



ANNUAL REPORT



HABILITAT
THE PLACE of CHANGE

FY
2023

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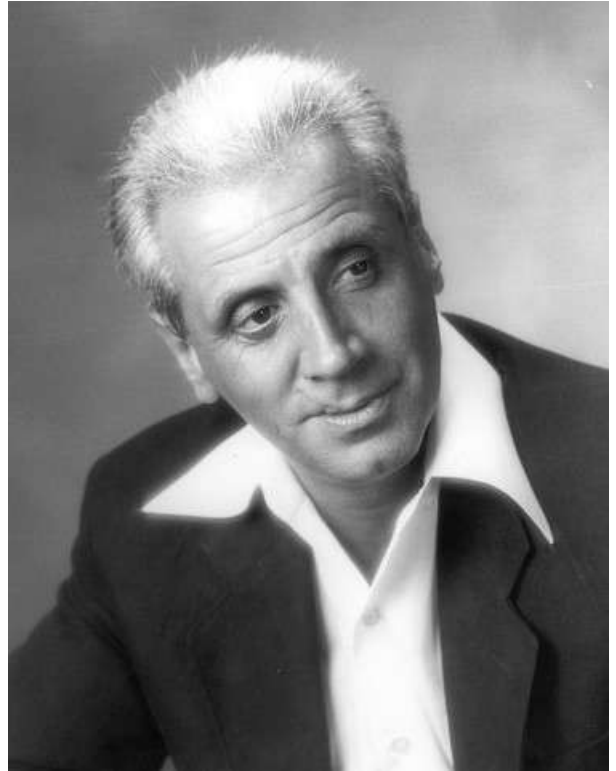


HABILITAT
THE PLACE OF CHANGE



About Habilitat

Habilitat is a nonprofit organization, operating as a private 501(c)(3), that specializes in comprehensive, long-term substance abuse treatment to individuals struggling with drug or alcohol dependency. These individuals have low self-esteem, hurt and disappointed their families, and become a burden to their community. Habilitat facilitates transformation by instilling discipline and fostering mutual respect within a therapeutic community setting. Within this supportive environment, residents embark on a journey of self-discovery, working towards making amends with their families, obtaining a high school diploma when needed, and acquiring valuable job skills so that they can become productive members of their communities.



Habilitat was started over five decades ago by the visionary Vinny Marino, our founder initially welcomed a small group of misguided youths into a single family home in Kailua. Under Vinny's guidance, Habilitat devised a distinctive and highly effective approach to combat drug and alcohol addiction. Today, Habilitat remains steadfast and committed to its life-saving mission. As long as substance abuse persists, Habilitat will continue to fulfill its role in helping individuals reshape their lives. Habilitat's leadership remains devoted to upholding Vinny's vision of providing a comprehensive experience while preserving the program's autonomy.

Our MISSION

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

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
Jordan Murawske | House Manager

PURCHASING

Karen Ferreira | Purchasing Agent

FOOD SERVICE

Justin Worthington | Executive Chef

MEDICAL

Adrienne Neale, RN. | Director

ADMINISTRATION

Vanessa Sesi | Director

ADMISSIONS

Jay Dodson | Director
Travis Sanders | Coordinator

ACCOUNTING

Joan Shishido | Director
Hekili Colburn | Accountant

ENTERPRISES

Becky Harrison | Director
Scott Ryan | Manager

SERVICES

Greg Sheindlin | RME
Peter Amerino | Safety Coordinator
Fa'amanuiga Ve'e | Supervisor
Kawika Brown | Supervisor

Message From Jeff Nash

As we conclude another fiscal year at Habilitat, Inc., I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude and admiration for the remarkable hard work and dedication demonstrated by our staff. This past year has presented us with both challenges and opportunities, and it is with great pride that I commend our collective resilience and unwavering commitment to our mission of empowering individuals to overcome addiction and rebuild their lives.

Throughout the past year, Habilitat has continued to make significant progress in our programs and services. Our devoted team has tirelessly extended our reach and provided essential support to individuals in need. We have witnessed numerous success stories, as participants have made incredible strides in their recovery journeys, reclaiming their lives and rediscovering their true potential. This year, we have achieved improved outcomes with sustained recovery rates and successful reintegration into society. These achievements serve as a testament to the efficacy of our holistic approach and the unwavering dedication of our staff.

As we celebrate our accomplishments, we must remain cognizant of the challenges that lie ahead. The persistent addiction crisis continues to impact our communities, demanding that we adapt and evolve to meet the changing needs of those we serve. Looking forward, we will focus on enhancing our programs, improving accessibility, and fostering new partnerships to ensure that Habilitat remains at the forefront of addiction recovery and rehabilitation.

