

# Helping the Homeless. Helping the Community Newsletter April 2024



#### Kahana House (Pictured Above)

Kahana is the newest addition to the group of respite houses for Artists Helping the Homeless. Kahana, meaning "turning point" in Hawaiian, is not only a turning point for our residents in their journey, but also a turning point for the quality of care we are able to offer as a program. Boasting nine bedrooms and over six thousand square feet, we are taking our program to the next level. Amenities include: nine bedrooms with full bath that sleep 2 to 3, fitness room, computer lab, large common areas, deck, private location surrounded by trees.

Kahana house was recently built as a youth home so it is up to date and fits AHH's needs perfectly. The purchase of Kahana House was made possible by the vision and hard work of the staff and board and also by the generous financial contributions of a number of donors, including the QuikTrip Corporation Fund.

Kahana House represents a huge step towards giving our residents a chance at a new life in a home they can be proud of. We are excited for our residents to show off their new digs to family members so they can rebuild the connections that may have been severed in their hard times! We are excited to have our residents show off the "gains" they have earned in the weight room! We are excited to have our residents use our computer lab for education, mental health, and employment opportunities! With Kahana in the fold we are just flat out excited!

#### How Kahana Makes a Difference

One resident has been in recovery for almost nine months after seven and a half years homeless on the street. In his journey so far one of the most important aspects in his recovery is rekindling his relationship with his son. Up until this point he had very limited interactions and struggled to have a place where he could meet and interact with his family.

Since Kahana House opened, we have already seen the effects of the new facility has on our our residents, specifically this resident. He has been having his son over on a regular basis. This is a huge turning point in his attempt at getting reintegrated into his son's life from his housing and substance use challenges. He has a job, his sobriety, and a safe place to reconnect with his child.

### THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT WE WERE LOOKING FOR!

#### A New Newsletter

As you may have noticed we have a new newsletter. We hope you like the new style. We would love to hear from you about the newsletter and what kind of stories you would like.

## Employee Spotlight: Jakeb Nott

Before coming to AHH Jakeb Nott's life had turned upside down. Riddled with challenges created by his substance use, Jakeb had almost given up hope. "There was chaos all around me. I felt like there was no way out."



Jakeb's disease had wreaked havoc on his personal relationships, created a tough situation with the law, and most importantly had severed the relationship he had with himself. Almost losing his life to the disease multiple times, finally Jakeb got the help he needed.

Now fast forward two years Jakeb's life is completely different. He has now been an AHH staff member since June of 2023. He is currently rebuilding his relationships with his family, building a stronger bond with his daughter, and most importantly learning how to love himself again.

#### Jakeb Nott (cont.)

Jakeb has obtained his drivers license, purchased a vehicle, and walked down an eighteen-month probation in half that time. Now Jakeb is on track to becoming the best version of himself. His passion has turned away from the streets and turned towards helping others. Now he serves as an example of what hard work and dedication in recovery can do for any individual that puts forth the effort.

Jakeb credits the AHH program for giving him a chance at a new life. The comradery, the community, the love, and the structure have given Jakeb all the tools he has needed to succeed. Now his focus is on giving back and giving to others the wisdom and knowledge bestowed on him.

When asked about what AHH means to him, Jakeb said this, "When I think about AHH I think of growth, prosperity, and the knowledge I have gained about the disease we all face. I have learned about the trauma behind it, what effects it, and how to help others through their addiction into a life of recovery. The change that happens for everyone in this journey is beautiful, and I am honored to be a part of it."

Jakeb is now the facility manager at the newest addition to the AHH family, the Kahana House. We know that the sky is the limit for Jakeb. We are so excited to be a part of his journey moving forward.



Kahana House Living Room



Kahana House Computer Room

#### **Artists Helping the Homeless**

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