

Palama Settlement was established in 1896 by Central Union Church as the Palama Chapel, and originally located at King and Liliha Streets.

In 1900, when the Honolulu Fire Department set a fire in Honolulu's Chinatown to quell the outbreak of the Bubonic Plague, the fire grew out of control leaving over 4,000 residents homeless. Seeing the need to assist the many sick and homeless, as well as the waves of new immigrants arriving to the islands, Palama Settlement emerged in 1905 as a social service agency.

The Settlement pioneered the development of many innovative programs to address the ever changing needs of the Kalihi and Palama community and its residents. As it was a century ago, the agency continues to meet the challenges of an ever increasing population from the Pacific basin mixing into the ethnic blend of the old community. Palama Settlement's campus and facilities provide the community's low income and large families with a safe and nurturing environment where children, adults and families are able to engage in educational, recreational, physical, cultural programs, services and activities to enhance their well-being.



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PALAMA SETTLEMENT



*Serving the
Kalihi & Palama
communities since 1896*

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IN-COMMUNITY TREATMENT PROGRAM

Since 1970, the In-Community Treatment Program has worked with youth who are referred to them by the Family Court because they are adjudicated and for various reasons, struggling in the standard school environment.

Most live at home with their families and a few in foster homes. They are not un-enrolled in their “home” high schools and instead staff work with the student’s school and team of supporters, to help them earn credits towards graduation, improve in subject matter areas, and improve on behaviors that have been barriers to school success (via counseling and family support).

In addition to education, the goal is to help students make wise and healthy lifestyle choices (reduction of substance abuse, law violating behaviors, and socially destructive behaviors) through alternative learning methods. The program accepts minors ages 12-17 years old, under the jurisdiction of the Family Court, Children and Youth Probationary Services Branch.

NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

The NDCOP provides support services to the low-income and/or immigrant populations living in the housing projects in the neighborhoods we serve. Part of the goal of the NDCOP is to provide a mechanism, through Palama Settlement, for the residents and Tenant Associations, to address community concerns such as youth gang violence, ethnic tensions, juvenile delinquency, pedestrian safety, poverty, and drug/alcohol use and abuse.

Program staff assist residents in many areas including meeting of basic needs (food, clothing, household supplies/goods), navigation of various government and agency systems (housing, welfare, healthcare/health insurance, education, the judiciary and juvenile justice), development and implementation of community and individual empowerment initiatives (employment, financial literacy, community safety, etc.) cultural education and enrichment initiatives, and gender-specific programming especially for young women facing challenges unique to being girls in an at-risk community.

LEARNING & COMPUTER CENTERS

The Learning Center provides an alternative setting for compensatory, supplemental and continuing educational services directed at the economically and socially disadvantaged, the underachieving and the undereducated youth and adults in the neighborhood, so that they may prepare for a responsible and productive role in society.

The Henry & Colene Wong Computer Center has developed into an indispensable educational resource and is one of the most popular activities we have. All of our programs utilize this Center through classes and availability of computer time to complete homework assignments, review tutorials, and participate in computer-based learning opportunities. Additionally, with every workstation equipped with internet access, it allows the youth to experience the ever-growing world of the world wide web and apply learned computer skills.

HO’OPA’A PROGRAM

The Ho’opa’a Program during the summer, coordinates a PreKindergarten-ACE Boost Camp over a four week session, designed to provide basic classroom learning and activities for children 3 to 4 years of age and are getting ready to enter kindergarten. This is an early childhood initiative with curriculum, training and oversight provided by the University of Hawaii’s Center on Disability Studies.

RECREATION DIVISION

Palama’s Recreation Division provides children, youth, adults, and senior citizens with the opportunity to participate in programs and activities that promote health, wellness, positive interaction, development of social skills and appropriate behaviors.

To fulfill this goal, the program staff provide members of the community many different opportunities to participate in a variety of organized and informal activities. Division programs include the Pakolea Program, Leland Blackfield Youth Activity Center, Pool, Senior Citizens Program, Inter-Session Programs, and other Recreation/Leisure activities.

The gymnasium facility includes volleyball and basketball courts, a multi-purpose room and gym lanai area. In December 1985 the swimming pool at Palama Settlement was renovated and soon a revived Palama Aquatic Club will be working to train youth for competitive swimming opportunities. The pool is also utilized by other Palama programs and community groups such as our inter-session programs and once in a while, our area elementary schools.

SENIOR CITIZENS PROGRAM

To provide the community’s senior citizens with opportunities to socialize and interact with others, exercise both physically and mentally, share their knowledge with the younger generations/mentor others, and promote healthy living no matter what age you are.

INTER-SESSION PROGRAMS

To provide youth with a fun, structured, and safe environment in which to spend their inter-session school breaks (Summer, Fall, Winter, Spring). Activities include arts & crafts, dancing, swimming, sports activities, cultural activities, computer classes, ukulele lessons, and exciting field trips!

PAKOLEA PROGRAM

Helping youth, ages 7-17, through sports, academics (learning center/academic study time), and teaching of socialization skills, challenging previous notions of individual limitations, and assisting youth with the setting of short and long-term goals. Sports/athletic activities include football, basketball, cheerleading, volleyball, hiking, and any other sports/recreational opportunity that neighborhood youth show an interest in.

LELAND BLACKFIELD YOUTH ACTIVITY CENTER

To provide a place for neighborhood at-risk youth to access a safe and structure environment during their free time. Available activities include billiards, video games, t.v., movies, foosball, table tennis, and board games. Opened in 1989 in memory of Leland Blackfield, the center is open primarily during after school hours and on weekends.

