



Residential Youth Services & Empowerment

## JUNE NEWS UPDATE

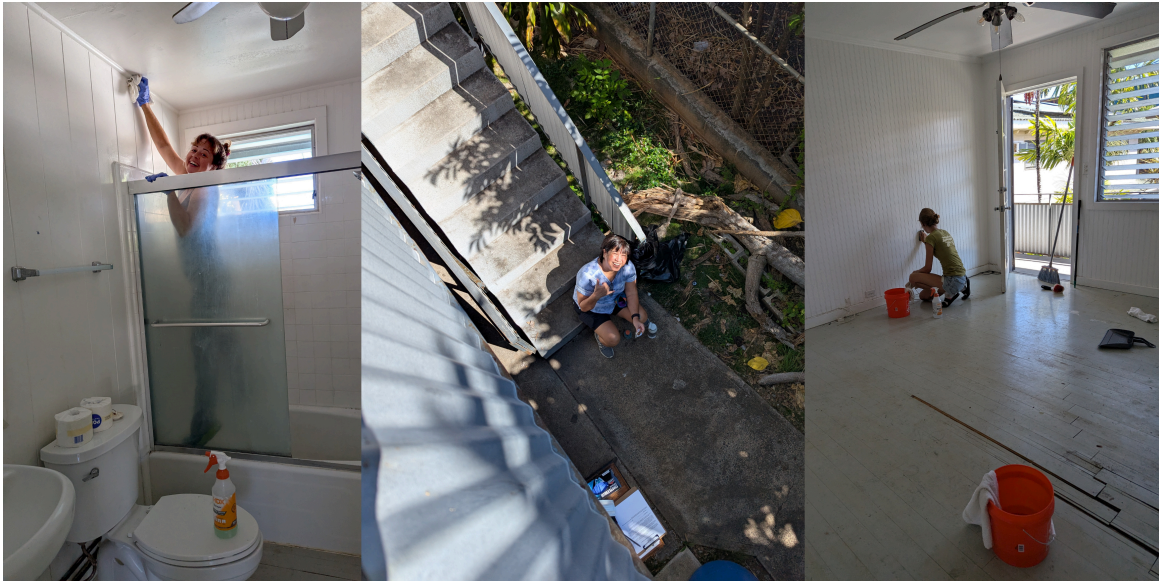
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### Community Comes Together for Hale Koko



This summer, community members, volunteers, and supporters rolled up their sleeves for a workday at Hale Koko, RYSE's newest housing initiative for youth transitioning through and aging out of Hawai'i's foster care system. From painting and cleaning to organizing and yard work, every project helped move the property one step closer to becoming a safe and welcoming home for young people navigating housing instability.





The day was a powerful reminder that creating opportunities for youth takes a community. Mahalo to everyone who donated their time, energy, and sweat equity to help bring this vision to life. Together, we're building more than housing, we're creating a place where youth can find stability, belonging, and a path forward.



Ready to lend a hand? Our next Hale Koko Community Work Day is August 8. We'd love to have you join us!

Email [info@rysehawaii.org](mailto:info@rysehawaii.org)

**Ward Village Invests in RYSE**





Mahalo to Ward Village for its generous \$30,000 investment in RYSE and our Beretania Street capital project. As part of a broader community giving initiative tied to the opening of The Park Ward Village, RYSE was selected as one of several local organizations receiving support for projects that strengthen Hawai'i's future.

This investment will help advance our vision for the Beretania Youth Hub, creating expanded opportunities for housing, workforce development, and drop-in services for youth experiencing homelessness and housing instability in Honolulu's urban core. Partnerships like this demonstrate the power of community investment in creating lasting pathways to stability, independence, and opportunity for Hawai'i's young people.

Mahalo to Ward Village for believing in our mission and helping us build brighter futures for the youth we serve.





## Ruby Tuesday Moanalua & Motiv8 Foundation Give Back Through “Giving Thanks” Event



In the spirit of gratitude and community, Ruby Tuesday Hawaii, in partnership with the Motiv8 Foundation, founded by NFL quarterback Marcus Mariota, continued its annual “Giving Thanks” event, held each year six months after Thanksgiving as a meaningful way to give back.

This year’s effort, led by Rick Nakshima, owner and CEO of Ruby Tuesday Hawaii, resulted in the donation of over 200 pounds of freshly prepared food to support youth and housing programs across the island. The contributions were distributed across the island with RYSE serving as a central hub to ensure meals reached young people in need.

The Giving Thanks initiative reflects a shared commitment to uplifting the community and supporting vulnerable youth with compassion and consistency.

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Special mahalo to Ruby Tuesday Hawaii and the Motiv8 Foundation for their continued dedication to making a positive impact in our community.

**In Case You Missed It**



**At Project Hope...**

we had the chance to connect with youth and families, answer questions, share information about RYSE services, and let people know that support is available when they need it.

Sometimes the most important part of an event isn't what happens that day, it's knowing where to turn when help is needed later.

Thank you to the Wai'anae Boys & Girls Club for creating a space where those connections can happen and inviting us to join.

**A lot of people know poi...**

but not everyone gets the chance to learn where it comes from or the work that goes into making it.

Youth from our Hale'iwa program spent time with Stone, RYSE's Cultural Liaison, planting kalo and learning how to make pa'i'ai from scratch. There were plenty of questions and lots of hands-on learning.

These are the kinds of experiences that stick with you—getting outside, learning something new, and connecting with the cultural traditions that make Hawai'i so special.

**HARRIET Orientation...**

Soon, these RYSE youth will begin hands-on job training and start building skills that can open doors to future careers and opportunities.

We love seeing moments like this, new experiences, new connections, and young people stepping outside their comfort zones and investing in themselves.

Can't wait to see where this journey takes them.





## Behind the Work

As Executive Director of RYSE and Chair of the Planning & Housing Committee for Partners in Care's O'ahu Continuum of Care (CoC), Carla Houser works not only on the frontlines of youth homelessness, but also at the systems level helping shape housing strategy across the island. Each month, she'll share a brief update on what's happening in the CoC and what it means for our community.





### More Youth Finding Shelter

**For the first time, the Point-in-Time Count found more youth were sheltered than unsheltered, reflecting progress in youth-focused housing and outreach efforts.**

Why it matters: More youth are connecting to safe housing before experiencing long-term homelessness.

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### Improving Data, Improving Services

**The committee emphasized the importance of complete and accurate homelessness data to better identify needs and guide future funding decisions.**

Why it matters: Better data leads to stronger programs and smarter investments.

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### Building a Stronger Homeless Response System

**Members discussed expanding collaboration, strengthening outreach, and preparing for future funding opportunities to improve housing access across O'ahu.**

Why it matters: Coordinated planning helps ensure more people can access the services and support they need.

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## WE ARE HIRING

More info at: [rysehawaii.org/jobs](https://rysehawaii.org/jobs)

## We're Hiring!

Join a team dedicated to making a real impact in our community. At RYSE, we're always looking for passionate, driven individuals who are ready to support and empower youth across O'ahu.

If you're looking for meaningful work where you can grow both personally and professionally, we'd love to hear from you.

[Apply Here](#)



Join Us! Together We All RYSE



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