



Ka Leo O Palama

"The Voice of Palama"

Since 1896: Serving The Individual, The Family, The Community

Summer 2004

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Volume 7, No. 2

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Member, Aloha
United Way
Member, Family
Resource Coalition
of America

Late Night Basketball Program fills need in the community

What happens when youth have nothing to do? A lot of them get bored and some of them can get into mischief or trouble. This is why the **Late Night Basketball Program** was created.

For the last 15 years the program has offered youth in the neighborhood a chance to participate in an organized league during the summer. At the start a consortium of several social service agencies in the Kalihi community, who were concerned about the threat of youth gangs and violence in the neighborhood, banded together to develop a program aimed at reducing juvenile delinquency. Their goal was to give the youth a positive diversion from the many negative influences that abound in this community.

Today the program is as strong as ever. This year 200 youth, aged 11-18 years, are involved in Late Night Basketball. The games are held on Tuesday night from 6pm-10pm at the Palama Settlement gym.

Over the years the driving force behind this program has been key staff members from several agencies in the Kalihi-Palama area including the Kalihi YMCA, Kokua Kalihi Valley, Parents & Children Together, Palama Settlement, and Susannah Wesley Community Center. Bringing these agencies and coaches together is the job of **Diana Lee Bunney** of the Kalihi YMCA who has served as administrator of the program.

Funding to support this popular program has come from various sources ~ *Hawaiian Electric Industries*, the *Weinberg Foundation*, and the *consortium of non-profits* that provide funds, staff, and volunteer coaches for the league. *Palama* has played a pivotal role by offering cash support and the use of the gym and several staff members to administer this difficult and challenging program.

According to **Sean Spriggs**, Palama's Youth Specialist, who has been an immense help to Diana in coordinating the program: *"It's worth it! You know anything we can do to keep these kids out of trouble and to develop their bodies, minds, and attitudes... that's good. We hope the experience will motivate them to do better in sports, school and life."* Many of the youth have not learned to follow rules, meet expectations, and acquire self-discipline. Late Night Basketball helps them to be part of a system that teaches them these important lessons.

"You know anything we can do to keep these kids out of trouble and to develop their bodies, minds, and attitudes... that's good."

--Sean Spriggs
Palama Youth Specialist



Diana Lee Bunney and Sean Spriggs take a well-deserved break at one of the Late Night Basketball games to smile for the camera. Collaboration among the various agencies is the key to the success of the program.

Sean's enthusiasm and vision for the program led him to do more for the league. This year he and Diana arranged a basketball clinic for coaches and players led by **Dr. Dennis Chai**, an all-star high school player and a former captain of the UH basketball

team, who is now a Health & Physical Education professor at the UH. They also recruited **Wesley Porter** from the U.S. Attorney General's Office to speak to the youth about staying safe in an environment of drugs, alcohol, gangs, and illegal weapons. Porter highlighted his remarks by sharing a story about his basketball teammate, who was destined for a promising pro career but was tragically shot.

Most of the Late Night Basketball participants come from at-risk neighborhoods where gangs and criminal activity are major concerns and the potential for tragedy is high. Although one of the goals of the program is to prevent gang violence, fights may erupt on the gym floor or outside the gym after an exciting and physical basketball game. To prevent these confrontations the league has adopted strict rules and, with the support of the Kalihi-Palama *Weed & Seed Program*, has enlisted the help of <continued on last page>



Players from Kuhio Park Terrace listen intently to their coach for last minute instructions before taking to the court.

Kalihi leaders plan community event

They tell us it's never been done ~ four public housing projects in Kalihi working together to plan a neighborhood event that will open the doors to creating a safer, healthier, and more prosperous community. The leaders of


Ka'ahumanu, Kamehameha, Kuhio Park Terrace, and Mayor Wright Homes have joined forces to put on their **First Annual Community Day Combined Festival** at Palama Settlement on Saturday, November 20, 2004. The idea for the event was one of the initiatives developed at a leadership conference sponsored for the housing projects by Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center.

