



Working together to ensure everyone has the help they need to achieve and maintain a foundation for lasting recovery and well-being

Growing Dreams 2015 a smashing success!

The fundraiser for **Malama Family Recovery Center**, held this past October, featured an eye-popping show by award-winning floral designer Gerard Toh, who showed an audience of more than 200 how to put together arrangements inspired by Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's – and how to incorporate surprise elements you would never expect to see in a floral display!



Former client Christine, joined by three of her children, gave an emotional speech...

"I missed a lot of moments that I can't get back, but now that I'm clean and sober I am so much more active in my kids' lives. Before going to Malama I was there physically but not mentally or emotionally. My kids weren't that important. It's the truth and it shocks me to think I was like that. I felt like I didn't have the right to hold or touch my children and that I was an outsider around them. As I began to heal I realized what I was missing and I wanted to get better so I could be there for them....It wasn't just about me anymore. I was now thinking about the consequences of my actions and how they would impact my kids. I was finally thinking about what kind of life I wanted for my children and where I needed to be to make that happen. Our relationship is still mending, but we are a good team and I love being there for them as their interests develop. I love being there for all the hugs and kisses, the silly moments and the craziness of everyday life. I fought for myself and my kids. If I hadn't gotten better I would have lost them, and to me, I achieved the unachievable."

Christine celebrated three years of sobriety on May 11, 2015 (Mother's Day).

Funds raised at the event are supporting:

Our **BabySAFE Program**, which ensures pregnant women can get support and access treatment, prenatal services and case management so they can get clean and give birth to healthy babies (*program 100% funded through donations*)

Our **Early Learning Center**, where we provide free childcare and developmental screenings for all clients' children, educate mothers about healthy child development and teach parenting classes



Transportation costs for client trips to and from treatment, doctor appointments, AA/NA meetings, pre-delivery tours at the hospital, mother-child visitations as part of the reunification process, and more



*All event photos by [Christopher Douglass Photography](#). Mahalo to Chris for donating his time and talent to capture this special event! More pictures at MALAMAFAMILYRECOVERY.ORG

A special THANK YOU to the following:

EVENT SPONSORS

Pulama Lanai • The Will Smith Foundation • Atlas Insurance
Bendon Family Foundation • Kawahara + Co. • Morgan Stanley
ProService Hawaii • American Savings Bank • Bob Whitmer R(S)
Haleakala Solar • Aloha Intern. Employment • Mutual of America
Kaiser Permanente • Improv My Sales • Serious.Fun.Fitness
Central Pacific Bank Investment Services

EVENT SUPPORTERS

Maui Printing Co. • Sargent's Fine Jewelry • Maui Oil Company
Aloha Visitor Guides • First Hawaiian Bank • Maui Lani Partners
FIM Group • Goodfellow Bros. • Tom and Anne Leuteneker
Maureen Marrs • Mason and Trudy Williams • Melanie Vallejos
Walter and Carol McCauley • Sandy Takishita • Susan Moulton
Susan Bendon • Karin Frost • Charlene Schulenberg

And of course, the entire Planning Committee, especially
Event Chair Teena Rasmussen!

Holiday Blessings

The Malama ohana was extraordinarily blessed this past holiday season! Staff from all three **Island Sotheby's International Realty** Maui offices collected and donated gifts for our clients' keiki during their annual holiday party. And **St. Anthony's Church** organized an "Adopt a Mother and Family" Special Project, in which members of their congregation put together packages that included Christmas presents and learning materials for clients' children, as well as gifts for the mothers, such as relaxing body washes and soaps.

Amanda says that the big stuffed bear donated by Sotheby's has become her three-year old daughter Anna's favorite toy. "She sleeps with it and we play a game where I say, 'Mr. Bear says ___ and then Anna and I do it – simple things like putting your hands on your head or making a fish face. I love those fun moments with her.'" Amanda's baby daughter Emma's favorite toy has become a 'My First Dolly' baby doll donated by St. Anthony's. When Amanda moved into Malama last year, she could only have supervised visits with Emma, who was only a month old at the time. By the time Emma was two months old she was staying with Amanda overnight at Malama, and within six months (and right around the holiday season) Emma was officially reunited with her mother and sister. Amanda says, "I wouldn't have my children if it weren't for Malama."

This was Kawena's first Christmas with all three of her young children. Seeing her two sons bond while sharing Hot Wheels cars they received as gifts that were donated was especially touching to her. Kawena, who is working towards regaining custody of her children, expressed how special it was to receive a package from St. Anthony's that was "for a family." She loves spending time with her kids when they visit Malama. "We watch movies together, play games in the Early Learning Center and sit down to eat with the other women here, who have become 'aunties' to my children."

Many of our clients feel tremendous guilt when they can't afford to buy their children lots of gifts. Several moms expressed to us that donations like these not only allow their children to experience the fun of opening presents – just like any kid would – but they also help the ladies save money so they can purchase items like diapers and other essentials.

For the women we serve, getting to celebrate the holidays with their children is extremely special and is an important step on the road to rebuilding their families. Thank you to everyone who made this possible!



From Island Sotheby's -- Mino McLean, R(B), staff member Nanette Salcedo and Jan Lap, R(B) with the gifts collected at their annual holiday party



Client Kamani with son Junior and daughter Kalehi

Christmas tree in picture donated by Board Member Helen McCord and her husband Warren, owners of Kula Botanical Garden. Helen and Warren generously donate Christmas trees to all three agencies every year!

