



Catholic Campaign for Human Development

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

Diocese of Honolulu

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Photos by Sally Lundburg www.mahiaicreative.com

Participants in Catholic Campaign for Human Development funded projects.

Making a difference through HOPE Resource Center

“Mahalo for a second chance in life,” is a phrase you’ll hear often from folks who receive services at the HOPE Resource Center in Hilo. “You deserve it. We all do,” is the instant and constant response from dedicated staff, which include formerly incarcerated or homeless participants of the program.

Previously known as *Ponahawai Ola*, the HOPE Resource Center is one of the projects in Hawaii that the **Catholic Campaign for Human Development** funds to **Fight Poverty in America & Defend Human Dignity**. HOPE Services Hawaii strives to live up to its name. HOPE employs people previously incarcerated, among others, to staff their transitional residential shelter as part of its community re-integration programs. HOPE’s mission is: *To bring to life the gospel values of justice, love, compassion and hope through service, empowerment, and advocacy*. The goal is to help Hawaii’s homeless increase their long-term stability in health, housing and social areas. “Graduates” who have successfully gone through the program are often able to retain permanent housing and maintain economic independence and self-sufficiency. The **Catholic Campaign for Human Development** supports self-help community programs based on defending human dignity, such as the Hope Resources Center.

Faith-Based Organizations Supporting Community Re-entry

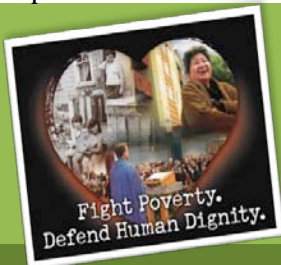
Persons returning to communities often have nowhere to go and do not know what to do once they are released from incarceration. HOPE Resource Center helps serve that population, such as formerly incarcerated women re-entering their communities. This program is a hopeful example of how to “prevent homelessness.”

The nationally televised PBS program Religion & Ethics featured HOPE’s community re-entry program as an excellent example of how “faith-based support makes a difference.”

www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/episodes/february-18-2011/prisoner-reentry/8181/

HOPE Resource Center provides transitional housing services for men and women returning to their communities from incarceration and is staffed 24/7 in a sober environment. Daily evening classes include: house meetings, relapse prevention programs, gender-specific groups, meth groups, new hire club, budgeting, renter’s education and other life skills classes.

Staff works closely with the Going Home Consortium, which includes workforce development education and health care partners, Hawaii Intake Center, Hale Nani Furlough facility, Parole, Probation and Drug Court representatives. It works to create a seamless re-entry system to reduce recidivism and prevent homelessness.



Your generous donations will give those in poverty the support they need to make lasting changes.

For more information: 808-203-6734

Officeforsocialministry.org facebook.com/OSMHawaii

TALK STORY:

A New Beginning & HOPE for the Future

Valerie is small, pretty, and confident as she speaks in front of a gathering at HOPE Resource Center, a residential program for men and women coming out of prison. She's there to share her story of struggle with current participants.

Valerie laughs as she shares, *"You might think I look like I have it together now, but I looked like this when I was dealing drugs. I really didn't look much different. I thought I had it all working for me, that I was just doing a job. I thought it was all about me. But now I know I was actually destroying lives...I was messing with families...not just my own."*

Valerie explains she had been placed in a school for troubled kids when she was 14 and that she had a really low self esteem. *"I come from a family of 8 in Kona, and I was the black sheep...stupid. So I lived by that label. I wanted to be recognized so I became a drug dealer."* Valerie constantly refers to her drug abuse as her *"insanity."* She adds, *"I got pregnant, but lost him at six months. He was living in an incubator in the hospital as I continued my insanity...and I thought everything was normal because he was being taken care of."*

She dealt drugs in Kona, but was warned by a classmate who was a police officer. *"He told me to get my act together. He was trying to help me. I had to stop. I didn't think I would get caught. But I did. When I went to court, my whole family was in the court. To see my mom at age 72, and to see my son with his head down," she stops for a moment holding back tears, "I realize that I have not just hurt myself, but I've hurt my family and my community.... They never even let me kiss my family goodbye. That's when reality hit."*

She talks about sitting in jail, one year and then two years, and how the chaplain came in one day and brought an OSM (Office for Social Ministry) brochure saying *"Here's a new beginning...a new source of life."*

Valerie was serving a 3 year and 6 month prison term in Oahu at the women's facility. When she was released from jail, she was accepted into the HOPE Resource Center residential program.

"This program gave me the tools and the guidance including love and support. They taught me to believe in myself. All of the knowledge and education that I received from HOPE Resource Center has helped me to be successful today."

Valerie is now a full time college student, and a part time deep fry cook at a restaurant in Hilo.

GIVE OF YOUR TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

Bishop Larry Silva is calling on all Parishes to support the **Catholic Campaign for Human Development** collection to *"Fight Poverty in America & Defend Human Dignity."* You are essential to its success. Your generous donations will give those in poverty the support they need to make lasting changes.

For more information, including CCHD videos, please contact your parish social ministry coordinator or Deacon Lauren Wong and Fr. Robert Stark at the Diocese Office for Social Ministry.

www.catholichawaii.org

808-203-6734

Bishop Larry Silva is also suggesting that the Catholic Church partner with other organizations in the public, private and non-profit sector to effectively address homelessness and affordable housing. Some parishes and persons in the diocese are already living out their commitment to address Homelessness and Affordable Housing by investing their time and skills at HOPE Services Hawaii. Some people help promote HOPE Services outreach.

HOPE services is seeking volunteers to assist ex-offenders successfully re-enter our community. This will include providing ex-offenders assistance with developing social skills and obtaining services in HOPE's local communities; promoting public support for such programs; and connecting ex-offenders with resources and contact information for services in their communities. Examples of these volunteer opportunities include assistance with resume building, interview skills, legal assistance, family strengthening activities, mentoring, substance abuse relapse prevention education, pre-employment classes, parenting classes, life skills classes and financial management classes.

If you are interested in volunteering with HOPE Services Hawaii with homelessness and community re-entry initiatives, please contact Brandee Menino at 808-933-6013