The **Ohana Coalition**, the name the four projects have adopted, hopes to make this event an annual affair with information booths, food, games, entertainment, and prizes. More importantly, they hope it will empower their communities to plan other activities for the future and undertake solving critical problems that affect their lives.

With the support of several social service agencies including Palama Settlement, Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center, Honolulu Community Action Program-HCAP, and HPD, District 5, the leaders of the Ohana Coalition have been meeting together for several months to plan the festival, work out the logistics, make committee assignments, and secure funding and other support. Lehua Lum of Kamehameha Homes talks excitedly about this new concept. *"We've never done this before. Getting all of these different projects to talk with each other and try to improve our community. It's a lot of work but I know it will pay off!"*

So far the planning committee has assigned work projects to each of the four members of the Ohana Coalition who are, in turn, recruiting workers, developing budgets, making needed phone calls, soliciting donations, and taking care of the myriad responsibilities related to such an ambitious task. Both Palama and QLCC have pledged financial support for the festival, which will serve as matching funds for a grant that the Coalition will attempt to secure.

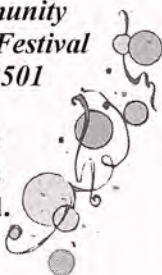
According to Lehua, the goal of the Ohana Coalition is to use this festival as a *springboard* for continued collaboration among all four projects. The group hopes the event will be a catalyst for more social interaction and exchange among the various communities. Lehua says: *"We have to start somewhere. If we can do this festival together, we can then work on fixing other problems in our community."*

Some of the other projects the group hopes to tackle together include ~ dealing with the threat of gangs and drugs among their youth, developing more inter-housing youth programs and activities, and creating opportunities for job training for adults. While working on these important issues, the Coalition members hope to learn how to share and apply the knowledge, experiences, and resources they have in their particular project to address the problems within all the public housing communities. They see the Festival as an important first step in the process of building and improving their community. 

"We have to start somewhere. If we can do this festival together, we can then work on fixing other problems in our community."

To support the First Annual Community Day Combined Festival ~ Call 848-2501

Cash, prize, or food donations are appreciated.




Ka Leo O Palama is a newsletter published three times a year by Palama Settlement, 810 N. Vineyard Blvd., Honolulu, HI 96817.

Greetings from our Executive Director




Summer at Palama is a busy time... time for our Summer Enrichment & Teen Safari Programs, volleyball and basketball intramurals, and Late Night Basketball. We're also into registration and practice sessions for our Pakolea football and cheerleading program and gearing up for Aloha United Way's pre-campaign fundraising drive for 2005. If all that isn't enough...in a few weeks we'll be starting our 7th Annual Brother Noland Goodwill Basketball Tournament.

• Then on August 12 we hold our 3rd **Annual Charity Golf Tournament** co-chaired by trustees **Howard Kam** and **Jim Walters**. The planning committee has been busy recruiting golfers, finding sponsors, securing prizes, and working on logistics for the big day. This year we're very fortunate to designate the **Laborers' Union, Local 368** as our **Title Sponsor**. **Ben Saguibo**, the Union's Secretary-Treasurer and a Palama trustee, has again garnered strong corporate and institutional support for the tournament. Although modest and humble, Ben is a powerhouse when it comes to helping the community. 

• I also want to recognize our tournament's **Contributing Sponsors** for their support ~ Hawaiian Building Maintenance, International Union of Painters & Allied Trades District Council 50, R M Y Construction, and Territorial Savings Bank.

• This year we have also been busy carrying out renovations to our facilities. In the spring the **Kamehameha Lions Club** gave funds and **Stan Wada** of **Quality General** provided materials and manpower to install a handicap ramp at the gym. Later in May we initiated the resurfacing of our outside basketball court. With grants from the **Samuel N. & Mary Castle Foundation** and the **Pettus Foundation** we repaved and repainted the court.

• The good news is that we have finally received all the required city permits to renovate our administration building. It has been a long wait (*We started the process one year ago!*) to clear all the paperwork but we should begin renovations in September. The project, which is funded by the **Strong Foundation**, will provide more office space, a facelift for our dining hall and lanai, and an archive room to house our historical materials.

