



Residential Youth Services & Empowerment

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT





I am honored to share the Residential Youth Services & Empowerment (RYSE) annual report, showcasing a year of significant growth and impact in our mission to support and empower the youth in our community. Throughout 2023, RYSE has made substantial strides in expanding our housing inventory, investing in our dedicated and growing team, and striving to meet the increasing demand for behavioral health support.



**Expansion of Housing Inventory:** In the past year, we achieved significant progress in expanding our housing inventory to provide safe and supportive environments for vulnerable youth. The openings of 'Apapane added an additional 6 bedrooms to accommodate homeless youth in our communities. Funded by a State Grant in Aid, 'Apapane serves as a transitional housing program tailored for individuals recovering from substance use disorders. With the recent land acquisition in Waianae, we are positioned to extend our reach and impact further in these areas.

**Growth and Investment in Staff:** At RYSE, we value our staff as the backbone of our organization, pivotal in providing top-tier care to the youth we serve. We prioritize their growth and investment through initiatives like professional development and ongoing training. In 2023, our staff increased by over 57%, bolstering our capacity to deliver exceptional care. Insights from our employee survey drive targeted efforts to boost workplace satisfaction and cultivate a culture of collaboration and excellence.

**Strides to Meeting the Growing Need for Behavioral Health Support:** Amidst the growing demand for behavioral health support among youth, RYSE remains committed to action. We've expanded mental health services and staff, and have implemented evidence-based practices to ensure comprehensive care for every young person in our hands. Our focus includes early intervention, trauma-informed care, and holistic approaches to nurture emotional well-being and resilience.

As we reflect on the past year and the accomplishments outlined in this report, we are continuously inspired by the progress we have made in our first 5 years. We remain dedicated to our mission of empowering youth and strengthening our communities.

Carla Houser, Executive Director

# SHELTERING STABILITY

## Housing & Shelter

The RYSE Housing Department showcased a steadfast commitment to innovative youth housing solutions, ongoing enhancements, and strategic foresight. The successful launch of the 'Apapane Sober Living House' catering to 18-24-year-olds,

was made possible through State Grant in Aid funding. Staffing enhancements, including the addition of Youth Care Counselors and Site Coordinators, reflect our dedication to professional development and service improvement.

**You don't have to live on the streets to be homeless.**

**21,681**

nights of safe,  
sheltered sleep  
provided

**6**

beds added  
to RYSE  
housing

**122**

youth housed in  
a RYSE housing  
program

**78**

days average  
stay

**153**

drop ins to the  
emergency  
shelter

**51%**

transferred to  
safe shelter



# HELPING HANDS

## Youth Outreach

The RYSE Street Outreach team conducts hundreds of days of community engagement annually, ensuring support reaches our youth in need. With our 24/7 mobile crisis outreach line, we provide immediate assistance during housing emergencies, meeting youth wherever they are.

Bi-monthly pop-up events offer essential services and supplies across the island, bolstered by collaborations with community organizations. The Mobile Crisis Outreach van goes beyond refreshments, providing vital items like hygiene products, first-aid kits, and clothing, fostering trust with youth.

**639** youth encounters

**403** calls received  
on the crisis line

**214** days of outreach  
in the community

**116** VI-SPDAT  
assessments



### What is Peer Outreach?

Individuals who share similar experiences, backgrounds, or identities that provide vital support and resources to others facing similar challenges or situations.



# EMPOWERING FUTURES

## Education & Employment

RYSE offers diverse programs to support youth transitioning into adulthood, led by our experienced Education & Employment team. Individualized counseling sessions are tailored to each of our client's needs. Educational initiatives encompass on-site GED training, high school re-enrollment assistance, driver's license support, college application guidance,

peer outreach, and financial literacy education. Our group therapy sessions cover smart recovery, art therapy, improvisation, poetry, meditation, yoga, and anger management. For employment, we provide paid internships and vocational training in construction, nursing, sustainable farming, and social services.



Celebrating our 2023 Nurse Aide Program graduates. The program is a partnership with Hawaii Pacific Health and Lili'uokalani Trust, and provides 16-26 year olds with classroom learning and clinical lab training that sets youth up with the skills they need to enter the healthcare field.

