

Annual Review
Fiscal Year
2021-2022



HABILITAT
THE PLACE of CHANGE



Founded By
Vinny Marino
est. 1971

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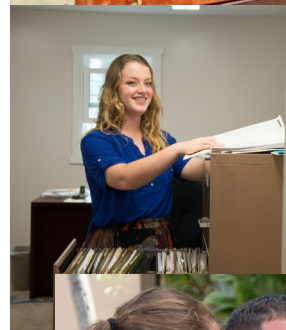
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HABILITAT
THE PLACE OF CHANGE



Message

From Jeff Nash

In 1971, Habilitat's founder, Vinny Marino had a vision. He saw the need for a different kind of substance abuse treatment, recognizing that the goal of simple abstinence was short-sighted. He envisioned a long-term experience that addressed the causes of substance use, and not just treatment for the symptoms. He brought his vision to reality and made it his life's work until his passing in 2000. Vinny's model required constant evolution, continued learning, and adaptation to an ever-changing world. The outcome was a program very different from any other, that is still thriving today.

Throughout the 25 years I have been associated with Habilitat, the program has seen many changes, just as Vinny had envisioned. We continue to evolve and improve our workforce development programs. These curriculum-based training programs are now considered the example for similar programs. For many years Habilitat was considered an alternative approach to treating substance abuse issues.

Today, we are seen as a model for others to follow, with our program philosophy being duplicated around the country. We now give presentations to federal and state agencies as well as consult with newer programs throughout the world. We were invited to join HSAC (the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition) and now sit on their Board of Directors. We remain closely associated with the Hawaii judiciary, adult probation, and ADAD (the Department of Health's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division) and we appreciate the support from numerous judges, politicians, and community leaders.

We paid our dues for many years and are now recognized as the gold standard treatment option in many circles. Since becoming Executive Director in 2016, I began to network with important leaders in Hawaii. New partnerships formed and coordinated efforts between agencies began to take shape. We are now recognized as a major resource in the community.

With only a handful of long-term programs left in America, we accept people from all 50 states. Our unique approach incorporates modern evidence-based treatments including cognitive behavioral therapy, motivational interviewing, individualized treatment planning, group sessions, education, 18 different curriculum-based workforce development programs, computer training, literacy programs, parenting classes, and many more wraparound services designed to teach people to become the best version of themselves possible.

Our vocational programs are designed to provide real-life skills so that participants can attain gainful employment at a living wage in high-demand fields. 100% of our graduates are gainfully employed and in stable housing since 2016 when we made those two criteria prerequisites for graduation.

This year we have established two new transitional housing options for our graduates. This helps us provide a transition into after-care for our residents. The housing gives them stability, and a community they already feel a part of at a time when their support system is so important. These homes are an addition we are very proud of. They offer affordable living, comfortable amenities, and a safe environment for our graduates.

We truly empower people to live beyond their addictions and learn to make positive choices in their lives. Our program is designed to get to the root cause of substance use, then teach people how to thrive in a complicated world. Change is never easy. Habilitat was designed to challenge individuals on every level, improving self-esteem and creating a positive self-image. Habilitat often works where all else failed. While Habilitat certainly is not for everyone, it can work for anyone.



The Board of DIRECTORS

James Duffy, Jr.

CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Dispute Prevention & Resolution

Lila Marino-Camacho

SECRETARY

Berkshire Hathaway Home Services
Hawaii Realtor

Joaquin Almanza, Jr.

TREASURER

Hawaiian Cement, Retired
W.C.S.A. Teacher of the Year 2021

Anthony Gregory

Mana Construction
Founder

Tina Keane

Liliuokalani Trust
Investment Director

Darryl Vincent

U.S. Vets, Kapolei
Chief Operating Officer

Jerry Romano

Windward Auto
President/Owner

Ramsay Taum

Life Enhancement,
Institute of the Pacific
Founder

Victoria Marino

Better Homes & Gardens Realty
Advantage Realty
Director of Growth

Our Dedicated Team

CLINICAL

Jeff Nash | Executive Director
Ethan Kelly | Facility Director
Madeline Areford | Female Coordinator

ADMISSIONS

Jay Dodson | Director
Travis Sanders | Coordinator

PURCHASING

Karen Ferreira | Purchasing Agent

ACCOUNTING

Joan Shishido | Controller
Hekili Colburn | Accountant

FOOD SERVICE

Justin Worthington | Executive Chef

ENTERPRISES

Becky Harrison | Marketing Director
Scott Ryan | Marketing Manager

MEDICAL

Adrienne Neale, RN. | Director

SERVICES

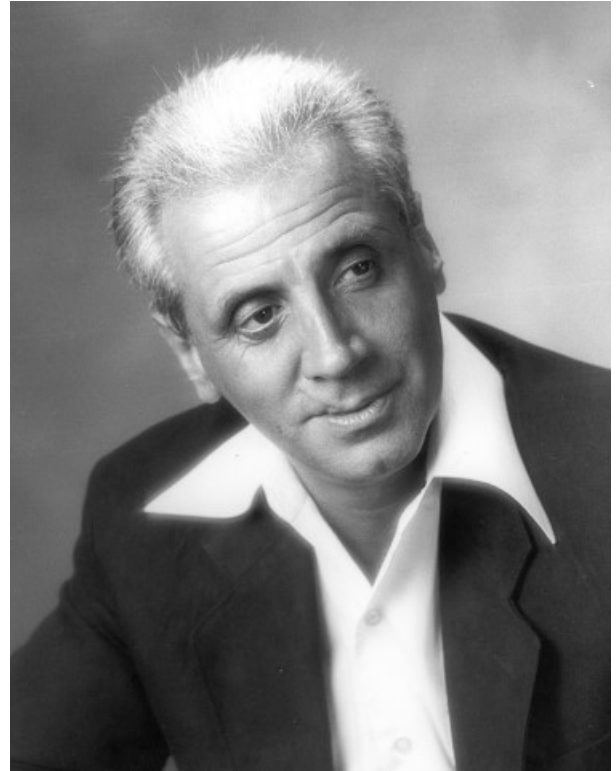
Greg Sheindlin | RME
Peter Amerino | Safety Coordinator
Donny Swart | Supervisor
Travis Hong-Ah Nee | Supervisor

ADMINISTRATION

Vanessa Sesi | Director

About Habilitat

Habilitat is a private 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides long-term substance abuse treatment to those dependent on drugs or alcohol. By the time treatment is sought, individuals lack self-esteem, have caused great pain to their families, and are often a burden to their community. Habilitat teaches them to change through discipline and mutual respect in a therapeutic community setting. In this environment, residents rediscover themselves. They make amends with their families, earn a high school diploma, and learn job skills so they may become productive members of their communities.



Habilitat's history dates back over five decades when Vinny Marino, Habilitat's founder, first opened the doors to a small group of misled youths. Under Vinny's leadership, Habilitat developed a unique, highly effective approach to treating drug and alcohol addiction. Habilitat remains strong and dedicated to its mission of saving lives. As long as substance abuse exists, Habilitat will continue to do its part in helping people change their lives. This annual report highlights the developments of the past year. Habilitat's leadership remains true to Vinny's vision of providing an all-inclusive experience while maintaining the program's autonomy.

Our MISSION

Guiding and empowering individuals to make positive choices in their lives.

