

PALAMA

SETTLEMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

1953

- FIFTY EIGHT YEARS OF SERVICE

PALAMA SETTLEMENT 810 N.VINEYARD
HONOLULU, - T.H.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
PALAMA SETTLEMENT
FOR 1953

During 1953 Palama Settlement continued to serve primarily the people of its immediate neighborhood in the traditional fields of group work and recreation, athletics, music and pre-school. With the exception of the pre-school department all other activities have expanded their programs and increased their participants. The number of registered members as far as both boys and girls are concerned is the highest it has been since 1938 when we started graphing membership records. This has occurred partly as a result of the completion of the neighboring Mayor Wright low cost housing unit which has no community recreation facilities but more largely because of the interest and drive of the well coordinated team of staff members which has been put together and ably lead by our energetic and well qualified director. In spite of the increased number of neighborhood people participating in the Settlement programs, the potential maximum of those who can be served in these fields is not yet in sight.

With the advent of an increasing number of pre-school units under the Department of Public Instruction and the lowering of the fees charged by these units our pre-school department has become somewhat of a high standard luxury in the neighborhood, and one which the Community Chest believes should not be subsidized by the Chest. To effect a breakeven in this department has necessitated higher fees as the physical plant and the number of students per teacher ratio of a high standard school have prohibited an increased enrollment. These higher fees have resulted in approximately a 10% decrease in pre-school enrollment. Consideration must be given by Palama in the coming year as to whether the operation by the Settlement of a day care center would not be of more service to the community than the continuation of the present pre-school program.

Everyone connected with Palama was distressed by the resignation of Bobbie Rath as President necessitated by his moving to the mainland to accept a promotion in his business career. His early upbringing at the Settlement had given him the best possible background for president and this was complemented by his own interests and abilities. We had hoped he would continue as president for a long time. The Board also lost two other able men to the mainland during 1953 - Dr. Charles Wilbar and Mr. Emmett Solomon. It was with great regret that we lost the services of Henry Nye who had been on the Board for less than one year before his death.

All other members of the Board have given most generously of their time and efforts when asked to do so which has been greatly appreciated by the temporary President whose task has been made much lighter thereby. Included in this report are summaries of the activities of the various committees of the Board as submitted by their respective chairmen.

Buildings and Grounds. This Committee met quite regularly during the past year and advised the Director and the Board in regard to numerous building and grounds improvements. Thanks to a contribution from

the Optimist Club work is beginning on the redecoration of the Teenage Canteen Room. (Robert Y. Sato, Chairman.)

Camp. Because of the lack of problems relative to the Camp at Waialua no meetings of the Camp Committee were held during 1953. (Arthur Y. Akinaka, Chairman.)

Group Work. "Group life" is an important aspect in the daily existence of human beings. The family and the neighborhood gang all call upon individuals to be part of them in sharing the experience of give and take which take place among peoples. The Group Work Department believes that a good group experience under supervised leadership enables an individual to assume his part in this type of society more effectively.

Because of the Department's concern over (1) the problem of membership and the duplication of programs in the neighborhood, and (2) the problem of health and welfare of our members, this Department is working closer with schools, leisure-time, health, and social agencies in the community. This Department is providing leadership opportunities for volunteers and for students in recreation and social work.

Although great strides are being taken in the children's program, the adult program has not developed. This will be a program idea for this Department to work on this year.

The Group Work Advisory Committee has increased its membership from six to nine members. These committee members are representative of interested persons and organizations in the community. (Harry S. Komuro, Chairman.)

Health and Physical Education. During 1953 this Committee advised and the Settlement adopted the policy that there shall be no solicitation of members solely for the purpose of augmenting or strengthening athletic teams representing Palama Settlement. Furthermore, membership of such teams shall be limited to residents of our primary and secondary areas unless they are past or present members of Palama with an active interest in this organization. (Stanley Kudo, Chairman.)