Maui Youth & Family Services

The MYFS ohana was also tremendously blessed this holiday season! In

December, one of our generous supporters had a holiday party where she asked her friends to support our organization, specifically with helping us buy Christmas gifts for young people in our **Independent Living Program** (for youth aging out of foster care) and **Transitional Living Program** (for homeless youth). She was able to round up enough funds for us to give 24 youth in the two programs a \$25 Target gift card! This might not seem like much, but most of these kids have NO family with whom to celebrate the holidays, so even just getting this makes them feel like that time of year can be special for them as well.

Here are notes that some of the youth wrote to the donor and her friends...

Aloha! Thank you so much for the Target gift card – I used the money to buy a coat to wear at school. I'm attending college in Washington State and it is very cold right now. So thanks for keeping me warm this winter!

Thank you for the gift card for Target. I bought food for my Aunty and her kids. They don't have much and they're struggling. This was a big help. Thank you again.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! Thank you so much for the Target gift card! I got to buy more work socks. I do home health care and am always on my feet! So new socks were very much needed!

Thank you for the Target gift card that I received for Christmas!! I was able to buy a blow dryer so my curls stay all kept nice for a full day and some cute nail polish for my nails. This gift card was very helpful in buying things I need to keep me all feeling beautiful.

Thanks to donors like these and others, we are also able to help youth get school supplies and other items that assist them as they transition into life as young adults. Here are a few notes from youth who were recent recipients of this kind of support....

I just want to thank you guys so much for that amazing care package! It was one of the greatest gifts I received in my entire life I believe. The laptop makes college life soooo much easier since it is created for portability. Well life has its ups and downs but I am just blessed to have people who are like you who help make that up very high :-)

Thank you so much for the backpack and binder. I am returning to school this semester and these will really help me. Appreciate your generosity.

Aloha, I would like to give the biggest Thank You to the [MYFS] program for helping me with assistance to provide the finances for a new outfit that helped achieve my goal of getting a job at the hospital. Allowing me to be blessed and helping me feel confident for my interview. I could not have felt any better that day. It gave me the courage to nail the interview. So from me to you, I think you so much for the Aloha and opportunity to be blessed. This program is awesome and may each of you be blessed as well.

We help youth in these programs find safe and stable housing, explore and develop educational and employment goals, access health and dental care, get driver's licenses, understand budgeting and financial skills, learn relaxation and coping skills as well as connect with other community agencies and resources. **Our case managers and outreach counselors are also there whenever one of these young people just need emotional support or someone to listen.**

If you are interested in donating to youth in these, or any other Maui Youth & Family Services programs, please contact our Development Coordinator Frances Duberstein at 808-579-8414, ext. 8102 or fduberstein@aloha-house.org

Maui Youth & Family Services is proud to present at the Kihei Community Association's March 15, 2016 public meeting about homelessness in South Maui. MYFS representatives will describe how our Transitional Living Program Outreach Counselors help young people in need, how youth can access services, how concerned citizens can make referrals and more. Although the focus will be on South Maui, residents from any part of the island are welcome to attend this free meeting!

When and Where: Tuesday, March 15 at the Kihei Charter School STEM Middle School Campus at 41 E. Lipoa Street, room #29 (behind the gas station)



For more information about the meeting and the KCA, visit www.gokihei.org

Did you know that Aloha House has licensed and highly trained counselors, marriage and family therapists, psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and more who are available to ANYONE in the public through:



This clinic can help individuals and families (of all ages) dealing with anything from stress, depression, anxiety, family and relationship issues and more. Services include evaluation, therapy and medication monitoring.

We are proud to offer services in THREE locations!

Wailuku: 1787 Wili Pa Loop, #7

Kahului: 270 Hookahi Street, Units 207 and 212

Wailea: 161 Wailea Ike Place, Suite A-104

To make it more convenient for you, appointments are available during the day as well as during evening and weekend hours

Frequently Asked Question example (more on the MCG website)

My child has behavior and attention problems at school. Can counseling help?

Yes! Children have behavior and attention problems for a variety of reasons. Stress at home, depression, anxiety, learning problems or attention-deficit problems may be contributing factors. **Child specialists on our staff have extensive experience working with children, along with the educational and school issues that need to be addressed.** The counselor can help determine the main struggles of the child and help create a plan for the family, school and child.

When you call to set up an appointment, our friendly Maui Counseling Group staff will “match” you up with a counselor who best suits your needs. You may feel more comfortable with a therapist of a particular gender, age or cultural background. Please ask for what you prefer. There is no shame in asking for a particular type of counselor – your well-being and comfort is our priority!

Meet one of our therapists!

Dr. Laurie Omuro-Yamamoto is a licensed psychologist who works with children, adolescents and adults. She frequently works with individuals dealing with stress, anxiety, depression, grief and loss, trauma, anger, relationship, parenting and life transition issues. Dr. Laurie carries a biopsychosocial spiritual view that considers individuals' biological, psychological, social and spiritual backgrounds. She is able to integrate clients' spiritual/religious and cultural beliefs into the treatment process. Dr. Laurie uses various therapeutic modalities including Cognitive Behavior Therapy, Play Therapy, Sandtray Therapy, Hooponopono (A Native Hawaiian harmony restoration process) and Mind-Body-Spirit therapies. Dr. Laurie was born and raised on Maui. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.



Read about more Maui Counseling Group therapists at www.mauicounselinggroup.com!

Referrals not necessary and most insurance plans accepted



Maui Counseling Group

Making counseling services effective and accessible to all who need them

To learn more and/or to make an appointment, call 808-249-2121.

More information also available at www.mauicounselinggroup.com

For many, a new year provides an opportunity for a fresh start. Without your support thousands of individuals and families would not have that chance.

MYFS.ORG ALOHA-HOUSE.ORG MALAMAFAMILYRECOVERY.ORG

MAHALO for helping us save lives, restore families and help people turn their lives around!

“LIKE” our tri-agency page on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/MYFSmaui

