

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

Aries Jackson | Executive Director

SCHOOLS SERVED



15 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

HONOLULU

Ala Wai
Ali'iolani
Kalihi-Waena
Kuhio
Liholiho
Lincoln
Pālolo
Waikiki
Wilson

CENTRAL

'Aiea
Kipapa

LEEWARD

Waipahu

WINDWARD

Keolu
Maunawili
Pū'ōhala



8 HIGH SCHOOLS

HONOLULU

Farrington
Kaimuki Christian
Kaimuki
Kalani

LEEWARD

Waipahu

CENTRAL

'Aiea

WINDWARD

Castle

THE YEAR OVERVIEW



86

MIDDLE &
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL STUDENTS



98

TRAINED
MENTORS



600

MENTORSHIP
HOURS



7

SENIORS AT
PALOLO
CHINESE HOME

YOUR DELIVERY IS ON ITS WAY

To help our students and their families, even 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



Left: A family receives a Thanksgiving meal with a rotisserie chicken.
Right: This family enjoys their hand-delivered Christmas presents.

WHAT'S NEW?

Summer SomeBuddy Cares

We're holding our summer mentorship program once again! 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. Activities and locations were left up to the creativity of the mentors. In addition, pairs met twice a month with seniors at Palolo Chinese Home for intergenerational mentorship. We hope to expand to Kalakaua Middle School next year.

All-Star Mentors

We want to continue to equip our mentors for next school year. High achieving mentors from

LAST DAY CELEBRATIONS

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!



Above: Roosevelt mentor, KJ, receives a cake from his mentee on their last day. His mentee said he would miss playing basketball weekly with KJ.

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: A college mentor from our middle school program, doing a gardening activity with a senior at Palolo Chinese Home.