

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT,
PALAMA SETTLEMENT
FOR 1952

The year 1952 was a very progressive one here at Palama Settlement. A number of the Board objectives were accomplished last year and a good many of the programs were started in the direction we wish them to go.

One of the greatest accomplishments was that of infusing the entire staff here with the sense and feeling that the Settlement is a service organization to work with and guide the people who come to the Settlement. It is very satisfying to observe this in the actions and attitude of the staff and particularly of the Director and his Department Heads who have given much more of their time and effort than the jobs normally required.

Another evidence of this has been the finest cooperation and teamwork among the various departments that we have had in years. No longer are the four departments - Music, Group Work, Athletic and Pre-School - entirely separate entities; instead, they have a sound interlocking of programs with each department correlating programs with the other department.

These factors have resulted in a drastic reduction of turnover and a stable work force can obviously accomplish much more, particularly in connection with a long-range objective program, than one faced with a number of personnel changes, so, we look for even greater growth and further program expansion in the future years.

In last year's Annual Report, I pointed out that the changes we were making in the direction our programs were taking was best illustrated by the changes going on in our Music Department. Early last year we changed its name from "Music School" to "Music Department," changed from morning and afternoon to afternoon and night opening hours, were introducing vocal, instrument and other lessons and attempting in general to make it a vital and integral part of the Settlement instead of what was practically a separate school.

Under the able and truly tireless leadership of John Kelly and his sound Advisory Committee we advanced much further during 1952. Fees for lessons were cut in half and group piano teaching methods were introduced. The enrollment increased from 90 to 205 plus another 30 taking band instrument lessons. Another teacher was added but the increased revenue took care of her salary. Many additional scholarships were given, supported by scholarship money obtained by Kelly and his group. The Kiwanis Club of Honolulu gave us \$1500 for band instruments and teaching costs with additional sums assured for this year. Choral and vocal lessons are being enthusiastically received. It is quite evident that this department is a more important part of the Settlement program than ever before and is helping to fulfill some of the cultural needs of our community.

The Pre-School Department received some needed physical improvements last year and is running to capacity of 56 at present. Miss Esther So continues to give fine leadership and in 1953 for the first time, the Pre-School unit will be self-supporting budget-wise. This past fall the University of Hawaii began sending pre-school teaching students once a week each, which has been of mutual benefit. The success of this school

can be judged by the number of additional parents who would like to enroll their children.

For the first time since before World War II we had a full-time Director of Athletics during a portion of 1952. Kiyoshi Matsuo has begun a program to provide varied athletic and recreational participation for all ages and while all the details of the program are yet to be developed, we are greatly encouraged. Clinics for youngsters in football and basketball have been held, while baseball and other sports clinics will follow. The Intra-Mural League grew considerably and some were begun for younger boys. A girls and women's program was started, but a lot more has to be done in that direction and our entire Physical-Ed program is really in its embryonic stage. Lack of staff is a great handicap but we have been fortunate in getting help from University of Hawaii students and volunteers. We will certainly experience considerable growth in this phase of our activities as the year progresses and coordination between the Athletic and Group Work Departments has been excellent.

Last year my report said in part ... "The Group Work Department undoubtedly offers us the greatest opportunity for improvement of our activities." We can now look back with pride at the work done by this department under Miss Maki Ichiyasu. Taking their cues from the survey conducted early in the year, Maki and her staff have pitched their classes, clubs and other activities towards the expressed needs and wants of the neighborhood. Twenty youth clubs, 5 adult and 5 special clubs (i.e. Brownie, Boy Scouts, etc.) are now active and a number of new classes such as tap dancing, social dancing, etc. are in full swing. Increased numbers of volunteer workers have helped us to expand these activities. The lounge and game rooms had complete face-liftings and as the first agency to acquire a TV set, the Group Work also acquired some of the usual headaches that accompany the combination of TV and children. The 21-inch set was a gift from the men aboard the "U.S.S. Radford" to whom we are very grateful.

