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
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
- 153 drop ins to the emergency shelter
- 6 beds added to RYSE housing
- 51% transferred to safe shelter
- 122 youth housed in a RYSE housing program
- 78 days average stay
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.

**Helping Hands**

**Youth Outreach**

**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.

- **639** youth encounters
- **403** calls received on the crisis line
- **214** days of outreach in the community
- **116** VI-SPDAT assessments
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.
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.
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 Kawaiola 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
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.
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

SCAN HERE to contribute today!
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.

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"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
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.
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.
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.
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