In conclusion, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to every one of you for your support, dedication, and hard work throughout this fiscal year. Together, we have made a profound impact on the lives of countless individuals and families. I am confident that our collective efforts will continue to transform lives in the years to come. Let us take a moment to reflect on our achievements, learn from our experiences, and approach the new fiscal year with renewed energy and determination.

Thank you for your commitment to our mission.

Warm regards,

Jeff Nash Executive Director Habilitat, Inc.



Community INVOLVEMENT

We continue to pride ourselves in being involved in our community. This year our residents got involved in many different projects, giving them an opportunity to meet new people from different walks of life and play a vital role in their community, many of them for the first time in years.

Shinnyo Lantern Floating Ceremony

The Shinnyo Lantern Floating Ceremony is one of Oahu's largest celebrations of life and memorial services. A team of 8 residents went out to Ala Moana Magic Island to help the production team with the set up and breakdown of this event. They were responsible for the set up of all tents, scaffolding, barriers, stages and roadways for the park. They were given a lantern and participate in the event themselves. They also got the chance to meet the Taiko drummers, learn about the culture and practices of Shinnyo-en Buddhism. After the ceremony concluded they helped to break everything down and clean up the park.



KEY Project, a community youth organization, put 4 youths through a public speaking class. One of the keiki did a presentation on the substance abuse epidemic in Oahu's communities. When they were ready to present their presentations, Habilitat was there to support and encourage them!



KEY Project



O'lelo Community Media

For the first time in 2 years, Habilitat residents were able to participate in the Basic Production Classes offered by O'lelo Community Media. They spent 9 days learning about production equipment, cameras, multi-camera video editing, and sound management. Once the classes were complete, they put their new skills to work by assisting in the filming of a play (Bedlam in the Badlands) for The Lanikai Mortgage Players.



What's **New** Habilitat?

This year, our services department's remodeling team continued their efforts to update the facility. They've completely renovated our Seaside Vista; taking it from an outdated office space to a modern dorm for the male residents. The work on the upstairs male dorms, hallway dorm and male post re-entry dorm are ongoing and are due to be completed within the month of July 2023. This work is partially funded by the state's Grant-In-Aid program.



Supreme Fencing Hawaii

This year we began a new partnership with Supreme Fencing Hawaii. Much like our existing partnerships with Best Vinyl and Mike's Fencing, we provide the man-power and they provide our residents an opportunity to learn how to build custom fences, gates and make a job site plan of action.



Congratulations to our 6 newly certified nutrition specialists. Fitness Mentors continues to provide college level classes and training for those interested in pursuing a career path in fitness and nutrition.



10 of our staff took a college level data skills class offered by Chaminade University. They learned about data management and put on presentations centered around Habilitat, its statistics and the efficacy of our current procedures. Beginning next spring, our residents will also be enrolled in this customized course.

With help from The Zilber Family Foundation, we were able to purchase a new forklift for our services department. This will definitely make a huge impact on our fencing crews as they're loading their trucks up in the morning before they start their day.



SpecialEVENTS

Alex Sheen Because I said I would...

Alex Sheen shared with the Habilitat family about the importance of keeping your word, and the impact made by becoming a reliable person. Everyone enjoyed his company and his seminar. He shared the story of his father, who had always been a man of his word, and how he took that trait from his father and used it to help the lives of others. He left everyone with their own set of Promise Cards to keep and challenged everyone to be a person of their word.



Mike Love Concert

A dear friend to the program, Mike Love, visited us again to share his incredible talent, creative soul, and a full spirit of Aloha. Moments like these give our residents experiences that will last a lifetime, and teach them that it is possible to let loose and have a great time without the use of drugs and alcohol.





Sea Life Park

This year Sea Life Park donated entrance into the park for over 100 of our residents. They visited every exhibit, and interacted with all of the animals. The dolphin show was a favorite.



Wet 'N' Wild

For Mother's Day, Wet 'N' Wild donated entrance into the water park for every female resident and female staff member. They were greeted with leis, and spent a wonderful day in the water and sun.



Sponsorships

Businesses have an opportunity to gain exposure and show the community they care. Partnering with Habilitat is a win-win scenario. Through a variety of packages that cater to each individual business' needs. Habilitat's website is viewed over 400 times a day. Our Haunted House is attended by 10,000 Oahu residents and the website gets over 200,000 hits in the month of October. Our social media platforms have over 20,000 followers.

This year our team brainstormed new sponsorship opportunities and have updated each event's available packages.

Executive Packages

Platinum \$100,000	Gold \$50,000	Silver \$25,000	Bronze \$10,000
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Each package comes with Habilitat memorabilia and entry into our events, some have hand crafted koa wood weaponry and more. Some of the major changes to the packages are:

- These new options cover multiple Habilitat events.
- The Platinum Sponsorship package includes a full scholarship for one person into the program.
- The Gold Sponsorship package allows the company to sponsor a resident's education, and present them with their High School Equivalency Diploma when they graduate from school.

