



Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii

Media Contact:

Rachelle Chang

(808) 545-2740

info@samaritanhawaii.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai‘i Celebrates 30 Years of Service
Counseling Individuals, Families, Clergy, and Communities**

April 10, 2019 – Honolulu, HI – Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai‘i is celebrating 30 years of service to individuals, families, and communities in need of mental health counseling. Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai‘i has grown from one counseling office in Honolulu to six counseling offices across O‘ahu. Over 8,202 individuals and families have received services through 73,844 counseling sessions since the Center opened its main office at First United Methodist Church in 1989.

"We are blessed to have been able to support and host the Samaritan Center since its inception in 1989," says Pastor Tom Choi of First United Methodist Church. "Through the years to the present day, the Samaritan Center has provided a much needed set of services for the Honolulu community and beyond. We celebrate and congratulate you on your 30th anniversary!"

A commitment to the next 30 years. Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai‘i abides by a strategic plan that focuses on three goals: interfaith leadership, service excellence, and financial stability. The Center is guided by its President, the Rev. Dr. George Clifford, a retired US Navy Chaplain, and a Board Directors who represent Oahu’s diverse interfaith communities. Programs and services are led by Executive Director Rachelle Chang, who has over 20 years of experience in marketing communications, and Clinical Director Rev. Dr. Gary Augustin, a pastoral counselor and licensed marriage and family therapist. Ten licensed, professional counselors serve individuals, families, and clergy, and engage in community outreach.

"Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai‘i’s commitment to integrating the client’s spirituality into treatment – as the client desires – while accepting all clients regardless of their ability to pay makes the Center unique on O‘ahu," says President Clifford. "This is genuine aloha for one’s neighbors, a practice found at the heart of both religious and humanistic ethics."

In honor of its 30-year anniversary, Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai‘i launched a "\$30k for 30 Years" campaign, with the goal of raising \$1,000 for each year that clients have received mental health care – so that clients can continue to receive care over the next 30 years.

Celebrating 30 Years of Service

1020 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96814 • Phone: (808) 545-2740 • Fax: (808) 545-2852

Website: www.samaritancounselingcenterhawaii.org • Email: info@samaritanhawaii.org

A legacy of mental health and healing. Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai‘i is the culmination of a dream shared by two social work students at the University of Hawai‘i, Terry Fisher and Judy Hormell, in 1984. They were determined to establish a counseling center where a person’s faith could be a source of strength to one’s counseling experience, and where people of any faith heritage would feel comfortable, receiving therapy at an affordable cost.

With the support of interfaith and community organizations, Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii welcomes people of all faiths, or no faith. No client is turned away due to lack of health insurance or funds. The Center’s Client Assistance Fund (CAF) ensures that every client receives the counseling they need, whether or not they have health insurance, and regardless of their ability to pay.

“We continue to fulfill our dream of having a Center that would be inclusive of Hawaii’s many religious traditions, with professional services open to all, regardless of ability to pay,” says co-founder Terry Fisher. “In an interfaith counseling setting, people of varying faiths are able to benefit from professional services which acknowledge their personal beliefs in the healing process.”

About Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai‘i

Established in 1989, Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai‘i provides professional and accessible counseling for individuals and families founded on a deep understanding of the close relationship between mind, body, spirit and community. The organization also serves as a resource for clergy and congregations of many religious traditions. For more information, call (808) 545-2740 or visit www.samaritancounselingcenterhawaii.org.

###

Celebrating 30 Years of Service

1020 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96814 • Phone: (808) 545-2740 • Fax: (808) 545-2852
Website: www.samaritancounselingcenterhawaii.org • Email: info@samaritanhawaii.org