

OPEN HEARTS



OPEN DOORS

Dear Friends:

When most people are asked about Susannah Wesley Community Center, the first thing that comes to mind is our facility. The buildings and land on Kaili Street have long been a visible symbol of our commitment to community and mission. Susannah Wesley Community Center has been blessed over its long history with the gift of fantastic facilities to call home, a generous accommodation from the United Methodist Women national office. In return, SWCC operates a variety of much needed programs in our Kalihi community, and also are stewards to its maintenance.

The Center is embarking on an ambitious three-year facilities improvement plan. These are the essential items that need to be addressed soon. This comprehensive list was developed through a professional building inspection, our accreditation peer reviewer's site visit, board of directors building and grounds committee, and our staff's health and safety committee. It is also fair to say that other items will be added to the plan over time.

The building has been home to many meaningful and innovative programs, and community groups and activities over the years. That tradition is carried on today with the opening of the Kalihi Palama Juvenile Assessment Center in March of this year. Dozens of community groups meet regularly at the Center. Our gymnasium is used seven days a week. Over 90,000 walk through our doors annually.

We need your support to keep us strong. Please consider a one-time gift of \$120 or a three-year pledge of \$10 a month, in addition to your annual gift which continues to support our services such as case management to survivors of human trafficking. Mahalo Nui Loa for your continued support.

Happy Holidays,

Lorrin Hirano

President, Board of Directors

Asiana Ponciano

Resource Development Committee Chair

Ronald Higashi

Executive Director

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Staff of the Susannah Wesley Community Center, we wish you and yours a happy, healthy holiday season and a joyous beginning to the new year!



Make a donation & Give us a boost!

Make a donation to our charity at www.friendsofhawaii.org and your donation triggers a bonus boost for us from funds raised at the Sony Open by Friends of Hawaii Charities!

Support us today and we get a boost!

- Visit friendsofhawaii.org
- Click on the Aloha for Hawaii Charities icon
- Select our charity
- Make your tax-deductible contribution
- We'll receive 100% of your donation plus a bonus boost from Friends of Hawaii Charities!

Donation period:
November 9, 2015 – January 17, 2016
(4 p.m. HST).



Friends of Hawaii Charities will provide a one-time gift of up to \$100,000 that will be shared by all Aloha for Hawaii Charities participating charities.
Mahalo for your support!



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 115 years, Susie has offered comprehensive services, evolving to meet community needs and promote individual and family self sufficiency.



Fall/Winter 2015

Susie News

The Newsletter of the Susannah Wesley Community Center

Make Us Stronger! Open Hearts, Open Doors Campaign

Susannah Wesley Community Center is embarking on a three year facility improvement plan to repair our buildings that are over 67 and 20 years old. Although we have continued to facilitate repairs over the last 15 years, it's time for us to replace doors, gutters, repair exterior portions of our buildings and grounds and other items.



Our Fundraising Goal: \$100,800

Our fundraising goal over the next three years, totals \$100,800. We will meet immediate safety needs and then begin to address additional deferred maintenance items, such as reroofing and repainting.



\$50,400 Repairs to Exterior Building

\$27,000 Open Doors

\$23,400 Exterior Grounds Maintenance

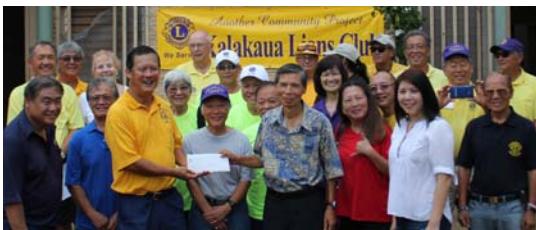
The most critical items is to remove the large gate entrance to the youth courtyard, for the safety and security of our staff and clients. Extended program hours facilitate the need to replace the gates with a new entrance/exit door with panic hardware. Other immediate items include the replacement of doors to other portions of the facility and repairs our gutters.

Please consider a \$10 per month pledge for the next 36 months or \$120 per year to support the Open Hearts + Open Doors Campaign, in addition to your annual gift.

Mahalo to our Campaign Leaders



**\$17,500 Pending Gift
United Methodist Women, National Office**



\$10,000 from the Kalakaua Lions Club, Weinberg & Friends Grant



The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Inc.