Community

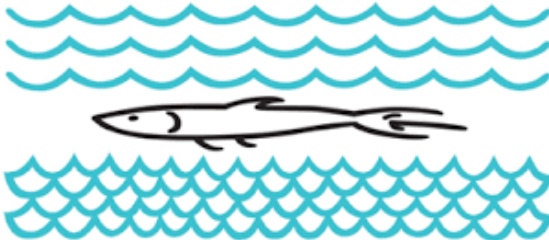
INVOLVEMENT

Throughout the year, Habitat residents get to enjoy going out into the community as volunteers and helping with many different projects. The next few pages will show the different ways our residents have been able to give back to the community by volunteering their time.

One of the ways we enjoy giving back to the community is traveling out to the Pali to take care of our adopted highway. We've picked up trash, and taken equipment out to knock back the weeds and grasses. We enjoy helping that stretch of highway look as beautiful as possible.



WAIKALUA LOKO I'A



For a few months, groups of our residents spent their Sunday mornings at the Waikalua Loko I'a Fish Pond, helping to restore the area to its former state. They pulled out overgrowth, and used equipment to cut up fallen trees and cut back California grass. Through this

community service project the different groups were able to learn about the function and history of the fishpond and the surrounding area, as well as the importance of a place like this in the Hawaiian culture. We are looking forward to continuing this relationship and caring for this beautiful place.



Windward Mall allowed us to pass out hand sanitizer to their shoppers. It was a great opportunity to do something nice and gave us a chance to talk with members of our community about Habilitat and what we do.



On a Friday night, ten of our residents traveled out to Aloha Stadium to lend a hand at The Taste of Oahu Food Truck Event. While they were there, they helped man the front gate, watch over the children in the bounce castle area, and passed out refreshments.



One of Habilitat's goals is to always be good neighbors. Naoneala'a a Kane'ohe, also known as Kaneohe Beach Park, is right behind our facility. This past August, the park was rededicated. Habilitat supplied the P.A. system, tents and seating for this event. We also maintain this park on a regular basis.

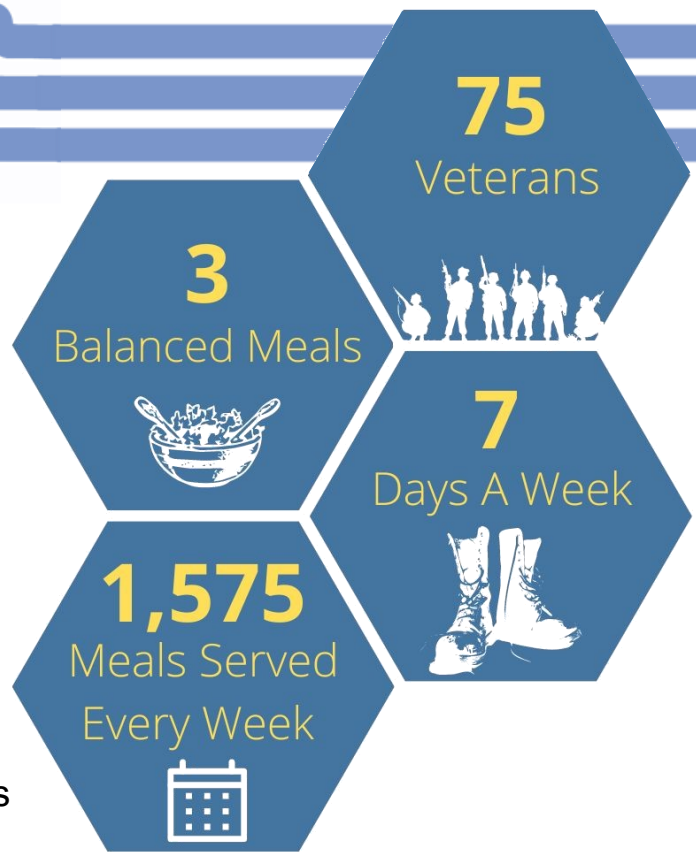
Community INVOLVEMENT



In partnership with the founders of Kanile'a Ukulele, Habilitat's residents have been traveling to Hawai'i island for five days at a time to help in their efforts to restore the forests of the island to their natural state. During these trips, our residents participate in the removal of invasive species, such as Himalayan blackberry, thistle, and thimbleberry, and in the planting of many different native Hawaiian trees and plant species. When our female residents made their way up to Nani'ekolu Ranch, they helped renovate existing raised-bed gardens and built 24 feet of new planting space to help grow edible plants and herbs in an effort for the ranch to become more sustainable. Every trip has been rich with education about Hawaii's history, both about the people and the land itself. Joe and Kristen Souza open their hearts and home to our residents and allow them to help the island of Hawaii heal while they heal themselves.



Since January of 2022, we've been serving the veterans at U.S. Vet's Barber's Point location. U.S. Vets is a non-profit organization designed to help America's struggling veterans gain stability. Their mission is to end veteran homelessness in the United States. Habilitat's catering company, All Kine Grindz, prepares their meals daily. We are hoping to begin preparing meals for their new colony of tiny homes and a shelter in Waianae that houses homeless veterans in the near future.



Meals On Wheels

Habilitat has been in partnership with Hawaii Meals on Wheels for two years. To date, we have prepared over 20,000 meals for the elderly on the Windward side of Oahu. We prepare a frozen, balanced, meal for people with a variety of special dietary needs, which lends an opportunity to learn about different diets and the effects of food on the body. We look forward to continuing our relationship with them in the years to come.



What's **New** Habilitat?

During the past year, the team at Habilitat has been on a mission to upgrade the facility and expand the After Care Programs for our graduates. In the next pages you will see the various improvements to the facility along with a few snapshots of our new transitional houses.



The courtyard is where the residents spend their free time. This space is also utilized during aerobics, rap sessions, meal times, group activities and larger events. A new roof was installed over the stage and we've upgraded all of our patio furniture.

At Habilitat, our main hallway is a major thoroughfare for traffic. In partnership with Concrete Coatings Hawaii, we were able to completely overhaul it. Our residents in the services department were taught how to refinish concrete to provide more traction and without a doubt, it was a major facelift to the area! Our partnership with Concrete Coatings is ongoing, and they continue to help us train our residents in their field of expertise.



As a principle, Vicky Marino made fitness and physical well-being important. To this day it is a major part of the program. In 1986, a recreation building was built for aerobics classes on the top floor, along with a weight room, sauna, and jacuzzi on the ground floor. This year



we were able to overhaul the weight room and outfit it with state-of-the-art gym equipment, thanks to a grant we received from the Michael Family Foundation. Our residents sign up to utilize the weight room when they earn it. This is one example of the ways we help teach people the value of hard work through incentives.



To be considered a graduate of Habilitat, you must have your GED or Highschool Diploma. Many residents spend countless hours studying in our school room. With grants we received from the William G. Irwin Foundation and Carol Yoshinaga we were able to install a new air conditioning system, upgraded desks, seating, lighting and new windows. Our school room is now more functional than ever.



We are very grateful for Way Gone Laser Tattoo removal. Many residents have been able to have tattoos removed from their face and hands for free. Many of the tattoos our residents had removed would have prevented them from getting good jobs. With this new partnership in place, they've been able to leave behind old affiliations and look forward to looking in the mirror and shaking hands with future employers.



