

Building Hope

The Newsletter of Family Promise of Hawai'i

Building community, strengthening lives

From Our Family to Yours...

Before Family Promise my husband Junior, myself and our 4-year old daughter Junny came to Hawaii for medical assistance for Junny who is disabled. I was so worried to live on the street with my disabled daughter. We lived with relatives from 2011-2013 but it's hard to stay with friends or relatives because our names are not on their list and we are overcrowded. Through those years I applied for public housing and other low-income houses, but the problem was we didn't have enough money.

January of this year I looked back into my old newspaper and I found the name "Family Promise." I think they help and promise to their families to find a better way in their lives and their home." I was ashamed to call their number if they were going to accept my call. But my heart kept telling me to and then I did. Awesome!! The phone rang and a lady answered it. She said, "Hello? How can I help you?" Yes, I introduced myself, and after that I started asking her about the program. She told me that they help homeless families who have children. I told her, "Please, I really need your help. I'm homeless. I don't have my own house to live." She told me "I am going to put your family name down and I will call you back when we have an opening."

In February I received a call from Christy. She asked me if I was still interested in the program, and I said "yes I am." Then she made my appointment for interviewing. After that my family was qualified for the Day Program. In Family Promise they have assigned workers. They help us to make our budget to save money for our future house. They help the family to find a job. Family Promise is different from the other shelters. They don't charge the families because that's what they do to help the homeless families to save money to better



Junior and Antonita's family at their new home in Waianae visited by volunteers from Christ United Methodist Church.

their lives. They provided shampoo, soap, toothpaste, diapers, wipes, towels, pillows, food, school supplies, laundry, donations, etc. In Family Promise you can see much "Aloha." I felt so excited that I believed that my dream will come true..

On March 12 my family started in the program which means we are in the regular program at Family Promise days and nights. They have the interfaith congregations who volunteer to host the families to sleep during the night at their church. They provide us with beds, sheets, dinner and breakfast. I thank all the congregations for letting us stay and with you showing us your kindness, generosity and ALOHA. In Family Promise I met a lot of families I've never known before, but now we are one "like a feather of a bird lock together forever and we will be together."

My heart feels happy and there are many tears because we will miss the other families at Family Promise. Like I said, Family Promise, without you I wouldn't be standing on my own feet. I really thank you very much. I hope everything will continue on. You are doing very well for my family. I write this letter but my tears drop down, and my heart is full of pain. I didn't know how to explain everything in detail to say thank you. It's sad to be apart, but our heart is always with you forever.



HOST CONGREGATIONS

Trinity Missionary Baptist Church
First Baptist Church of Honolulu
Church of the Crossroads
Community Church of Honolulu
Nu'uaniu 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 Hawaii Betsuin
Jikoen Hongwanji Mission
Moiliili Hongwanji Mission
Wesley United Methodist Church

SUPPORT CONGREGATIONS

Windward Christian Church
Kahaluu United Methodist Church
Keolumana United Methodist Church
Windward Unity Church
Hope Chapel—Kahaluu
Light of Promise Ministries
St. George Catholic Church
Christ the Foundation
St. Ann's Catholic Church
St. Augustine Catholic Church
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St. Clement's Episcopal Church
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LDS – Hawaii Kai Ward
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New Hope – Kailua
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
First Presbyterian Church of Honolulu
Kailua Hongwanji Mission
Kilohana United Methodist Church
Oahu Jewish Ohana

The focus of this first newsletter of the year is to thank our donors who have enabled us to continue serving families and also to share our 2013 accomplishments. At Family Promise of Hawaii, we understand that there are many individuals, businesses, foundations and other social service agencies that provide us with the many areas of support needed to get families back on their feet. We are grateful for their partnership, support and generosity throughout the year.



New aquarium from PetSmart

Last year we were able to provide shower, laundry, hygiene, housing, and employment services to 111 individuals and an additional 113 unsheltered homeless individuals on our waitlist. This brought our total number served to 1,279 parents and children. Volunteers helped us to:

- Provide 10,054 bed nights with an average length of stay of 121 days
- Provide 30,162 meals
- Provide social services to additional families who recently secured housing, thereby assisting their transition to sustainable independence
- Connect 100% of our families with healthcare and a primary care physician
- Assured that 100% of our families secured/maintained employment

Our “Mahalo” page lists financial donors to Family Promise but we also receive a tremendous amount of in-kind donations that give families a great start in their new homes. These include: household goods, clothing and supplies from community donors, furnishings and beds from HomeWorld, donated storage space from Hawaii Self Storage, and kitchen/home goods from Williams-Sonoma to name a few. Thank you to all of our incredible supporters for touching the lives of our families and helping to turn a life around.