• At this time we also invite our friends to join our **Sustaining Membership Drive**, which raises funds to support these many programs. We remain indebted to the members of our ohana who demonstrate their generosity and concern for this neighborhood by faithfully giving to the work of Palama Settlement. *Mahalo nui loa!* 

Bob Goldman

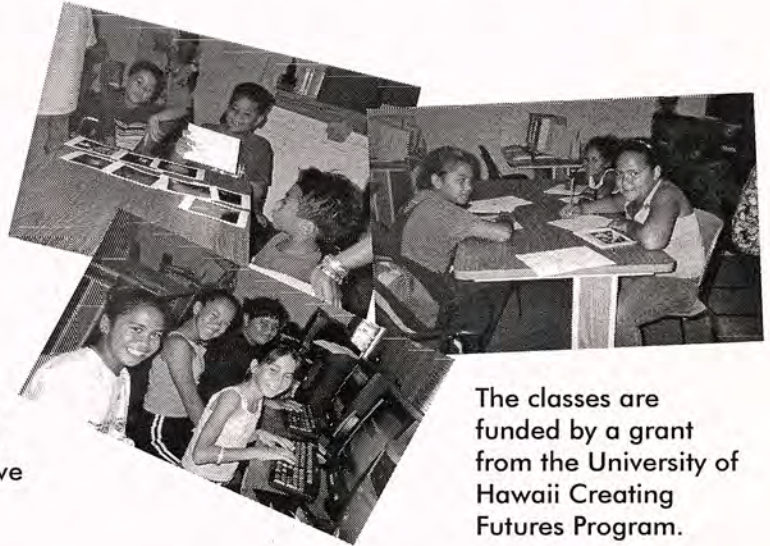
Your gifts support our work in the community...Mahalo!

This kaleidoscope of pictures highlights the work of Palama Settlement in our community. For over a hundred years Palama's programs have influenced the lives of thousands of youth, adults, and seniors who come here to learn, play, develop new friendships, have fun, and explore a new world of experiences. Whatever your gift, great or small...your donations to Palama Settlement make all this possible.

The computer classes are "fun cause people who teach us are so nice. Also they are always respectful."
~ 6th grader Mafiga Masalosalo

The computer classes have made me "smart and proud and my mom is proud of me."
~ 4th grader Johvannah Taoo

Palama youth are taking part in classes at our Computer Center to improve their literacy and computer skills. Using a set of pictures, they create original stories, type them into a computer program, and then record their stories on a CD. The children, who are experienced in the program, then serve as mentors to other students.



The classes are funded by a grant from the University of Hawaii Creating Futures Program.



Kids love to hang out at the Blackfield Youth Center playing pool and other games with their friends.

"I would probably be on the street or something, a bad boy. When you're at Palama, it gives you something to do after school so you stay off the streets." ~ Teen Brian Baniaga

The In-Community Treatment Program offers an alternative educational experience for teens referred by the Family Court who want to complete their high school degree. The program provides counseling, individualized tutoring, special classes, and speakers to help motivate the youth to succeed. This year the students heard from Lt. Governor Duke Aiona and chef Sam Choy.