The Habilitat Construction Crew did an amazing job of renovating the female bathroom this year. Using the funds we were granted from the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, they completely gutted the entire room, made major repairs, replaced all of the fixtures and laid new tile. The renovation improved the bathroom's functionality and gave our female residents much more space.



We added two new trucks to our services fleet!
A 2022 Chevrolet Silverado and a 2022 Dodge Ram flat bed.

Keolahou Hale Kaneohe

Keolahou Hale, or New Life House, was Habilitat's first transitional home for our graduates. The home has two separate living quarters to accommodate for male and female graduates living at the residence. The Habilitat Construction Crew did a complete renovation, including putting in new floors, fresh coats of paint, a new slab in the back for workout equipment and new bathrooms.



Maluhia Hale Aiea

Maluhia Hale, or Peaceful Home, is Habilitat's newest transitional home. It was updated, furnished, and ready for graduates to move into during the summer of 2022.



FITNESS Mentors

The Habilitat Bundle

The Habilitat bundle is four separate classes (Personal Trainer, Virtual Group Fitness Instructor, Health Coach, Nutrition Specialist) put together by the leadership at Fitness Mentors, a group of dedicated fitness professionals based in California with a desire to help those interested in a future in fitness. The certifications received by taking their online courses are endorsed and recognized by The National Academy of Sports Medicine, The American Council of Exercise, The National Strength and Conditioning Association, and the National Board of Fitness Examiners.

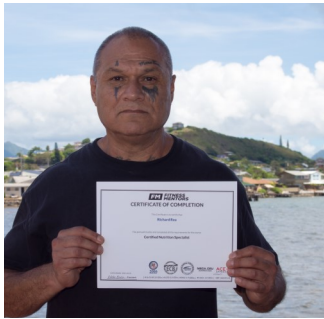
Certified Virtual Group Fitness Instructors: 13

Certified Nutrition Specialists: 34

Certified Health Coaches: 13

Certified Personal Trainers: 13

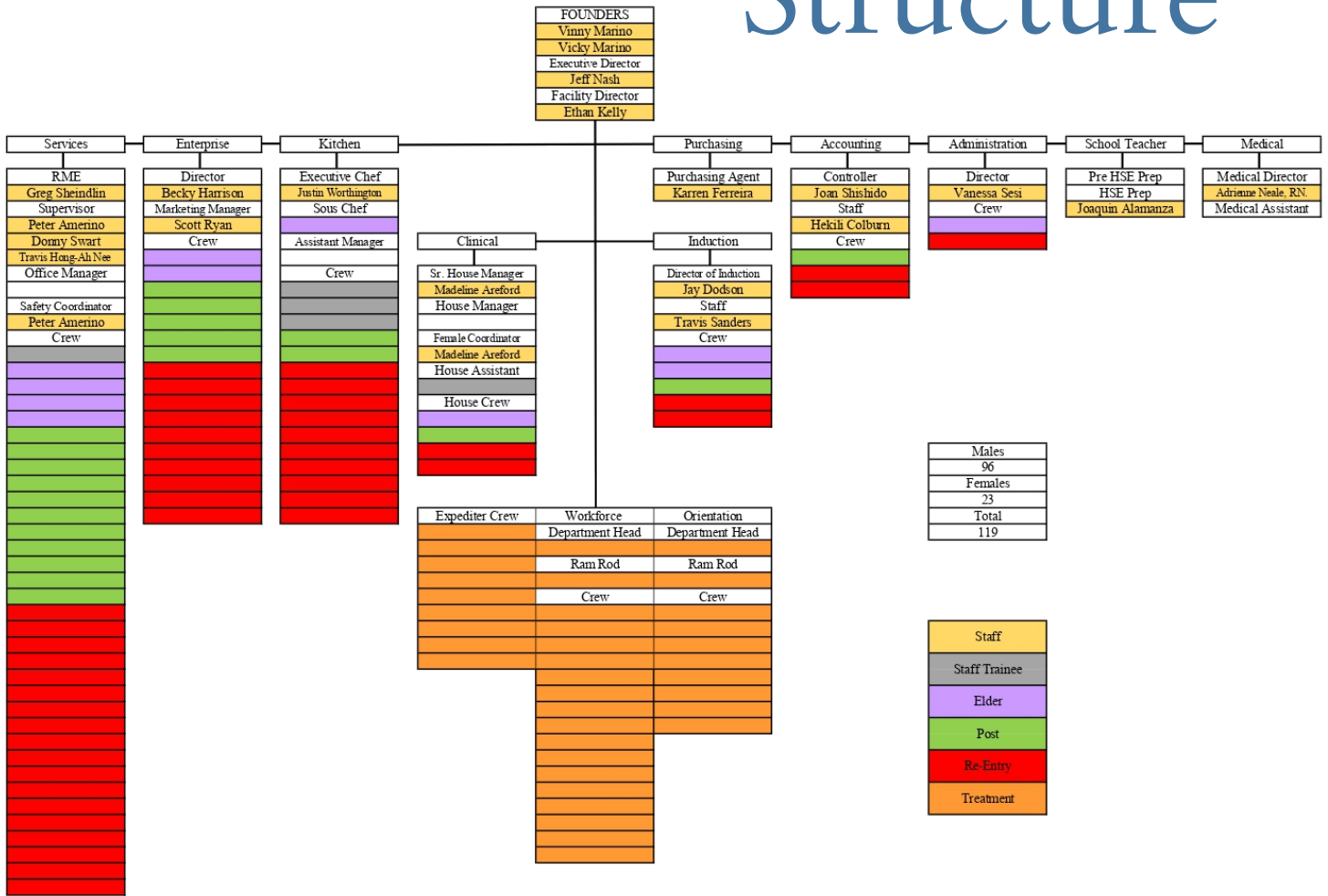




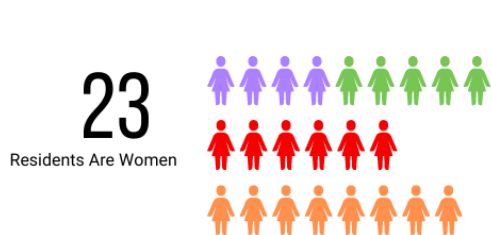
Financial Summary

	(UNAUDITED) FYE 6/30/2022	FYE 6/30/2021
REVENUES		
RESIDENT & ADMISSION FEES	1,156,207	893,200
VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS	789,014	930,988
TRUST & FOUNDATIONS	629,781	1,212,218
FUNDRAISING PROGRAMS, NET	579,402	514,761
DONATIONS	234,135	475,215
OTHER INCOME	714,189	192,265
TOTAL REVENUES	4,102,728	4,218,647
EXPENDITURES		
DIRECT RESIDENT OPERATIONS	1,241,258	1,080,299
VEHICLE FLEET	148,056	159,811
OCCUPANCY	407,441	348,638
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE	1,074,384	1,166,206
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2,871,139	2,754,954
NET REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES	1,231,589	1,463,693
UNREALIZED GAIN(LOSS)-INVESTMENTS	(1,222,532)	1,019,023
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	9,057	2,482,716

Habilitat's Structure



The Structure Board is a tool used by the Clinical Team to keep track of placement, progress and the numbers of the residents in the program. At a glance you can see which residents are in each department, how many are in each phase by color, and who the leaders of each crew are. There are two structure boards on our facility. One in the Executive Director's office and one in our conference room.





