

# HOMeward BOUND

Volume 3, Issue 2

Family Promise of Hawai'i

May 2007

## WINDWARD CONGREGATIONS

CALVARY EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH  
CHRIST CHURCH UNITING  
COMMUNITY OF CHRIST,  
KANEOHE  
EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL  
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH  
FIRST BAPTIST WINDWARD  
KAHULUU UNITED  
METHODIST  
KAILUA CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH  
KAILUA NAZARENE  
KAILUA SEVENTH DAY  
ADVENTIST  
KAILUA SHAMBHALA  
MEDITATION CENTER  
KAILUA UNITED  
METHODIST  
KANEOHE MARINE BASE  
CHAPEL  
KANEOHE NAZARENE  
KANEOHE SEVENTH DAY  
ADVENTIST  
KEOLUMANA UNITED  
METHODIST  
MEVLEVI ORDER OF  
AMERICA (SUFİ)  
PALI VIEW BAPTIST  
CHURCH  
PARKER UNITED  
METHODIST  
ST. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC  
ST. CHRISTOPHER'S  
EPISCOPAL  
ST. GEORGE CATHOLIC  
ST. JOHN'S BY THE SEA  
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN  
ST. JOHN VIANNEY  
CATHOLIC  
ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN  
WINDWARD BAPTIST  
CHURCH-KANEOHE  
WINDWARD UNITY CHURCH

## FAMILY PROMISE EXPANDS TO HONOLULU JULY 15, 2007



THE HONOLULU FAMILY CENTER WILL BE RENTED FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES AND WILL ALLOW US TO DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF FAMILIES WE SERVE EACH YEAR.

Family Promise of Hawai'i is pleased to announce the opening of our second Network in Honolulu (Makiki) on July 15, 2007! Our Family Center will be rented from Catholic Charities on the former grounds of First Presbyterian Church. This second Network gives Family Promise the opportunity to double

the number of families we currently serve.

Currently, we have ten host congregations in Honolulu and are in the process of recruiting at least three more. Twelve additional congregations support these hosts.

Family Promise of Hawai'i's expansion serves as a testimony of hope to others in our community and reminds us that when we pull our resources together great things are possible. Please join us at our open house on July 14, 2007 as we celebrate the growth of our Family Promise community!

If you know of additional partners that would like to join Family Promise, please contact Kent Anderson, Executive Director at 808-261-7478 or e-mail [kent@familypromiseshawaii.org](mailto:kent@familypromiseshawaii.org).

### YOU'RE INVITED!

### *Honolulu Network Grand Opening*

Open House

July 14, 2007 12:00-2:00pm

1324 Dominis St. Honolulu

## OHA GRANTS \$100,000 TO FAMILY PROMISE OF HAWAII

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs recognizes that homelessness continues to be a major problem in Hawai'i, with particularly severe impact on the Native Hawaiian community. On the Leeward O'ahu coast alone, for example, it has been estimated that as much as 70 percent of the homeless population is of Hawaiian ancestry. To help address this situation, OHA has partnered with the state to build emergency shelter, and has provided grant funding to a wide variety of

nonprofit agencies, such as Family Promise Hawai'i, that are on the front lines of providing help to those who are without homes. In accordance with its mission to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians, OHA will continue to make housing assistance a top priority. This is spelled out in the agency's strategic plan for fiscal years 2006 - 2011, which states: OHA shall assist Native Hawaiians in achieving housing goals.



### DID YOU KNOW???

Although Hawaiians represent only 18% of our state's population, they are overrepresented in the population of homeless, comprising 37% of the total.

Source: 2003 SMS Homeless Point-in-Time Count Report

HONOLULU  
CONGREGATIONS

- CENTRAL SEVENTH DAY  
ADVENTIST
- CENTRAL UNION  
CHURCH
- CHRIST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH
- CHURCH OF CHRIST AT  
HONOLULU
- CHURCH OF THE  
CROSSROADS
- COMMUNITY OF CHRIST,  
KALIHI
- COMMUNITY OF CHRIST,  
MAKIKI
- CONGREGATION SOF  
MA'ARAV
- FIRST BAPTIST  
HONOLULU
- FIRST CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH DISCIPLES OF  
CHRIST
- FIRST UNITARIAN  
CHURCH
- GOD'S NEED MEETERS
- HARRIS UNITED  
METHODIST
- KAWAIAHA'O CHURCH
- MAKIKI CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH
- NU`UANU  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH UCC
- ST. CLEMENT'S  
EPISCOPAL
- ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL
- ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL
- TEMPLE EMANU-EL
- UCC JUDD STREET
- UNITY CHURCH OF  
HAWAII

