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We would like to know of your gift. Please save your receipt and contact us directly so that we may properly acknowledge your gift and include it in our annual fundraising campaign total.

Samaritan Counseling Center Locations:

Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin
1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, HI 96813

First United Methodist Church (Main Office)
1020 South Beretania St., Honolulu, HI 96814

Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church
1403 California Avenue #A, Wahiawa, HI 96786

Windward United Church of Christ
38 Kaneohe Bay Drive, Kaneohe, HI 96734

Waikeola Congregational Church
4705 Kilauea Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96816



Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii

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September 2014

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Message from President Jolene Gerell

As we enter the 25th year that the Counseling and Spiritual Center of Hawaii has been providing compassionate care to individuals, families, clergy, churches and temples, I have spent much time reflecting on the question, "What has sustained the Center through 25 years of service in our community?" The first thought was from a business perspective, the market has dictated the need for our services. However, further reflection has revealed to me that it has been because of much, much more. It has sustained because from our first Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Michael Anderson and his wife Rev. Dr. Phyllis Roe, to all the succeeding Directors and interim Directors, they led and grew the Center with commitment and perseverance. It has sustained because of the counseling staff who have served those in need with compassion and sensitivity. It has sustained because of the many who have served voluntarily on the board of directors, giving unselfishly of their time and talents. It has sustained because of the faith and generosity of the churches, temples, organizations, and individuals in the good works of the Center. It has sustained because of the kindnesses of so many churches and temples that opened their doors to allow the Center to have additional offices. It has sustained because year after year, when asked, churches, temples, organizations, businesses, families, and individuals stepped forward and supported the Center with their financial gifts. How fortunate and blessed have we been surrounded by so many hearts of compassion.



Our Name

After much discussion and considerations offered by individuals, churches, temples, organizations, and friends of the Center, the Board of Directors voted to change our name back to its original name of "Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai'i" (you will note that we have eliminated the word "of" preceding the word Hawai'i). In the weeks and months ahead you will notice the change in our name, however, please know that "everything else remains the same"...Our status as a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization, our tax identification number (TIN), main address and our commitment to providing our clients with the equality counseling and spiritual care has definitely not changed! We are excited about this change and hope you embrace this return to our beginnings as we move forward.

Sign Up for Electronic Email

Please visit our new website at **SamaritanCounselingCenterHawaii.org**. This change will enable us to manage our website more easily and we will be posting our news directly on the website. To be sure that you don't miss our latest news, please sign up for email updates and the newsletter will come to you in your inbox — a paperless approach to save us money, time and keep us in better touch with you!

Celebrating 25 Years of Service

1020 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96814
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Passion
Gary Augustin, PhD, LMFT, Executive Director and Clinical Supervisor

Over the years our Center has been kept alive and strong because of the passion of those who support the SCCH. It is true that the faces have changed over the years, but the idea of the counseling center that is sensitive to person's body, mind, and spirit has been maintained. SCCH has attempted to reflect and be sensitive the religious and ethnic diversity of those living in Hawaii and this has not been duplicated anywhere in the country.

SCCH, like many other not-for-profit organizations, is dealing with the challenge to maintain and support our ministry amid the many changes with both health care and congregations that have supported us. To this end it is the spirit and passions of many people that make SCCH a unique place to receive counseling services. This passion is seen in three layers: the Board of Directors and all of those who volunteers who give time and money to support the center; with the staff's energy and outreach; and those who come with aching pains that have been seared into their lives.

A number of years ago local minister referred an older man whose wife had died six months earlier. As he presented his concerns it was clear that he had an argumentative relationship with his wife, he was estranged from his son, he had not spoken to a brother for 30 years. But with the death of his wife he began realizing how alone in the world he was and the agony was unbearable. He was living on the edge of poverty and the loss of his wife's social security made it impossible for him to continue to live as he had in the past. As he poured out his pain in the session he acknowledged that he created the dividing walls of hostility and that he would need to reach out to mend the ways he had alienated other family members.

Over the weeks that I worked with him, he was able to reconnect with his siblings and ultimately contacted and called his estranged brother. He was working on how to reach out to his son as he ended the therapy. His willingness to look at his grief may best sum up desire by the many we serve to overcome and triumph.

E Komo Mai to our new Therapists...



Shari Au, PhD

Specialties:
Shari was born and raised in Honolulu and has worked in Mental Health for 26 years. She works with people of all ages and uses solution focused problem solving, EMDR, educational and eclectic approaches to working with her clients. She also has a background in psychological testing.

Shari is now taking clients on Wednesdays at our main office at First United Methodist Church.



