Focus Group Participant Receives Wraparound Services

Kalihi-Palama District Service Center staff first met Oncher during a Community Needs Assessment focus group in September. During the focus group discussion, Oncher talked about his own family’s struggle to make ends meet. His wife Jane was a seasonal worker for H&R Block and Oncher was an on call interpreter. They were not living on a consistent paycheck.

Not long after the focus group, Oncher expressed interest in the Na Lima Hana Employment Core Services (ECS) Program. Oncher and his wife both came to the Kalihi-Palama District Service Center to enroll in the ECS Program. Although Oncher was already employed, he was hoping to find a higher paying job with longer hours. As part of ECS services, Oncher and his wife completed Job Readiness Training, and began their search for new jobs.

In the meantime, however, their family was still struggling with their bills. Their household received a disconnection notice from HECO. To restore connection, Kalihi-Palama District Service Center staff helped Oncher apply for the Emergency Crisis Intervention (ECI) credit under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The LIHEAP application for Oncher’s household was approved, and the situation was resolved.

As the holiday season came around, Oncher, an active presence in the local Micronesian community, asked the Kalihi-Palama District Service Center if they could help his church obtain toys for families for Christmas. As an annual beneficiary of the Toys for Tots program, Kalihi-Palama District Service Center obliged, and Oncher was able to distribute toys to the Micronesian community.

But the ultimate Christmas present arrived for Oncher and his family a few days later. Oncher received news that he had been hired as security personnel at Iolani Court Plaza.

Then, a few days into the new year, Oncher’s wife Jane obtained full-time employment as a tax preparer at H&R Block. Oncher and Jane are happy to be gainfully employed.
HCAP Holds 2019 Annual Training Day

On Tuesday, February 11th, the entire HCAP staff gathered at the ‘Ōlino by Consolidated Theatres for HCAP's 2019 Annual Training Day. The Training Day theme, “Where the Heart Is” was reflected in the topics discussed and food provided throughout the day. Gift baskets, donated by HCAP’s various programs and departments, also contained items that promoted the theme.

The guest speakers reaffirmed the importance of doing what you love. Special guest speaker Shayna Makasobe shared with the audience about her transition from Head Start parent to current Head Start staff. Shayna talked about Head Start’s Aunty Colleen, who was always there when she and her family needed help. In her current position as Family Advocate, Shayna hopes to create the same kind of positive change and impact for current Head Start families.

Marion Lyman-Mersereau, the first speaker, shared with HCAP staff about the fateful 1978 Hōkūle'a voyage that left her friend and crew mate Eddie Aikau lost at sea. Marion talked about the legacy Eddie left, and how giving back is still a mantra that she abides by. The next speaker, Elizabeth Anderson, an employee from Kaiser, did a presentation on mindfulness. She led breathing exercises and discussed the benefits that mindfulness can have for you in everyday life.

Following the guest speakers, HCAP Director of Community Services Tehani Diaz and HCAP Head Start Director Grant Kogami provided a comprehensive and presentation regarding HCAP’s programs and services. The goal was to ensure that all HCAP staff remain knowledgeable and kept up-to-date about HCAP's programs and services that are available to help clients.

After recognizing employees for achieving educational goals and years of service milestones, and announcing the winners of HCAP’s third annual “I’m for Quality” contest, HCAP staff were treated to a surprise movie and popcorn.

Mahalo to our Donors and Funders

HCAP would like to thank the following funders. From January 1, 2019 to March 31, 2019, HCAP received funding from the following:

Hawaii Department of Human Services, Homeless Programs Office - $500,000 grant award to the Kumuhonua Transitional Living Center for roof renovations

Individual Donors
Colleen Minami
Windward Kupuna Visit Kualoa’s Moli’i Fish Pond and Gardens

Thank goodness for the sudden change in weather. After a few days of wind and rain on the Koolauloa side, Windward District Service Center staff thought that they would have to cancel their field trip to Kualoa Ranch again, but luckily, the weather improved just in time. Windward District Service Center staff and Windward kupuna headed to the ranch’s Moli’i Fish Pond and Gardens located in the Hakipu’u area of Ko’olauupoko.

Tour guides Keliko and Kristin showed the group around Moli’i Fish Pond, a man-made pond filled with healthy water wildlife that comes in from the ocean. Near the fish pond were the Moli’i Gardens. The gardens, rich in native plants such as kukui nuts and breadfruit, provided visitors with breathtaking views – natural greenery and the majestic Ko’olau mountains in the background.

