kailua Christian Church  
Kailua Seventh Day Adventist  
Church  
Parker United Methodist Church  
St. Christopher's Episcopal Church  
Kailua United Methodist Church  
Christ Church Uniting Disciples and  
Presbyterians  
St. John Lutheran Church  
St. Mark Lutheran Church  
Holy Trinity Catholic Church  
Honolulu Japanese Seventh Day  
Adventist Church  
Central Seventh Day Adventist  
Church  
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Ha-  
waii – Honolulu District

## SUPPORT CONGREGATIONS

Windward Christian Church  
Kahaluu United Methodist Church  
Keolumana United Methodist  
Church  
Windward Unity Church  
St. George Catholic Church  
Christ the Foundation  
St. Ann's Catholic Church  
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Kaunakapili Church  
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Center  
Emmanuel Episcopal  
First Unitarian Church  
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
South Shore Christian Fellowship  
LDS – Hawaii Kai Ward  
Blessed Sacrament  
New Hope – Kailua  
St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
First Presbyterian Church of Hon-  
olulu



Happy 2013! Looking back, 2012 was another wonder-  
fully busy year at Family Promise. Here are a few of the high-  
lights:

- 116 parents and children were served in our regular pro-  
gram and 129 in our day program for waitlist families
- 10,696 shelter bed nights were provided and 32,088 meals
- 100% of our families maintained and/or secured employ-  
ment
- Financial counseling and case management were provided  
to all families

In addition, we welcomed several new support congregations  
in 2012: St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Kaunakapili Church, St. Augustine Church and  
First Presbyterian Church of Honolulu. These congregations assist host sites with volun-  
teers, meals and donations. We are so happy to have you as part of our commitment to  
changing the lives of Oahu's neediest families.

In October, several of our national Family Promise affiliates were greatly affect-  
ed by Hurricane Sandy. One affiliate lost four of their ten host congregations to severe  
damage done by Hurricane Sandy. The other host congregations stepped up and are fill-  
ing the void for those lost host site rotations. One support congregation also decided to  
become a permanent host site in order to provide much needed help during this time of  
rebuilding.

No matter where we are or what we are dealing with, communities across the  
country are continuing to aid those in need. I see this caring commitment in our Family  
Promise ohana each day and am reminded how wonderful it is to see people selflessly  
helping one another.

With Warmest Aloha,  
*Mary Saunders*

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## Reflections from a Coordinator

*By Dwight Ovitt from United Church of Christ Judd Street*

The United Church of Christ on Judd Street held our fourth Family Promise  
host week this year just before Christmas. Many new participants were involved in-  
cluding a large group of adults and youth from Kaunakapili Church. They prepared  
a dinner and entertained the families with Christmas carols and hula. These young  
people came from Waianae, Nanakuli and Kapolei and added a very special touch to  
our Family Promise week. Papa Dean Fujii our former associate pastor organized  
this event to assist our church's efforts to support our Family Promise families. This  
was their third time participating as a support congregation with our church.

One night was hosted by women from the church that served Chinese Food.  
One woman told our guests that they worked all day cooking but I know they went to  
a restaurant to pick up dinner. It was very good and enjoyed by all. Earlier in the af-  
ternoon I stopped by Kuakini Medical Center where I picked up four large boxes of  
donations for the four families. The items will help the families as they move into  
their own apartments. I brought along pictures of my Micronesian son, Juan Babau-  
ta, who is now 62 years old. He is from Saipan and was the former Governor. One of  
our guests lived in Saipan as a child and was surprised to hear me speak Chamorro.

*(continued on page 5)*

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The New Year always brings with it a lot of hope here at Family Promise. We HOPE that we will see more families move into housing. We HOPE that homelessness in general will decrease. We HOPE that more people will become employed in stable jobs. We keep on believing and we keep working at it!

So far, 2013 is off to a wonderful start. One of the best parts of the work we do is hearing from families who have graduated from the program. Since the year began, we have received calls or surprise visits from some who have been living in their homes for 4 or 5 years now!

It's a great feeling to know that they remain housed, maintain a steady and growing income that allows them to continue to support their families. Some families are actually doing better in many aspects of their lives than when they initially moved into housing. Others have even gone back to college, obtained better-paying jobs, and their children are exceling in school.

It's a beautiful thing when a former family just calls to say "Hello" and check in. In a way, maybe they find some sense of comfort in Family Promise-like someone calling "home" and talking to their parents from miles away. Just as I finished writing this, another family stopped by so we could see her sons and daughter who was still in utero when they left the program. She gave me an update on themselves and 3 other families they knew from the program. All four of them presently live in a 3 or 4- bedroom apartment. Now THAT's good news!!



**Christy MacPherson**  
*Program Manager*

## Family Promise of Hawai'i

69 North Kainalu Drive  
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734  
Phone: 808-261-7478

245 N. Kukui Street, Suite 101  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817  
Phone: 808-548-7478  
Fax: 808-548-7485

Website:  
[www.FamilyPromiseHawaii.org](http://www.FamilyPromiseHawaii.org)  
Email: [Director@FamilyPromiseHawaii.org](mailto:Director@FamilyPromiseHawaii.org)

The mission of Family Promise of Hawai'i is to mobilize existing community resources to aid families with children experiencing homelessness and help them transition to sustainable independence.

FPH is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Tax-deductible donations can be sent to the addresses above.

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*(continued from page 2)*

Several families also shared stories about their original homes back in Micronesia.


Another special day was when we had a magic show put on by Rev. Don Asman, our former pastor, followed by Bingo organized by yours truly. Also, we were able to

share gifts galore donated by Margaret Young and the church plus a large amount of gifts from Kuakini Hospital Nursing. Our guests made decorations and trimmed a Christmas tree donated by Pali Pre-School. That added a special touch to our host.

On the last day we had a special Christmas dinner including turkey, ham, stuffing, and vegetables. Volunteers spent all day making cookies for everyone that were decorated after dinner by the younger children while the older children finished out the evening with Bingo.

The families really appreciated all that was done for them because before they left Sunday morning they told a volunteer to tell everyone that they were very thankful for all that our church did for them that included Kaumakapili Church and youth group.

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Lams (Full-size sheets, pillow cases)  
Bath towels

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Having a birthday or special occasion soon? Celebrate your milestone and make a difference in the life of a child. Some of our donors have asked guests to make a gift to Family Promise of Hawai'i in lieu of a birthday or anniversary gift. Our youngest donor was five years old and requested donations be made to the children in our program instead of receiving birthday gifts. It's wonderful to see philanthropy starting at such an early age! To make a donation online, simply go to [www.familypromisehawaii.org](http://www.familypromisehawaii.org) and click on "Donate Now" or mail your donation to: 245 N. Kuku'i St., Suite 101, Honolulu, HI. 96817.