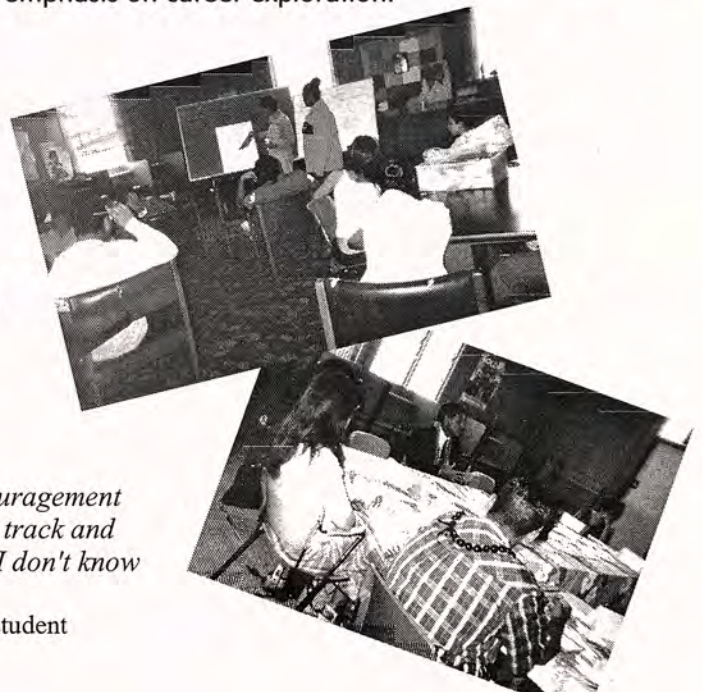
The In-Community Treatment Program "gave me hope and encouragement when I thought there was no chance of getting myself on the right track and succeeding in getting my education. If it wasn't for this program I don't know if I would be up here right now telling you I made it."

~ Ferdinand, former ICTP student

"It [Palama's programs] helped me push through school. It made struggling through school easier. We have study halls and tutors come in from other schools to help with our homework [at Palama]."

~ Teen Joe Groaning

Palama's Pakolea Program offers keiki the opportunity to develop their athletic and academic skills. In addition to games and practice sessions, the players must attend the Learning Center twice a week to complete homework assignments, receive tutoring, and work on academic skills. They also hear from guest speakers from different professions, like the professional masseuse shown in the picture, who shared her work experiences with the youth as part of the program's emphasis on career exploration.



Community grants support renovations at Palama Settlement

When Lisa Hamilton of the *Pettus Foundation* and Alfred Castle of the *Samuel N. & Mary Castle Foundation* visited Palama Settlement last fall, they noticed our outdoor basketball court was in need of major repair. The court, which is named in memory of attorney *Alfred L. Castle, Jr.*, was built in 1987 using funds provided by the Castle Foundation. Seeing the need for repairs, both Lisa Hamilton and Al Castle suggested we apply for grants from the two foundations to carry out the project.

Thanks to their support Palama received \$20,000 from the Castle Foundation and \$5,000 from the Pettus Foundation to fund the project. The work of repaving and repainting the area was completed during the summer and in early August we held a ceremony to rededicate the court.

Another important project completed in the spring was the construction of a much-needed handicap ramp in our gym lanai to accommodate the special needs of our Palama seniors. With financial and other support from the *Kamehameha Lions Club* and *Stan Wada of Quality General*, the ramp was erected and dedicated in May. The idea of a ramp came from the late *Albert Dung*, an active member of the Kamehameha Lions Club and a participant in the Palama senior program, who initially spearheaded the project. It is fitting that the ramp has been named *The Albert Dung Memorial Ramp*.

Maintaining a multi-purpose facility as large as Palama Settlement poses many challenges but we have been fortunate to have the support of our community friends *who have come to our rescue*. This network of aloha has been a major factor in our ability to continue serving this neighborhood.



Members of the Kamehameha Lions Club initiated the new Albert Dung Memorial Ramp. Palama trustee and Lions Club member Seuly Au <center>, Jade Dung, wife of the late Albert Dung <with lei>, and James Tamura, coordinator of the project <right front>, were on hand to dedicate the ramp.

Thank you for these gifts!

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations made to Palama Settlement during the period March 1, 2004 - June 30, 2004.