**FAMILY PROMISE DIRECTOR ELECTED CHAIR OF PARTNERS IN CARE**



*Written by Laura Thielen, Former Chair of Partners in Care*

Congratulations to Kent Anderson, Executive Director for Family Promise of Hawaii. Kent was elected as Chair of Partners in Care (PIC), Oahu's coalition to address homelessness. PIC includes providers of homeless services, concerned professionals, the City and County of Honolulu, and State of Hawaii representatives for homelessness. PIC works closely with the community and government to implement Hawaii's 10 year plan to end homelessness. As chair of PIC and Executive Director for Family Promise of Hawaii, Kent will continue to serve as a leader in the movement to address the needs of those experiencing homelessness on Oahu. This election is a true reflection of the impact Family Promise of Hawaii is making in our community!

**HONOLULU COUNTRY CLUB FOUNDATION TEES UP WITH FPH AGAIN**

Family Promise is thrilled to be named as a beneficiary of the Honolulu Country Club Foundation's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Charity Golf Tournament. This year's event will be held on August 17 at the Honolulu Country Club. The 2006 event was a smashing success and 2007 should be even better!

We are grateful for this opportunity and excited to partner again with the Honolulu Country Club Foundation. We are actively searching for golf teams, event volunteers and door prize donations. Come join our drive to end homelessness!

For more information, contact Michele with Family Promise of Hawaii. Her phone number is 261-7478 and her email is [volunteer@familypromisehawaii.org](mailto:volunteer@familypromisehawaii.org). You can also contact Gail Chew with the Honolulu Country Club Foundation. Her phone number is 292-3073 and her email is [gchew@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:gchew@hawaii.rr.com).



HCC FOUNDATION FOUNDER TOMIO TAKI AND HCC EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT GARY BROWN ENJOY THE 2006 EVENT.

**HONOLULU COUNTRY  
CLUB FOUNDATION**

*3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Charity Golf Tournament*

Honolulu Country Club  
August 17, 2007

Registration - 8:30 a.m.  
Shotgun Start - 11:00 a.m.

Registration Deadline: August 10, 2007

**ST. ANDREW'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

*Rummage Sale*

Queen Emma Square, Honolulu  
Friday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> 4:30-8:00pm  
Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> 9:00am-2:00pm

To volunteer, or for additional information, please call the Cathedral at 524-2822, or contact Susan Hays at 282-3881

Proceeds Benefit Family Promise of Hawaii

## “WE NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD HAPPEN TO US!”

In June of 2006, we entered Family Promise after being homeless for a little more than 1 month. It was hard at first, because we were ashamed of our situation and having to explain things to different people, people we did not know was the hardest. However this barrier was soon gone due to the loving and caring volunteers and families from each of the churches and their congregations. We learned several valuable life changing lessons:

To be humble and helpful and to always be thankful for everything...To always be mindful of others and their situations...To recognize what your mistakes are, learn from them and then move on, never looking back, always toward the future and what is ahead. Look at what you can change and improve on...If you work hard enough, things will change and doors will open. And to always remember that there will always be someone there to help, friends especially, you just have

to be willing to accept whatever help comes your way.

In November of 2006, we were very fortunate to meet a loving and caring family through the Family Promise Network. A family belonging to Kailua United Methodist Church opened a part of their home to us and gave us a chance. George, Kalani and myself have been doing very well here and things have been going great. We could not have asked for anything more! We have a new 1 bedroom home in Kailua and it has been great for all of us.

George has obtained a full time permanent position at Kainalu Elementary. Kalani has been working full time as a carpenter's apprentice with Waialae Management Inc. and is currently working on building the new Farrell's in Pearl City and also working at night on a Federal contract within the Federal Building. As for me, business has never been better



in the house-cleaning business, thanks to a lot of you from the congregations and its families and friends. Thank you all so very much for all that you have done for us.