Membership. In April 1953, a letter was sent to approximately 300 persons comprising former members and friends whom the Committee felt were interested in the work of Palama Settlement. This letter was an appeal to them to join as sustaining members or to contribute outright to the Settlement any amount they wished. This letter brought in a total of \$528.25.

As there were quite a number who did not reply to our first letter, the Committee decided to send a reminder. This second letter which was sent out in August 1953 resulted in an additional \$490.52 for a grand total of \$1,018.77 received in our sustaining membership drive for the year 1953.

The Committee believes that there are many friends who wish to help Palama Settlement and the sustaining membership drive should be continued. We would like to suggest the "weeding" out of names of non-contributors from our existing list and the adding of the names of other prospective donors to the Settlement. (Sam E. Chu, Chairman.)

Music. 1953 was a very successful year for the Music Department under the capable leadership of Mr. John Kelly and his staff of teachers. The enrollment now stands between 240 and 250 with a new teacher taken on this month. There are now with the department 5 piano teachers, 1 part time piano teacher, 2 part time band teachers and a voice teacher. They have kept a balanced budget and have raised the required amount (\$3,600) for scholarships and feel very keenly that the price of music tuition should not be raised. The staff has been very active and prominent in community affairs (Honolulu Symphony and various churches) which we feel has benefited Palama Settlement. The Department plans to raise sufficient funds for the 1954 scholarships and we feel confident that this can be done. (Mrs. Peggy Hitchcock, Chairman.)

Personnel. This Committee has met several times during the past year on call of the Director to advise on personnel matters. (C. Dudley Pratt, Chairman.)

Pre-School. During 1953 the Pre-School continued its policy of taking in a limited number of handicapped children. One deaf and one blind child were enrolled and were well adjusted. The age limit has been lowered from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 and the average age of the children is now 4 instead of 5 as it was a number of years ago. A number of University cadets are serving their field work at the school this year. The Committee has given some consideration and will give more to the question of shifting the operation from pre-school to day care. (Mrs. Ines Cayaban, Chairman.)

Financial. During 1953 the Settlement continued to receive a large part of its financial support from the Community Chest - \$64,536.80 or 7.75% of all the Community Chest funds distributed in 1953. This represented 50% of the total Settlement budget. In 1954 Palama will receive \$74,480.00 or 8.24% of all Chest disbursements, which will be 54.8% of the total budget. The balance of the cost in 1953 was carried by fees charged to members and participants supplemented by the gifts of those who became sustaining members and by a number of large donations for which all of us are most grateful. The Junior League of Honolulu made possible the employment of an additional group worker for one year by their wonderful donation of \$3,000.00 for that purpose. The Chamber of Commerce of Honolulu continued to support our physical education and health work by a donation of \$1,500.00, and the Kiwanis Club of Honolulu created a new activity in the music department by purchasing for the Settlement's use a complete set of band instruments and absorbing the cost of teachers for band instructions. Our sincere thanks and grateful appreciation are also due to Mrs. Nesta Obermer who for the second year organized a sale of art works which resulted in net proceeds of over \$1,200.00 for the music scholarship fund, and to the Frank C. Atherton Trust for the donation of a new piano for a music department classroom. Our Honorary President, Mr. Walter F. Dillingham, helped to secure from the Oahu Railway and Land Company a generous donation of \$500.00 which was used for general operating expense thereby reducing our deficit for the year. Mr. Alfred Castle whose continued active service on this Board is a great source of strength and inspiration to us all deserves our additional thanks for making possible the repair and rehabilitation of the ever popular Castle Basketball Courts - a project which will soon be accomplished.