Friends of Palama <Up to \$100> ~ Colleen Akada, Jason Arimoto, Hiram & Jane Au, Laura Au & Family, Richard & June Borreca, Jeffrey & Susan Carlson, Lambert Davids, Garret & Irene Harada, Faye Hasegawa, Tanya Hewahewa-Macy's West UW Campaign, Hiroshi & Valerie Ho, Roy & Lorna Hung, Lucy Ing, Mae Isonaga, Eleanor Itomura, Kaiser Permanente-Dept. of Food & Nutritional Sciences, Albert Kam, Louise Kanda, Alice Kashiwai, Paul Kau, Amanda Kautz, Toshiko Kobata, Janice Kong, Anne Kusao, Hannah Lee, Christin Mamiya, Elsie Maruno, Marion Masuda, Christine Matsumoto, Margaret Melim, Nancy Nagai, Jane Nakashima, Mavis Nikaido, Palama Dancing Hearts, Palama Seniors, Stephanie Pochinski, Sandy & Chris Quon, Sam Saffery, Jr, Peggy Sato, Josephine Schwartz, Nancy Shimokawa, Jeanette Sylva-Pereira, Barbara Tsukamoto, Mitsuki Uda, Robynette Wong, Winifred Yamashiro, Misae Yasuda, Valerie Yin, Bessie Yoshimoto, Russell & Amy Young

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Palama Patron <\$500 and above> ~ Theodore Cruz

Palama Gold Club <\$1,000 and above> ~ Excelsior Lodge #1, IOOF, Fred & Diane Filbert, Kamehameha Lions Club, Esther Stubblefield, Jhamandas Watumull Fund

Special thanks for the following gifts

\$15,000 from the *Pettus Foundation*
 \$10,000 from *ABC Drugs* for the Blackfield Scholarship
 \$7,500 from the *Friends of Hawaii Charities-Sony Open* for our summer programs
 \$6,251 from *Central Union Church* for our Teen Development Program
 \$3,000 from *Cecilia Blackfield* and \$3,000 from *Pamela Blackfield* for the Blackfield Youth Activity Center
 \$5,000 from the *Heads Up Youth Foundation* for our Pakolea Program

Weinberg Foundation donates \$10,000

It was Christmas in July for Palama Settlement and several other non-profit agencies that received generous grants from the *Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation*. Every year the Foundation asks its employees to nominate organizations that are making a difference in the community. This year thanks to Weinberg employee *Grace Ishihara*, who nominated Palama Settlement's *In-Community Treatment Program*, we received a grant of \$10,000 to support the educational program for at-risk youth. Mahalo!



ICTP staff Donna Taniguchi, Todd Wyrick, and Nico Tuiteleapaga display the \$10,000 check from the Weinberg Foundation, which they plan to use to develop learning materials.



Make a donation of up to \$249 to Palama Settlement during Sept. 1-30 at Foodland or Sack N Save Stores and they will match a part of it.

Palama's summer programs offer fun and much more

We call it the **Summer Enrichment Program** for a good reason. Palama Settlement's summer program offers keiki much more than fun and games. To be sure that's an important part of it but the program also gives youth opportunities to learn and grow through activities that can *enrich* their summer experience. Here's what our youth did this summer.

With the generous assistance of **Ohana Komputer** the SEP children attended *organized computer classes* at least twice a week. Ohana's teacher **Venesh Sharma** or, **Mr. V** as the kids called him, led a series of project-based classes that had the children creating a table game, much like Monopoly, on the computer. The finished product was complete with a game board, game pieces, and rules to play.

The children also heard from many guest speakers, like **Lt. Governor Duke Aiona**, on important topics such as setting goals, staying in school, and studying hard. They learned about keeping their bodies healthy through exercise from **Dr. Dennis Chai** of the UH Physical Education Department. They even had a lesson on nutrition and eating their **5 A Day** fruits and vegetables using educational materials from **HMSA**.

Retired science teacher **Joe Laszlo**, aka **Dr. Gadget**, also taught the kids a little about science and how to make paper airplanes. After making the airplanes, the youth got a chance to fly them in the gym...an experience they thoroughly enjoyed. The children also enjoyed a session with **HPD** on being safe in their environment and a magic show with **Pastor Don Asman** who even taught the children how to do a few tricks.

To encourage and develop their creative talents, the SEP keiki tackled challenging *arts and crafts projects* and went home with some great art work. They also took part in regular Hawaiiiana, hip hop dancing, and ukulele classes and some of them took piano lessons. The children even got a session on making paper hats from some of the **Palama seniors** who were happy to revive that lost art.

