



The Children's Alliance of Hawai'i

Formerly known as Friends of the Children's Justice Center of O'ahu

So Much to Be Thankful For...

As 2003 comes to a close, the staff, Board, and children of the Children's Alliance of Hawaii (CAH) have eight words for our community: We could not have done it without you!

During the past year, each of our programs has at least doubled in both size and impact. We serve more children today than ever with goods, services and program activities that often make a profound difference in their lives.

Thank you for everything that your organization has done in supporting me and for helping me to reach my goals and make a better life for myself. I appreciate you guys always trying to get my sisters and I together, it really helped us not to lose contact with each other and just to be able to see each other at least once a month. You guys are doing an awesome job in helping siblings in foster care and we all appreciate it. I hope to see you all soon and I also hope to make you all proud in achieving my goals and making my dreams a reality! Thank you, God Bless, and take care!

Love,
Charity

Welcome to New Board Members

The Alliance's Board members help define programs, set policy and identify community resources. They are also our ambassadors in the community, educating others about the Children's Alliance of Hawaii (CAH) and the needs of the children we serve. We are sincerely grateful to these people who volunteer their time to help Oahu's sexually and physically abused children.

Recently appointed board members are Timothy Chang, VP & Commercial Banking Officer, Bank of Hawaii; A. Joseph Fadrowsky, III, Vice President, Gentry Pacific Ltd.; Addie Lamberth, CPA, Private practice; George H. Lumsden, Senior VP & General Auditor, First Hawaiian Bank; Virginia Weinman, President, "allusions.com" Multi Media & Website; and entrepreneurs Brendan Damon Mesker and Alice Robinson. ✨

The mission of the CAH—to make life better for sexually and physically abused children and their families—is realized every day as we receive letters like the one you see here, and as social workers and therapists report on the children they see who participate in our programs. But none of this could happen without every volunteer, mentor, donation and creative idea. The Board, led by Cissy Shaner and later by Mary Worrall, energetically provided strong, directed leadership, a healthy work environment and financial stability. This leadership enabled The CAH to thrive. Here are just a few results that were made possible by the partnership of the community and the CAH.

- * The Enhancements staff successfully delivered more than twice the number of goods and services in 2003, compared to 2002, to help children heal.
- * Positive group activities to nurture self-esteem were expanded to include a track for teenage boys, Hui Ho'opona. Today, young men from middle and high schools participate in challenging outdoor experiential activities that boost their confidence and promote trust relationships.

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The Story Behind the Story: Our Logo and PICs 808

By Suzie Pearce

People often ask us about special features of The CAH, especially the logo that graces the pages of our newsletter and the name of one of our oldest programs, PICs 808. Where did they come from?

The adorable logo that depicts a child and loyal pooch companion was created several years ago as a volunteer effort by Starr Seigle artist Laura Wong. However, it was not used until the beginning of 2003. At that time, our Board and staff sought a logo that symbolizes our mission: hope. The universal child who can look past his or her current situation with hope for the future (rainbow) was perfect. The logo also fit with our commitment to deliver goods, services, programs and activities that positively aid in the healing process. The dog helps convey the message of unconditional love for this one individual child. Together with the new lettering, Laura's logo helped set the tone for the CAH and the children served by the staff and volunteers.

As for PICs 808, PICs stands for Personal Improvement Classes, and 808 was borrowed from Hawaii's telephone area code. This self-esteem building initiative is one of the group activities developed by the CAH. PICs 808 aims to provide healthy social activities that raise the confidence of teenage participants while promoting trust relationships with healthy, positive adults.

PICs 808 was born out of the CAH's Enhancements Program, the first program created by the CAH in the early 1990's. Several faithful staff and volunteers, including Karen Turran and Gay Tsukamaki, noticed that many Enhancements requests involved modeling classes for teenage girls. Unfortunately, these classes often failed to aid in building self-esteem for our girls because most could not manage the special haircuts, clothes and accessories that the typical attendees at such programs could afford. The sad result was that they often came away from modeling classes feeling worse about themselves instead of better.

As a result, a special class was designed in partnership with the Junior League of Honolulu. It addressed the special needs of our girls to learn about proper skin and hair, appropriate dress for different occasions, and development of healthy friendships with caring adult role-models. The classes were a hit—for the girls and the Junior League volunteers alike. One of those volunteers, and current CAH Board member, JoJo Watumull gave a newspaper interview in 1999, saying that serving children through PICs 808 was one of the most rewarding things she had ever done. It is little wonder, that PICs 808 has flourished for ten years and served more than a thousand girls. ✨

Team Investigations at the Children's Justice Center (CJC) of Oahu

By Judy Lind and Jasmine Mau-Mukai

CJC's most important activities are interviewing children following reports of abuse, especially sexual abuse, and interviewing child witnesses to violent crimes.

When an allegation of sexual abuse is made to the welfare department's Child Protective Services (CPS) unit, a team investigation is done at CJC. When the center was being developed, the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) and Child Protective Services (CPS) formed special units to work together with us to create a child-friendly and child-focused system. Currently comprised of seven detectives and seven social workers, this team's caseload has doubled in the last three years.

If the accused person is a family member, the team investigation is usually done by a detective from the HPD Child Sex Crimes Detail and a social worker from the CPS Special Services Assessment Unit. Using one of our three interview rooms, each geared for different age children, one team member talks with the child while another observes. A "bug" in the interviewer's ear allows communication between the team members. The interview is videotaped so the information can be made available to non-offending

parents, therapists, attorneys and the courts without the need to re-interview the child. Other family members may also be interviewed at the CJC. After the interviews, team members decide what other follow-up actions are needed.

In cases where the accused person is not part of the family system, or in in-family cases that CPS decides not to become active with, a therapist from the Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) teams with the HPD detective or, as appropriate, a military or FBI agent, to provide the family with crisis intervention services. By providing a full-time on site therapist at the CJC for the past two and a half years, SATC has become an important part of a multi-disciplinary response system. Also, Catholic Charities has developed a family therapy program for non-CPS cases.

We applaud the detectives and CPS social workers for their dedication and commitment despite their large and increasing caseloads—likewise the other partners who assist the team. All these professionals work closely with the CAH, which provides the community support that helps stabilize families, keep children safely in their homes and start them on the road to recovery. ☆



Christmas Angels Bring Holiday Joys to Teens

Health Management Associates, Inc. (HMA) became a Christmas project partner in 2003 with a contribution to specifically provide gifts for abused adolescent teens – a group for which it can be difficult to raise support. The contribution will be used to purchase boogie boards, skate boards, CD players and music gift certificates. ☆

Pictured left: From the left, Harris Nakamoto, General Manager of HMA, Mary Worrall, CAH Board President and Rochelle Garcia, Prior Authorization Department of HMA.

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- *The PICs 808 girls program operated with the Junior League of Honolulu (see article on page 2) continues to evolve to meet the needs of today's young women. New classes in ceramic painting and visits to the Contemporary Art Museum help adolescent girls connect to the beauty of art and culture.
- *The number of young adult students in our independent living/mentoring program, Ho'omaka, has grown from 14 at the end of 2002 to 24 in November. The bottom line is that more youth will stay in high school, college, or graduate school through the support of a caring mentor and the professional CAH staff. ✨

A warm aloha to Marsha Kitagawa and Bill Darrah for a \$1000 contribution in 2002 that was not included in the CAH Annual Report.

The Children's Alliance of Hawaii is proud to announce their new website.
Visit us at: www.CAHawaii.org.

A special Mahalo goes out to Virginia Weinman, President of "allusions.com" Multi Media & Website who made this all possible.

