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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
PALAMA SETTLEMENT
1951

Many things were accomplished at Palama Settlement last year but of greatest significance perhaps was the change in the direction of our over-all program in an effort to guide it more closely toward the needs of the Palama area. This change in direction and aims will, of course, take time to fulfill completely, but we are satisfied now that it is sound and it will contribute materially to the success we will have in serving our Palama people more completely.

We must never lose sight of the fact that this Settlement is here to serve the people of Palama even though it does serve the entire community of Honolulu in some respects. Fundamental as that percept is, we do find it necessary to periodically review our various programs in order to be sure we are offering our immediate area the activities it wants and in which it will participate heartily.

We are at present in the midst of a survey designed to point up more clearly what our program should be to better accomplish our objectives. Communities change over periods of years and Palama has not proven an exception with many changes occurring in the economic and ethnological aspect of the area. The survey is being conducted by staff members who interview the families in their homes, using a questionnaire prepared to give us as complete a story as possible of the individuals in each family, their familiarity with Palama Settlement and its present programs, and most important of all--what they would like to see the Settlement do. This survey is a two-way affair in that not only do our staff members find out the type of people in our neighborhood, their needs, desires, etc., but it also shows those interviewed that we are interested in having them participate and that our intent is to give them what they want -- not what we think they want or should have. Later on this year, a Sociology class at the University of Hawaii will conduct a more comprehensive survey of a larger area of Palama. We have already completed the survey of institutions, schools and governmental agencies who conduct any programs similar to ours.

We have learned much from the interviews completed thus far and the change in our type of program is probably best illustrated by the transformation of our Music School into the presently constituted Music Department. This involved considerably more than simply a change in name since from a Music School that catered principally to the children of the professional men and shopkeepers from a broad section of Honolulu and a school whose curriculum constituted almost entirely of piano lessons, we have turned to a program much more varied and aimed at Palama residents. The Music Department activities are now carried on principally in the afternoons and nights with more adults participating and they contain a broader program including individual vocal lessons, choral groups, Hawaiian instruments, other instruments and even dramatics. Many more scholarships are being given to worthy children and some adults since we feel that the lower-income group needs cultural activities as much, if not more, than some of the other groups. John Kelly is head of

our Music Department at present and his enthusiasm, energy and long hours of work are showing good results. A fine Advisory Committee of the Board, headed by Mrs. Peggy Hitchcock, has met frequently to guide and channel the new program. We have 130 members participating in our Music Department and here, as in other departments, we are attempting to interest participants in joining into activities conducted by other Departments in the Settlement.

The Pre-School Department, under the very capable leadership of Miss Esther So, continues to function smoothly and efficiently, filling a definite community need. Children are able to remain at the school and playground area considerably later now under proper supervision. At present there are 56 children between the ages of 5 to 6 years in the School. It is interesting to note that this Department has become more and more self-supporting. In 1949 it cost us \$4,000 over and above fees received; in 1950, \$2,600; in 1951, about \$1,500, while we expect that during 1952 we will put less than \$1,000 into this Department. This has resulted from greatly increased enrollment and more efficient operation. Another successful bazaar, with parents of the students doing most of the work, netted approximately \$600, which also helped considerably.

Our athletic program grew also but a lot remains to be done in this Department. We resumed full sponsorship this year of the 150-pound football team, composed mainly of boys recently out of high school who are now working, and they won the City championship. This type of young man needs to feel he has a place like Palama Settlement to come to during his leisure hours. Their morale and self-esteem were helped by a game played with Farrington High School at the stadium and this fall, they will also have a game with Punahou. Some of this group augmented by others were entered in the Junior AAU Basketball League where they ended up in second place. This type of activity stimulates the entire athletic program. The 150-pound boys helped to coach a 135-pound team and some of the basketball team members are coaching the younger boys who belong to various clubs in the Group Work Department.