Outdoor camping at Palama and *field trips* to exciting places, like the Mighty Mo (USS Missouri Battleship), the Bishop Museum and Planetarium, and Sea Life Park rounded out the summer program. For many of the children this was their first visit to some of these places.




SEP children enjoyed creative arts & crafts classes every day on the gym lanai. Here they are learning how to make paper hats and balls from Palama seniors Marian Matsumiya and her husband <shown in the picture>.


For youth registered in our **Teen Summer Safari Program**, it was also a summer of educational as well as recreational experiences. Like the younger SEP children, the teens enjoyed a program filled with classes, guest speakers, arts and crafts, field trips, and camping at Kualoa. They even took part in nutrition and cooking classes sponsored by the *University of Hawaii's Food & Nutrition Education Program*.

Some of the Safari speakers included mayoral candidate **Mufi Hannemann** who shared his story about growing up Samoan in Hawaii. A representative from **Sisters Offering Support** made a deep impression on the youth by recounting her experiences as a teen prostitute and a speaker from the **Life Foundation** talked to them about the dangers of HIV.

Summer is a time for fun, relaxation, and hanging out but at Palama summer is that and much

more. We hope that by providing programs that truly enrich the lives of our youth, open their eyes to what's possible, and challenge them to do more we are preparing them to be successful in school and life. 

MAHALO! We want to extend our appreciation to the **Friends of Hawaii Charities-Sony Open** for their generous support of our 2004 Summer Enrichment and Teen Safari Programs. If you are interested in purchasing tickets to the 2005 Sony Open, please contact us at 848-2502. Money raised from the sale of Open tickets is awarded to eligible charities and non-profits, including Palama Settlement.

We also want to acknowledge the **Atherton Family Foundation** and the **Central Union Church**, which awarded grants this year to our teen development program including the Summer Safari Program. 




Mr. V worked patiently with our SEP and Safari youth, teaching them how to master computer skills. Ohana Komputer funded the classes through a grant from the University of Hawaii to promote computer literacy. Mahalo!

After their arts & crafts class hungry SEP keiki line up to pick up their hot lunch prepared by our chief cooks Joe Pacquing and Duval Dutro. <Aren't the kids cute wearing the hats they made in class?> Hot nutritious meals were provided daily for SEP and Safari youth during the summer program.



Teens start reading program

It's been a busy few months for our Palama youth. In the spring they jammed to the music of DJs Flava Boyz at their second *teen dance* this year held at our gym. They also had a great time at their *swim night* at Palama's pool and their *movie night* held in the Blackfield Youth Center. During the last few weeks they have been taking part in all the activities of the *Summer Safari Program*.


As part of *community service*, the teens are starting a reading program with keiki at Mayor Wright Homes. Working with *Hawaii Literacy*, they will read to children at Palama's Family Service Center. The goal of the program is to develop the teens as mentors and thus nurture their self-confidence and a sense of responsibility for the children they are teaching. 



The Safari youth learned how to get their *Five A Day* by eating an "ono" salad full of fruits and vegetables.


Mahalo to HMSA for donating educational materials about healthy eating and staying fit for our summer programs.

Welcome Aboard!

We have a new *Aquatics Director* at Palama. His name is *Nyles Toguchi* and he comes to us with a lot of enthusiasm and ideas to develop our aquatics program. Classes for youth, aged 3-12 years, will begin in September. For information on signing up, please call 848-2503. 

Late Night Basketball-- from front page

HPD, which provides security, safety, and entertainment during the intermissions. Staff from the consortium agencies are also present at games to help neutralize tense situations and encourage positive interaction among the various ethnic groups and public housing projects. By bringing together youth and families in a controlled setting of friendly competition, Late Night Basketball can help to break down barriers among these different groups.

The program recently ended a successful season with an all-star tournament and awards dinner. If you want to support the program with cash or other donations, call us at 848-2501. 

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