**1,865**

total encounters

**115**

paid internships

**68**

gained employment

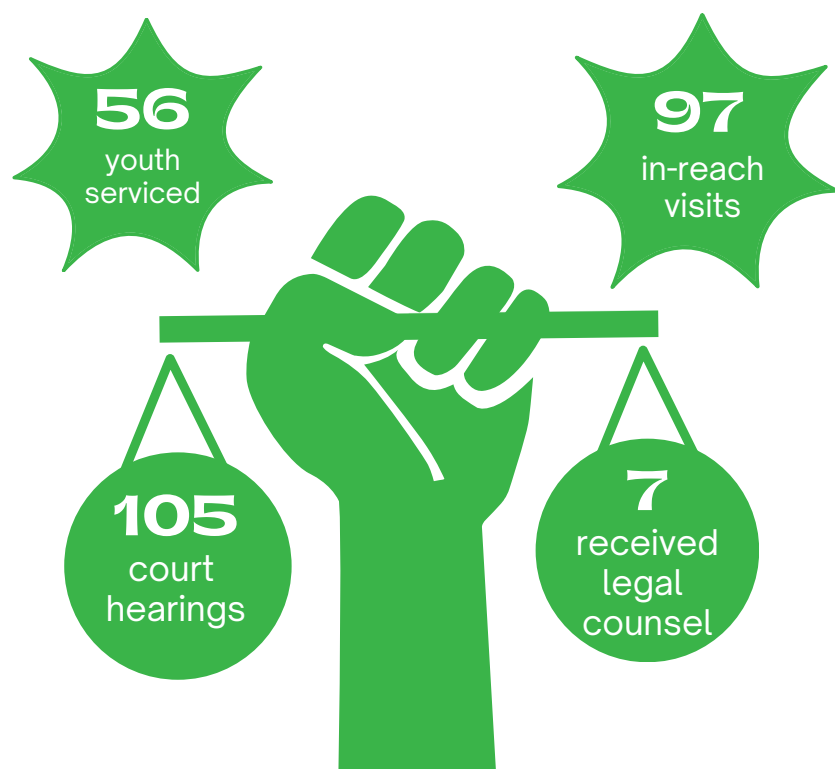
**47**GED/college enrollments  
(7 GED/High School Grads)

# REDEFINING PATHS

## Diversion

Our Diversion Program is dedicated to steering youth away from homelessness, incarceration, and repeat offenses by providing comprehensive support. Through partnerships with community groups, the Hawaii State Judiciary, and law enforcement, we conduct in-reach initiatives to jails, prisons, and mental health facilities. We offer transportation assistance, advocate

during court hearings, facilitate probation, and provide access to legal counsel as needed. The RYSE Diversion team is continuously growing, making a deeper impact within the community. As we welcomed 43 new clients in 2023, our Diversion team rose to meet the increasing demand while remaining dedicated to offering comprehensive support.





# NURTURING WELLNESS

## Behavioral Health

In 2023, our Behavioral Health Department rose to the challenge of increasing demand for youth mental health services. We expanded our team by adding five new staff members, including Behavioral Health Counselors and a Substance Abuse Counselor, to better serve our community. Collaboration with Kaiser Permanente, Castle Hospital, and Queens Medical Center ensured smooth transitions for



clients requiring care. Contracts with all five Medicaid plans underscored our commitment to reaching those in need with essential services. Furthermore, our dedication to meeting youth where they are in their journey towards mental wellness was evident in the extension of operating hours at our Kawaihoa shelter. This initiative reflects our unwavering commitment to supporting the holistic well-being of our community's youth

**2,716**

one-on-one client meetings providing counseling and care coordination

**1,157**

assessments conducted for youth who meet the requirement for Community Care Services (CCS) case management

**59**

Substance Use groups hosted

**37**

Anger Management groups hosted

# JOURNEY OF RYSE

## 2023 Fundraiser

Last year's fundraiser, themed 'Journey of RYSE, 5 Years and Counting,' illuminated our path from humble origins to five years of remarkable community impact. The event was a celebration of our journey, marked by reflection, gratitude, and hope. As we honored our inaugural five years, we highlighted the incredible progress made and the spirit of RYSE that continues to uplift our community.



Fundraising Chairs, Doug & Stephanie Johnstone



Fundraiser attendees



RYSE Youth and Executive Director, Carla Houser



SCAN HERE to see our 5-year journey!



RYSE Board Members Marguerite Fujie & Susan Palmore



# GRANTING HOPE

## Empowering Change

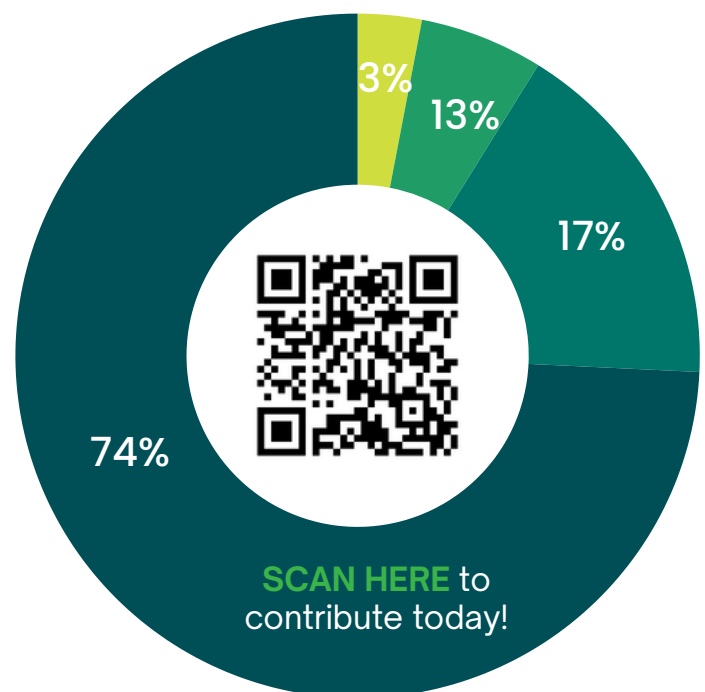
We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your contributions to RYSE. Your support, whether from Federal and City & State entities or our generous private donors, has made an indelible impact on our organization and, most importantly, on the lives of our vulnerable youth.