TREATMENT

The Orientation Crew

Everyone begins in the Orientation Crew. This is where they'll remain until they're acclimated and know all of our basic concepts, the daily routine, and behavior expectations. During the first two weeks of the program, all new residents are assigned an Older Brother or Older Sister to teach them the expectations and help them find their way around. Residents usually stay in the Orientation Crew for around two months.

The Workforce Crew

In this part of Treatment, people are able to begin learning and earning new responsibilities and have shown that they are able to uphold themselves to the standards of the program. Workforce also has its own set of expectations and responsibilities. Daily, they're responsible to help maintain the facility by doing chores and fixing small issues as a team. Typically, people will spend their third and fourth months in this crew.

The Expediter Crew

The Expediter, or 'Concierge', Crew is responsible to take headcounts every 20 minutes of every resident in the Treatment phase. They also keep a close eye on younger residents and pay attention to what they're discussing and with whom they're hanging out with. They report any issues to the House Crew. This helps keep new people from getting into situations they aren't sure how to handle appropriately. Being older in the Treatment phase, the Expeditors know the expectations and are there to help teach and be an example. The Expediter Crew is one of the last phases of Treatment, and residents are normally four months when they move into this crew.

The Structures

The Orientation Crew and The Workforce Crew each have two Structures, which are an extension of the House Crew. They are responsible for keeping an inventory of the products we distribute weekly for every resident in the facility, as well as helping lead meetings with their treatment house. Typically, Structures will be leaned on a lot to help teach, be accountable to make sure tasks are being accomplished, and report back to the Clinical Staff if there are any ongoing issues in the treatment house. Just like the Expeditors, this position is held by residents from four to six months in the program.



Vocational Training

&

Workforce Development



ALL KINE GRINDZ
CATERING
★ ★ ★  ★ ★ ★

ALL KINE GRINDZ

Our Kitchen

Food, Flavor and Care. That is what the kitchen represents to our Habilitat family. With a crew of people learning to love the culinary arts, the kitchen is a unique opportunity to grow. The majority of the residents who are in this entity will graduate the program with their certification as a nutrition specialist, an eagerness to learn, and the ability to multitask under pressure.



Our Kuleana

Habilitat's Kitchen Crew prides itself in their service to Oahu's communities. From preparing meals for the elderly in partnership with Hawaii Meals On Wheels, to feeding the Veterans who are being helped by U.S. Vets, our kitchen prepares over 600 meals on a daily basis. This includes preparing meals for people with special dietary needs such as diabetics, vegans, dental soft diets, lactose intolerance and high blood pressure.

The Crew

The All Kine Grindz Crew is made up of male and female residents. The positions available for workforce development as a part of this crew are Sous Chef, Assistant Kitchen Manager, Overseer and Prep.





ENTERPRISES

Fundraising & Acquisitions

The Fundraising department spearheads the majority of Habilitat's fundraising projects. They reach out to other organizations, clubs and schools for our Christmas Tree fundraiser and businesses across the island for sponsorship opportunities. The Acquisitions team calls businesses from all across the country to bring in donations of every type. These donations are used for the facility's operating needs as well as to help our workforce development programs. We also get donations of art work, musical instruments, jewelry and sports equipment that are used for our Online Auction to raise more funds for the program.



The Crew

The Enterprises Department is made up of around twenty residents. Different opportunities in this entity include Acquisitions Representative, Fundraising Representative, Public Relations, Overseer, Graphic Designer, Technology Assistant and Family Events Coordinator.



Annual Projects

Oahu Haunted House ALOHA STADIUM

Habilitat's drive-thru Haunted House brings safe entertainment to the island for everyone to enjoy on the holiday with their families.

The Online Auction OAHUAUCTIONS.COM

Our acquisitions team works hard with businesses from Hawaii and across the Mainland to build an auction that everyone can appreciate and bid in.

Christmas Trees THE ISLAND OF OAHU

Generating funds for our program and the schools of Oahu. Our fundraising team works to distribute live Christmas trees to thousands of families every Christmas season.

SERVICES



The Crew

Positions available for workforce development as a part of this crew are Landscaping, Fencing, Welding, Automotive, Remodel, and Masonry. Each crew in turn has their own foreman, this position helps our residents learn management skills. Residents who complete this training will be OSHA safety certified.

Landscaping

Habilitat's Landscape Maintenance Crew is well known throughout the community, and has been operating for almost 50 years. This year, their focus has been on residential property upkeep and renovations. This crew is trained to make sure they leave every area nicer than they found it.



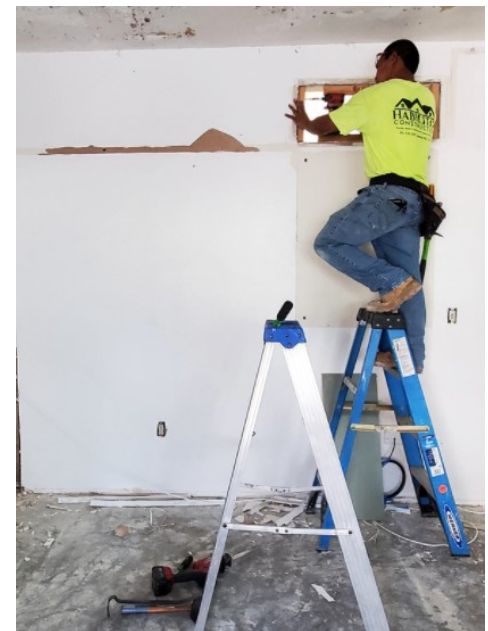
Fencing

This year our Fencing Crew has traveled to other islands, like Lanai, to install fencing and gates for some of our residential customers, as well as many more on the island of Oahu. Habilitat has its own fencing license, but we also partner with Mike's Fencing and Best Vinyl to widen the scope of training and experience that our residents are able to receive. Trainees learn skills like welding, building gates, using various tools and installing different types of fencing.



MIKE'S FENCING

Best Vinyl
FENCE & DECK



Construction

The Construction and Remodeling Crew members learn how to install flooring, hang and finish drywall, carpentry and apply different masonry skills. Their biggest accomplishments this year were complete renovations of the Female Bathhouse and the Frank Cockett, Jr. Wing on the facility, Keolahou Hale, and Maluhia Hale; our new transition houses. Outside of Habilitat, they completed a variety of projects such as covered decks, interior remodeling and window installation for some of our residential customers.





ADMINISTRATION

Habilitat's Administration team is the first point of contact for individuals seeking help to change their lives. The department's essential duties are phone console operation, database management, processing mail, school enrollment, general office skills, and helping people acquire their vital records. Training in this department can lead to employment as an Administrative Professional and an Executive Assistant.

Monthly Assessments

Tracking each resident's improvement is extremely important. Every month the Administration Department distributes evaluations for every resident to fill out. Staff members assess each evaluation along with each resident's goals for the next 6 months. This allows the staff to clearly see where each person feels they need the most improvement and what they're working towards.

High School Equivalency

If you want to be considered a proud Habilitat graduate, you must have your High School Diploma or GED. The Administration Department helps to enroll new residents into our school program so that they can begin studying to take their GED exams.

Phone Console Operations

Habilitat is a busy place, and so are our 80 phone lines. The Administration Department operates the phone throughout the day, They make sure that every call is dealt with in a polite and timely manner, and that every call is sent to the correct department.

