



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

Maui Youth & Family Services

With a new school year starting up recently, we wanted to share a heartfelt message from

a former MYFS School-Based Substance Abuse Treatment Program client ...

"Every day I get up and go to school. No one in my family gets me ready for school, makes me lunch or breakfast, leaves the light on when I am out late or even cares how I am doing. I am alone when I get to school until my MYFS counselor Heather gets there and opens her room. Heather asks how I am doing in the morning, makes sure I get breakfast, makes sure I get lunch and always lets me eat my lunch in her room with all the other people in the program. I feel like I am accepted for who I am and people care about my well-being.

I graduate this year and I am scared. I am not scared for the normal reasons other graduates are scared. Without Heather in my life, who will care if I eat, who will ask me how I am doing and who will be there for me every day. Who will care that I have not smoked pot in three months?

Heather and I have had long discussions this year about my future and what I am going to do. She helped me apply for scholarships, she helped me write college applications and she helped me with housing after I was kicked out of where I was staying. She is not only my counselor, she has filled the role of family, and I will never forget how she cared about me and helped me move on with my life. I learned from her that I am of value and I matter. I am attending UHMC this fall and I would not have done any of this if it wasn't for Heather." - Baldwin High School Graduate, Class of 2017

MYFS School-Based Substance Abuse Treatment Program (Ke Ala Pono)



Free support for youth working through issues related to substance use/abuse that is available at all almost public middle and high schools in Maui County. Ke Ala Pono translates to *The Right Path* and includes on-site assessment, referral, treatment planning, education about addiction and coping skills, as well as individual counseling. It is a confidential program that provides students a



safe haven to seek help without fear of reprisal. MYFS counselors are available to youth both before and after school and during the lunch hour. The program also includes group counseling when appropriate, as teenagers are group-oriented by nature. By building on that natural desire to belong, our counselors can offer an engaging and motivational program on the school campus.

~ ~ Ke Ala Pono serves approximately 250 students every year ~ ~

This is just one of many MYFS programs. To learn more about MYFS' wide array of services, visit www.myfs.org

San Diego-Based Charity Brings Message of Compassion and Hope to Aloha House and Malama Family Recovery Center

In August, representatives from San Diego-based charity Care House visited with and presented care packages to clients at Aloha House and Malama Family Recovery Center. Care House helps under-privileged youth in San Diego, particularly those who are homeless, through mentoring, tutoring, scholarships and various outreach programs. The visit was organized by Care House's President, Leah Blankenship, and she was joined by a program assistant as well as six teens and young adults who had been helped by the organization.

None of the youth had ever been to Maui before, and all of them had been homeless at one point in their lives. Aloha House and Malama work together to provide comprehensive substance abuse treatment services to thousands of individuals and families in Maui County each year.



Aloha House Residential Treatment Director Tony Arcuria, Care House youth Marcus Coney, Care House President Leah Blankenship, Care House youth Maria Baptiste and Aloha House Substance Abuse Counselor Nicodemus Baca, on the Aloha House campus with some of the care packages that were given out to clients

Although Care House's focus is underserved youth, the group wanted to do a project that reached outside their scope of service when traveling to Maui. Dr. Sean O'Hara, a psychologist in San Diego whose parents have a home on Maui and who has lived on the island himself, suggested Aloha House to Leah. During both visits, Leah shared her personal story in regards to the impact drugs and alcohol have made on her own family. "I wanted to remind clients that they can overcome the challenges they are facing and that they must never give up," said Leah. "I want them to know that brokenness can lead to healing with a potential outcome that will be amazing! Care House will forever be connected with Aloha House and Malama as extended family because of these visits."

During both visits, one Care House youth, Vincent, also shared his story of going from being homeless and living in a car to graduating high school and taking classes at a Junior College. He then revealed the exciting news that he had recently been accepted to Arizona State

University and was moving into his dorm shortly after returning from this trip. He plans to study Music Therapy. Vincent brought his ukulele with him to Maui and performed for clients during both visits. At Malama, everyone, including staff, joined together in an impromptu group song after Vincent lent his ukulele to one of the ladies who knew how to play.

"As an addict in a treatment center, it is easy to feel disconnected from the outside world...we may even feel a little forgotten," said one Aloha House client after the visit. "Those sentiments were profoundly diminished by an unexpected blessing: a visit from Care House from San Diego. A group of formerly homeless individuals came bearing care packages, non-judgmental smiles, a touching piece of music and most importantly, a message of hope, inspiration and encouragement. Their stories of perseverance and obstacles overcome were of course uplifting, but the real gift? They called us HEROES! Us. A room full of addicts who often have a hard time liking what we see in the mirror, we were being seen as pillars of strength. It was a visit beyond charitable, beyond kind and beyond uplifting. The Care House visit reminded us that we addicts here at Aloha House in Maui are capable heroes."