Christmas Packages

Platinum \$15,000	Gold \$10,000	Silver \$5,000	Bronze \$1,000
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Each package comes with a free Christmas tree, with delivery, set up and disposal. Some of the major components to these packages are:

- The Platinum Sponsorship package includes an ornament with the company's logo that will be given to every tree lot customer.
- The Gold Sponsorship package includes a 3x8 banner displayed at our busiest Christmas tree lot location, in downtown Honolulu.

Haunted House Packages

Nightmare (6 available) \$10,000	Scarecrow (6 available) \$5,000	Black Cat \$2,500	Pumpkin \$1,000
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Each package comes with entry into our Drive-Thru Haunted House, for a varying amount of vehicles. Some of the major changes to the packages are:

- The Nightmare Sponsorship package gives the company full sponsorship of an entire scene, in which their company will be built into the scene's decor, and their logo will be printed on our tickets.
- The Scarecrow Sponsorship package gives the company curtain sponsorship, where their company's banner will be on a curtain between the scenes.

Building RELATIONSHIPS

In fiscal year 2022, our focus was on remodeling different areas of the facility. This year, we have shifted to a focus on building new relationships with other companies in the community, and strengthening the relationships we already had established. We cannot achieve all of our goals without working with the many other incredible organizations in our community, and we are so grateful to be working with such amazing people.

Networking

Hawaii Society of Business Professionals

The HUB Coworking

Toast Masters

Downtown Business Associates

Fencing

Best Vinyl

Mike's Fencing

Supreme Fencing

Construction

Associated Builders, Inc.

Mana Construction

Landscaping

**Community Empowerment
Resources**

Windward Boats

US Vets, Barber's Point

Food Service

U.S. Vets Waianae Civic Center

Breakfast & Dinner

150 Meals Per Day

CARE Hawaii

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

21 Meals Per Day

Community Empowerment Resources

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

45-60 Meals Per Day

US Vets, Barber's Point

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

300 Meals Per Day

A Tribute To A Life Well Lived

When Habilitat was founded in 1971. Karen shared the vision of Habilitat's founder Vinny Marino and joined the board of directors, Karen was instrumental in helping Habilitat become what it is today. In the early days, Habilitat had many challenges. Karen helped Vinny navigate the bureaucracy and ensured that Habilitat would continue to save lives for generations to come. In those days, Karen served as a family court probation officer, tasked with helping struggling children. Some of those kids were placed into Habilitat's adolescent program.

Karen's dedication to helping these kids went far beyond anyone's expectations. In fact, Karen was known to come and join them in their therapy groups as a participant. Some of these groups could be brutal, allowing the participants to say whatever they felt about the others in the group. She would sit through and listen intently. Years later, while recounting those stories, she made a profound statement during an interview with Lee Cataluña that we still use today.... "The ability to see oneself through the eyes of another is without parallel." Karen continued to serve on the Habilitat Board until the early 2000s. She believed in the concept of recovery and Habilitat's model of tough love, hard work, and family values.

In 1972, Karen and her husband Bob invited the entire Habilitat Family to spend the day at their north shore estate, Kikila. Habilitat has continued these wonderful outings to their beautiful estate for over 50 years. Having 150 troubled people gather in your yard might make someone uneasy. However, Karen and Bob would pull up their chairs, talk story, and always seemed to thoroughly enjoy our visits. Habilitat's Kikila outings have been some of the most memorable experiences for multiple generations of Habilitat's participants.

She lived a life we should all aspire to. She not only cared about the vulnerable people in our community, but she spent countless years actively helping them. While we will miss her greatly, we are all better people for knowing her and seeing her example. Karen made a real difference. We are forever grateful for your love and kindness.



Karen White

March 13, 1922—October 29, 2022

Keolahou Hale Kaneohe

Keolahou Hale, or New Life House, was the first transitional home for Habilitat graduates. The home has two separate living quarters to accommodate male and female graduates living at the residence. Since opening in September of 2021, 27 graduates have chosen to transition into their new lives through Keolahou.



Maluhia Hale Aiea

Maluhia Hale, or Peaceful Home, is Habilitat's newest transitional home. It was updated, furnished, and ready for our graduates July of 2022. To date, 12 male graduates have lived in this transitional house.