\$12,500 Endowment Funds over the next 3 years

1117 Kaili Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819-3432 • (808) 847-1535 • fax (808) 847-0787
www.susannahwesley.org

Accredited by the Council on Accreditation • A participating agency of Aloha United Way
In a covenant relationship with the United Methodist Women national office

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



To Nurture and Offer Hope

Denial that human trafficking happens here in Hawaii. Denial that such monstrous and inhumane crimes can exist here in Hawaii. Denial that our local girls and boys are lured, manipulated and exploited by local pimps who force our youth to perform commercial sex acts. Denial that local johns (the client) are helping to finance the commercial sex trade.

More than 2,500 women and children are trafficked to Hawaii, annually. Over 110,000 commercial sex ads are posted online each year. The average age of a child's entry into sex trafficking is only 13 years old. Sex trafficking exists because it is a highly lucrative criminal industry with high profits and low risk. The johns or the individuals who buy commercial sex provide the demand and deny the abusive and heinous impact that the commercial sex trade has on victims.

Since 2013, Susannah Wesley Community Center's case managers have assisted 55 human trafficking victims. However, the agency's history of providing support to victims of modern day slavery goes back to 2007. Building a foundation of trust and the offer of hope are critical components to working with the profound negative impact of trauma that survivors have been exposed to.



The Work We Do: Case Manager's Perspective

The following is shared by our human trafficking case managers.

Our clients want to heal. They want a new life away from their past. Our clients experience a variety of post-trauma induced experiences, such as recurring nightmares that force them to relive past horrors which prohibit the healing process. Our clients have some of the purest and most caring

hearts. Their need for love left many of our client vulnerable and open to exploitation. They trusted and gave their whole heart to these horrible abusers. Our clients want more than anything to prevent another girl or boy from being trafficked. If you ask the clients what they want to do for work, they often say to either become a lawyer or social worker. They want to stop this from happening to someone else. They are compassionate, selfless, caring, and concerned for the well-being of others.

A typical day of a case manager can change dramatically from facilitating a doctor or lawyer visit to picking up a new client who is trying to flee from their abuser. Safety is always a priority because the pimp or someone who works with the abuser could be following at anytime. I will never forget the day a client who is almost twice my size, duck behind a three foot wall just to get out of sight of one of her abusers. Or the day that I dropped off a client and we were talking outside when one of the abusers drove by and there was a split second to get the client to safety immediately or they could have been harmed.

Upon referrals from either the Honolulu Police Department, hospital emergency rooms, medical doctors, or other non-profits, our case managers help to stabilize the client during the first few days upon an initial assessment. SWCC is one of the few agencies who provide intensive case management services to domestic victims and survivors of human trafficking.

How you can help? Financial donations are needed to provide Immediate Housing Needs for the first couple of days. A long term goal would be to secure financial support for shelters or transitional housing. Donations of gift cards for food would also help to provide nourishment for our survivors.

"You will do anything to feel like his everything. And he promises you everything. And the things he convinces you to do, they don't seem that bad if afterwards he shows you how much he loves you... And as long as your profits meet expectations, you will have what you've wanted your whole life: Love."



Human trafficking, modern day slavery.

In 2000, the U.S. Congress signed into law the "Trafficking Victims Protection Act," which legally is defined as "the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act, in which the sex is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age; or the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery."



Remarkable Resilience of a Survivor

The following story is written by a remarkable former client.

Kanani was a troubled teenager. At the age of 15 years old she was forced to live on the streets because her aunt kicked her out of the house. She had no reliable friends or family she could go to, so she turned to the streets. She lived from situation to situation until one day she was lured into meeting her trafficker by him using another female victim to lure her in on social media. She thought they were friends and was aware that after awhile she was speaking directly to him online and not the girl; when she went to meet with the girl it was him who showed up. He eventually had the girl meet with them as he told her his plan for what he wanted to do. Alone, scared, and homeless, at 16, she agreed.

One day she got the courage to come forward and testify against her trafficker. On the day of court she met a lady from the Susannah Wesley Community Center who offered to help her get off the streets. Upon learning that she was being sent to Child Welfare Services (formerly known as Child Protection Services), she felt betrayed by the system. Yet, she quickly felt relieved when talking to the SWCC case worker. She finally felt like she was hearing the truth and going to get the help she has been longing for.

Through SWCC, Kanani was able to be reunited with her father, find a place to live, was provided basic needs to survive and connected with a support team to help her stay off the streets. In addition SWCC helped her attend high school and even experience prom. For young children trafficking is the only way to survive with no place to live, no way to get food, and no way to attend high school. She is still receiving help today to further education. She currently is getting help mentally and physically, and one day hopes to help women and children who have been abused.

