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## Starting the Year with Hope, Growth, and Community

As we begin a new year, RYSE remains committed to being a place of positivity, growth, and hope in a world that often feels heavy with negativity. This January, we're excited to share stories of success, community empowerment, and service across O'ahu.

Our young people are shining, and their hard work, growth, and transformations are made possible by the dedicated staff and community partners who stand beside them every day. Together, we're creating meaningful change, and we're grateful to share that journey with you.

Together, we all RYSE.

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## New Year, New Look!



Queny has been volunteering with RYSE since 2022, sharing her time and talent by offering monthly haircuts to our youth. What began as a passion project has become a meaningful part of our shelter community. With just a pair of scissors and a comb, Queny helps brighten days and build confidence. Her care goes beyond haircuts, creating connection, boosting self-esteem, and helping youth feel ready for opportunities like job interviews.

Her consistent presence brings youth together and creates a welcoming, inclusive space for all. We are deeply grateful for Queny's compassion and dedication, and for the lasting impact her service continues to make.

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Treatment works!  
Find the path that works for YOU!

 **FINDTREATMENT.GOV**

 Offers resources for anyone seeking treatment or support for substance use disorders.



This January, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is leading a nationwide observance of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment Month, focused on raising awareness about the importance of treatment, recovery pathways, and the support systems that make healing possible.

Millions of people across the United States are impacted by substance use disorders, yet far too many do not receive the treatment they need. SUD Treatment Month highlights that recovery is possible, encourages those seeking help, supports families and loved ones, and promotes best practices among care providers. By sharing resources and stories of recovery, SAMHSA aims to break down barriers, reduce stigma, and remind everyone that no one has to navigate recovery alone.

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## Honoring the Life and Legacy of Dana Anderson

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We honor the life and legacy of Dana Anderson, a founding board member of RYSE whose vision, service, and compassion helped shape who we are today.

From the very beginning in 2014, Dana played an essential role in building the foundation of RYSE, helping establish our shelter sites and ensuring our organization was rooted in dignity, care, and community. Her leadership and heart continue to live on through the work we do every day.

Dana's lifelong commitment to serving others was unwavering. She dedicated herself to supporting homeless youth, mental health, and substance abuse recovery, including her leadership as Board Vice President of NAMI Hawai'i and her deep involvement with The Parish of St. Clement Church, where she helped lead the monthly hot meals project that helped to nourish RYSE youth.

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Mahalo nui e Dana for your everlasting legacy and your commitment to ending youth homelessness. You will always be a part of RYSE.

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### **In Case You Missed It**

*We've been busy sharing stories of impact, growth, and community across our social channels. Here's a quick look at some recent highlights you may have missed.*

Milestone unlocked! One of our RYSE youth just earned her driver's license, a powerful step toward independence, opportunity, and confidence. We're so proud to be part of her journey.

Healthy meals. Real skills. A future full of possibility. Through the RYSE to Hana internship, our youth are gaining hands-on experience, building independence, and stepping into pathways toward lifelong careers.



Huge mahalo to the Hawai'i Cyber Lions for showing up and delivering food to our RYSE youth when it matters most. This is what community looks like. This is what it means to care for one another. It truly takes a village, and we are so grateful you're part of ours.

Did we tell you about our highway cleanup? RYSE youth aren't just working on themselves, they're giving back and improving the community they call home.



Preparedness is love in action. At RYSE, CPR training isn't optional, it's essential. Because every second counts, and every youth deserves a team ready to help.



Nothing like a home-cooked meal to start the day with love and community Big mahalo to RYSE board member Jan and her friend Dani for treating our shelter youth to a delicious homemade breakfast this morning, full bellies,



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future of vulnerable youth while growing both personally and professionally. We are currently seeking:

- Certified Substance Abuse Counselor (CSAC)
- Youth Care Counselor (Nights & Weekends)
- Youth Care Counselor (Part Time & On-call)
- Education and Employment Counselor (Various Oahu Island housing locations)

[Apply Today](#)

We honor the life and service of Harmony Malafau, a beloved RYSE youth care counselor whose passing has been felt deeply across our organization. Harmony worked at one of our homes, supporting young people, and she did so with immense compassion, patience, and care. She was loved by both staff and the youth she served, and her presence brought comfort and stability to those who needed it most. We remain committed to continuing our work in her spirit, serving with empathy, dedication, and love for the young people at the heart of everything we do.

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