Financial Summary

(UNAUDITED)

FYE
6/30/2023

FYE
6/30/2022

REVENUES

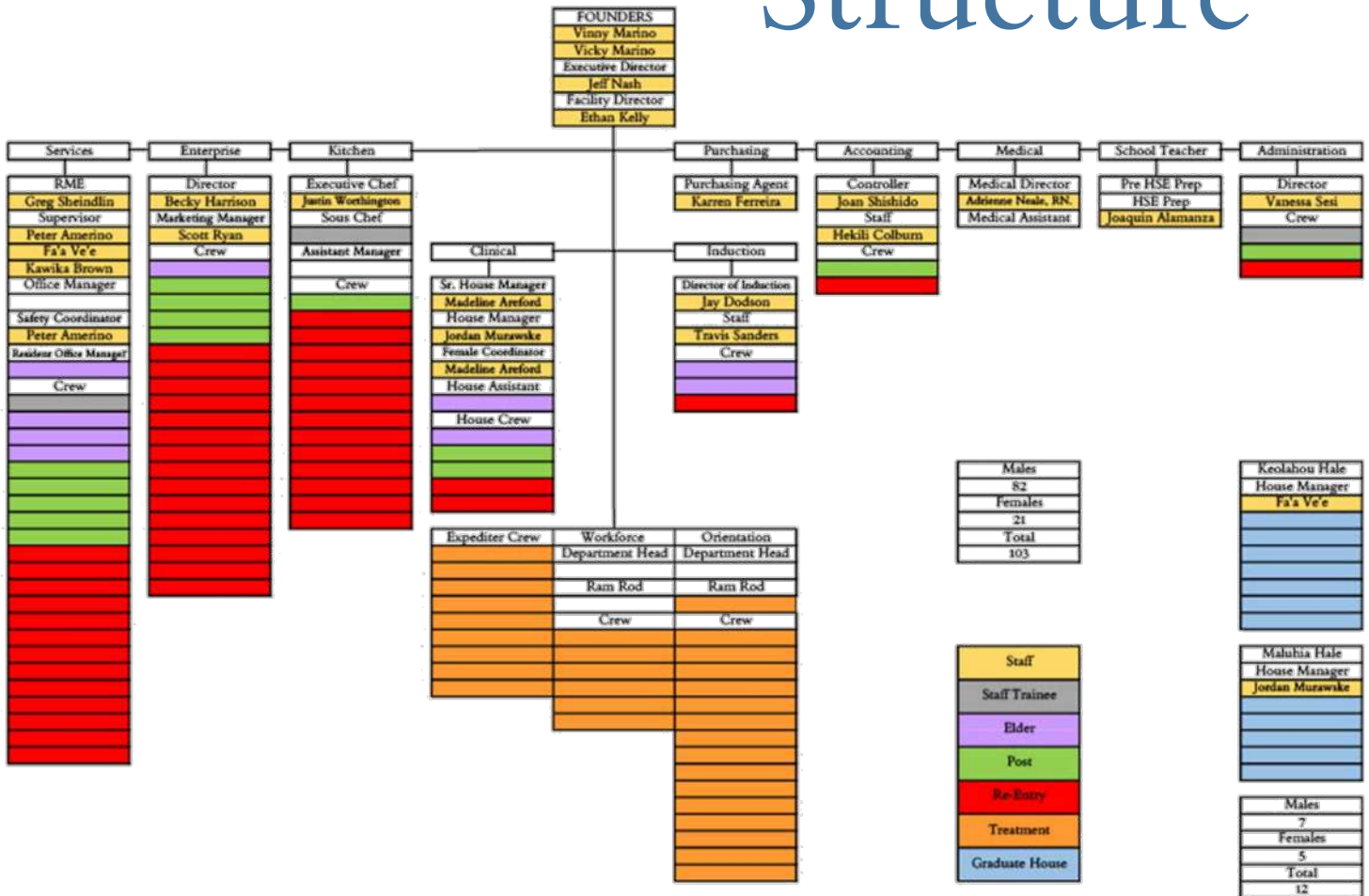
RESIDENT & ADMISSION FEES	1,138,164	1,156,207
VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS	918,246	789,014
TRUST & FOUNDATIONS	137,099	629,781
FUNDRAISING PROGRAMS, NET	634,276	579,402
DONATIONS	277,254	234,135
OTHER INCOME	135,210	714,189
TOTAL	3,190,249	4,102,727

EXPENDITURES

DIRECT RESIDENT	754,757	835,600
DIRECT OPERATIONS	450,065	405,657
VEHICLE FLEET	154,126	148,056
OCCUPANCY	494,084	407,441
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE	1,204,202	1,074,384
TOTAL	3,057,235	2,871,139

NET REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES	133,014	1,231,589
UNREALIZED GAIN(LOSS)-INVESTMENTS	375,325	(1,222,532)
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	508,338	9,057

Habilitat's Structure



The Structure Board is a tool used by the Clinical Team to keep track of placement, progress and the number of 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 three structure boards on our facility. One in the Executive Director's office, one in the Facility 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 the basic concepts, daily routine, and behavior expectations.

During the first two weeks of the program, new residents are assigned an Older Brother or Sister to teach them the expectations and help them find their way around.

Residents usually stay in the Orientation Crew for two months.

The Workforce Crew

In this phase of Treatment, people begin learning and earning new responsibilities.

They have shown that they are able to hold 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 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 all residents 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 can't handle appropriately. Being older in the Treatment phase, the Expeditors know the expectations, help teach and are role models. The Expediter Crew is the last phase of Treatment.