Kanani Krafft, LCSW

Kanani is a Christian licensed clinical social worker who works with children, individuals, couples, families and children of diverse ethnicities and backgrounds. She has specialized in adoption and foster care issues and works as a counselor serving the military population. Kanani loves the Lord and extends His love, mercy and grace in her counseling, striving to help others immerse in hope, life and new beginnings.

Kanai is now taking appointments for our office at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Wahiawa.



Emily Hew, LMFT

Emily is a Marriage and Family Therapist who works with teens, adults, individuals, couples and families. She uses different theories of therapy based on individual or family need. She specializes in working with teenagers, couples, and families. Because she is a clergy spouse, she desires to help clergy and their family in facing difficulty. Her desire is to help people enhance their quality of life through counseling practices.

For appointments or more information call 545-2740





Family Promise Hawaii
Mary Saunders, Executive Director, Family Promise of Hawaii

Family Promise of Hawaii serves one of our most vulnerable populations – homeless families with children. Since 2006, Family Promise has served over 1,300 parents and children on Oahu. Unfortunately, family homelessness continues to rise as parents struggle to make a living wage and find homes they can truly afford.

Families in our program work hard to maintain and/or secure better employment while saving money to dedicate towards housing. Many of our parents are working multiple jobs in order to make ends meet. Basic needs such as food, shelter, laundry, showers and a mailing address are daily necessities we often take for granted. Our families are thankful for these basic needs our program can provide. Of course, at the heart of our program are the children. In the face of adversity, their beautiful smiling faces continue to inspire us to work harder.

We were honored to have received the Ho’omenemene Award from the Samaritan Counseling Center this year and deeply touched by all of the Family Promise volunteers that were present at the award dinner. We are so grateful to our supporters as we strengthen our commitment to ending family homelessness.



25th Anniversary and Ho’omenemene Awards Dinner

For many who attended our Second Ho’omeneme Awards Fundraiser held on Sunday, May 4, 2014 “Oh What a Night” was the sentiment of the evening. Held at the Waialae Country Club and attended by 250 supporters and friends, the evening honored two individuals and one organization for their compassionate spirit; Mrs. Terry Fisher, retired Director for Program Services for Adult Friends for Youth and one of the cofounders of the Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai’i, Dr. Gerard Akaka, Vice President, Native Hawaiian Health, Medical Education and Clinical Support of The Queen’s Medical Center, and Family Promise, an organization serving homeless families with children represented by its Executive Director Mary Saunders. Musical tributes to the honorees were performed by Rev. Allan Fisher, Miss Marlene Sai, and Cyrus Kelawalu to the delight of our guests. The silent auction was a huge success with all 180 items bid and sold to our guests.

The Center is extremely grateful and thankful for all who attended especially those individuals and organizations who took the leadership roles in purchasing tables for the evening...The Queen’s Medical Center, United Church of Christ/ Rev. Charles Buck, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, The Gerell Corporation, Kebob, LLC, Rev. Dr. Gary Augustin, Andrew and Maureen Bates, Medcah/Genevieve Freeman, Kathy Moore, Father Larry Fisher, Aaron Eberhardt, JAB Associates and SAM Associates.

Thank you to all who donated the numerous items for our silent auction which ranged from a mini iPad to signed items from baseball great Shane Victorino.

Mahalo to all for a wonderful and successful 25th Anniversary evening.



The Samaritan Counseling Center of Hawaii sees that we have a role in our community to identify and acknowledge people and organizations for passion and energy that they share with those who may struggle in their lives.

All of us at one time or another are wounded. We all suffer and our plight in life is often determined to how we deal with that adversity and suffering. We are touched by the many people who stand up and confront suffering and accede to displace acts of compassion for those who are often helpless and marginalized.

Often those who display compassion shy away from receiving praise for their work. They are often more comfortable to see the ones who have been helped begin to become successful and flourish as the reward for the good works that they do.

On May 4th we gathered together to honor the work of such people.



Dr. Gerard Akaka
Vice President, Native Hawaiian Health, Medical Education and Clinical Support

I'd like to congratulate the Samaritan Counseling Center for serving in Hawaii for 25 years and thank them for this great honor. I also want to congratulate Terry Fisher and Family Promise Hawaii for the compassionate work that they've done. I also want to thank my beautiful wife Belinda for her support as well as my Queen's and Akaka 'Ohana for being here. I'm not sure why others think I'm compassionate but I can tell you that I have a God-given urge to help others in need. I also think that one should try to serve others to the best of their ability- this is especially meaningful when there's no way they can repay you.

I'd like to share 3 tips to consider that may impact your compassion towards others.

1. There are always 2 sides to a story. I have a wonderful Marshallese female pt who does not understand English well. Although young, she had 2 strokes with a subsequent Rt sided paralysis. Earlier this year she and her husband requested therapy to improve her function so I referred her to an occupational therapist. Later I was surprised to read that she declined further help during the visit and found out that she didn't understand what he was saying as her husband was not at the visit to translate. That was the other side of the story. Our plan is for her to have another visit, on her husband's day off so that he can translate for her.