Through the foresight of certain board members of a decade ago

the Settlement ended the war with nearly \$30,000.00 available for repairs and rehabilitation. Awareness of this fact by the Community Chest undoubtedly resulted in lower allotments to this agency in the early post war years than would otherwise have occurred. In the last five years when the Chest has failed in its goal most agencies with large physical plants have reduced repair expenses and let their properties deteriorate rather than cut their programs. Thanks to the above mentioned funds Palama in contrast to most of the Chest supported agencies has managed up to the present to keep its physical plant in a relatively good state of repair. The unfortunate fact, however, is that in so doing it has virtually exhausted these reserve funds and now finds itself in the position of the other Chest agencies where it may have to choose between skimping on repairs or cutting program. At the instruction of this Board letters and bequest forms have been sent to Trust Companies and local members of the legal profession as part of an attempt to build up unrestricted funds and special funds for large maintenance projects through bequests. This program, however, will not show results for many years. In the meantime the problem exists and it is to be hoped that the Community Chest will see fit to carry out often talked about supplementary drives for agency rehabilitation from time to time.

Palama ran a deficit of \$1,068.71 in 1952 and another deficit of \$903.49 in 1953, because of an unrealistic figure setup in the budget for contributions by the Community Chest.

I believe the Board will concur with the intention of the Director to operate on a balanced budget in 1954 and to reduce the existing deficit by all possible means.

Although the Settlement can always use more money effectively in its work the facts are that it has a very sizeable budget at the present time; physical facilities that probably are not equalled by any other Settlement in existence; and, more important, a loyal and hard working employed and volunteer staff which under the leadership of our excellent director can produce even more satisfactory service to the people of this community.

A. L. Y. WARD
President,
Board of Trustees

Mar. 2, 1954

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR
PALAMA SETTLEMENT
FOR 1953

P R E F A C E

This brief report of the work of the Settlement will cover five main items: - 1) What Happened. 2) Who Made It Happen. 3) How Often and To How Many. 4) Financial Report. 5) Recommendations.

The figures shown and the stories given are only a few of the highlights of the year's work. The month by month detailed reports really tell the full story but are too voluminous for this report. However, the bird's-eye view indicated in this report may stimulate an interest in the complete reports.

The Settlement work has proceeded along the recommendations laid down by the Board in its reorganization plan of 1948. Quote - "Palama should continue to function as a neighborhood settlement house, fostering neighborly virtues in its vicinity, studying the needs and desires and actively seeking to meet them (etc.)"

W H A T H A P P E N E D ?

A few brief stories indicate our concern for individuals. Not "How Many" but "What Happened?" is our main concern. With this in mind I would like to tell about a few boys and girls and what happened to them at Palama.

ALFREDO. Perhaps 40 years ago Alfredo would just be called "a real boy - with plenty of vinegar." Today he is called a "delinquent." He needs plenty to do to keep him out of mischief. Arts, crafts, wood-work, swimming, basketball and more than that - an understanding counselor. Alfredo had been picked up by the police many times for his minor peccadillos. The question raised by all those that knew him was - "When would his minor escapades turn into major ones?"

After a round table discussion with probation officers and our staff members, we decided on a plan for Alfredo. Three staff members keep him under their guidance and see that he is kept fruitfully occupied. We are happy to report that since taking this positive approach towards Alfredo's problems he has not been known to have committed any further delinquent acts.

JOHN. A typical problem in the Palama area is hunger. Unfortunately, we at the Settlement can't cure this problem because it is too big. But we can help as we did in the case of John by talking to the Public Health Nurse. After a conference the nurse went to the home and investigated. The mother was on relief. The father had deserted the family. The children were hungry because the mother did not have enough money - even though she tried to spend it carefully.

We helped John by getting the nurse to work on the immediate

problem - nervousness and a kind of whining attitude. We did our best to have John go to Camp where food was plentiful and by having him join a cooking class where he got to eat some of the results!

PETER. The probation worker that was responsible for Peter called one day recently. "What have you done with Peter? He is a new boy" - was her statement. I began to think back a little about what we had done. It was no accident that Peter had improved and yet it was typical of many other cases.

Peter first came to our attention because he punched a hole through some canec. We became aware of his restless personality and desire to show off by the above means and other acts of bravado. Checking with the probation department we found that Peter had a long record. The usual story of a broken home - no father and little money.

Briefly, we took Peter under our wing and began to offer him opportunities where he could shine. At first he carried on with his usual "show off" tactics but gradually he became interested. Now Peter is an accepted member of a group and takes his place along with others. His delinquent acts have stopped as evidenced by the probation officer's comment - "What have you done - he is a new boy!"