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 household goods that are distributed weekly for every resident in the facility, as well as helping lead meetings with their treatment house. Typically, Structures are leaned on to help teach, and ensure tasks are being accomplished, and report back to the Clinical Staff of 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

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 while providing the family with wholesome meals. The majority of the residents who are in this department will graduate the program with their certifications in nutrition and food safety, 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 through the business done by All Kine Grindz. This year All Kine Grindz business network has expanded to include Community Empowerment Resources and CARE Hawaii. They've also begun to train some of the clients at US Vets to work in an industrial kitchen. Today they prepare over 860 meals on a daily basis. This includes preparing meals for people with special dietary needs.

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 Habilitat's fundraising projects. They reach out to other organizations, clubs and schools for our Christmas Tree Fundraiser and to businesses across the island for sponsorship opportunities. The Acquisitions team calls businesses 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. Donations of art work, musical instruments, jewelry and sports equipment 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 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

Specializations available for workforce development as a part of this crew are Landscaping, Fencing, Welding, Automotive, Remodeling, and Masonry. Each crew has their own foreman, which 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 better than they found it.

Fencing

This year our Fencing Crew has traveled to other islands to install fencing and gates for some of our residential customers, as well as many more on the island of Oahu. Habilitat services it's own customers, but we also partner with Mike's Fencing, Supreme 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.

Construction

The Construction and Remodeling Crew members learn how to install flooring, hang and finish drywall, carpentry and various masonry skills. Their accomplishments this year include complete renovations of the Seaside Vista Dorm, and all of the main male dorms. 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 or 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 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.

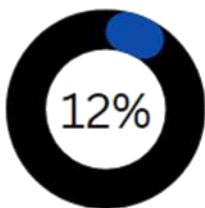
Hawaii's Legal System

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 are and how to comply with those regulations.

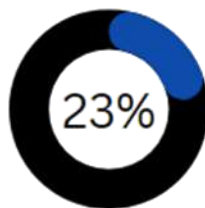
The Admission Process

During the admission 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.

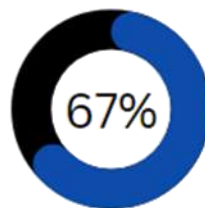
Over the last fiscal year, 73 new residents were brought into the program.



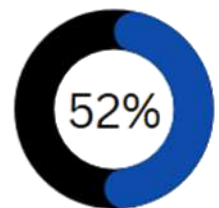
9 of 73 admissions
came from out of
state



17 of 73
admissions were
female



49 of 73
admissions were
court affiliated



38 of 73 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, kitchen and grants are processed through the Accounting Department. They keep track of Habilitat's budget and process all incoming and outgoing transactions.

Accounting Data Entry

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

At the end of their training, Accounting Residents have a broader understanding of the business aspect of running an organization.

Financial Data Analysis

Residents completing a year of basic accounting skills begin training in financial data analysis and report generation. This prepares them for work in the fields of accounting.

The Crew

Accounting is a one or two member crew, working along side two staff members. Residents generally have an aptitude for math and general computer literacy.

MEDICAL

In The Office

The Medical Department schedules 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 a registered 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 R.N., 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.

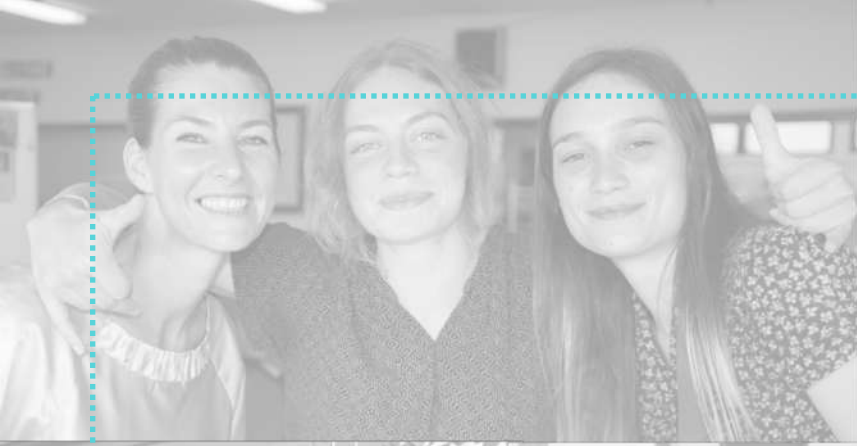
The Medical Clinic

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 R. N. and the Nurse Practitioner who visits our facility on Thursdays. They 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

Loyd K. From Treatment

Date Of Entry: November 21, 2022

Crew: Concierge Crew

My name is Loyd, I am 45 years old, born and raised on the island of Oahu. I grew up in the central part of the state which is Palisades (Pearl City). I am also a '95 graduate of Pearl City High School. Growing up, honestly, was the best days of my life. I am the oldest of three, and as the first born I was definitely spoiled growing up. I had a lot of childhood friends, lived in a safe community, got involved in playing sports at an early age and I loved going fishing with my uncles on the weekends.

