# Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii

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August 2016

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### President's Message Andrew Bates, President

Mahalo for helping to make the third annual Ho'omenemene Dinner a success! The evening significantly helped the Center continue providing services to people without the means to pay. This has been a hallmark in the Center's history. Our "Client Assistance Find" was very close to depletion and has now been revitalized by the generous donations of the 200-plus guests.

The newly-dedicated Jolene Gerell Endowment Fund was established with gifts provided at her Memorial Service and the monies collected during the auction. The Board is working hard to continue the growth of the Endowment Fund. The Goal in our Strategic Plan was approved by Jolene during her final months as President of the Board. It will stabilize the Center for years to come and ensure services are available to people without the means to pay and to people who desire therapy with an optional interfaith spiritual component. We continue to search for people willing to add to this Endowment Fund with a legacy gift by way of the Hawaii Community Foundation, whom we are learning from and working with.

# **Ephemeral Gary Augustin, Executive Director**

When we think about time, we realize that our life on earth is very short in relationship to the age of the universe. Our lives are ephemeral. All life is fleeting. We are not different from the flowers which grow, blossom, and begin to fade. Buddhism looks at this as impermanence or *anitya* and is eloquently captured in the essay "White Ashes":

"...and who today can keep the body young and healthy for even one hundred years? Yes, how quickly our lives slip away. Whether I am the first or someone else, whether today or tomorrow, our lives on earth do indeed one day come to an end. Life seems to vanish unseen like ground water, or to evaporate like the morning dew on the summer lawn."

The recent Ho'omenemene Awards Dinner offers examples of selfless giving and is also a marker for our memories to honor those persons and services that have been rendered knowing that there will be change. For Project Dana there are perhaps a number of persons who helped establish this program and are now being served by this program. Our dear friend Jolene Gerell gave of herself up to the time that she died, leaving us with a grateful memory.

Most of us feel that we have the same or nearly the same energy and spirit that we had 20 years ago. We do not feel older, but we each know that we are growing older. Whether it is turning to the teaching of the Buddha or the constancy of the Christian scriptures, we look beyond our limited physical lives to the words and actions of ourselves and others to discover a fuller meaning to our lives. We are indebted to lives like Jolene's and services like Project Dana.

### 2016 Ho'omenemene Awards Dinner

Wow — What an evening. The Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai'i's third Ho'omenemene Dinner was a huge success. Most importantly, Project Dana and Ms. Jolene Gerrell were recognized for their selfless dedication to our community. Their work over many years truly exemplifies what individuals and organizations can accomplish as interfaith advocates and active participants. This has been the focus of the Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai'i since its inception in 1986.

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland and Representative Ken Ito presented a Joint Resolution to Project Dana. The City and County of Honolulu also presented a Resolution honoring the work Project Dana has done over so many years and for so many seniors.

The wonderful music for the evening was a compilation of songs and music that Ms. Gerell liked arranged and played by Angie Delight the music Master at the Church of the Crossroads. Choir members from the Church of the Crossroads performed Jolene's favorite song, "Amazing Grace" for the family and guests.

Rev. RJ Ross, president of the Samaritan Institute, came from the mainland to support our Center. He gave an insightful speech and commented that the indicator for a successful event is "at the end, do people stay and connect, or do they rush out of the event for their cars?" We must have been very successful, because the building staff had to ask us to leave 45 minutes after the conclusion of the dinner!







### Mahalo to our donors!

INDIVIDUALS

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Mahalo for your support of Foodland's Give Aloha annual community giving program.

In 2015, the Center received \$4,150 in donations from your generous gifts, Foodland and Western Union.





















Photographs by: David L. Moore



1020 S. Beretania St., Honolulu, HI 96814

### RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



# Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai'i invites you to Soul Shop™: Ministering to Suicidal Desperation

Friday, August 19, 2016 9 am to 4 pm Higashi Hongwanji Mission Buddhist Temple, 1685 Alaneo Street, Honolulu, Hawaii

Recent statistics about suicide in Hawaii have shown the need for faith community leaders to be prepared to assist others. Often, faith leaders are among the first persons sought by those in depression or considering suicide. Led by Michelle Snyder, the Director of Soul Shop and executive director of the Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute, Soul Shop™ is a one-day workshop for leaders of faith communities, chaplains, therapists and others who are interested in learning more about how to prevent suicide. The \$20 workshop includes lunch and is limited to 100 participants. To register online, go to http://soulshophi2016.eventbrite.com. There is a \$2.09 handling fee per ticket.

For more information, please contact us at 545-2740 or email info@samaritanhawaii.org.

### Main Office:

First United Methodist Church 1020 S. Beretania St., Honolulu

Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai'i Locations:

Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church 1403 California Ave., Wahiawa Waiokeola Congregational Church 4705 Kilauea Ave. Honolulu

Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin 1727 Pali Hwy, Honolulu Windward United Church of Christ 38 Kaneohe Bay Drive, Kailua