



Fall 2009

Susie News

The Official Newsletter of the Susannah Wesley Community Center

Executive Director's Message

This past year we have witnessed one of the greatest economic declines of my generation. As a social service agency that works with the neediest, we have witnessed first-hand how this economic downturn has directly impacted and continues to impact those we work with in the community. We increased food distribution by 40%. We saw referrals from area schools for family services increase by 30%, enrollment in our pre-employment English as Second Language (ESL)/pre-employment classes increased almost three fold. We are especially grateful to the Atherton Family Foundation and the G.N. Wilcox Trust for their generous support which has enabled us to meet this increased need.

Throughout it all, SWCC remains steadfast in our commitment to provide support and assistance to enable people to live fulfilling lives. To that end, we have opened a second Food Pantry at the Center itself to enhance the work of our present Food Pantry located on the premises of Kuhio Park Terrace. We also started a new program called the "Evening Counseling Program" whereby first-time juvenile minor law violators and his/her family are counseled. [See article on page 5 for more details.]

Our Board of Directors continues to provide strong leadership and guidance for SWCC's long term viability as an organization by focusing on mission driven development, finding ways to maximize the revenue potential of our facility, creating program sustainability plans as well increasing our direct fundraising efforts. We have hired a development officer, Sonya Chung-Hirano, to provide the leadership to achieve these goals.

We have also made much needed technological improvements to increase our organizational effectiveness and efficiency by purchasing our own network server. The new network will enable us to communicate better with our clients and stakeholders in the community, as well as streamline communications internally among staff.

Although we are living in uncertain times, we remain focused on the challenge of meeting the pressing needs of clients while facing further reductions in Aloha United Way funding and possibly further decreased state funding, as well as diminishing resources for the non-profit industry in general. We believe we will persevere and succeed in addressing the many challenges facing SWCC in its constant endeavor to keep the mission and work relevant, viable and vibrant in a community facing unprecedented change.

We thank you for your unflinching commitment, passion and support for the mission of the Susannah Wesley Community Center.

Ron Higashi

Summer Fun 2009

Our annual Summer Fun Program kicked off on June 17, 2009, with a total of 26 children between the ages of 5 to 13. The program was packed with on site activities like making homemade ice cream, creating tie-dye tee shirts and having rock band tournaments. Participants also enjoyed field trips to places like the Ice Palace, Discovery Bay and Kualoa Ranch.

Nine year old Paloma Puma has been attending the Summer Fun program for the past 3 years said, "It's so much fun because of all the field trips and activities and you never get bored."

On a sad note, this was also the last Summer Fun Program to be organized by SWCC staff, David Lum, who has moved on to another work opportunity. We are grateful for his 10 years of service and commitment to the Youth Services Program at SWCC and we wish him well in his new endeavor.

The 2010 Summer Fun Program will be coordinated by Kris Kiyono and Ian Tapu. Both worked closely with David Lum to make this year's program successful. Kris spent a year at SWCC as a practicum intern. He is a recent graduate of Brigham Young University of Hawaii with a degree in social work. We are very fortunate to have both Kris and Ian as full time staff in the Youth Services Program.



Above: Summer Fun children enjoy water day

Below: Summer Fun 2009 group picture



WE WERE DOCUMENTED!

On July 9, 2009, a youth-led film crew came to SWCC and videotaped activities and interviewed three of our youth who participate in our programs. The film crew was a part of the Youth Matters Network (YMN), an initiative of the Hawaii Community Foundation, which brings together 20 different groups from across the state that provide services and programs for youth development. The YMN meets regularly to share stories and identify new ideas for quality youth engagement programs in Hawaii.

SWCC was chosen as one of the agencies to be showcased in a documentary video that seeks to evaluate the effectiveness of youth programs in Hawaii. The film crew interviewed Gernani Yutob, Roel Esposito and Faaletonu Asuega for the documentary. All the agencies that were showcased in the documentary will receive copies of the video when it is finalized. You will be able to check it out on our website!

FREE HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE HAWAII AIR NATIONAL GUARD

On July 24, 2009, volunteer doctors, nurses and medical workers provided free physicals and dental/vision screenings for approximately 20 SWCC clients and community members as part of a project called "E MALAMA KAKOU" (To Care for All). The project is a collaboration between the Hawaii Air National Guard, the State of Hawaii Department of Health and various Department of Defense Medical Units to provide free health services to communities throughout Hawaii. Thank you Project E Malama Kakou!



Left: A participant in our Senior Program gets her vision screened.



