MAKAHIKI CLINIC OPENS ON-SITE PHARMACY

Growth and innovation to meet community needs – that’s what you can expect from Waikiki Health. The agency’s CEO, Sheila Beckham, RD, MPH, saw the need to establish a pharmacy at our newest site – the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Makahiki Clinic in McCully-Moiliili.

Today that vision is a reality: Our Makahiki patients can fill their prescriptions conveniently on-site at reduced and affordable prices. They can also receive medication management and education about their prescriptions from Hiromi Saito, the pharmacy’s Clinical Pharmacist.

Hiromi stressed the importance of opening a pharmacy at Makahiki Clinic: “If medications are accessible and affordable, patients will purchase and use them; otherwise, they may skip doses, or not purchase them at all, negatively impacting their health.”

Access to Waikiki Health’s affordable medications and other pharmacy services is welcome news for many of our patients who are uninsured, underinsured or have limited incomes.

TALK STORY WITH EDGAR, AT NEXT STEP SHELTER

Edgar, a former resident at Waikiki Health’s Next Step homeless shelter, began to cry as he started telling his story to a group of wide-eyed 10th graders on a field-trip to the shelter this past February.

“I didn’t mean for us to be in here. If it wasn’t for Uncle Kapua (Tani) and this shelter, I don’t think we would have made it.”

Edgar found the shelter after being evicted three years ago from his apartment. He said “it wasn’t because of drugs or anything like that… it was just because sometimes things happen.” He told the class that after he and his wife, along with their six kids, were forced to move to the beach, a stranger on a bike told them to visit New Hope Church on Sand Island – they would help his family find shelter.

New Hope, which has been donating dinners to feed the 225 residents at the shelter for years, did help him find shelter at Next Step, but as Edgar teared up again, he said, “maybe that guy (on the bike) was an angel or some kind of blessing in disguise to kick me in the right direction.”

Today, Edgar’s six children and wife live in an apartment that a Next Step housing specialist helped them find. “My kids still love to come here to visit Uncle Kapua, and that’s why I’m telling you this now, because they helped me so much – it’s my way of giving back.”

When the 10th grade teacher later asked the students what was their most impactful part of the day at the shelter, they all agreed “it was hearing Edgar tell his story.”

COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER AT CARE-A-VAN

Thanks to the Waikiki Rotary Club, our Care-A-Van homeless drop-in clients now have a peaceful “Serenity Garden.” With over $800 in donated supplies, they gave the front entrance a fresh coat of paint and created a garden space with bamboo fencing, soil, plants from Ko‘olau Farmers, a table, umbrella and chairs.

Please see COMMUNITY pg 2
COMMUNITY

Continued from page 1

Jason Espero, Care-A-Van director says the garden donation has been a real blessing. “Our clients sit under the umbrella and enjoy the tranquil space everyday, it’s like being in a real backyard. This shady and protected area means a lot to our patients and clients, many of whom are homeless.”

The addition of the “Serenity Garden” paired perfectly with other renovations made at the clinic late last year. New medical equipment received through funding from ABC Stores and the Ifuku Family Foundation, an interior paint job and a reorganization of the reception area with new chairs (donated by Inspiration Hawaii) has improved our ability to provide services in an efficient way.

The transformed space was honored with a blessing of the building by Francine Dudoit-Tagupa, Waikiki Health’s Director of Native Hawaiian Healing. Elected officials, local legislators, individual donors and board members joined our CEO, Sheila Beckham, in an open house where guests received tours of the clinic and the Mobile Medical Unit.

Community members can count on increased access to care as our medical and behavioral health services are being extended to nearby residents in Kaimuki, Palolo Valley, St. Louis Heights and Wilhelmina Rise. The renovations are still ongoing. Next on the agenda comes an upgrade to the building’s electrical system and a repaint of the building’s exterior – there’s more goodness to come!

LETTER FROM THE CEO

Sheila Beckham, RD, MPH

As we plunge into 2015, Waikiki Health continues to expand to meet the growing needs of our patients. We acquired the Annex on the Ohua campus, the building’s former chapel.

The Annex now houses care coordination nurses, behavioral health specialists, along with various education professionals with expertise in nutrition, tobacco treatment and disease management. Over at the Makahiki Clinic, we opened our second pharmacy to provide more of our patients access to affordable medications.