What brought me here to Habilitat is how badly I needed help. I've been stuck in drug addiction for over 25 years; in and out of other treatment facilities. I wasted over a decade locked up behind bars. I've made a lot of bad choices in my life, and took everything for granted. I have put myself in a position in life where I have nothing to show for my 45 years on this earth.

I've found that I'm a selfish person. I've thrown away 2 careers, with the Laborer's Union and the Painter's Union. I've let down and hurt so many people in life, especially those that invested time in me. I've always done what I've known. Use others and go back to the life of using drugs. I've been a liar, a cheater, a thief.

I know that I am at a point in life where there is still life left in me, and still hope for me to get my life in order. I truly believe that Habilitat is the program that can help me do that. It gives me so much hope to see the staff, all the way up to the Executive Director, hear their stories and know that Vinny's motto is true: "If I can do it, so can you!"

Since I have been in Habilitat I have been learning about integrity, how to stand accountable for my actions, how to set healthy boundaries and make good choices. I can see all of the opportunities in front of me today. I'm in the treatment phase of the program, I've earned all of my responsibilities and I'm ready and waiting patiently to move to Re-Entry.

I am very grateful for Habilitat for helping me become stronger and teaching me a new lifestyle and new habits. Every other place that I've been, has given up on me, but Habilitat is showing me what I am capable of. I have my struggles here, but I make it to my bed every night.

Nadia M. From Re-Entry

Date Of Entry: June 13, 2022

Crew: Enterprises | Acquisitions

My name is Nadia, I was born and raised on Oahu by a single mom with a dad who only came around sometimes. I am the oldest child, with one younger sister. When I was 13, my mom also adopted my cousins. This happened immediately after I lost my father to a diabetic coma. At the age of 13, I found myself parenting 4 kids while my mom worked to support us all.

During this time, I became heavily involved in church. I believe my faith is what saved me. It gave me a way to get away from my family, as bad as that sounds. I began doing everything I could to stay away from home. Church, jobs, relationships. I had gotten to a point where I couldn't stand being home. I didn't want to be a "Mom". I wanted to be a sister, a cousin. I wanted to find out what life could look like away from the strict rules of my mom's household.

During my high school years, I had a job, was taking college courses and doing my regular high school class work. I enjoyed learning about so many different things, I studied and earned my Associates degree in Theology and the Certificate of Completion of the Multimedia Music and Performing Arts course at Life Christian University.

A year after graduating high school, I moved to the Big Island. I had tried to get my footing and independence on Oahu, but the codependent relationship with my mom made that very difficult, so I relocated. I didn't tell her that I was leaving until an hour before my flight. I was taken in by one of my brothers who had grown up living with my father. He offered to be there for me, and help me start my own life.

At first, it was going very well. I enrolled in more classes at U.H. in Hilo. I was a student worker so that I could keep my financial aid. Eventually, I started a relationship and became pregnant with my son. My priorities shifted and my grades started to suffer. Feeding my child was more important than school work. Somehow I was able to keep my grades above failing, and earned two more associates degrees in Liberal Arts and Hula.

Things were going well at work, but not too well at home. I had a second child, a daughter, and I adored my kids. It was the relationship with their father that made me avoid being at home, this time. We were both drinking heavily and I no longer cared for him, so we separated. I left everything with him and moved away, and he held our children over my head. I moved back to Oahu and did alright for awhile.

Being separated from my children took a toll on me and I began making terrible choices, moving toward the use of harder substances and getting into toxic relationships. I went from working with the Hawaii State Legislature to living on a Co-Op farm, addicted to drugs, and in and out of jail.

Habilitat has taught me to stop avoiding my problems, stop running from the uncomfortable and be a strong, independent mother. I now have self worth, and can honestly say I love myself– and I don't even feel selfish for it. I am getting all of the support and skills I need to be successful again, and to keep it this time. I know that whatever comes my way, I'll only get better. I've learned to stay put, be strong and build my own happiness.

Jatty D.

From Post Re-Entry

Date Of Entry: May 26, 2021

Crew: Enterprises | Fundraising

Hello, my name is Jatty, I am 26 years old and have been at Habitat for over 2 years. I was born in Portland, Oregon; a small town called Estacada. I was raised by a single mom who provided for four of us, me being the youngest by 5 years. My father was not around, but that is not to say I grew up with no male role models. My siblings, mom and I lived on a property on the side of Goat Mountain with my grandparents. I did fairly well in school, but always felt like I didn't know who I really was.