SWCC RECEIVES \$10,000 DONATION FROM THE KALAKAUA LIONS CLUB



Left: Lions Club members power-washing the walls
Right: Lily Bloom Domingo, SWCC Board of Directors President, accepting the \$10,000 check from Kenneth Yee, President of the Kalakaua Lions Club



The Susannah Wesley Community Center received a \$10,000 grant from the Kalakaua Lions Club. The grant is from their Weinberg Friends Program which is administered by the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation and is made available to service clubs who in turn choose specific community organizations to be the beneficiaries.

"We chose the Susannah Wesley Community Center as this year's recipient of the Weinberg Friends Program grant because of the Center's strong commitment to provide important safety net services to at-risk individuals and families in the Kalihi-Palama community," said Kenneth Yee, President of the Kalakaua Lions Club. "In the current economic climate, such community services are needed more than ever."

In addition to the grant, approximately 30 members of the Kalakaua, Pearl City and Manaloa Lions Club spent several hours at SWCC on Saturday, August 22, 2009, to wash down the building's outer walls as part of the capital service project criteria of the Weinberg Friends Program. SWCC staff, board members and young people currently in the programs were on hand to assist the Club members as well.

The grant will be used to subsidize one of our most important community enrichment projects, the Competency Based High School Diploma (CBASE) program, which helps approximately 80 young adults annually to attain a high school diploma.



"Susie News" is the official publication of the Susannah Wesley Community Center and is printed four times a year. Susannah Wesley Community Center is an accredited, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) social services agency and a National Mission Agency of the United Methodist Church.



2009 Late Night Basketball

Ronald, a 12 year old boy, had dreams of playing in an organized basketball league. Though he was developmentally delayed, he worked very hard on his basketball skills. Throughout his life he was teased and made fun of by his peers. He was told that he would never amount to anything or "make it" in a game. Ronald ignored the taunts and continued his daily practice routines. He loved playing basketball and he spoke passionately about the values of the sport, sometimes even dressing up in attire representing his favorite professional basketball teams.

For players like Ronald who do not make the cut to play on their school team, the Late Night Basketball League (LNB League) provides the opportunity to play in an organized league. Whether they are short, tall, Asian, Black or White, the LNB League welcomes everyone who wants to play. Every summer for the past 18 years, the LNB League brings the community together to enjoy a competitive, fun, safe and exciting organized game of basketball. The League enabled Ronald to live his dream: to put on a team uniform, to play in an organized setting, to feel important, to live in the moment after a basket is made and have the crowd roar with approval, while his coach and teammates cheered him on. This League may seem ordinary to some, but to Ronald, it is his moment to shine. He had been given the chance of a lifetime to live out his dream.

For many youth, participation in the LNB League is more than an extracurricular activity during summer break. It is an opportunity to learn important life lessons about success and failure, perseverance and teamwork – a vehicle to fulfill their hopes and dreams.

This year, the Late Night Basketball League started off with a lot of bubbles. Car wash bubbles to be specific. On May 23, 2009, the SWCC Youth Services staff, participants and volunteers turned out for a car wash fundraiser at the Chevron on Waiialae Avenue near Kahala Mall to raise money for league fees and other supplies for the program. After a long day of soaping and rinsing, they raised \$1,050 for the program. The League is a jointly supported program by various social service agencies in the Kalihi-Palama community, which includes the Kalihi YMCA, Kokua Kalihi Valley, PACT, Palama Settlement and the Boys and Girls Club of Honolulu, just to name a few.

The League consists of two divisions: Junior Division (for ages 11-14) and Senior Division (for ages 15-18). Annually, the league draws over 210 youth to compete on 20 teams from both divisions. Each team consists of 10 to 15 players. A majority of the players are from Kalihi, but it is not uncommon to have players who are from communities all over the island. All games are played at the Palama Settlement gym. All LNB League coaches are volunteers. The coaches are from the community at large or are staff from the participating agencies. One of the most important benefits of playing in the League for the youth is the impact of having of positive and nurturing adult role models to look up to and learn from. On August 22, 2009, players, volunteers and staff took part in a service project where they worked to clean up the Kalihi Valley Nature Park for several hours. The LNB League closed off with an All-Star basketball game followed by an awards and recognition banquet at the Palama Settlement on August 22. The next Late Night Basketball League is set for July 2010. Practices begin in April.



Support the Aloha United Way and the Combined Federal Campaign by designating the Susannah Wesley Community Center for your donation.

**Aloha United Way Donation Designation Number for SWCC: 96470
Combined Federal Campaign Donation Designation Number for SWCC: 35044**



Yes! I wish to join Susannah Wesley Community Center and its work in our community.