Most of all, thank you, to the Family Promise Program, especially Christy and Kent for making our ohana one again....

Much love and aloha from all of us,

George, Charlynn, & Kalani

“WE LEARNED... TO  
BE HUMBLE AND  
HELPFUL AND TO  
ALWAYS BE  
THANKFUL FOR  
EVERYTHING.”

## BUILDING NEW LIVES...

Family Promise has now served 24 families, including 52 children and 40 adults. There have been a number of positive changes in the lives of our families recently, and we'd like to share them with you:

**Ed, Melanie** and their 4 children now live at Kalihi Valley Homes. They secured their new home just after the birth of their fourth child.

**Rubert, Candace** and their 2 children moved into a 3-bedroom apartment on the Leeward Coast.

**Brigitte** and her daughters live in a beautiful 1-bedroom apartment right near the ocean in Waianae and they love it there!

**Michael, Iris** and their son share a home with Iris' co-

worker in Hau'ula, which is very close to work. Iris no longer has to catch the bus at 5:00 in the morning for work!

We have 4 Family Promise families residing at the Vancouver House, a beautiful transitional housing complex in Manoa: **Miji, Dave, Michelle, Michael, Cleve Donnie, Tracie** and their seven children. Thank you to Lisa Herring for your caring support!!!

**Dave** has become unionized and is now working on fire and security systems.

**Michael** has been promoted to District Manager in his security company. **Cleve** is currently working full-time and begins a permanent full-time job with UPS in July. Their son, **Ikaika**, has been accepted to Kamehameha Schools! He was one of six students selected from a pool of 300!

**Tracie** and **Donnie** both secured full-time jobs and moved into housing!

**Athena**, one of our first guests, is now a certified phlebotomist!

## THE “BUMPY ROAD” TO STABILITY



“I DON’T KNOW IF  
YOU’RE AWARE  
OF HOW  
APPRECIATIVE  
OUR FAMILIES  
ARE OF ALL YOU  
DO TO SUPPORT  
THEM NIGHT  
AFTER NIGHT.”

Take a moment and imagine yourself grabbing your 3 kids, exhausted from what the day has brought, and walking to the dirty shower at the beach park. Having to wear your rubber slippers and surf shorts, since there is no privacy, you lather up and rinse off quickly since the water is cold. You then walk back to your car and eat your 7-eleven spam musubi and chips since you cannot cook anywhere. Passing the time in your car, you wait until you can finally fall asleep....

This is the story I hear time and time again, sometimes from our own families whom we bring into Family Promise and other times from phone calls I receive from homeless families desperate to find shelter for the night. It pains me every time I have to inform a caller that we don’t have any openings at the time. I can feel the disappointment in their voices. They are tired, oh-so tired of living this lifestyle.

There are a wide range of reasons as to why our families become homeless. Some made poor financial decisions or had to leave their abusive relation-

ships. Others struggled with ice, but are moving forward and mending relationships. Then there are those who lost their jobs or just couldn’t make ends meet with the job they had because the rent was too high.

They enter the program and there are even more things to be done: Walking the kids to and from school, phone calls to potential employers, landlords, job interviews, applying for housing, dropping off applications, meeting with DHS workers, catching the bus long distances to and from work, starting bank accounts for the first time, and meeting with their case manager (that would be me!). These are just some of the necessary steps they need to take to reach a place of stability.

It is very difficult for us as “privileged” people to imagine how our families are able to keep their hope alive and not to give up on the prospect of securing housing someday. I know I can hardly keep afloat sometimes, physically and mentally, raising my two young boys....and I am fortunate to have a wonderful job and reasonable pay. Yet, they keep on

going. They keep on trying. They have survived to this point and will continue surviving till they reach their goals. Some find housing sooner than others, but with perseverance most somehow make it.

And just HOW are they able to keep on hoping and trying? It’s because of all you wonderful volunteers and community members! I don’t know if you’re aware of how appreciative our families are of all you do to support them night after night. Some may verbally express it, but others may not know how. They always comment later, “Ho, the volunteers were awesome! We had a roof over our heads and `ono meals every night!”

Now imagine yourself walking into your very own apartment for the first time in 2 years- the place that you and your children will now call “home”.....