Keliko and Kristin were very knowledgeable about Hawaiian plants. As a group, they talked and shared about traditional medicine and how many of the plants in the gardens can be used for medicinal purposes. The kupuna were even allowed to take some of the fruit and pieces of the plants home. Even though the group originally set out to only visit the fish pond and gardens, Keliko and Kristin offered to take the kupuna to a private beach area called Secret Island. The kupuna happily accepted the offer, and the group took a ferry to Secret Island.

After their visit to Secret Island, the group returned to the pavilion area, where the kupuna had lunch and talked story with the guides before heading back home. Keliko, one of the guides, said she enjoyed talking to the kupuna so much that it didn’t feel like she was at work. It was a great day for all.

Kumuhonua Resident Saves Up and Obtains Permanent Housing

Since 2010, Janell and her boyfriend were part of the hidden homeless population: they were either living on the streets or couch surfing with friends. Through Kealahou West Oahu, Janell was referred to and moved into HCAP’s Kumuhonua Transitional Living Center. The couple eventually separated, and throughout her remaining time at Kumuhonua, Janell started working on herself: attending classes and workshops on saving money and working side-by-side with her Case Manager and Housing Specialist to find permanent housing.

With a physical address, Janell began collecting Social Security payments, opened a savings account, and increased her income by recycling cans. Janell’s self-esteem increased tremendously. Janell is now exiting Kumuhonua after securing permanent housing at Waipahu Towers. Janell is very excited to start this new chapter in her life and looks forward to a better and brighter future.
Hā Initiative Opens New STEM Exploration Center at Lincoln Elementary

HCAP is pleased to share that the Hā Initiative: Creative Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) After-School Program's Honolulu STEM Exploration Center, a 21st Century Community Learning Center, opened its new location at Lincoln Elementary School in January. The program, which is free and open to all students in grades 2-8, provides participants with an after-school snack, homework help and tutoring, and the opportunity to engage in hands-on science projects and computer activities. Lincoln Elementary is located at 615 Auwaiolimu Street, Honolulu, HI 96813. Program hours are as follows: M, T, TH, F: 2:15-5:15pm and W: 12:30-5:15pm.

Furloughed Worker Obtains LIHEAP Assistance

Like hundreds of thousands of federal workers across the country, Shella had been out of work since December 2018, when the partial government shutdown began. A single mom with three young children, Shella had quickly run out of savings and was struggling to pay her bills.

Shella received an imminent disconnection notice bill from HECO, notifying her that her electric service would soon be shut off due to nonpayment. HECO referred Shella to HCAP. Within a day, she made an appointment at HCAP’s Central District Service Center. The staff at Central District Service Center helped Shella apply for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Through LIHEAP’s Emergency Crisis Intervention (ECI) credit, their electricity was no longer at risk of being shut off.

Shella was impressed with HCAP's ability to quickly work with HECO to prevent termination of their electric service. The LIHEAP program was able to assist Shella's with the full balance requested and bring her electric account up to date. Shella was overcome with emotions and grateful that HCAP was able to help her and her family. Before the partial government shutdown began, Shella was living paycheck to paycheck: even though she barely made ends meet, she never had to reach out for help. HCAP is glad to help working individuals and families, who are vulnerable to sudden situations like the partial government shutdown.
STEM Students Take Field Trip to the Lo’i

In March, students from HCAP’s Hā Initiative: Creative STEM After-School Program, a 21st Century Community Learning Center, took a field trip to the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa’s Ka Papa Lo‘i ‘O Kanewai taro patch. Sixty students and forty-one parents and guardians from the five STEM Exploration Centers were in attendance.

The students and families began their journey in the hale wa’a (canoe house), where the kumu (teacher) told the group about the craftsmanship behind building hales (houses); it was a huge undertaking and that the ancient Hawaiians chose precise materials in order to build a strong hale structure.

The group then hiked to the po‘owai (water source) to learn about the water system and how water is diverted to the lo‘i. Upon their return from the hike, the students and parents were introduced to the traditional way of preparing the lo‘i for planting. To prepare the lo‘i for planting the students gathered leaves to lomi (massage) into the soil of the lo‘i. Then the students and parents entered the lo‘i and began stomping the leaves into the taro patch.

The group closed out the day with lunch. The kumu, a UH-Mānoa alumna and current staff at the Ka Papa Lo‘i ‘O Kanewai, talked to the students and their families about college. She talked about the different career fields offered by UH-Mānoa, and how it can open many doors in life. Hā Initiative: Creative STEM After-School Program Manager Denise “Kehau” Miya thanked the parents and guardians for being a part of this special day, and reminded the families of the wraparound services and programs provided by HCAP.