With Warmest Aloha, Mary Saunders

Family Promise was so fortunate to have been showered with holiday gifts this year. The parents in our program feel really stressed during the holidays at the thought of having to buy gifts for their children when they are struggling so much financially. It is always such a relief when they don't have to worry about it, thanks to the generosity of our volunteers and community organizations!



Christy MacPherson
Program Manager

The Children's Center, Inc. has been donating toys, gently used household items and canned goods to Family Promise for many years. Each year, they hold an event when their pre-school children bring a gift to present to Santa, which then goes to the other children in our program. This giving comes out of the sharing, peace, love and friendship that the school values and instills in their children. They are located on the grounds of Nuuanu Congregational Church on the Pali Highway, which is also one of our host congregations. So the connection they share with Family Promise is very special.

(continued on page 5)

MAHALO TO OUR GENEROUS 2013 DONORS!

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CONGREGATIONS

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Christ Church Uniting Disciples & Presbyterians
Christ United Methodist Church
City Church Of Honolulu
Community Church Of Honolulu
Emmanuel Episcopal Church
Good Samaritan Society-Pohai Nani
Honpa Hongwanji Mission Of Hawaii
Kailua Pentecostal Church,
Kailua United Methodist Church
Manoa Valley Church
Nu`uanu Congregational Church
St. John Lutheran Church

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Aloha United Way

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Reflections from a Coordinator...Help Needed

Aloha everyone, I am Tori Tualatamalelagi - the coordinator for Family Promise at St. Johns by the Sea Episcopal church in Kahaluu. We've been involved with Family Promise since it started in 2007 as one of its host congregations. We HAVE the facility with a kitchen & most importantly- showers. We are fortunate that we get the families every quarter in Feb., May, August & Nov. which is very manageable for us & our support churches. We share dinner duties & hosting with three community churches- Kahaluu United Methodist, Kahaluu Hope Chapel & Light of Promise Ministries. This interfaith networking has proved very valuable to the families in FP & also to our Kahaluu community as we've grown closer as neighbors. As a host church we provide sleeping quarters, water, electric, & the groceries needed for the family's breakfast and lunches during the week. Also, cleaning supplies & paper supplies needed for the week.

As, I'm sure with all congregations, our pews are filled with elderly seniors who would love to physically help but are unable to due to medical and aging issues. As time has gone by so have our members- we are not the same as we were when we started with Family Promise- our members have passed on and so have the funds needed to provide and continue this great ministry. With our dwindling membership, we are struggling to find the funds each quarter and have had discussions on how to continue this rewarding ministry. It is my sincere hope that other congregations may be able to heed my call for assistance to help us to keep families off of the streets and/or beaches, vans, etc. These are hard-working and loving people who for whatever reasons have found themselves in desperate situations and have the courage and strength to humbly ask for help. Most have successfully made it to their goal of securing safe housing for their family and that is our reward. Please help us to help parents make safe choices which empower them to become better community members. If you are interested in providing support to St. John's By the Sea please let Lauren know at volunteer@familypromisehawaii.org or call 548-7478.

Mahalo Malama Pono, Tori



Ed Yrojo has been with Family Promise as our Windward van driver since we first opened our doors in March of 2006. After over seven years of service, Ed retired in September. For everyone who knows Ed, you know that he is faithful, loyal, compassionate and would do anything he possibly could to help someone in need. He has been such a stable force for our program and when former families ask how Family Promise is doing, they will no doubt ask about "Uncle Ed."

Ed, although we miss you dearly, we are happy that you can finally relax and enjoy your retirement!

(continued from page 2)

Each year, the staff of Castle Medical Center also donates gifts to two of our families. They ask for wish lists and then try to fulfill them. The Junior League of Honolulu also donated gifts for the children in the program. Many of our congregations provided holiday gifts for our families or hosted an extra week over the holidays. Lima Kokua and Hawaii Jewish Teens provided housewarming baskets when our families secured housing.

Needless to say, our families are well taken care of during the holidays and we would like all of you to know just how much we appreciate you and others who give throughout the entire year!

Family Promise of Hawai'i

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www.FamilyPromiseHawaii.org
Email: 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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KAILUA
O'AHU

FAMILY PROMISE Community Support Day March 6, 2014

Shop at Whole Foods Kailua and 5% of sales will be donated to Family Promise of Hawaii!

*Whole Foods Market Kailua is proud of Community Support Days – a program where, a few times a year, they give 5% of the day's sales to a local nonprofit. **Family Promise of Hawaii** has been selected as the recipient for the **March 6, 2014** Community Support Day in our **Kailua** store. Team members are part of the local community and are passionate about supporting the local causes that are important to shoppers and neighbors. With the enthusiasm and participation of customers, we hope to generate a substantial contribution to Family Promise of Hawaii!*