



3019 Pali Hwy, Honolulu, HI 96817 (808) 445-1873

Newsletter

APRIL 2018

Celebrating 30 Years: The Journey



*Calvin Pang
Friends of the Children's Justice
Center President*

When I joined the board six years ago, we did not have a dime to our name. Our colleagues at the Maui Friends of the Children's Justice Center loaned us some money, and for awhile,

we operated on those funds. Thankfully, through help from government sources, private donations, and our fundraising efforts, we soon had our own bank account from which **we answered the call of abused children**, many sexually abused, who needed help restoring their lives to some semblance of normalcy.

It begins with helping to maintain the look and feel of the Children's Justice Center located at 3019 Pali Highway. You've probably noticed it when driving up the Pali on the way to Kailua. Yes, it looks like a house, which is the idea. It is a place kids like to go to. It's bright, clean, colorful, and well appointed with toys and books that are in excellent condition. With our funds, the Center has bought furniture that has the right size, feel, and look for our children. With our funds, the Center maintains a regular supply of cleaning supplies and equipment. At the request of Center staff, we have replaced the kitchen refrigerator that hold the cold drinks and snacks, which the Center provides to the children and their families.



When the children must stay through meal time, we fund an account from which **hot foods are ordered so the children and their families are fed**. If they lack transportation, we pay the transportation costs to ensure that the family needn't worry about how to get to the Center and back. **We do it as often as they need it.**

What's Inside?

Mahalo to our Volunteers

Year-in-Review: Giving Back

Save the Date: Annual Fundraiser

First Annual Giving Project

Message from the CJC Director

Ultimately, the children leave the Center to continue with their lives. Before they do, they go to a corner full of new toys and books – **“comfort items”** is what we call them – and select something they can take with them. Through your donations, we keep the corner stocked.



With a comfort item, we add a blanket, quilted by one of our community partners. And if a child cannot return home due to safety concerns and must go to a shelter or foster home, we pack a brand new backpack with **everything a child needs and can call their own** – toiletries, personal hygiene items, new clothes and footwear, linens and towels, school supplies, and more. With your donations, we keep and refresh an inventory of these items to quickly fill a backpack with precisely what a child needs.

And we do more. We know that healing takes time, even years after the child leaves the Center. Through our Ho'ola Na Mana'o Program, we encourage the professionals working with our “kids” to tell us **what a child needs to keep healing**. The requests may seem ordinary – a monthly student bus pass, payment for public school fees, physical education uniforms – but getting them covered helps the child get through life with as few seams as possible. Sometimes the requests are more unusual – paying tuition so a promising athlete can attend a sports camp for the summer, paying the cost of orthodontia work that would have otherwise stopped, replacing a child’s computer so school work isn’t impeded – but your donations enable us to say **“don’t worry, we got it covered.”** For this, we have you, our donors, to thank.

Unfortunately, the problem of child abuse continues, and soon the Center will expect to see children who have been victimized by the sad and growing problem of sex trafficking in our community. The Center's facilities are already stretched to their seams. For the past few years, we’ve started talking about fundraising efforts to help the Center become bigger and better able to comfortably accommodate the greater need. We are starting a conversation on a Capital Campaign far larger than anything we’ve ever done. But just as we put our heads down and moved forward despite not having a dime to our names six years ago, we will keep our nose to the grind, keeping in our vision the children who will be served by our collective efforts. **The children drive everything we do.** We hope you will be moved by them too.

National statistics show that **one in four girls and one in six boys** will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday.

Annual Giving Project

Our needs are many. Our resources are few. And we need your help. The expanding needs of our community have now led us to broaden our fundraising activities.



We need your support . . .

We are introducing an Annual Giving initiative—to begin this month and to be held every April thereafter in conjunction with Child Abuse Prevention Month—to encourage people to donate money to our cause.



Our goal is to raise \$20,000 through this effort, which will supplement our traditional Hope & Healing fundraiser, scheduled for October this year. This past year, Friends was able to provide clothing, school supplies, holiday gifts, and assist with summer school fees, transportation to therapy appointments, and extracurricular activities for child victims in need, many of who were unable to return home and placed in temporary foster care. Providing for some of these basic needs may seem mundane, but for a child who has lost everything, it gives some hope of healing and recovery.

Enclosed with this newsletter is an envelope where you can make your tax deductible contribution. We hope you will consider giving to the Friends and to encourage others to join us in bringing some comfort to Oahu's children.