This has been a long road for her and she still has many years to come, but because of her diligence and the help of Susannah Wesley Community Center, she is reunited with her family and working two jobs to support herself.

- from the spoken word poem,
"America's Daughters,"
written by a Polaris Client
(www.PolarisProject.org)

America's Daughters

To watch the powerful spoken word piece, written and performed by a female survivor of sex trafficking, visit www.polarisproject.org/americasdaughters.

Through her words, we gain a brief glimpse into the unbelievable exploitation so many people have endured while yearning for what we all need: LOVE.

Polaris is a leader in the global fight to eradicate modern slavery.
Www.polarisproject.org

If you or someone you know is a victim of human trafficking, call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-373-7888.



Susannah Wesley
COMMUNITY CENTER

SINCE 1899

1117 Kaili Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819



Kalihi Palama Juvenile Assessment Center Update

The response to the Juvenile Assessment Center project has been tremendous and exceeded all expectations. Since opening its doors on March 16th of this year, well over 200 families have been referred to the project by the Honolulu Police Department in District 5 (Nuuanu through Moanalua).

Program staffs deal with the immediate crisis, then develop a "safety" plan if necessary, and work to help the family address those issues that precipitated the arrest. Our program staff has invaluable skills, utilizes cultural appropriate methods, and provides services in multiple languages to meet the needs of the clients served. In just the first six months, staff have had to address the gamut of various life situations.

"For some families, KPJAC gave them the opportunity to share, disclose, and ask for help for the first time in their lives. They feel comfortable enough to share about their lives through a "talk story" assessment session with staff." said Shelly Guira, KPJAC staff member. "There were many instances where parents were at the Center seeking help before the actual citation arrived to us from the police."

For some youth it is a time to reflect on the reason(s) they were arrested. "KPJAC gives adolescents an opportunity to acknowledge their mistakes (arrests) and to take responsibility for their actions," said staff member Alice Avea. "We assist families in making things right or "ono" again."

The program has needed many times needed to serve as advocates for the family. KPJAC staff Patty Kaholokula says, "we have addressed kids and their families with severe issues that were going unnoticed and undetected, we try to connect our families with services that will help them address these issues."

Data will be available from the project in the next few months and we will begin to highlight this data as well as the actual impact we are making on families soon through our e-newsletter. If you are not signed up please email info@susannahwesley.org to subscribe to our e-newsletters.

We wish to thank the Honolulu Police Department for their commitment to the project, the Office of Youth Services, the City Department of Community Services, and Hawaii State Legislature for providing the funding and opportunity to serve this much needed program in our community.



Help Keep Us Strong

Please consider making a gift this holiday season and make your tax-deductible donation by December 31, 2015 to the support Susie's work.

Visit us at www.susannahwesley.org

Make a (recurring) gift online at:



At your workplace:



Number: 35044

Aloha United Way
Donor Choice Designation
Number: 96470



Double Your Donation: Does your employer match gifts to organizations like ours?
Please check with your company to see if your employer will match your contribution.



You can also donate to SWCC via the United Methodist Women website:
<http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/donate/national-mission-institutions>

OR by sending donations directly to:

Susannah Wesley Community Center
1117 Kaili Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96819



Mahalo nui loa for your continued support of Susie!



I / We support the important work of the Susannah Wesley Community Center!

Name: _____
(Mr/Mrs/Ms) First Middle Last

Address: _____
Street

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

I want to stay current to what's going on at Susie, please add my email so I can receive SWCC's eNewsletter:

Email: _____ Phone: _____

My Gift (please check):

\$60 \$120 \$240 \$360 \$500 \$1,000 Other \$_____

I support the Open Hearts + Open Doors Campaign. I will make a pledge of \$10/month for the next 36 months.

Enclosed is my first pledge gift of \$30. Please bill me quarterly, starting (month) _____, 2016.

I will make a gift online at www.susannahwesley.org in the amount of \$ _____

I will double my gift through my company's matching gift program in the amount of \$ _____

Susannah Wesley Community Center · 117 Kaili Street · Honolulu, Hawaii 96819-3432

(808) 847-1535 · www.susannahwesley.org

Susannah Wesley Community Center is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Your donation is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.
All information shared by you is confidential.