Mail to: Susannah Wesley Community Center, 1117 Kaili St., Honolulu, HI 96819 or call (808) 847-1535

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY STATE ZIP CODE

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

My Donation (check one): \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 Other \$ _____

TOTAL DONATION: \$ _____ MY CHECK IS ENCLOSED IN THE AMOUNT OF: \$ _____

Please Bill Me: Monthly Quarterly Semi-annually

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

Visit us at www.SusannahWesley.org

Susannah Wesley Community Center is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization. Your donation is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

NEW PROGRAM AT SWCC: *EVENING COUNSELING*

We are excited to provide a new service to our community called the Evening Counseling Program whereby a first-time juvenile offender and his/her legal guardian receive counseling as a family to understand the how the offender's choices have lead him/her into the juvenile justice system. The program was originally administered by the Honolulu Police Department but in the summer of 2008, SWCC along with another social service agency Hale Kipa, were asked to take over the program and provision of services. This mandated program provides a "second chance" to first-time juvenile offenders to learn from their mistakes and avoid illegal behaviors in the future. The program actually becomes an "only chance" for first-time offenders in that if they become involved in the juvenile justice system again, they will suffer the full consequences of the law. A parent participant in the program shared with Ron Higashi, SWCC Executive Director, that the program was a very positive experience for him and his teenager. The Evening Counseling Program currently has 15-20 participants a week. For more information about the program, please contact Shelly Guira at 847-1535.

RUMMAGE SALE SUCCESS!

Over 75 shoppers looking for good bargains came to our annual Rummage Sale at the Center on May 30, 2009. We raised \$1,600! All funds will be used to help offset program expenses not covered by state or federal contracts. A big mahalo to Lisa Barney for organizing the successful event.

"Winners don't quit and quitters don't win."
-- Client, SWCC Adult Program

JOIN THE LANAKILA HOT LUNCH PROGRAM

SWCC and the Lanakila Meals on Wheels Program cooperate together to provide approximately 15-20 seniors an opportunity to gather together, participate in group activities and enjoy a hot meal every weekday morning at the Center. The Lanakila Meals on Wheels Program is currently accepting more seniors to join their Group Dining program. New enrollees will be able to receive a hot lunch from now until May 2010. If you are interested in joining up, please call 531-0555 and ask for Susan Ito.

2 EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT SWCC RIGHT NOW

Ward Centers Festival of Giving

Buy a \$10 ticket to receive special discounts at over 90 Ward Center Shops and Restaurants on November 6-8, 2009. For details on the discounts, visit www.wardcenters.com. The entire \$10 from each ticket sale goes to support SWCC programs. Call Tammy at 440-5820 or tnakamatsu@susannahwesley.org for more information or to sell or purchase tickets.

Entertainment Book 2010

Purchase a Hawaii Entertainment 2010 book for \$30.00. SWCC receives \$6.00 for each book sold. Coupons in the book are good from today until November 1, 2010. Use the book a couple times and you'll make back the purchase cost of the book in savings. The books also make great Christmas gifts! Call Tammy at 440-5820 or tnakamatsu@susannahwesley.org for more information or to sell or purchase a book.

NEW FACES AT SWCC

We have several new people on board as SWCC staff!

Youth Services

Erin Rutherford, Student Intern, is a 2nd year University of Hawaii MSW student who will work with us for the school year

Carlo Bermudez, Student Intern, is a 2nd year University of Hawaii MSW student who will work with us for the school year

Kris Kiyono has been hired as a full time case manager. He was a student intern from BYU last year

Jordan Tangonan has been hired as full time case manager. She was a student intern from Hawaii Pacific University last year

Immigration & Refugee Services

Clifford Bermudes, Student Intern, is a 2nd year MSW student at Hawaii Pacific University who will work with us for the year

Sang Hae Lee, Student Intern, is a senior BSW student at University of Hawaii at Manoa who will work with us for a year

Akiko Ishii, MSW, was hired as a full time Program Coordinator with IRSSP in August

Masako McCarthy, BSW, is a new volunteer with the department one day a week



Susannah Wesley Community Center
1117 Kaili Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819-3424

**Do you know someone who is ready
to get a
High School diploma?**

Call SWCC today for more information or to register
at 440-5820

Competency Based High School Diploma Program (CBASE)
Must be 16 to 23 years old

English as a Second Language (ESL)
Must be 16 years and older

Both courses offer day classes and have continuous and open enrollments.