LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

What is the true meaning of encouragement? In our mentor training, we practice how to encourage the kids during mentoring sessions. As we’re nearing the end of the semester, we know the kids and their mentors genuinely care for one another because of weekly time spent together, but also because of their words of encouragement. One student said, “I love spending time with my mentor because she always listens and says nice things about me.” Her mentor shared that, “being a mentor taught me how to care for others and not just focus on myself.” So, this is our true meaning of encouragement. It is not a temporary state of mind or emotions, but it is intentional and joyful in any circumstance. Even if mentors and students meet for only an hour a week, it is during these moments they can relate and walk through life together. And that is what is encouraging—to see special relationships being built amidst these tough times.

We are celebrating the end of the school year by reflecting on the challenges of mentoring in the first semester. Many of our kids were not excited about virtual mentoring, especially after a day of online schooling. In April, we began seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. There are currently more than 50 Common Grace kids who are meeting safely in person with their mentor either at parks or schools! We are thankful for all the mentors that participated and spent their time investing in a child’s life. To all our high school graduates, congratulations! You made it! We wish you the best of luck in the future. We hope you will be able to celebrate safely. To all our friends and family, my heart is overwhelmed with gratefulness. We would have not been able to make it through this year without your support!

Happy Summer,

Aries Jackson | Executive Director

THE YEAR OVERVIEW

86 MIDDLE & ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

98 TRAINED MENTORS

600 MENTORSHIP HOURS

7 SENIORS AT PALOLO CHINESE HOME
To help our students and their families, especially during the lockdown, Common Grace staff and volunteers safely hand-delivered canned goods/supplies, Thanksgiving meals, Christmas presents, and Easter food boxes throughout the school year.

40 families received food & supplies in October
70 mentors & students received Thanksgiving meals
150 students received Christmas presents
50 families received Kau Kau Boxes for Easter

Our favorite part of celebrations signaling the ending of mentorship is when mentors and students say their favorite things about each other in front of everyone. The moment is incredibly encouraging and validating!

WHAT’S NEW?

Summer SomeBuddy Cares
For our second summer, parents of at-risk elementary school children may sign their kids up to safely meet with a “buddy” or mentor as needed for emotional and social support.

Middle School Mentors
This school year, we introduced our very first middle school mentoring program. College-aged mentors met once a week with students. Pairs also met twice a month with seniors at Palolo Chinese Home for intergenerational mentorship. We hope to expand to Kalakaua Middle School.

All-Star Mentors
We want to continue to equip our mentors for next school year. High achieving mentors from each of our 8 partnering high schools will be chosen to receive career development training.

Our Fab New Look
Thanks to Melinda and her team at OrangeRoc, we have a beautiful new website! Check it out at www.commongrace.org!

Above: Roosevelt mentor, KJ, with his mentee on the last day of mentorship.
Below: Marcus, a Waipahu mentor, with his mom at the Central O’ahu Graduation Party at Pearl Country Club.