Database Management

Every day, everything that happens on the facility is logged in The House Business. Our Administration Department takes this log and makes sure all of that information is entered into our database. This helps us keep track of everyone's progress, their promotions and recently earned responsibilities.



ADMISSIONS

Weekly Check-Ins

When someone is trying to earn their way into our program, they are asked to check in weekly to help us assess their commitment to change. During this period, those who are incarcerated will be given various assignments to do and mail in. Those who are not currently incarcerated are given tasks, such as getting a TB test and a physical evaluation done. This helps us gauge their sincerity and gives us time to get to know the person and assess if they will be a good fit for Habilitat, and if Habilitat will be a good fit for them.

Hawaii's Legal System

In this department, our residents are taught how to navigate Hawaii's legal system in order to help facilitate compliance with probation, parole and drug court requirements. Our Induction representatives are the go between for many different legal entities, such as Adult Probation for each island, Parole Authorities and Child Welfare Services. They help other residents prepare to graduate by making sure they know what their court stipulations may be and how to comply with those regulations.

The Admission Process

During the admissions process, the crew makes sure that every prospect meets three main requirements. They have to be committed to changing their life, they must be physically capable of adhering to the program, and they must be legally cleared to enter the program. Once a person is accepted and brought in, they begin their program by giving their personal background to an admissions representative, who will create a printout for the staff to evaluate them. With their personal background in mind, the staff and two existing residents will hold an acceptance interview with the new resident and then welcome them into the family.

Over the last fiscal year, 76 new residents were brought into the program.



12 of 76 admissions came from out of state.



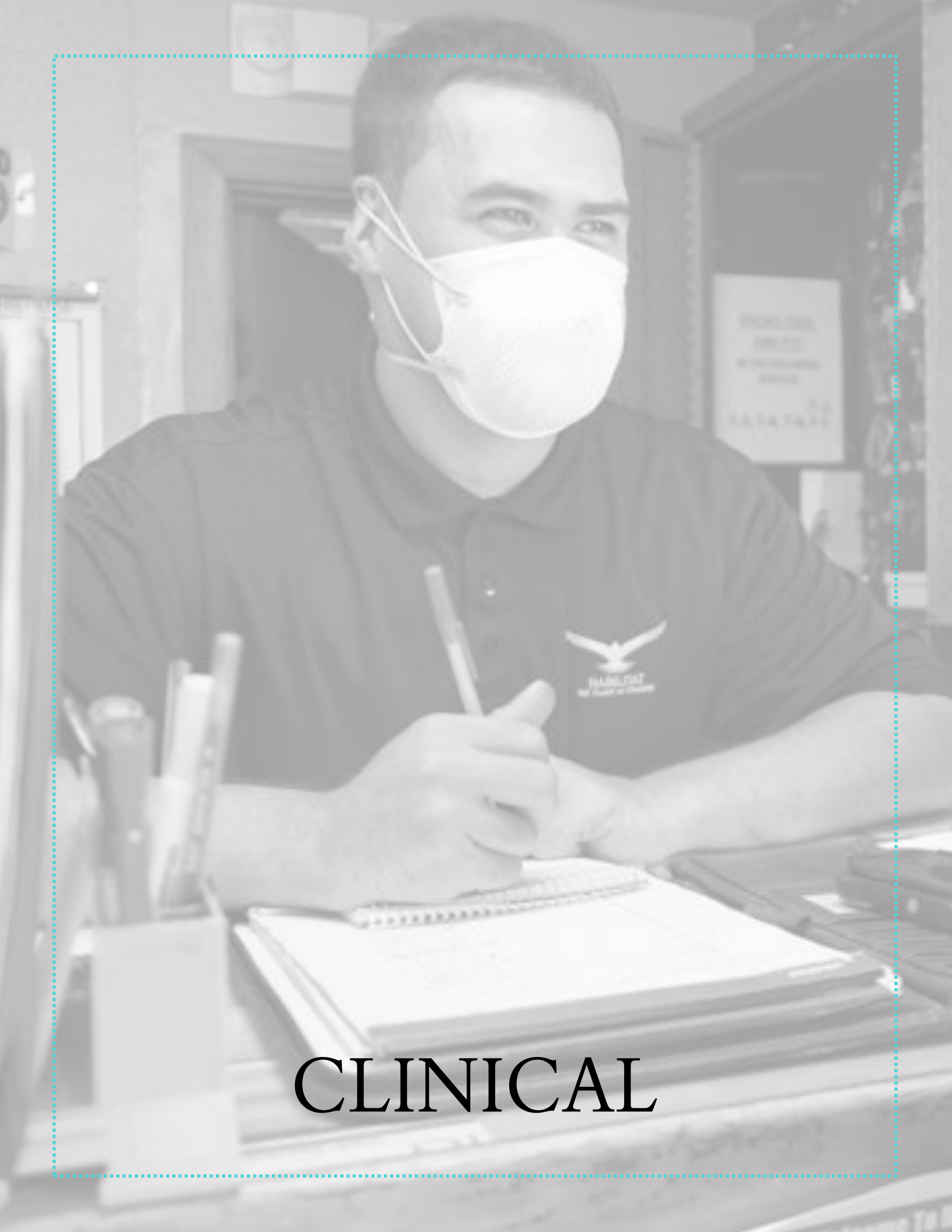
20 of 76 admissions were female.



44 of 76 admissions came from incarceration.



45 of 76 admissions are still in the program.



CLINICAL

The House Crew

The Clinical Staff train a select group of residents who are responsible for sparking interest and hope in newer residents. Throughout the day, they are trained to facilitate encounter groups, lead meetings and activities, and resolve problems.

Encounter Groups

The Encounter group is what we refer to as the heartbeat of our program. In this group people are able to vent their frustrations and work out their personal issues with each other in a safe environment.