Care House youth at Malama

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Aloha House

Hawaii Petroleum's *Ohana Fuels* Donates to Aloha House



Hawaii Petroleum President Kimo Haynes, Aloha House CEO Jud Cunningham and Hawaii Petroleum Marketing Representative Laura Alfonso, at Aloha House's Residential Treatment Program campus in Makawao

In early August, Aloha House received a \$7,116.06 donation from Ohana Fuels as part of Hawaii Petroleum's "Fuel up. Do good." Community Giving Program. Aloha House was chosen to receive a portion of all TOP TIER™ gasoline purchases made at any of the eight Ohana Fuels locations on Maui between April 1 and June 30, 2017. Ohana Fuels also provided space and materials for two car washes at their Wakea Avenue Minit Stop gas station during the three month period, which raised an additional \$398.

"We are tremendously grateful to Ohana Fuels for choosing Aloha House as one of its recipient organizations," said Aloha House Chief Executive Officer, Jud Cunningham. "Funds raised will help ensure underserved individuals and families can access our programs in order to accomplish their recovery, vocational and

personal goals. We strive to remove barriers to treatment, and this donation will help us cover the costs of providing care to individuals who otherwise would not be able to get help due to lack of financial resources."

Maui Youth & Family Services and Malama Family Recovery Center were chosen as Ohana Fuels' "Fuel up. Do good." program recipients in 2013 and 2015. This most recent donation shows just how deeply dedicated the Ohana Fuels team is to making a difference in their community. We deeply appreciate that Ohana Fuels understands that each of our agencies plays a unique, yet significant role in helping individuals and families affected by behavioral health and other related issues.



Ohana Fuels check presentation in Malama's Early Learning Center in February 2016



Ohana Fuels check presentation on the MYFS campus in August 2013

Malama Family Recovery Center

Friends of Hawaii Charities, Inc. Donates Funds for Basic Necessities

Earlier this year Malama received a \$5,900 grant from Friends of Hawaii Charities, Inc. to help clients purchase clothes, toiletries, food, bus passes and baby/infant-related supplies. Malama aims to eliminate the most common barriers to treatment and long-term recovery and wellness that women face, and one of those barriers is extreme poverty. Some women who come to



Malama have almost nothing when it comes to the bare essentials and are not receiving any government assistance or help from friends or family. One of our first priorities is helping them access financial aid, but it can take a few weeks for their applications to be approved. It is understandably difficult for clients to function on a basic level and begin to participate in treatment when they are worried about these, so this grant is increasing our ability to provide clients and their



children with basic necessities during that waiting period. And the bus passes are making a huge difference for our clients who don't have transportation to safely get to and from treatment, medical appointments, AA/NA meetings, etc. Friends of Hawaii Charities, Inc. distributes funds to organizations that help Hawaii's women, children and impoverished. Its signature fundraiser for generating grant funds is the Sony Open In Hawaii PGA Tour golf tournament held at Waialae Country club each January. A huge THANK YOU for this generous grant!



Ka Lewa Nu'u



Thanks to a \$25,000 grant from the Sangham Foundation, as well as support from the Central Pacific Bank Foundation, Hawaii Community Foundation and local businesses, this past August Maui Youth & Family Services (MYFS) opened a transitional shelter for former foster youth on our upcountry campus! Individuals staying here are in MYFS' Independent Living

Program, which helps youth who have aged out of foster care with finding housing, developing and achieving educational and employment goals as well as accessing needed community resources.

Funding for this project paid for minor renovations and repairs within the facility as well as all furnishings and appliances. Funds were received in April, 2017 and clients moved in the first week of August. Before move in, staff consulted with Hawaiian cultural practitioner Marie Biga to find a name for the new program and building that was meaningful and incorporated local culture. After learning about the program and visiting the facility, Marie presented staff with the name *Ka Lewa Nu'u*, which means "Rise High." It's found in the Hawaiian chant, "E Ala E" (Arise, Awaken) and references the rising of the sun each new day.

Local businesses that contributed include plumber Jeff Marzan, Clear View Window Cleaning, General Contractor Ed Rickord, Lei Floor & Window Coverings, Hawaii Carpet Service, Hawaiian Sun Solar & Electrical Services, BedMart, the Lowe's Appliance Department and Valley Isle Extinguishers. MYFS staff members, their family and friends also volunteered their time to help during two community work days.



Ka Lewa Nu'u is making a huge difference in the lives of our clients, who have extremely limited resources and lack consistent support from a stable home environment. This will provide a safe and stable place for these vulnerable youth to stay while they figure out their next steps in life. We are tremendously grateful to the funders and all the businesses that pitched in. Seeing the community rally around us and this important cause during this project was heartwarming and truly an inspiration.



The art piece above the lamp in the picture to the left (and shown to the right) was made by Sangham Foundation Board Treasurer and local Maui artist, Karuna Santoro, who secured the \$25,000 grant for this project. She created the work specifically to hang in Ka Lewa Nu'u.



The bamboo used in the piece was planted 14 years ago in Kipahulu by the same family that established the Sangham Foundation. Visit our website to learn more about this project and see *Before* and *After* pictures!

MAHALO for saving lives, restoring families and helping people turn their lives around!

MYFS.ORG

ALOHA-HOUSE.ORG

MALAMAFAMILYRECOVERY.ORG