The 6 weeks Summer Day Camp here was attended by 204, while the Summer Camp at Waiialua during its five weeks was well attended by 214 appreciative children.

Our adult classes, except for a very few - such as corsage making, are not well attended, indicating perhaps that such needs are being taken care of by the D.P.I. The various programs in the Group Work Department have to be kept flexible to meet the changing community needs and our staff is constantly seeking to more fully determine those needs.

Our allotment during 1953 from the Community Chest will be \$2400 less than we received during 1952. None of the activities in any of the Departments will be curtailed, however, and instead we plan to have our total program grow. To do this we will take a number of steps. Additional volunteers will have to be added, membership fees were reluctantly increased 25% but are still extremely low at \$1.25 per year for 6-year olds and under, \$2.25 for the next age bracket, etc. up to \$6.00 a year dues. The various Departments will conduct bazaars, shows, etc. to increase their revenues. We can step up gym and pool rentals without depriving our own members. An increased sustaining membership drive and increased donations will also be needed, while special scholarship funds will be obtained through various means. In this phase we will certainly need the help of the entire Board of Trustees.

A case worker is sorely needed at Palama Settlement but we are unable to augment our staff with our present restricted budget. Our existing staff workers could accomplish a lot more in the way of personal guidance for those who need such if only we had a good case worker to consult and work with.

It is with great hope that we can look ahead to Palama Settlement's future. Under the capable, understanding guidance of our Director, Mr. Walter Ehlers, I feel that we have made material progress this past year. It will be small, I believe, in comparison to the future accomplishments that he, his Department Heads and staff will achieve.

Robert H. Rath
President, Board of Trustees.

February 26, 1953

PALAMA SETTLEMENT
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1952

Foreward

The following report is a brief review of the situation in the Palama area and the work of the Settlement. The figures shown will only indicate to some extent the volume of work. The real work of the Settlement, however, is done with people and that is an "elusive statistic"! This report will try somewhat to pursue the "elusive statistic" so that you, the interested reader, may understand our total work in the Palama community.

The Changing Social Situation Surrounding
Palama Settlement

Even to the newcomer it is apparent that the Palama area is "changing." The casual observer notes the new Mayor Wright Housing, the Museum tract homes of the Bishop Estate and feels "that Palama is no longer the "poor" neighborhood of the past." This observation is a kind of half truth that gives only part of the answer. Palama is still in the "poor" section of town. Mayor Wright homes are available only to those having a net income of \$2900 a year or less. Most incomes of breadwinners in this area average \$165 to \$180. How to get enough food is a real problem for a majority of our families. We know this not only from contact with the children but also from home visits. Ironically, the nearest school in our area had to cut out giving any free meals because there were too many that needed it! Even so the 15 cent meal supplied by the school is often the best meal a child has during the day. The Settlement workers are aware of the fact that four out of five children who frequent the Settlement eat no breakfast or one of "tea and bread" and that supper is frequently a sketchy "bread and jam." When so many kids have to go hungry because of a lack of money in the house it would seem that the community is still a "poor" one.

Even though the community remains "poor" and in many cases "hungry" it is true, however, that they are not "transient." They have their roots down and in many cases own the homes they live in. Many of these homes are surprisingly neat and clean. Our house to house survey made during April and May of 1952 showed that the median length of residence was 8.2 years and in the Palama area the median was 11.2 years. In contrast, the mainland averages according to the Realty Boards is a change in private ownership every seven years and in tenanted property every three and a half years.

Palama Settlement is in a strategic position to help therefore because the social situation though poor still does not exhibit transiency but rather a type of stability that makes it possible to see results. For example, quite often we have people come and tell us how much Palama helped them. The comment -"I used to play at Palama when I was a kid," is heard a good many times. Aloha for the Settlement is expressed in this way and in offers of help. During the year we have had sixty-seven different volunteers which should indicate to some extent the interest in the Settlement. Good will is expressed thus even by those who did not grow up in this area but who know the work of the Settlement.