The Onboard

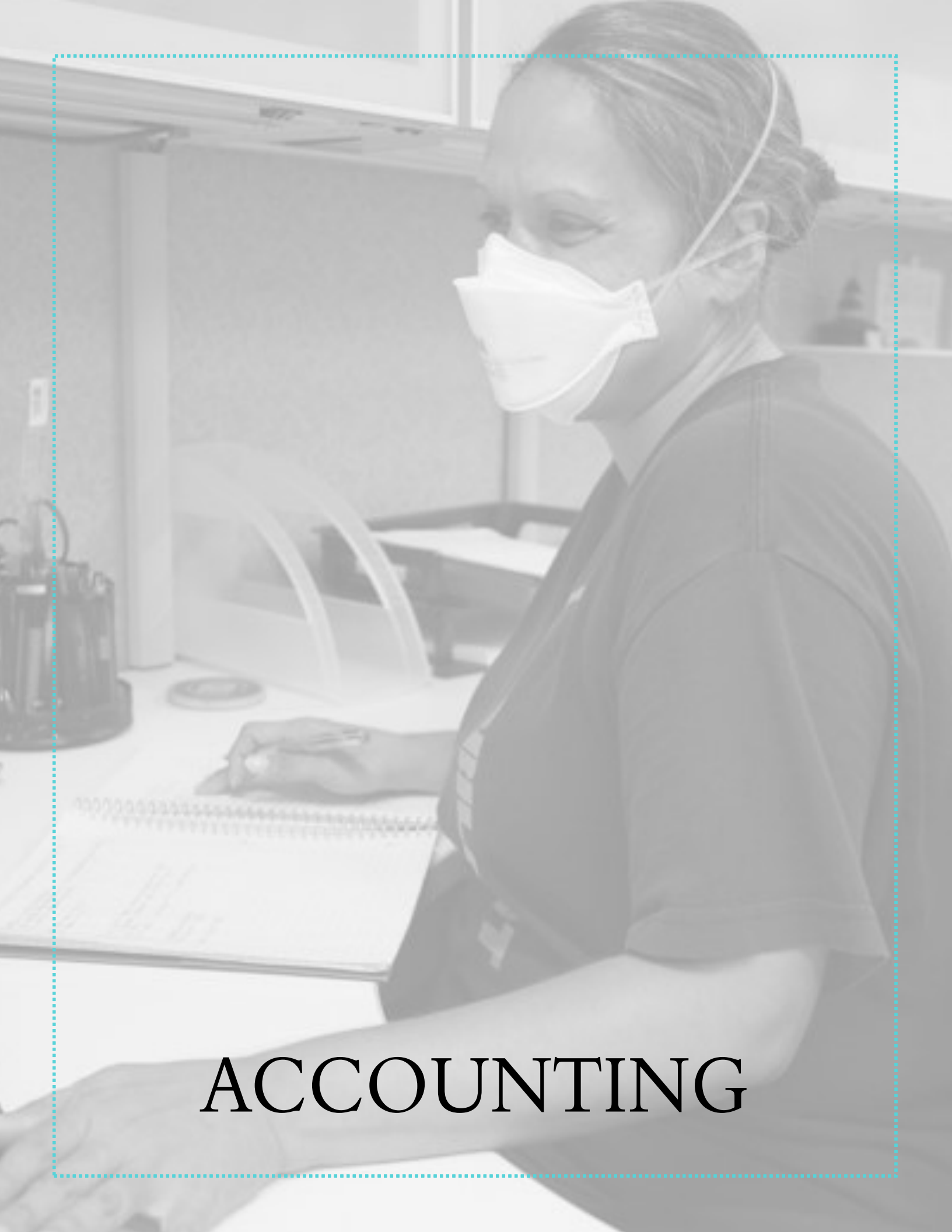
The onboard is the daily schedule for everyone on the facility. The House Crew is responsible for writing out this schedule and making sure that everything happens when it is supposed to.

The Front Desk

The Front Desk is like Habilitat's Air Traffic Control. They hold all of the keys for the facility and send out every trip. They are the go-between for the residents and the staff, and communicate any issues that come up. All requests go through the Coordinator, while the Chief is responsible for all Expeditors and making sure everyone on the facility is doing well. As a team, the Coordinator and Chief make sure that Habilitat's schedule goes off without a hitch and that everyone's needs are met.

The Crew

The House Crew is made up of male and female residents who have shown a desire and passion for helping others. Some residents are chosen for this crew at the beginning of their Re-Entry phase, and others work their way there after a longer period of time. Positions available on this crew are House Assistant, Senior Day Coordinator, Coordinator, and Chief.



ACCOUNTING

The Accounting Department is responsible for recording the efforts of every department, financially speaking. All of the funds generated from our fundraisers, construction department, and kitchen are processed through the Accounting Department. They keep track of Habitat's budget and process all incoming and outgoing transactions.

Accounting Data Entry

Residents assist the Fundraising and Purchasing departments by recording sales, and payments and receiving transactions into the facility's various databases. Residents learn the basics of accuracy, speed, and control while handling the diverse sources of transactions across all departments. They are exposed to various accounting systems and become acquainted with Microsoft Office, Quick Books, and business office best practices.

At the end of their training, Accounting Residents will gain a broader understanding of the business aspects of running a non-profit organization.

Financial Data Analysis

One of the most important things for any accountant to understand is the analysis of the financial transactions. This helps the departments plan better.

The Crew

Accounting is a two member crew, working along side two staff members. Positions available in the crew are Senior Accounting Resident and Junior Accounting Resident.



MEDICAL

In The Office

The Medical department is run by a Registered Nurse. They schedule appointments for all of our residents and make sure that everyone's health related needs are met once they enter the program. The residents in this department are trained by the nurse to schedule and confirm appointments, log medical information into the database and administer medications according to state laws daily. All medical issues are written down as a request, evaluated by the nurse, and then must be logged into the medical database to help track the health of our residents. The Medical Assistant is taught different medical jargon and how to keep track of medical records.

The Medical Clinic

Being the Medical Assistant means you have two offices. Aside from the training they receive in the office, the medical assistant will 'run' medical daily, and eventually be able to pass on what they learn to other residents. This teaches them different medical terms and how to administer medication in adherence with state laws and what those laws are. They have the opportunity to work with our registered nurse, and the nurse practitioner who visits our facility on Thursdays and learn a lot about the human body, symptoms for different illnesses and the treatment for those issues.

The Crew

The Medical Assistant will be trained to administer medications, manage a database, file medical paperwork, monitor vital signs and coordinate medical trips off of the facility.







RESIDENT
TESTIMONIALS

Johnny A. From Treatment

Date Of Entry: August 16, 2021

Crew: Structure | Orientation Crew: Department Head

My name is Johnny Askildson and I am a 47 year old ex-con, alcoholic drug user. I know this sounds like an introduction at an AA meeting, but those meetings never seemed to work for me. After coming to Habilitat, I've learned that substances were never really the issue. It goes deeper than that. But first, allow me to give you a more in depth description of who I am.

I grew up in low income housing in California, on the wrong side of the tracks. I started going to jail in my teenage years and carried it into my twenties. At 27 I went to prison and stayed until I was 42. I was transferred to 12 separate penitentiaries due to behavioral issues. I even found myself in the special management unit in Florence Colorado (supermax).

While I was locked up, the only correspondence I had with the outside world was through letters. It was towards the end of my sentence when I met my beautiful wife, Pamela. Together we came up with a plan to meet the world head-on and beat the odds. I found work and built up my credit and with the help of my wife, we were able to purchase two houses, all the furnishings and a couple vehicles. These were things I never had before. I thought having them would be enough to make me happy... I was wrong.

I found myself living in two separate worlds, I was living in the free world physically, but mentally I was still locked up. I viewed the world with a prison mentality. The same rules that applied inside, I carried with me to the streets. I knew I could not act the same way I did in prison, or else I would risk going back. So, instead of reacting to situations like I always had, I chose to run to the bottle. Needless to say this became an issue between my wife and I, and she helped me get into Habilitat.

Habilitat opened my eyes to things about myself I never would've admitted to. I've learned that I have a victim mindset and I am emotionally unstable. I thought I was strong when it came to emotions because I would never show them. When in reality, I was being weak for not opening up and discussing them. I thought I was strong for doing whatever it took to avoid becoming a victim. When in reality a victim mindset is blaming other people for the things you do.

When I leave Habilitat, I will live in a world free of my own convictions, I will be emotionally stable and a truly stronger person. I will be able to show the love that I say I have, to the people that care about me. I will stand accountable for the part I play in other people's lives. I will finally be ready to face the world head on.

Jaclyn K. From Treatment

Date Of Entry: July 27, 2021

Crew: Structure | Workforce: Department Head

My name is Jaclyn Kama, I am 39 years old from the Big Island. I have 3 children. This is my second time in Habilitat and I am very grateful that I have this chance to change my life. Habilitat believed in me when no one else did. I was here when I was 19 years old and left a couple of months after. I did not want to face the truth; I was not ready to change. Well let's just say that was the worst decision I made, because that is when my life took a turn for the worse.