Thanks to your generous funding, we've established a safe and inclusive environment where our youth can find refuge and empowerment. We've been able to offer critical services that continues to address the multifaceted challenges our youth face, allowing them to not only overcome obstacles but to flourish. From counseling and mentorship to education, life skills training, and recreational activities, your contributions help to provide comprehensive programs that positively impact the lives of the young individuals we serve.

### 2023 Funding

## Funding Sources

- Federal
- State
- City & County
- Private



# GRATITUDE IN ACTION

Mahalo to all of our generous donors and organizations who have contributed to the continued success of Residential Youth Services & Empowerment and the many young individual lives it serves.



## **\$50,000 & above**

Hawaii Loa Ohana



## **\$25,000 - \$49,999**

ANONYMOUS (1)  
Riggs Distributing, Inc  
The Karena Lee Adler Foundation



## **\$15,000 - \$24,999**

ANONYMOUS (2)  
Lauran & Bunny Bromley  
**Greg Hackler (FHB?)**  
Kim Coco Iwamoto  
Zilber Family Foundation



## **\$10,000 - \$14,999**

Altres, Inc.  
Jane Anderson  
Atherton Family Foundation  
Castiglione A Casauria Foundation  
Hawaii Pacific Health  
The Howard Hughes Corporation  
Lori & Bob Harrison  
Joan Bennet and Associates, Inc.  
Matson  
Marjan & Teimour Padash  
Janice & Kelvin Taketa  
J.D. & Julie Watumull



## **\$5,000 - \$9,999**

Aon Risk Services  
Martha Balkin  
Matthew and Nicole Chapman  
Charter Communications  
Michelle Comeau and Will Schoen  
Gateside, Inc  
Hawaiian Airlines  
Hawaiian Telcom, Inc.  
Michelle and Peter Ho  
Honolulu Myohoji Mission  
Ifuku Family Foundation Fund via HCF  
Jhamandas Watumull Fund  
Locations Foundation  
Kenneth and Diane Matsuura  
RoAnne Matsuura  
Robert Riggs  
The Michael J. Marks Foundation  
Title Guaranty  
Cresencia Wong





**\$2,500 - \$4,999**

Black Development Corporation  
Central Pacific Bank  
Christian Enright  
Indian River Community Foundation  
Arlynn Howell Livingston  
Ryan Tanaka  
The Donald and Iris Kim Foundation

**\$1,000 - \$2,499**

Skip Adams  
Albert C. Kobayashi, Inc.  
Associa Hawaii  
Scott Bradley  
Castle Health Group  
Christ Church Uniting Disciples and  
Presbyterians  
Community Church of Honolulu  
Peter Drewliner  
First Unitarian Church of Honolulu  
Jeffrey Foundas  
Carla Houser  
Janell Israel  
Michael Kawazoe  
Deborah Candace Love  
Lorraine & Stan Luke  
Dana Matlin  
Movie Museum  
Debbie Padello  
Jim and Cherye Pierce  
Jared and Kristin Watumull  
Keith and Judy Swayne Family  
Foundation  
Diane Radcliffe  
Jason Shulthise  
Jon and Anette Snook  
Markus Staib  
Linda and Leighton Taylor  
Tom Higgins and Julie Wissinger

**\$500 - \$999**

ANONYMOUS (1)  
Jane Austgen  
Barker Kappelle Construction,  
LLC.  
Donald Carson  
Joyce Clark  
Agnes Fok  
Global Specialty Contractors I  
Valrie Griffith  
Lisa Halvorson  
Harmony Chapter No. 4,  
Order of Eastern Star  
Jesus is...Ministries  
Phyllis and Leonard Kacher  
The Honorable Evelyn Lance  
Madhu Lundquist  
Ross Matlin  
Dr. David McEwan  
James Muhlfeld  
MW Group, Ltd  
Kapua Nakamoto  
Pohai Nani  
Rodney Nishimoto  
Avril Parker  
Laurence Ramsey  
St. John Lutheran Church  
Women's League of Central  
Union Church  
Dora Youel