Employee Anniversaries
Mahalo to our staff who reached these milestones of service this quarter

40 Years
Kuulei Pili - HS Family Advocate

35 Years
Maxine Igarashi - HS Assistant Teacher

25 Years
Sonia Chan - HS Manager
John Park - HS Facilities Manager

15 Years
Daisi-Mae Tuzon - HS Teacher I
Leitricia Kauhi - HS Assistant Teacher
Jaydene Savella - HS Assistant Teacher

10 Years
Sonny-Jean Preston - Community Services Manager
Patricia Beatty - HR Assistant
Carolyn Gilman - HS Teacher I
Tami Mitsuka - HS Teacher I
Susan Scholes - HS Teacher I

5 Years
Kazue Alcain - Assistant Teacher Trainee
Roberta Bitler - HS Teacher I
Robin Fakaosi - Program Coordinator
WAP Client Receives Solar Water Heater and Energy Star Refrigerator

Shawna first heard about the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) when she was applying for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) at HCAP’s Leeward District Service Center.

During LIHEAP intake, Leilani, Leeward District Service Center’s Community Worker, noticed that Shawna was struggling with high utility bills. Even though Shawna was able to obtain to receive LIHEAP Emergency Crisis Intervention (ECI) credit to prevent disconnection, Leilani wanted to help lower Shawna’s electric costs. She referred Shawna to WAP, a program that helps low-income households reduce energy consumption.

Shawna was approved for WAP services after completing her application. During a home energy audit in late November, Shawna found out that she was eligible to receive a new solar water heating system and an Energy Star refrigerator. In February, installations for both the solar water heating system and the Energy Star refrigerator were completed. Shawna and her family are grateful for HCAP’s programs and all the help they received, and look forward to seeing the savings in their electric bill.

Head Start Parent Sets Career Goals

Tammie first contacted the Central District Service Center after Stevi, her daughter’s teacher at Aiea I Head Start, referred her for help in creating a resume. Tammie is a single mom of three young children who was looking for a daytime job, so that she could spend more quality time with them. Tammie works in the evening as a cashier, gets off work when her kids are already asleep, and is often too exhausted to help them with homework.

As part of services provided by the Na Lima Hana Employment Core Services (ECS) Program, Central District Service Center staff was able to help Tammie create a resume; this led to her being hired as a Substitute Assistant Teacher with HCAP’s Head Start Program. This new position has allowed her to cut back on her evening work hours and have more time with her children. Tammie now envisions a career path that includes becoming an Assistant Teacher and one day obtaining the credentials to become a Teacher. She wants to set a good example for her children and show them how it’s possible to achieve their goals.
Interim Financial Update
Fourth Quarter FY 2019
April 1, 2018 - March 31, 2019

*Unaudited, Cash Basis

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GRANTS & OTHER SUPPORT

Program services:
- Education & childcare: 14,750,690
- Senior employment & training: 683,309
- Other community services: 2,752,859
- In-kind contributions: 4,741,891
- Supporting services:
  - Management & general: 1,479,809

Total: 24,408,558
Honolulu Community Action Program, Inc.
Corporate Office
1132 Bishop Street, Suite 100, Honolulu, HI 96813
Tel: (808)521-4531     Fax: (808)521-4538     E-mail: hcap@hcapweb.org

District Service Centers
Central
Tel: 488-6834     Fax: 488-7862
99-102 Kalaloa St. Aiea, HI 96701
Kalihi-Palama
Tel: 847-0804     Fax: 841-7971
1555 Haka Dr. #2408 Honolulu, HI 96817
Leahi
Tel: 732-7755     Fax: 735-6034
1915 Palolo Ave. Honolulu, HI 96816
Leeward
Tel: 696-4261     Fax: 696-0169
85-555 Farrington Hwy. Waianae, HI 96792
Windward
Tel: 239-5754     Fax: 239-3912
47-232 Waihee Rd. Kaneohe, HI 96744

Programs
Hā Initiative: Creative STEM After-School Program
Tel: 521-4531     Fax: 521-4538
Na Lima Hana- Employment Core Services Program
Tel: 521-4531     Fax: 521-4538
Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)
Tel: 521-4531     Fax: 521-4538
Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)
Tel: 521-4531     Fax: 521-4538
Kumuhonua Transitional Living Center
Tel: 682-5494     Fax: 682-5495
91-1096 Yorktown St. Kapolei, HI 96707

HCAP Head Start
Head Start Waipahu
Tel: 847-2400     Fax: 847-2302
94-810 Moloalo St, Suite 200 & 210
Waipahu, HI 96797

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