



# BUILDING HOPE

## A Message from our Executive Director

2017 was full of change and growth for Family Promise of Hawaii. We welcomed new staff, myself included back in May. Ashleigh Loa was hired as our Housing Specialist in July. Tari Ikehara became our Honolulu House Manager in December. I am honored every day to work alongside a skilled and passionate team. I am thrilled to announce that we will be bringing on two additional staff members in the beginning of 2018. We received funding to hire a full-time After Care Case Manager from Aloha United Way. The Case Manager will provide comprehensive in-home support for families who have graduated from our program for 6 months to ensure they remain housed. We will also be welcoming an AmeriCorps VISTA who will be working on program evaluation and development. Whitney Blandford will be stepping into a new role in 2018, Resource Development Manager. She will continue to provide support to all our volunteers in addition to seeking out additional resources (in-kind and donations) to support our mission. We are also welcoming a new congregation host site in 2018, One Love Windward as well as three new support congregations, Community of Christ - Kaneohe, Kailua Community Church, and Hawai'i Kai United Church of Christ.

Our programs hit new records in 2017. We decreased the average length of time families stay in our shelter by 32%, assisting families with securing housing as quickly as possible upon intake. Decreasing families' length of stay also enables us to serve more vulnerable families. We were able to serve 6 more parents and children in 2017, compared to 2016. Looking ahead to 2018, we expect to serve even more families through our three programs:

- **Diversion:** supportive services for families with children who are experiencing crisis and are at-risk of becoming homeless.
- **Emergency Shelter:** providing shelter through our partnership with local interfaith congregations and community groups who provide overnight accommodations and meals within their facilities. During the day, enrolled families come to our Family Day Centers to access comprehensive support services such as case management, job training, education, life skills and housing support.
- **After Care:** providing follow-up support services to families who have graduated from our shelter program for 6 months.

I am so grateful to all of our dedicated volunteers, staff, community partners, donors and government partners who help us achieve our mission. We have seen a decrease in family homelessness on Oahu and together, can one day achieve our vision of ending family homelessness.

With Much Aloha,

Samantha Church, MSW  
Executive Director

## Kahauiki Village - Six Families Move into Permanent Housing

"I'm beyond grateful," said Nohealani Ching, a home healthcare aid and mother of three. "My kids, the way my kids reacted... They're excited. They know that this is their house." Nohealani and her children had been staying at our shelter since September. The Ching Ohana, along with five other families being served by Family Promise, moved into permanent housing on January 12th thanks to the new Kahauiki Village! Their move in was featured on [Hawaii News Now](#), in [Honolulu Magazine](#) and on Saturday's cover of Star Advertiser! An addition 123 units are expected to open at Kahauiki Village in the coming year.



*Families got to see their new homes at Kauhaiki Village for the first time on Friday, and some of the children were so overcome with emotion they started to cry. Pictured from left are Kanai Sanaitan, 3; his mom, Nohealani Ching, Fa'amama Vaesa'u Jr., 7; and Fa'amama's sister, Shaneeyah, 9. Ching and Vaesa'u family are close because both families used to live in the Family Promise of Hawaii shelter in Kailua. PC: Dennis Oda, Star Advertiser*

## **Mahalo, Anthology Marketing Group!**

Family Promise was honored as the beneficiary of Anthology Marketing Group's Yule Store. Anthology hosts the annual auction in December to give back to the community. The event raised \$12,500 - an all-time record for the fundraiser. [Learn more about the event from Anthology's website!](#)



## **Volunteer of the Month!**

***Mary Hudgins***

Mary has been coming into the office weekly for six months. She is a bright face in the office and we appreciate her consistency and kind character. She heard of Family Promise by looking into different local organizations through a volunteering website and liked the sound of Family Promise best. She retired after many years of service in December 2016 from the Hawai'i State Department of Labor. Mary enjoys volunteering for Family Promise because she likes doing different things, and providing service to her community. She enjoys meeting and learning the stories of the families we serve.



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