2. I go by the wise saying "if can, can. If no can, no can." This means that if I have the knowledge, ability (and hopefully) time to help one in need I will. An example is helping a lost person in QMC find their loved one's room. There are many times that I can't help the person. I'll try to connect them with someone who can help.

3. In Matthew, Jesus shared about helping others:

34 "The King said... 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

In closing, I want to encourage each of you to be more compassionate. It can be time-consuming and even incur some loss of time or strength. But if you remember these 3 tips "2 sides to a story, if 'can, can' and Jesus' story of helping others. Remember it could be helping our loved ones.



Terry Fisher
Founder, Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii and retired Social Worker

It is a great honor and an absolute joy to be here to receive this award. I never envisioned being honored in this way! I am also thrilled to be celebrating 25 years of life with the Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii. As an organization, we have been through birth, infancy and childhood, with some tougher years in our adolescence. But 25 years marks maturity, which hopefully brings wisdom and renewed purpose.

News stories occasionally report a precious child's birth taking place in the back seat of a car, on a busy, crowded freeway. Well, that is precisely where the idea of an inter-faith spiritual counseling center was born. In fact, it was 1985. Dr. Marita Nelson was kind enough to be chauffeuring Judy Hormell and me to the University of Hawaii for social work classes. There was frustration and

consternation in the car's back seat, Judy and I had been told specifically NOT to bring a client's religion or spiritual beliefs into counseling sessions. But we both felt very strongly that the client's spiritual beliefs might aid in the healing process and that it was INDEED appropriate to have psychology and spirituality working together for wholeness. This was starting point for us and gave us purpose.

What if? We thought. What if? There was a place for affordable, professional counseling open to all faith groups where not only the community but clergy and professionals themselves might come to sort out life's problems? The Center might also be a resource to refer patients for after-care. Much needed educational services and seminars could be offered to clergy and the community-at-large.

Looking back, we acted on this inspiration. The conversation in the car rolled on with Dr. Nelson suggesting we meet her brother, Dr. Bob Neson at Christmas 1985. He was the Director of the Samaritan Counseling Center in Anchorage, Alaska. He brought his Center's slideshow and we had gathered community leaders, clergy and medical people to test the waters. Our Question? Was this unique type of counseling service a concept we should pursue? Did the Honolulu community need this service?

A survey questionnaire brought back overwhelmingly positive responses, and we were off and running! With great help from Robert Hughes, our first Board President, Judge Helen Gilmore and her by-laws expertise, Father Clarence Fisher of the Catholic Church and Rev. Sid Hormell, UCC.

Meaningful conversation with Honolulu's religious leaders where held including an unforgettably open and supportive conversation with Bishop Yoshiaki Fujitani of the Honpa Hongwanji who completely supported our interfaith efforts and lovingly encouraged us. (Thank you Yoshi)

In April, 1989 we opened our doors at First United Methodist Church, where we still have our offices today. Michael Anderson and his wife, Phyllis Roe, were our first, most amazing and beloved, Executive Directors.

Our satellite Centers opened and were welcomed in Catholic and Protestant churches, Buddhist and Jewish congregations. We discovered we were unique in our ecumenical approach in all of the United States, only in Hawaii, it seems, was there openness to ecumenical concepts of outreach and cooperation with inter-faith groups. The Samaritan Institute in Denver celebrated our ecumenical uniqueness among over 100 centers worldwide. Thus, our birth as the Samaritan Counseling Center of Hawaii.

My hope is that we can continue to remain faithful to the Center's original mission and at the same time find new and creative ways of responding to human needs around us. I hold in my prayers the hundreds of clients who have passed through our doors since 1989.

This award is being accepted by me, but it is also honoring 25 years of professionals and volunteers who have led this Center. I am extremely thankful every time I think of each of you; our outstanding professional counseling staff, our caring office manager, executive directors- both past and present. Gratitude goes to the many who have served as Board Presidents and Officers, to those who continue to serve on the Board today with Jolene Gerell's vision and leadership. Thanks to supporters who have raised money using Bob Dye's unique model and have given gifts beyond measure. Thank you to good friends in this room who have offered loving support. And gratitude to Clergy and the many churches and religious congregations for supporting us.

THANK YOU, one and all. Together you have brought health and healing into our Hawai'i Community. To my loving husband and family, thank you for believing in the dream with me. And for welcoming me home with smiles from many meetings and board sessions. You had great faith in me and in the mission of the Center. Our interfaith partnerships continue to grow and uplift the community today and I am filled with confidence that we will be a river of blessing that flows and grows for another 25 years and more.