I got arrested a couple months later and was sentenced to 5 years in prison at WCCC on Oahu. I was released at the age of 24 years old. I got pregnant about 2 months later, had my son, then the next year had my daughter and two years later had my second daughter. I was working two jobs, going to college, had my house and got married. I was living the dream life, so I thought. Life was good until it became a struggle and inside, I was starting to have emotional turmoil, but I thought I could handle it. That it was going to be okay. I was ashamed to ask for help. So I bottled up my emotions, until one day it got too much, and I made the decision to give up everything I worked so hard for. I didn't care that my decisions would hurt everyone I loved and who loved me. I went back to the one thing that I thought would solve all my problems, or at least make it go away. In a blink of an eye, I lost my jobs, my kids were living with my grandma, my marriage was broken, and I was alone and empty inside. Things I told myself I would never do; I did and more. In a blink of an eye my whole life changed.

I got to a point where I lost everything and everyone, there was no reason for me to live. I had hit rock bottom and I didn't care what I did. Until one day, sitting in a cell, thinking about where I was in my life and how much I lost brought tears to my eyes, I knew it was time for change. I needed help. The only place I knew where to go for help was Habilitat. I came to Habilitat on July 27, knowing that I would have to face myself, the truth and reality. I knew that if I didn't come to Habilitat, I would end up dead and my 3 kids would be without a mom.

Now, being at Habilitat again for 8 months has really helped open my eyes. I want to have a better life for me and kids. I am learning how to look at myself and my behaviors, especially how my way didn't really work out for me. I am learning how to have self-worth, confidence, and how to communicate with others.

It's true when they say, "Continue to strive and don't give up before the miracle happens." Doors have been opening and now, I can learn how to be a mom to my children and a woman of integrity. I am so grateful and blessed to have a second chance in life today. With the help of Habilitat I am able to love myself, to have a chance to be a mom to my children that they deserve. To have a successful and meaningful life. Habilitat shows me that there is a way to live life to the fullest with my family and children in a healthy way.

Catherine L. From Re-entry

Date Of Entry: December 2, 2020

Crew: All Kine Grindz | Cook

Talofa! From the place I call home. My name is Catherine Lysja Laumea and I'm a proud, living miracle of the hard work we put in at Habilitat.

I'm from Waipahu and growing up I wasn't able to enjoy my youth. I spent almost all of my years behind bars at Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility. I was sentenced to minority when I barely made 14 years of age. I was misused, neglected, and betrayed. My life was in a dark place. I had no home. No one to turn to. No safety net. I was pregnant, living on a day-to-day basis, worried about my child's life. The mentality that I had then was that the only way I could get myself out of this was doing the one thing I tried to stay away from: selling drugs. Wrong crowds. Dangerous situations.

So, I started living in an abandoned game room, just trying to survive, until the moment that changed my life forever. I was arrested, and I knew that my days of living like this were either going to end or get worse.

After 2 weeks of being incarcerated I was transferred to W.C.C.C. Reality hit me. I wasn't going to see daylight ever again. But I prayed that I wouldn't spend my years wasted behind bars. I trusted my gut when I was given an attorney named Megan who believed in me, and she helped give me a chance to redeem my life and connected me with Habilitat.

When I made it into the program, I knew that this was going to be rough. But I pushed through all of the challenges I've faced so far and I've made many changes. 15 months and counting, I'm learning here what people pay big money for. Learning how to rise up to my potential, correct my behaviors, manage my time. Get good results, make memories that I won't forget and build friendships that last a lifetime.

My experience here is something I will never forget. A girl who became a woman, who is now a walking miracle! Now, I can say that Habilitat is my home. My sisters and brothers are my family, and I am a proud resilient woman with endless opportunities ahead of me.

Jared M. From Re-entry

Date Of Entry: May 28, 2020

Crew: Landscaping Crew | Foreman

My name is Jared Medeiros and I am 37 years old. I grew up in Waimanalo. I started at a young age smoking weed, drinking and selling drugs. I began committing minor crimes which, of course, led me to bigger ones. In 2010, I picked up robbery and kidnapping charges that landed me in jail. I eventually got out, and did really well for myself. I started a family, stayed clean and started a career in tree trimming.

What I didn't do was work on any of the things that drove me to using drugs in the first place; which I know now is my inability to deal with my emotions. Long story short, things went wrong and I didn't know how to cope. So, I went back to what I thought would take it all away. I started using drugs again.

Everything that took me so long to gain, I lost. My job, my wife, my kids, my life. I picked up another robbery in the first degree, went back to jail. I was broken, lost, and felt like a complete failure.

Through all of that I made one of the best decisions of my life. I called Habilitat. It was a long process, it took a miracle, but the courts let me come. Since coming here, I've begun to forgive myself and I am truly working on the real issues that cause me to run away and use drugs. I am now 22 months in the program, in the re-entry phase and am apart of the Services department. I am a foreman, in our landscaping crew and brought with me my skill and have been doing a lot of tree trimming work for Habilitat.

My plan is to stay on here as long as I can, and get educated. I will become a certified arborist and will go back to a college, get a degree in business, I feel good when I look in the mirror. The light at the end of the tunnel is getting super bright. Thanks for listening.

Skyler L. From Post Re-Entry

Date Of Entry: December 11, 2019

Crew: Landscaping Crew | Foreman

My name is Skyler Lloyd and I am a 37 year old who before coming to Habilitat was broken and lost with no sense of direction. I come from Maui, I was incarcerated there for 6 months before I was accepted into Habilitat. I was facing serious drug charges. I started using drugs when I was 18 and have landed myself in jail 11 times. I was so sick of being locked up. I really wanted to do something better with my life. My parole officer told me I had two choices, either max out, or try to get in to Habilitat and change my life. The choice was easy.

Over time, I've learned how to forgive myself for the past. Habilitat has taught me how to believe in myself and live up to my true potential. I have also learned the true importance of communication and a good work ethic. I'm now confident in my ability to do anything I set my mind to. Anything you want in life is in hands reach, you just have to reach up and grab what it is you want. It may not be easy, but if you put your best foot forward anything is possible.

I am now almost 28 months in the program and I look back at all I have accomplished since coming to Habilitat. I now see a light at the end of the tunnel so bright, I need glasses. It used to be so dark I needed a flashlight!

One of the biggest things I have accomplished is getting my high school diploma. I remember thinking to myself that there is no way I'm going to graduate high school. But that's another thing Habilitat taught me- Failure is not an option.

Habilitat is not just another program, it is my home. I am blessed to call the other residents here my family, something I have been missing in my life for a very long time.

Danielle M. From Post Re-entry

Date Of Entry: December 9, 2019

Crew: Enterprise Crew | Acquisitions

My name is Danielle Martinez and I am 28 years old. I am from the island of Kauai. I came into Habilitat desperately in need of help, sick and tired of the life I was living.

At 13 I was diagnosed with a bone tumor in my leg, and I needed to have a surgery done quickly, because it was growing rapidly and messing with the other bones in my leg.

After the surgery was complete, I was prescribed opiates and became dependent on them. I stopped dancing Tahitian, practicing JiuJitsu, and surfing. All of my passions in life. Everything really started to go down hill after that.