Swimming has always been a major activity here and it has been given a tremendous boost this year through the volunteer services of one of the nation's leading coaches, Yoshito Sagawa, a former Palama boy. This has put Palama back into competitive swimming which creates considerable interest among the younger boys and girls, too.

Gymnastics was started and is taking hold well, while tennis, judo, weight-lifting, and similar activities continue to be very popular. An intra-mural league has been going for many years among the older boys, but much work needs to be done in this line for the younger teen-agers and a great deal more for girls and women.

The Group Work Department undoubtedly offers us the greatest opportunity for improvement of our activities. A survey of our program shows very little participation among certain age groups, both boys and girls, and adult participation leaves much to be desired. We do feel, however, that under the guidance of our new Group

Work Supervisor, Maki Ichiyasu, who has had considerable experience in this field, we will find the answers and progress measurably. Expansion in this field comes about best by the use of volunteer help under a limited budget such as we have, and I urge Board members to give a little of their time to our Group Work Department to help accomplish our proper growth there. This should be our area of greatest activity. We are grateful for the two graduate and seven under-graduate students assigned to us by the University of Hawaii and used in Group Work.

This Department conducted another excellent Summer Day Camp on these grounds and a very successful Summer Camp at Palama-By-The-Sea at Waialua. The number of boys and girls participating was the greatest in many years and we found it necessary to grant nothing greater than half-scholarships to any of the children. A total of 300 attended camp, some of whom were sent by agencies such as the Juvenile Court, who sent their wards, etc. Summer camp activity should remain one of our stronger programs.

Of general interest is the fact that total paid membership is now 1530.

We have embarked on a wide-scale program of buildings and grounds improvement through the use of capital funds set up in past years for this purpose. Unsightly fences have been removed and replaced with chain links and posts, bleachers have been completely rebuilt, roofs have been substantially repaired and many other projects are under way at present. We have had a very active and experienced Building and Grounds Committee, headed by Board member Arthur Akinaka, and they have worked with Department Head Bob Freitas on these projects. Funds have been spent frugally but with good results and much more will be done.

Our fiscal position was good during the past year. Almost solely through the efforts of Mr. Ward when he was President, Palama Settlement wiped out its deficit balance at the beginning of the year 1951 through generous gifts from some estates and trusts so we started 1951 in good shape. We ended the year with a credit balance of \$23.35, and inasmuch as during a considerable portion of the year we operated without a Director, a great deal of credit must be given to the office and bookkeeping staff as well as the Department Heads for our healthy financial position. I certainly want to acknowledge the contributions made by our old-time employees, Mrs. Desha, Wallace Saffery and Beatrice Kahoopii during those periods and hasten to point out that it was through their devotion to Palama Settlement as well as the rest of the staff that the Settlement was able to accomplish the work it did. Past President A. L. Y. Ward has continued to contribute invaluable time and effort particularly during periods when we were without a Director.

We will receive during 1952 approximately \$3,000 more from the Honolulu Community Chest than we received in 1951. This is being used principally to grant small wage increases to most employees, but will also assist us in augmenting our program. I certainly wish to acknowledge again at this time the wonderful donation made by Mrs. Obermer whose art show at the Moana Hotel netted Palama Settlement \$1400 which is being used principally for our own scholarships.

She and the other artists who painted the Waikiki Bishop Bank murals are making another valuable contribution in the form of murals to be painted on the walls of some of our buildings with participation wherever possible by our members.

We look ahead into 1952 and future years with a great deal of confidence in accomplishing the job ahead of us. Our new Director, Mr. Walter Ehlers, has already shown a good grasp and comprehension of the problems to be overcome to carry us forward into augmented activities so that Palama can continue to grow and serve this community better. He brings a fine background of successful experience to us and we look for capable leadership and thoughtful planning from him.

This has been an excellent Board of Trustees with which to work and many of you have been called on, with success, to give considerable hours of your time. You will be called on even more in the future, for with the planned increased activity and growth your guidance and counsel will be needed more and more.

ROBERT H. RATH

President, Board of Trustees.

April 14, 1952