Dear Friends of the children's justice center of Oahu,

I can not thank you for all the support that you have given me and the other kids in situations like mine. it is so awesome the things that you do for us but just knowing that you guys care so much is such a big deal. Thank you for everything that you have contributed to me on this journey.

**You may also
donate**
online at
www.fcjcoahu.org
or by phone
(808) 445-1873

Mahalo to our Volunteers!

GIVING PROJECTS 2017

Jenna Tomas

Friends of the Children's Justice Coordinator

Being an organization with such a small staff, volunteers are essential to our success and growth. In 2017, Friends had over **125 volunteers** assist on a range of projects. Most important to achieving our mission, is effectively raising the funds to support our Hope and Healing Project. This project is primarily funded by donations received through our annual Hope and Healing fundraiser. In fact, it was the success of our very first fundraiser that allowed for the the creation of this project. Each year we have been fortunate to build upon this success and that is in large thanks to the volunteers who plan and execute the event.



In 2017, Friends fulfilled **over 700 Hope and Healing requests**. With the help of our volunteers, we were able to provide **150 backpacks** filled with school supplies to children for our Back to School Project. When the holidays came around, volunteers shopped for and wrapped gifts to be **delivered to more than 400 children**.

Throughout the year volunteers help out in different ways to meet the needs of the Children's Justice Center. This assistance includes helping to maintain our on-site foster care closet for those children who may not return home due to safety concerns. Our loyal donors, volunteers, and partners are the reasons it is possible for Friends to provide continued assistance to Hawaii's abused keiki.



Sixty volunteers helped to shop for and wrap gifts during the holiday season. The volunteers included: Rotary Club of Kahala Sunrise, CJC staff, U.S. Navy, and community members.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE...

"Emma was thankful for the gifts she received as these were **the only gifts** she received this Christmas."

"Megan's **bullying behaviors have decreased** tremendously... I see a self-pride in her that is healthy."

"The Christmas gifts Jade received will help remind her **she is not forgotten** and help to address the trauma she experienced."

"Jake was thankful for his **brand new school supplies**, he always had second hand."

*The names of these children have been changed to protect their privacy.

BE A HERO

PACIFIC CLUB
HONOLULU, HI 96813

From the Children...

Since 1988, the CJC of Oahu has helped over 15,000 children, as young as six months old. In 2017, more than 1,000 child victims and witnesses, along with their family members, received CJC of Oahu services. On behalf of Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Oahu and most especially the children we serve, we send a heartfelt **mahalo for your generosity.**

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A Special Mahalo from the CJC Director

Jasmine Mau Mukai,
Children's Justice Center Director

The public/private partnership between the Children's Justice Center (CJC) of Oahu and Friends of the CJC of Oahu is invaluable. The Friends, through the generous support of our community, is able to help meet the numerous needs of a facility designed to interview children who are victims of abuse or witnesses to crime. **These children, from the ages of two years and older have been victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse, sex trafficking or witnesses to domestic violence or homicides.**

The Friends replaced the furniture in the reception area where thousands of clients have waited over the past 30 years. The Friends also redecorated the child interview rooms, one for preschoolers, one for school aged children and one for teens. The art that fills the walls were created by child volunteers through several special projects.

During the past 30 years
over 15,000 children
have been interviewed at
the Children's Justice
Center.

The Friends assist to help meet the needs of children and their families, especially during a time of crisis and heightened trauma. Meeting their basic needs, such as offering a family something to eat or providing them transportation to get to the Center, can make a significant difference.

When a child is unable to return home due to safety concerns, the Friends provide them with clothing, toiletries, a backpack filled with school supplies and a stuffed animal for comfort. Children are offered to select a handmade quilt donated to the Friends by several local quilting groups. **Children, their families and the agency staff have provided heartfelt**

feedback of what a pizza and quilt meant to a young child who lost a parent. Or a sibling group who experienced abuse and were entering foster care, but were so happy to have bags filled with items that were selected for them.



Pictured above is Director Jasmine Mau Mukai (left) pictured with Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald (center), and Calvin Pang (right) at our annual Hope and Healing Event.

The Friends also provide support to the professionals who respond to these child abuse cases. This includes funding for training. Over the past several years, the Friends have hosted a Heroes of Hope event for approximately 100 professionals, including police, child welfare services, victim advocates, legal, medical and mental health providers. They are honored for their dedication and commitment in this difficult but rewarding type of work.