How We Do Our Job

Let us go back a few moments to my statement about the "elusive statistic" - people. Our main responsibility or function is "to serve the people of the Palama area." We work with them through a variety of techniques. Group work, classes, activities like camping, swimming, basketball, etc. These activities are not intended as ends in themselves. We use activities merely as a peg on which to hang our work or to use another illustration, as a tool to get at people in a face to face friendly relationship. We try to help them meet their problems with all the techniques we have available. Sometimes, e.g., when a boy has been caught for stealing it may mean that hours of time are taken to work with the Juvenile Court, the Probation Officer, the school, the parents, perhaps other social agencies and of course the boy himself. We will try to focus all the forces for constructive behavior on the situation and aid the boy with his problem. In the Settlement we will talk over with the entire staff all the possible ways we can constructively aid the boy. Then we map out a plan of action specifically aimed at the boy's needs.

Although I have just mentioned the case of the boy the same process of course is true with girls. We have fewer problem girls but those that do go wrong usually have about as complex a problem as you could want.

To aid us further in doing our job we call in the social agencies for joint discussions on the needs of our area. We go over problems on the needs of our area. We go over problems of individuals and of situations so as to develop the best answers possible for our community. In this way we realize our other FUNCTION which is to be "a guiding force in our local community and the larger social complex." This function plus the one mentioned earlier of "serving the people in their various needs" constitute our reason for being.

Statistics for 1952 (What we did in terms of numbers)

1. Attendance (organized groups)

1951	-	206,678
1952	-	223,293

2. Individual use of facilities

1951	-	249,092
1952	-	314,414

3. Personal interviews, guidance and counsel

1951	-	638
1952	-	953

4. Members enrolled during year

1951	-	2,866
1952	-	3,463

5. Clubs with definite enrollment

1951	-	42 groups; enrollment 683; attendance 6,327
1952	-	39 groups; enrollment 566; attendance 7,320

6. Classes and other activities with definite enrollment

1951 - 71 groups; enrollment 702; attendance 25,556
1952 - 168 groups; enrollment 1239; attendance 38,278

7. Other organized groups without definite enrollment

1951 - attendance 105,235
1952 - attendance 129,430

8. Individual services

1951 - 249,092
1952 - 314,414

In closing, I would like to refer to a statement made by Mr. James A. Rath in one of his speeches. He said, "The business man talks of dividends, the lawyer of some famous case he won, the surgeon of some great operation he has performed, the astronomer of some great discovery he has made, the engineer of some great bridge he has built, while the Settlement worker's monument is the lives of those whom he has touched, with Abou Ben Adhem he will have to be content to say: -

"I pray thee, then,
Write me as one that loves his fellow men."

Walter H. Ehlers
Director

February 23, 1953

PALAMA SETTLEMENT
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
TWELVE MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1952

RECEIPTS

Income from Endowments	\$ 2,230.98	
Other Donations	1,131.00	
Donations from Other Islands	250.00	
Strong Foundation	4,000.00	
Rental of Buildings	7,534.11	
Vacation Camp	1,854.50	
Maintenance Income	120.00	
Workers Cars & Garage	753.28	
Membership Drive	393.00	
Launderall Receipts	97.75	
Pre-School	10,528.91	
Music Department	10,531.27	
Athletic Department	3,821.23	
Group Work	2,034.80	
Day Camp	3,014.50	
Summer Camp	4,004.85	
Sundries	70.46	
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		\$ 52,370.64
Honolulu Community Chest		66,445.60
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		\$118,816.24
Balance on Hand January 1, 1952		23.35
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		Total \$118,839.59

DISBURSEMENTS

Administration	\$ 23,864.17	
Maintenance	23,214.63	
Vacation Camp	4,631.40	
Pre-School	12,063.80	
Music	11,831.09	
Athletic	15,243.91	
Group Work	22,518.70	
Day Camp	2,442.99	
Summer Camp	3,787.64	
Launderall receipts refund Furniture a/c	97.75	
Sundries	212.22	
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		\$119,908.30
Less Deficit on Hand December 31, 1952		1,068.71
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		Total \$118,839.59