



Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Announcing The Rev. Dr. Gary Augustin Client Assistance Fund

Mental Health Counseling Subsidies for Uninsured, Underinsured, Elderly, and Low-Income Clients

February 6, 2023 – Honolulu, HI – Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai‘i, a nonprofit mental health counseling center, is pleased to announce that the Client Assistance Fund, which provides mental health subsidies to individuals with limited financial means, will be renamed The Rev. Dr. Gary Augustin Client Assistance Fund.

Rev. Dr. Augustin has been an integral part of the Center for 25 years. He joined the Center in 1997 as a Staff Counselor and Director of Education and Training, and over the years served as both Clinical Director and Executive Director. He is a military family and life counselor, licensed marriage and family therapist, adjunct faculty member at Chaminade University, and ordained minister in Honolulu; and was awarded the Center’s prestigious Ho‘omenemene Award in 2020. Previously, he was the Executive Director of the Samaritan Counseling Center in St. Joseph in Missouri, a minister with the Presbyterian Church (USA), a Fellow with the American Association of Pastoral Counselors, and a Clinical Member and Approved Supervisor of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. He holds a PhD. in pastoral counseling from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

“The Rev. Dr. Augustin has tirelessly served his clients and the Center with humility, generosity, and grace,” says The Rev. Dr. Bert Sumikawa, President of the Board of Directors of Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai‘i. “Renaming the Client Assistance Fund honors his contributions to the Center and his lasting legacy of hope, healing, and compassion.”

The Client Assistance Fund has served Hawai‘i since 1989, subsidizing mental health counseling for individuals, youth, couples, and families who are uninsured, underinsured, elderly, and low-income. It is a safety net for those with limited financial means and helps to increase access to professional, affordable mental health care for the people of Hawai‘i.

In 2022, Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai‘i served 609 clients and provided 5,179 counseling sessions. The Client Assistance Fund subsidized counseling for 260 clients and 36% of all counseling sessions.

“Dr. Augustin helped set me on a path of self-discovery and chart the road of inner growth,” says client Richard Morris. “He certainly helped me find a beneficial level of inner peace and outer understanding.”

Donations to The Rev. Dr. Gary Augustin Client Assistance Fund can be made online at www.samaritancounselingcenterhawaii.org/giving.

About Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai‘i

Founded in 1989, Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai‘i is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides professional and accessible mental health counseling for individuals, families, and communities in Hawai‘i, regardless of their ability to pay. The organization also participates in community outreach and events to provide mental health education, strengthen resilience, and help reduce the stigma of mental illness. For more information, call (808) 545-2740 or visit <http://www.samaritancounselingcenterhawaii.org>.

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Celebrating Over 30 Years of Service

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