Healthy employees support business growth. When our staff demonstrate healthy lifestyles, it sets a better example for our patients. So, in January we kicked off the “Biggest Loser” contest with teams participating to creatively find ways to eat healthier and exercise more. Prizes will be awarded to the winning team. These wellness activities will be followed by smoking cessation, fitness, and stress reduction programs for our staff.

We continue to advocate at the legislature to support the restoration of dental services for adults on Medicaid, although the deck is currently stacked against us. We are also advocating for funding in the amount of $800,000 for eligibility and outreach workers to assist patients in applying for Medicaid, as well as funding support for many low cost housing options.

Mahalo for your continued support of Waikiki Health.

PHARMACY

Continued from page 1

Support to establish and operate the pharmacy at Makahiki Clinic came from many sources, including $105,000 from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), a grant of $25,164 from the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii Public Health Fund, and a $25,000 private donor bequest.

Makahiki Clinic offers primary medical care, dental, integrated behavioral health and now pharmacy services, and is located at 935 Makahiki Way just off South King Street. Waikiki Health has prior experience operating a pharmacy and seeing its value to patients: The agency opened its first pharmacy in 2010 at the Ohua Clinic in Waikiki.
MEET JESSE H. JAMES
Board of Directors, Consumer/Member

“It is truly rewarding to see donations put into action on a daily basis!”

Jesse James, one of the newest and most active members of the Waikiki Health Board of Directors says, “being part of an effort to help those in need receive quality medical care from dedicated providers, employees and volunteers, brings the giving experience to a whole new level.”

Jesse joined our board because he feels that “it’s always good to give back some measure of what we have received in life. Working to resolve the homelessness issues here in Hawaii is where my primary focus is as a board member of Waikiki Health. I hope to continue to serve on the board for many years to come.”

Prior to joining the Waikiki Health Board, Jesse was a corporate trainer, an internationally recognized motivational speaker, a sales & marketing consultant, and a personal development coach. Over the past three decades, he has established a very successful career in management, sales training and corporate consulting. Today, Jesse serves as founder and CEO of South Pacific Development Group here in Honolulu. His company is currently initiating a hotel and resort development project in Independent State of Samoa in the South Pacific.

Janis Loo was originally inspired by an article she read in the local newspaper about homeless teens being helped by Waikiki Health’s YO. “I am a nutritionist by profession, and I love to cook and bake for others, so I thought it would be a wonderful family service project that could help these kids.” Janis, with the support of her family and husband, Garrett Sullivan, began creating their “love language” of helping others less fortunate. “Usually there would be an average of 5 family members (and sometimes friends) on a Sunday afternoon, assembling 8 loaves of bread, laying out the bread, spreading the peanut butter and jelly, bagging them and then putting smiley faces on each.”

Carla Houser knows how important a good nutritional meal is, especially one that the YO kids can stick in a backpack and eat at a later time. “Janis is one of the most kind and genuine people I have ever met,” Carla said. “I don’t think she realizes what a profound effect she has had on the homeless youth in our community.” Mahalo, Janis, from your family at YO!

PATH relies on you, and our greater community to help young woman and their children thrive. You can help with donations like these:
- Diapers (Size 1 – 5)
- Baby Monitors
- Pack-N-Plays (Portable Cribs)
- Refrigerator

PATH is our OB/GYN and women’s and children’s primary care clinic in Kaimuki. Compassionate providers help women with confidential, non-judgmental perinatal medical and social support in a homelike setting...honoring each woman’s unique path from pregnancy to capable parenting.

DO YOU LOVE TO GARDEN?
PATH needs volunteers to help maintain their garden on a regular basis! Please call 791-9334 to help!
Make a Difference!
Become a Wiki Wiki Monthly Donor

Becoming a Wiki Wiki donor is an easy and convenient way to show your support through monthly donations. Your regular contribution to Waikiki Health helps us to provide comprehensive medical care, dental care, behavioral health and social services to everyone in our island community, regardless of ability to pay.

Call 791-9334 to sign up today!

Waikiki Health’s Vision Screening Program

A new collaboration between Waikiki Health, Project Vision Hawaii (whose RV serves as a vision clinic) and a contracted optometrist will provide comprehensive vision screening and prescription eyeglasses to Waikiki Health patients. The Next Step to Better Vision clinic is stationed at our Next Step Shelter in Kakaako and is open two days a week.

“Waikiki Health has been a tremendous mentor to Project Vision Hawaii and is a leader in innovative solutions for Hawaii’s most needy.”

– PVH Executive Director Annie Hiller