As I got older, the things that I was doing got worse and I started getting into trouble and hanging out with the wrong people. I went to several different programs that never worked, and then I moved to Oahu because I planned to get married. That relationship failed and I ended up relapsing. I found myself in more trouble, and in jail.

Even though I was incarcerated, committing to a residential program for 2.5 years was a hard commitment for me to make. Once I got here, though, I felt genuine care and received guidance. Something I had been missing for a long time.

I am at the end of my program now, about to graduate in 2 months and today I have the confidence and work ethic that I didn't have before. I am so grateful that I had a place to come to and heal, let go of my doubts and my limited mindset. Habilitat is my family and they believed in me when I didn't believe in myself. I am grateful to have faced my fears and to be gaining a new perspective on life.

William D. From Elder

Date Of Entry: May 1, 2020

Crew: Admissions Representative

I came here broken. It wasn't the first time that I had succumb to my self-defeating attitude, either. My lack of self esteem and confidence was so great that I felt that I had no purpose in life, and that no one would care if I wasn't around anymore. I went back once again, to the only reliable friend I thought I had: alcohol. After multiple stays in the hospital over a short time span to try and get my physical self back together, I began to realize that I would not have any kind of sustainable recovery without getting my mental and emotional self back together as well.

My options weren't many, and I knew I could manipulate my way though a traditional 30 or 60 day program, as I had already completed many of them before, with nothing to show for it. I knew that I needed to go someplace that would not just challenge me to be a better person, but would instill the change that I needed in order for that to happen. Habilitat was the answer to what I was looking for.

I am in the Elder phase of the program now and am looking to re-enter back into society soon. I feel more confident now that I can overcome any challenge that I will face. Whether it be something that previously took me down that path of despair, or something that I have yet to encounter in my life. I am ready to take it on. I know that I matter now, and that I can do anything I apply myself to.

All this comes from the lessons learned and the tools I have been given from the staff. As well as my brothers and sisters in the program. My biological family still lives in Texas, but my hanai family is here, in Kaneohe. They have shown me the care and support I needed to get back on my feet and they will continue to have my back as I embark on the next leg of my journey. I am forever grateful for Habilitat. Without it, I would not be the person I am today.

Jenifer S. From Elder

Date Of Entry: January 10, 2019

Crew: Enterprise Crew | Acquisitions Overseer

My name is Jenifer and I am 37 years old. Habilitat has been my home for the past 38 months. The decision to come to Habilitat has been life changing. I came desperate to change and defeated, with my hands up. I look back now with appreciation for that desperation, because in that I was able to have the clarity I needed to ask for help. My addiction didn't happen overnight, and I realized it was going to take something other than the cookie cutter rehab to help me. Against all odds, I would make one of the best decisions of my life and decide to come to Habilitat.

I was born and raised in Michigan. I come from a good family and had a normal childhood. In my family, addiction is taboo. Yet, there I landed. Everyone has their own story, but for me I learned that it doesn't so much matter what happened to me prior to getting here, it's what I do moving forward that defines me.

My journey through this program has been filled with ups and downs. Change is the name of the game at Habilitat and I was resistant in the beginning. By overcoming adversities, it showed me how strong I really am. There were times when I wanted to give up, but I feared going back to the depressing life I was living. Like Tony Robbins says "Change happens when the pain of staying the same is greater than the pain of changing." Since being here, I have learned to deal and go through feelings rather than masking them. I have integrity and hold my head high today. I can now stand accountable for my actions and acknowledge I am a direct reflection of my choices. I no longer choose a path of self-destruction and pity. It isn't what happens to you, it's what you do with it.

To live and laugh again is truly a blessing I had thought I lost forever to addiction. Habilitat has literally saved my life. Being here as an Elder for 38 months now, most would say that I am at the end of the road. I believe it's just the beginning. It's time to live life and plan it intentionally, rather than living reactively to circumstances. My future looks bright and the possibilities are endless.

Jackson B. From Staff Trainee

Date Of Entry: December 10, 2018

Crew: Habilitat Construction | Masonry Foreman

I was raised in a wealthy family with a reputation that was impeccable... Until I came into the picture. My life was planned out for me and I was supposed to be this person I never really wanted to be. I wanted to party and do things that were the complete opposite of what my family wanted me to do- just out of spite. I didn't want to feel controlled. I found myself going to jail numerous times and losing jobs again and again due to being an immature little kid with a vendetta against his family's expectations.

So after 27 years of being a derelict and a huge disappointment to my family, I ended up living in a storage container at my father's company. A couple of months of that and a few overdoses later, I had an intervention in my father's office with all my uncles. During this intervention, I agreed to come to Habilitat thinking that it was supposed to be a year long and similar to Passages Malibu. I had no idea it was 30 months long, or that I would have to work so hard to change my life.

So, here I am 39 months later and a Staff Trainee. Who would have thought that I could be the man I am today?! I sure didn't. I am still the same adventurous, dorky, gentle, weirdo, but I have become more mature in my decision making and have morals and can handle criticism a hell of a lot better than I could've before.

I have built the trust from my family I never had before and actually trust myself. I know I can make something of myself just by applying what I have learned here at Habilitat.

I see the future and it's bright and true. Just keeping on the path of good decision making and critical thinking will keep me progressing and gaining more purpose in my life. The future for me looks like a journey that has no destination. No end game. No dead end. I won't be someone who settles for the minimum or 'just ok'. The future I see for myself is one with a family with tons of kids to drive me crazy, to be a family man and at the same time to be a respected leader at my own construction company.

My name is Jackson Anthony Batzer. I am a heroin and meth addict. I still have flaws and I'm still just as human as the next person, but I am a better son, better brother, better uncle and better man due to the skills I have learned at the hardest longest program in the nation. Reborn...Rebuilt... reformed is what I have become.

Fa'amanuiaga V. From Staff Trainee

Date Of Entry: May 16, 2018

Crew: Fencing Crew | Foreman

I was brought up in a big loving family. I am the youngest out of nine. Growing up, we were very close and still are. Everything was going great until I started using and that's when everything came crashing down. I became a different person, I didn't care about anything or anyone including my own family. I was selfish and didn't want to listen to anybody. Getting high was a daily routine and for some odd reason, I would feel normal. I was so lost.

Then I came to Habilitat, and this is the place that saved my life. Coming to Habilitat was the best decision. I didn't know what I was getting myself into, but I pushed through it and STAYED no matter how rough the ride was. Through it all now, I am a staff trainee and am truly blessed to have made it this far. Being here almost four years, of course I had struggles. I had my days where I wanted to just give up, but Habilitat has taught me to overcome these struggles by always remembering where I came from. So here I am now still holding onto my seat. I am a living testimony.

GRANTS

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR BEING CHOSEN TO RECEIVE THESE FUNDS THROUGHOUT THIS PAST YEAR, AND WANT TO SHARE WITH EVERYONE THE DIFFERENCE IT MADE IN MANY LIVES.

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EVERY YEAR OUR FUNDRAISING TEAM REACHES OUT TO THE COMMUNITY AND OFFERS THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET INVOLVED IN WHAT WE DO. WE TRULY APPRECIATE THE ALOHA FROM ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS AND CANNOT THANK YOU ALL ENOUGH FOR HELPING US CONTINUE TO SAVE LIVES.

TOGETHER WE CAN CONTINUE TO BRING HOPE AND LIGHT TO DARKNESS

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