Without a lot of parental guidance, I found myself being drawn to a negative lifestyle. By age 13 I was smoking weed and by age 14 I had tried meth, pills, hallucinogens and alcohol. I was able to work, and had a job when I was 13, so instead of going to school, I just worked and partied. When I turned 16, everything got dramatically worse. I remember it like it was yesterday, I was at a friend's house, woke up in the morning to a lot of missed calls from my family. When I called them back, they told me that something had happened to my brother, Robby. They wouldn't tell me exactly what it was, but they just said that my brother in law was on his way to pick me up and take me to the hospital. I arrived to find out that my brother had overdosed on heroin. By the end of the day, my brother was dead.

It felt surreal, I didn't know how to cope with it at all, and as a person, I just went downhill. I went from partying to being strung out, from working to stealing and by 18, I was already a convicted felon in the state of Oregon. I knew inside that something had to change, and my life was heading nowhere fast, so I moved to the Big Island, and got away from the mess I had made.

I was doing OK, I had started working again, I had a daughter (who is absolutely beautiful), but I brought myself with me- changing area codes can't fix everything. I relapsed and things became worse than they were the first time.

I was using heroin and meth on a daily basis, by the time I was 23 years old I had accumulated over 10 felony convictions in the state of Hawaii. My life was an absolute mess. I was looking at 10 years in prison, and by all means I deserved it.

Through prayer and hard work, I was accepted into Habilitat, and sentenced to long-term treatment and 5 years probation. This began one of the hardest journeys of my life. I came here with all of my baggage, guilt, pain. I knew that if I never wanted to go back to the way I was living, something seriously needed to change. Habilitat gave me an open forum and the environment needed to find myself, forgive myself and be the best me I could be.

Getting to where I was in life before Habilitat didn't happen overnight, so getting out of it wasn't going to either. I remember I was about 2.5 months in the program and I wasn't being honest. I decided to come clean, and that was one of the first huge steps I took in my recovery. I took accountability for my actions. It taught me how important honesty is, the whole first 6 months of the program were very challenging for me. I caused a lot of trouble, but grew from it tremendously.

I eventually moved into Enterprises for my vocational training, and I still am. Before Habilitat, I had never had this type of job, so it was all very new to me. All the way down to ironing my clothes. Making cold calls- staying organized, running school fundraisers, coordinating a scene for the haunted house and so much more. I love everything I'm learning.

About a year into my program, one of my friends told me they felt like I was holding something in, that I wasn't talking to anyone about. I left that conversation and broke down, I let someone in. Through this I learned to forgive myself, reconcile the past and deal with my emotions over everything I had gone through in life. I dealt with my brother's passing. There was so much to work through.

Today, I am proud of the man I am. I can look myself in the mirror and love the person I see. I have a self worth that I didn't even believe possible. I went from self-hate, to self-love; from my own worst enemy, to my own best friend. I have completely forgiven myself. I am so proud and can truly say I have grown up at Habilitat.

Stephanie I. From Elder

Date Of Entry: September 27, 2020

Crew: Services | Resident Office Manager

My name is Stephanie, I grew up in Escondido, California. I am a first generation American citizen in my family, who came to this country from Mexico. I'm the youngest of 9, with three sisters and five brothers. My father was an alcoholic and very abusive, and left us when I was in the 5th grade. My mom became a single mom and she took care of all of us, so she started working a lot and was never home.

The area I grew up in was rough; a lot of gangs, violence and drugs. All of my older siblings eventually became involved in the gang activity. My house became the place to go for all of them, because my mom was never home.

I still remember my first drink like it was yesterday. It was the day after my dad left our family. He ended up getting arrested for beating my mom, to the point that she had a stroke. He never came back. She spent a long time in the hospital, and when she had recovered we moved into a different house across the neighborhood. After all of this, I was a very angry kid. Once I started drinking, I never stopped. I was always running the streets, drinking and doing drugs.

I was a functional addict and kept a job for awhile. Until I started getting into some crazy relationships. I became like my father and was in and out of jail. I was so lost that I started chasing the wrong people. I ended up losing everything.

I was drinking and driving, having an argument in the car. I lost control of the vehicle, and had a very serious car accident. I fractured my femur and collarbone. My leg needed surgery to be repaired. I lost my car, lost my job, but I still wanted to keep that toxic relationship.

We ended up homeless, running the streets together. Then I found out that she was pregnant. She wanted an abortion, but we decided together to stay together and keep the baby. The relationship never got better, so we split up and she ended up with my brother.

I eventually met another girl, this relationship wasn't any better. She moved to Hawaii after things got bad between us, but very soon after that she asked me to follow her here. I flew across the ocean to find love, but got into yet another mess. I was angry that my ex was with my brother, and would take it out on my girlfriend. I was very abusive toward her, was arrested and spent a year in jail. I was given a probation officer that told me Habilitat could help me. That was everything that I had been praying for.