The above three cases are typical of literally dozens of similar cases. The solving of these problems is our real reason for being. Recreation, group work, music, arts, crafts - all of these are merely tools whereby we reach the boy - and the girl who needs help.

Most of our membership (enrolled members totaled 3,877 during the year) is composed of "normal" boys and girls. These, too, need what Palama has to offer because none of us knows just when a "normal" child becomes a delinquent. Is it when he has no worthwhile outlet for his energies? We think this is a possible clue. Certainly it seems reasonable to suppose that a healthy mind and a healthy body go together. Wholesome recreation and exercise is an important ingredient needed to "keep well."

W H O M A D E I T H A P P E N

The group work process doesn't "just happen." Some one has to "make it happen." At Palama we have a well trained staff with a good educational and social work background. In both recreation and group work our qualified staff members are in a position to make things count for the development of youth. A compliment to them and their interest in the welfare of young people.

During 1953 we had a minimum of turnover. The only department to undergo major changes was Group Work. Maki Ichiyasu, our group work supervisor, left to go to the Council of Social Agencies. This was a nice promotion for her and we were glad of that but sorry to see her leave Palama. Winifred Ishimoto stepped up from senior group worker into the position as group work supervisor. Winny has been doing an excellent job in the department. She is responsible for supervising the paid staff, volunteers and University students.

New during 1953 were - Setsuko Masuda and Lorin Gill in the Group

Work department. "Sets" has taken over many of the girls' clubs, and also arts and crafts. Lorin is especially good on the outdoor side of the program. His forte lies in camping, hiking and fishing. Needless to say Lorin always has a following of boys. (To make money for their camping trips groups under Lorin and Yoshiji Asami collect bottles and sell sweet bread.)

During the year our total staff members (including Day Camp and Residence Camp) numbered 61 full time and 55 part time. (Some of these persons are only hired for the two summer months.) Our regular professional year-round staff totals 17.

H O W O F T E N A N D T O H O W M A N Y ?

- A. Groups with definite enrollment: - During 1953 we registered 14,510 persons. They were in 277 groups, held 4,266 sessions and had a total attendance of 61,952. (This compares with 1952 - registration of 15,506, 253 groups, 4629 sessions and 63,798 attendance.)
- B. Other organized group activities: - During 1953, 9,862 sessions with 136,958 in attendance. (1952 record was 8,834 sessions with 129,430 in attendance.)
- C. Grand total of organized group attendance was 198,910 for 1953 and 193,228 for 1952.
- D. Camping: - 329 campers attended Camp Palama-by-the-Sea during June and July; 196 campers attended Day Camp at the Settlement during the same period. Several hundred boys and girls attended week-end camps at Waialua during the year.
- E. Individual use of services numbered 253,322 in 1953 and 314,414 in 1952.
- F. Groups (other than Palama or jointly sponsored) attendance of 19,849 in 1953 and 30,065 in 1952.
- G. Total members on the rolls during 1953 were 3,877. During 1952 we had 3,463.

MUSIC - Most significant change during 1953 was the jump to around 200 enrolled music department students. The enrolled stayed at that figure during 1953 but will show an increase for 1954 to a total of about 300 (because of the hiring of an additional staff member). This enrollment is "paid" enrollment. In addition we had between 25 to 45 band students enrolled whose lessons were paid for by the Kiwanis Club of Honolulu - who also furnished the instruments and the instructors.

GROUP WORK - In this department the best thing that has happened is the emphasis on the individual as well as the group. This type of approach is time consuming but as indicated in the beginning of this report it is the very reason for our existence. We should be in a position to be able to say that we have helped and are continuing to help individuals who are in our program. The positive results along this line are almost too numerous to mention. At any rate we are on our way as far as working with

the individual is concerned.

