

## **The Transition House is Transformed!**

By Beverley Rexrode

Twenty-six years ago visionaries at the Church of the Crossroads in Honolulu identified a critical need in their community: women and their children leaving an abusive home had few—if any—options, and many ended up in homeless shelters or on the street. After study, evaluation of options, and prayer, the Church of the Crossroads founded the United Church of Christ Transition House to be a safe haven for these women and children. It afforded them the opportunity to restart their lives so they could become self-sufficient and contributing members of their community. The Transition House is not a “shelter” for immediate and short-term assistance. Rather, it provides longer-term transitional housing to help families reshape their lives away from cycles of abuse.



In the last 26 years, the House has been a home for 132 women and 142 children, in a non-disclosed location to provide security from their abusers for six months to a year. During that time, the Transition House has passed through several phases, beginning as a mission of the Church of the Crossroads, then going under the auspices of the leadership of the UCC Conference in Oahu. In 2011 it assumed nonprofit 501(c)(3) status as a member of the United Church of Christ Council for Health and Human Service Ministries (CHHSM). The UCC Transition House became a separate nonprofit in 2015, under the management of an independent, non-secular Board of Directors, but maintains close ties to the UCC churches of Oahu that provide financial support. During this time, funding was raised for the operational needs of the House, but relatively few repairs were made to the House’s structure due to the lack of funds.

With its new responsibilities, in 2015 the Board undertook a facility review to determine the structural status of the House. After that review, and with a new, long-term affordable lease for the building from the Church of the Crossroads, the UCC Transition House began a capital campaign for much needed repairs. Those critical repairs included a new roof, new flooring, and repairs to the electrical system, windows, and plumbing.

The Transition House has had long-term partnerships with several businesses, organizations, and foundations that provided the funding and labor for some projects and repair work, and it has developed new sources of needed capital. Johnson Controls has had yearly workdays to install new doors, do painting and general maintenance, in addition to a generous monetary donation. The Adams Family Foundation has provided donations for flooring, in addition to money for new furniture and other operational needs, including funds for counseling. The Church of the Crossroads provides continued support through its affordable lease for the House. The Makiki Christian Church gave

\$10,000 for renovation work.

In the last year, through our capital campaign seeking funds from various foundations on Oahu, grants have been received from First Hawaiian Bank Foundation for \$10,000, which was used for the repairs to the electrical system. The Atherton Family Foundation provided \$22,000, which was used primarily for the new roof. These projects were completed in February 2017. The Cooke Foundation, Ltd. provided \$6,000, which will be combined with donations from the Adams Family, Makiki Church, and remaining Atherton funds for the upcoming final phase: new flooring and repairs to windows and plumbing.

With this successful capital campaign and the repairs it funded, the Transition House is now a safe and stable facility that can continue its mission for many years to come to provide a safe haven for the women and children who are survivors of domestic abuse. We wish to extend our deepest gratitude to the organizations that have made this possible.

Many more United Church of Christ churches, organizations and individuals provide financial support—often on a monthly basis—to the Transition House for its operational needs. That support is also crucial to cover the daily costs for continuing these services.

We are deeply indebted to all organizations and individuals that support the Transition House. Thank you! Your contributions enable the work of the Transition House; without these contributions, it could not function.

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*Each year the Board sponsors a dinner to raise funds for its operations. This year it will be held at Central Union Church on October 19. We hope that you will join us. If you would like to contribute to support the critical work of the House, please send donations to:*

*The UCC Transition House  
P.O. Box 11885  
Honolulu, HI 96828*