The judge told me that if I didn't complete this long-term program, I'd be facing 10 years in prison for the things that I had done. I started calling, and didn't stop calling for a year before I was accepted into the program. I knew about the program, but I was more than willing to face all of the challenges I had heard about because I knew it was my only way out. I hated myself for all of the things I had done, and just wanted to change that.

Everything that I had been hoping for, Habilitat gave me. All of the struggles I've had while I've been here have given me the ability to think clearly even when my emotions are high. I don't act out of anger anymore, and I am able to be supportive of my friends and family. Anger doesn't run my life.

I used to wake up hating myself but today, I wake up happy and ready to take on the world. I am learning things that I never thought I would. I've even gone back to school while I've been in the program and only have to pass one more test before I graduate. My family actually wants me around and doesn't see me like a bad person anymore. I will forever be grateful for Habilitat.

Jason M. From Staff Trainee

Date Of Entry: June 26, 2019

Crew: Habilitat Construction | Fencing Foreman

Hello, my name is Jason Laupua Masunu. I was born and raised in American Samoa. I am the youngest out of 6, with 5 brothers and 1 sister. My oldest sister was the one who raised me when my parents were working. Growing up in a poor family, seeing the struggle my parents and siblings went through to make sure that we had food on the table, taught me to be grateful for what we had. By the time I was 11 years old, I had the body of a full-grown man and all I wanted was to help my family, in whatever way that I could.

I remember my first job as a young teenager was building rock walls, a very hard labor job, for fifty bucks a week. What mattered to me more was that I get to bring something to the table to help my family out. At one point I didn't want to go to school anymore. I wanted to work and be a provider for my family. That idea didn't fly with my dad. He wanted me to finish school, no matter what the situation was with our family. When I finished high school, I tried college for a semester. I wanted to be a Policeman, so I went for Criminal Justice. That didn't work out, I had to help my parents- they were getting old. So, I stayed home and watched them, cooked for them, and helped them.

My older siblings had their own families to watch over, so it was my time to give back. Along the way I started to get into relationships, and my family started to come last. I stopped bothering at all to think about the struggles that my family was going through as I was growing up. I stopped listening to anything that my parents or siblings were trying to tell me, and ignoring the signs that were in front of me. It got to the point where there were no signs anymore, no care left for my loved ones. It was all about me and what made me happy. The hole I was digging kept getting deeper and deeper.

My last relationship brought me to Hawaii. It was great for a while, and then it stopped working out. I left her and her family and decided to live in the streets. While I was living in the street, I became a different person. I got caught up in the system, became a gang member, and then a leader.

After doing around a year in prison, I was released and went right back to the street, working in clubs and selling and using drugs. I violated my probation countless times and spent a lot of time in and out of jail. I've lived in Hawaii for 10 years and most of that time was spent behind bars.

On my last stint in prison, I heard someone talking about Habilitat, and I started asking questions. I was told it was a rehab center, but I didn't even know what that meant at the time, but I knew I wanted to try to get in. Filling out the application and doing what they asked me to do for a few months was the best thing I'd ever done.

Coming to Habilitat has been one of the most challenging things I have ever done. Especially because I didn't have a clue of what I was about to experience. My whole Treatment phase was finding my footing and building that foundation. I had to fix all my weak spots and the thinking behind it. The things that Habilitat teaches us reminds me of what my parents and loved ones taught me as I was growing up.

Pointing out to me every mistake and poor choice that I made has made me the person that I am now. I'm not perfect, but I'm better than before. I can't fix what happened in the past, I can't bring my parents back to life to show them I've changed. But I can be an example and show that everything they taught me when I was young is still in me. To be humble, respect others, show care for others, do the right thing, be honest, and give back. Habilitat has not only saved my life, but it also helped me build a healthier mindset and reconnect to my conscience and make better choices. My utmost respect goes to Habilitat and its Staff for never giving up on me and always being there. I am proud to say that I am a changed man and will live a simple, successful, life because of what I have learned here.

Mahalo and God Bless!

Transition Houses

Jenifer S. From Keolahou Hale

I'm Jenifer, and I graduated from Habilitat on October 3, 2022. For me, graduating Habilitat didn't mean the end of my journey, only the beginning! I made the decision to move into Keolahou transitional house, and I'm extremely grateful for the opportunity.

It was exactly what I needed to bridge the gap between graduating and transition back into the world, sober. It provided me with support, structure and a safe environment— all while being extremely affordable. Best decision I could've made!

Daniel P. From Maluhia Hale

Aloha! I'm Daniel, and I graduated from Habilitat on September 6, 2022. When I graduated from the program, I decided to move into the Maluhia transitional house. It was a great opportunity to adjust back into the real world after completing the program. I was able to save money, so I could move into my own apartment. It gave me the chance to be able to budget my money from the start. There were some guidelines to follow while living in the house, and I continue to do the same things today, because that's what got me to where I am now.



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