PRE-SCHOOL - Enrollment age was dropped to three years of age because the public schools are taking more 5½ year olds. This cut into our registration and caused a drop from an average of 56 to an average of 48 in the pre-school. The Advisory Committee has tackled the problem and plans to increase the enrollment either of regular students or to get day care students to make up the additional necessary.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH - Our records show that our own members are using the facilities more often than before. We have fewer outside groups and more of our own groups. Youngsters seem to be sticking with an activity rather than just coming once or twice and then going on to something else.

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S - - - - N E E D S

I. We need: - (a) a caseworker, (b) an arts and crafts instructor - full time, (c) a girls' physical education instructor, (d) a full time dramatics and dancing teacher. I would recommend that as soon as possible we attempt to meet these needs for trained personnel. Persons especially suited to work in the free atmosphere of a Settlement is what is needed. They should be able to accommodate to the thinking and needs of the people of this area. Approximately \$11,500 extra would be needed yearly for this personnel.

II. Our present staff needs to take a greater part in the development of the Palama area. This may necessitate organizing a Palama Council or some other machinery but the result should be an improved understanding of our area.

III. Our third need is to keep up the appearances of our field, buildings and grounds. The Settlement has been on the present site for 29 years and shows the wear of the hundreds of thousands who annually use the buildings and services. A constant rehabilitation program is therefore recommended. A sum of approximately \$5,000 annually set aside for physical improvements and rehabilitation would keep our plant looking like new.

A P P R E C I A T I O N

Many thanks and a genuine feeling of appreciation to the many Board members who have given of their time and to the President of the Board - A. L. Y. Ward - for his endless hours of time which have been given unselfishly for the good of the Settlement. We could not do the job we are doing without their wonderful help and at this time I would like to heap an accolade upon each and every member of the Board and its President for a splendid year of work well done.

WALTER H. EHLERS
Director

Mar. 2, 1954

CONDENSED
FINANCIAL REPORT
PALAMA SETTLEMENT - 1953

INCOME

Endowments	\$ 2,110.38
Contributions	10,916.41
Rentals, fees, etc.	49,428.81
Miscellaneous	<u>1,412.85</u>
	\$ 63,868.45

Total other than Chest	\$ 63,868.45
Honolulu Community Chest	<u>64,536.80</u>
Grand Total Receipts	\$128,405.25

EXPENDITURES

Salaries, wages, etc.	\$ 101,148.68
Services & supplies	6,149.28
Light, water, taxes, insurance, etc.	7,764.61
Repairs, replacements	2,665.75
Publicity & education	606.67
Institutional supplies	8,689.40
Medical supplies	6.47
Other supplies	1,902.23
Repayment to capital	<u>375.65</u>
	\$129,308.74

Total Expenditures	\$129,308.74
Deficit carried forward (1953)	\$ 903.49
Deficit carried forward (1952)	\$ 1,068.71

OFFICERS

Walter F. Dillingham	-	Honorary President
Alfred L. Castle	-	Honorary Vice-President
A. L. Y. Ward	-	President
Shunzo Sakamaki	-	First Vice-President
Mrs. Peggy Hitchcock	-	Second Vice-President
Arthur Y. Akinaka	-	Third Vice-President
R. Allen Watkins	-	Secretary
Hawaiian Trust Co., Ltd.	-	Treasurer

Walter H. Ehlers - Director

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Arthur Y. Akinaka	Rev. Harry S. Komuro
Nathan F. Banfield, 3rd	Stanley Kudo
David K. Bent	Harry I. Kurisaki, D.D.S.
George R. Carter	Jose V. E. Labrador
Alfred L. Castle	Henry A. Nye †
Mrs. Ines Cayaban	F. J. Pinkerton, M.D.
Samuel E. F. Chu	Dudley C. Pratt
Walter F. Dillingham	Joyce O. Roberts
Carter Galt	Robert Y. Sato
Mrs. Peggy Hitchcock	Francis K. Sylva, D.D.S.
Ronald B. Jamieson	Shunzo Sakamaki, Ph.D.
Herbert K. Keppeler	A. L. Y. Ward
	R. Allen Watkins

† Deceased.