

WINTER 2011

# Susie News

The quarterly newsletter of the Susannah Wesley Community Center

## Susie Sends Holiday Greetings to Washington DC

As part of the 2011 National Tree display at President's Park in Washington D.C., Susannah Wesley has been chosen to take part of the display by designing and creating ornaments for the State of Hawaii's tree. Organized by the National Park Foundation, the National Christmas Tree Lighting is one of America's oldest holiday traditions, with its beginnings dating back to 1923 with President Calvin Coolidge. This tradition, having evolved over time, now includes selecting a local artist and youth from each U.S. state, territory and the District of Columbia to design and create 24 ornaments. Twenty-three ornaments will be hung from the designated State tree with one ornament being selected to be showcased on the White House Visitor Center Christmas tree along with the ornaments from all 56 states, territories and DC.



Susannah Wesley Community Center and the Honolulu Academy of Arts collaborated in offering a two month art class for students ages 12 to 18. The students designed and created ornaments based on the theme of "Ohana." The youth developed pieces that were inspired by their own

**Christmas Pathway of Peace (continued on page 3)**

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT-

I hope you, your family and friends have enjoyed a safe and prosperous holiday season. During this time, the Center has been a bee hive of activity.

The Christmas Spirit is flowing and our center has been in demand with many holiday parties. Our participants made the Christmas decorations that adorn the tree in the rec room. Next year, we welcome two new groups to our 'ohana—Hawaii Bonsai Association and Ikebono Ikebana Society of Honolulu, Hawaii Chapter.

A special thank you goes out to Palisades Community Church. Their Women's group has selected our Human Trafficking survivors and their families for special Christmas care packages.

Did you receive our Holiday Appeal? The Center continues to depend on your generosity. Please consider Susannah Wesley Community Center as the 2011 year ends.

Happy Holidays, Adele Lum, President



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## Susie Program Profile: Prevent Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking is today's form of modern day slavery. It occurs internationally, nationally, and in our state. It is big business and is estimated to generate more than \$32 billion per year worldwide. It is demeaning and strips humanity from both victims and traffickers alike. In 2000, the United States Congress passed the **Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)** which strengthened federal criminal laws to prohibit human trafficking and to provide a means of relief for trafficking victims in the United States.

Susannah Wesley Community Center became involved in this area in 2007, when it subcontracted with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to provide case management services for pre-certified human trafficking victims. At this time the agency's Immigrant and Support Services Program which provided bilingual case management services for seriously mentally ill limited English speaking persons had been in operation for more than twelve years. The program's experience in providing bilingual case management in a diverse ethnic setting and its background in mental health services strongly aligned with the USCCB subcontract. With the acceptance of the SWCC's application, the program became involved with the Hawaii Coalition for Human Trafficking and entered a working partnership with other human trafficking service providers and federal and state law enforcement.

Initially, two sex trafficking victims from Korea and three labor trafficking victims were referred by USCCB. The experience gained from the work of these first referrals lead to SWCC's later involvement in the Thai labor trafficking cases that were a part of the Los Angeles based employment agency - Global Horizons Manpower. A federal grand jury in Honolulu indicted this employment recruiting agency in September 2010 for human trafficking violations.

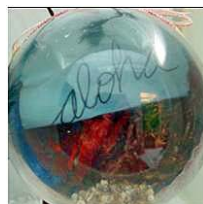
SWCC's human trafficking program in partnership with an attorney that believed that these were truly trafficking victims played an instrumental role in helping two Thai laborers to tell their story to federal law enforcement in a neutral setting. The meeting led to the identification of many more Thai laborers who were similarly identified as victims by the federal Office of Refugee and Resettlement. With the assistance of the Immigrant Legal Rights Center many of the Thai laborers obtain legal counsel and completed applications for the T-1 Human Trafficking Visa.

Since the program began SWCC has served more than twenty-five Thai laborers, and family members reunited with the victims in Hawaii. SWCC will continue to serve human trafficking victims by indentifying potential victims and linking them to legal assistance to file for trafficking visas, continuing to work with previous clients as they continue to adjust to life in Hawaii and to apply for permanent resident status after three years and in some cases United States Citizenship after five years of permanent resident status; and to receive referrals from the new human trafficking contract agency –US Refugee and Immigrant Committee.

**Prevent Human Trafficking (continued on page 3)**

### About Us

Susannah Wesley Community Center is an accredited, nonprofit 501(c)(3) human services agency and National Mission Institution of the Women's Division of the United Methodist Church. For more than 100 years, Susie has offered comprehensive services, evolving to meet community needs and promote individual and family self sufficiency.



**MAHALO TO ALL OUR FRIENDS  
AND SUPPORTERS WHO HAVE  
MADE THIS A SPECIAL HOLIDAY  
SEASON FOR THE MANY THAT  
ARE IN NEED**

Visit [www.susannahwesley.org](http://www.susannahwesley.org) or call 847-1535 to volunteer and get involved.

## Christmas Pathway of Peace (continued from page 1)



personal history, ethnic background and Hawaii's diversity. Their pieces reflected Filipino to Micronesian themes and used a variety of mediums from painting and drawing to collage work, and colors.

To ensure the success of the Art to Go Class, the youth met before the start date of the program and were asked what art mediums they are most interested in and would like to learn more about. The curriculum was then organized based on the information gathered, making sure to

include types of art that is most relevant to the students.

In addition to designing and developing their own concept for the ornaments, students were also introduced to an art style for each 2 hour class. With the help of the art instructors Emily McIlroy and Mary Ann Reyes, students were given the opportunity to delve into different mediums that they would ordinarily not have the chance to experience. Youth were able to design, sculpt and paint something of their choosing, just in time to be given as a gift to our nation's capitol this holiday season. Web Site: <http://www.thenationaltree.org/visit-santa/pathway-of-peace/>

## Prevent Human Trafficking (continued from page 2)

Current funding for the program is provided by the new subcontract with the US Committee on Refugee and Immigration, a two-year \$70,000 grant from the Omidyar Ohana Fund, and a two-year \$25,000 grant from the Women's Division of the United Methodist Church.

As Susannah Wesley continues to serve this special population we ask for your prayers for human trafficking victims who are still being treated as slaves, for those that have been able to get away and are now healing and adjusting to a new life, and for those that are no longer in the control of human traffickers but are now making a life in the shadows as they fear deportation and failure of dreams for a better life for themselves and their families.

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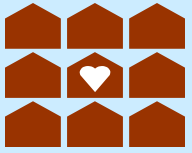
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who make  
our work**





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Susannah Wesley Community Center  
1117 Kaili Street  
Honolulu, HI 96819

Susannah Wesley Community Center serves as an instrument of God's love to nurture, offer hope, and enhance the well being of the community