Aloha!

Christy MacPherson,  
Program Manager

## KAILUA HIGH RENOVATES LOW INCOME HOUSING



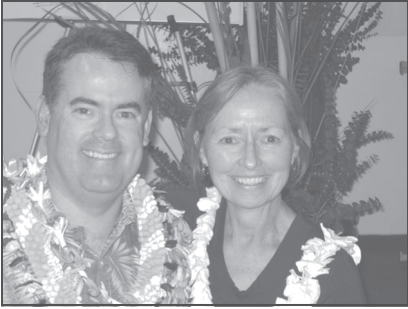
The juniors from Kailua High School shared their spirit of aloha by spending all day on May 14, 2007, at Ho’okipa Housing Project in Kahalu’u. As one student commented, “It allowed me to see that everyone needs help and even something as small as painting a building can really make a difference.” Another student agreed, “I had fun doing it. Just the thought of helping someone is amazing!”

“I felt I could make a difference. It changed something in me” was a common response as well as, “It made me appreciate what I have a lot more... it made me happy and satisfied with my life... made me realize how lucky and fortunate I am.”

Family Promise is proud to work with Kailua High to improve our community. We are lucky and fortunate to serve with these wonderful students!



## FAMILY PROMISE WELCOMES NEW LEADER



*Written by Lani Kaaihue, one of Family Promise's four founding Board members*

We bid farewell to the playful weather of spring and a fond goodbye to our founding President, C. Kent Coarsey. Irresistible as the winds of March yet warm as spring sunshine, Kent's joyful exuberance and energetic leadership will be missed. We extend our gratitude not only to Kent but also to his wife, Reverend Amy Wake. We commend her for the tireless hours of creative endeavor to promote Family Promise of Hawaii's cause and her constant, loving support. Kent turned his dream into reality when he brought individual volunteers and congregations together into the

thriving organization that Family Promise has become. With every child and family member served, we foster hope and opportunities for dreams to come true for others. Thank you, Kent, for your good works.

As we welcome summer's calm days and sparkling blue waves, we welcome Jennifer Schember-Lang, our new President. Jennifer's steady, warm style matches perfectly with this next stage in Family Promise of Hawaii's development. The organization has grown rapidly and challenges rise like waves in the south shore bump. We ponder the best plan to expand services to include the metropolitan Honolulu area and beyond. Under the surface calm, much is happening. Jennifer's steady hand and experienced leadership will help us to broaden Family Promise of Hawaii's reach, strengthen teamwork, and through her coordination skills, guide our growth and focus our will to serve. Welcome, Jennifer!

### WISH LIST

Dinette Set for 8

Sofa

3 L-shaped Office Desks

5 Brand New Computers

3 Floor Air Conditioning Units

4 Lounge Chairs

Infant Car Seats

Futon Mattresses

Please contact Michele at [volunteer@familypromisehawaii.org](mailto:volunteer@familypromisehawaii.org) or 261-7478 to donate these or other items. Mahalo!

### HELP WANTED

#### Volunteer Coordinator

We're looking for a friendly, organized individual who will give our volunteers the attention they deserve. This person will also organize our Family Center volunteer corps and must be available 3 full days/week.

Please call Christy at 261-7478 to arrange a late June interview.

### HELP WANTED

#### Administrative Assistant

We're looking for a detail-oriented, organized individual who will perform various administrative functions. Strong communication, typing, grammar, and writing skills required. This person must be available 2 full days/week.

Please call Christy at 261-7478 to arrange a late June interview.

## FAMILY PROMISE OF HAWAII

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THE MISSION OF FAMILY PROMISE OF HAWAII IS TO MOBILIZE EXISTING COMMUNITY RESOURCES TO AID FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS AND HELP THEM TRANSITION TO SUSTAINABLE INDEPENDENCE.

# THANK YOU TO OUR RECENT FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS!

Atherton Family Foundation	Frances Babin	Harris United Methodist Women	Mark & Susan Peterman
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Hawaii Country Club Foundation	Ryan & Christine Churchill	Masuo & Alice Kino	S. Byrum Schneiderman
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www.familypromisehawaii.org

WERE ON THE WEB!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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**A COMMUNITY  
RESPONSE TO  
HOMELESSNESS**



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