**ALL OF THEM HAVE SET ME  
ASIDE AND TALKED TO ME AS A  
PERSON, NOT JUST A CLIENT.  
THEY'VE TREATED ME LIKE I'M  
NOT HOPELESS.**

-RYSE YOUTH



### \$100 - \$499

Carol Abe  
 Susan Arashiro  
 Nicholas Baldick  
 Steve Barnes  
 Cheryl Bellamy  
 Lisa Blair  
 Ann Bouslog and Jeff Crabtree  
 Kim Hudson Chock  
 Lester and RoAnne Chu  
 Sean Cover  
 Jon Davidann  
 Detor Family Fund  
 David Dinh  
 Theresa Ekiert  
 Donald Charles Eleheit  
 Bruce Ellinwood  
 Lori Farinas  
 John Fleckles  
 Katherine Saavedra Garcia  
 Karene Garma  
 Lindsey Garnick  
 Heather Gibson  
 Lynn Hiyakumoto  
 Karen Hofmann  
 Miriah Holden  
 Helena Huang  
 Sheena Ing  
 Ann James  
 Vanessa John  
 Gregory Johnson  
 Norlynn Kandler  
 Keri-Ann Kaneakua  
 Kuulani Keohokalole  
 Robin Ketterer  
 Susan and Richard Kowen  
 Michele Lehmkuhl  
 Nikos Leverenze  
 Sandra Maruyama  
 Hannah Matsunaga  
 Lilien Min  
 Jon Moore  
 Network for Good

Robert Nikkel  
 Cali Pietroboni  
 Michal Anne Rogondino  
 Madori Rumpungworn  
 Maureen Shimbuku  
 Brian Smith  
 Steven Sperber  
 Joe B Lee Trujillo  
 Filifotu Vaai  
 Nancy Wond  
 Rotary E-Club of Hawaii  
 R. Zap

I LIKE HOW THEY DON'T  
 GIVE UP ON US. BECAUSE  
 WE ARE OLD ENOUGH TO  
 BE ON OUR OWN, BUT NOT  
 OLD ENOUGH.

-RYSE YOUTH



The Rotary Club of Honolulu shines as dedicated volunteers, providing over 600 volunteer hours of work in our emergency shelter, fostering an environment where our youth can flourish.





### Up to \$99

Aikahi Elementary School  
 Janet Bal  
 Patrick De Costa  
 Christopher Edwards  
 Gloria Gordils  
 Christopher Guay  
 Leolani Iwaki  
 Malulani Kelly  
 Margaret Klein  
 Roger Palmer  
 Allison Piper  
 Joyce Pritchard  
 Brit Reis  
 Mary Roney  
 Jesse Seibel  
 Kathilyn Shelby  
 Alan Tamai  
 Robin Uyeshiro  
 Benjamin Warren



Journey of RYSE - 2023 Fundraiser

## Spotlight

**Momi Sonoda** is a compassionate soul who cherishes her roots in Waimanalo, or "God's Country," as she fondly calls it. Currently serving as a Youth Care Counselor (YCC) for RYSE, Momi's commitment to helping others is steadfast. With a year of dedicated service under her belt and a previous stint from 2018-2021, she brings invaluable experience and passion to her role. Beyond her professional endeavors, Momi finds her greatest fulfillment in her roles as a devoted wife, mother of two, and soon-to-be grandmother once again. Her belief in the importance of family and the right to shelter for all drives her unwavering dedication to her work, making her an invaluable asset to the RYSE team.



*Momi Sonoda*



Residential Youth Services &amp; Empowerment

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS****Jane Anderson***Director***Martha Balkin***Director***Gloria Brooks***Director***Michelle N. Comeau***Director***Marguerite Fujie***Director***Gregory Hackler***Director***Miriah Holden***Vice President***Stephanie Johnstone***Director***Dana Matlin***Secretary***RoAnne Matsuura***Treasurer***Susan Palmore***Director***Janice Taketa***Director***Jared Watumull***President***Ruth Wooden***Director*

2023 marked a milestone as RYSE celebrated 5 years of dedicated service, celebrated by significant growth and impact. Achievements included the expansion of our facilities and staff, adding 6 new beds for youth, and an additional 19 staff members. This growth enhances our capacity to meet the evolving needs of our community. Our education and employment initiatives, alongside our diversion and behavioral health teams, reached unprecedented levels of support, empowering a record number of youth on their journey to brighter futures.





Residential Youth Services & Empowerment

*Our mission is to provide a continuum of support that empowers Hawaii's street youth to move beyond homelessness. We envision a community where there is no youth homelessness.*

**Need Help Now?  
Call or text, day or night:  
808-861-6606**



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