



youth grace
Jazzmine and
her YouthGrace
coach Ashton



Dear Common Grace Family,

Try wait. Before you unfold this paper, I want to give you a preview of what you are about to see. Something spectacular! Really **BIG NEWS**.

7 colorful photographs of young heroes and the children they saved.

This was the Kaimuki High School graduation ceremony at Waikiki Shell. The 7 big kids are graduates in their green or yellow robes with beautiful lei around their necks, bright smiles on their faces and an adoring little kid at their sides. They were the first graduates of our new adventure in Hawai'i's public schools—**YouthGrace**. We were invited by the principal and counselors of KHS to teach mentoring skills to select juniors and seniors last Fall for 12 weeks of classroom lessons on “listening”, “game-playing strategy”, “words of encouragement”, “personal compassion”, etc. Then, for 12 weeks during Spring semester we took the big kids to Palolo Elementary School so they could one-on-one mentor with a child who needed a mentor/hero.

It was amazing! The little kids bonded instantly with the big kids. They communicated. They read books together. They played. It was good for both sizes of kid (and not only did the high schoolers receive academic credit for their efforts, but this effective form of community service will go on their college applications and life resume). Those children, honestly, had never even heard of “graduation” and I was tickled to overhear one little girl ask her YouthGrace coach, “Will you come see *me* graduate someday?”

Now you can look at the pictures—but wait one more second, please—as you study the faces and poses, will you please say a short prayer for each big and little kid? We intend to pursue each graduate through college and beyond. The young mentors need mentors of their own.

Love you for helping us love kids!

P.S. The principal of KHS talked to some of his principal friends and it looks like we will be working with 3 more high schools this coming term. What fun!

Mahalo to **HOUSE OF**
Photography
INC

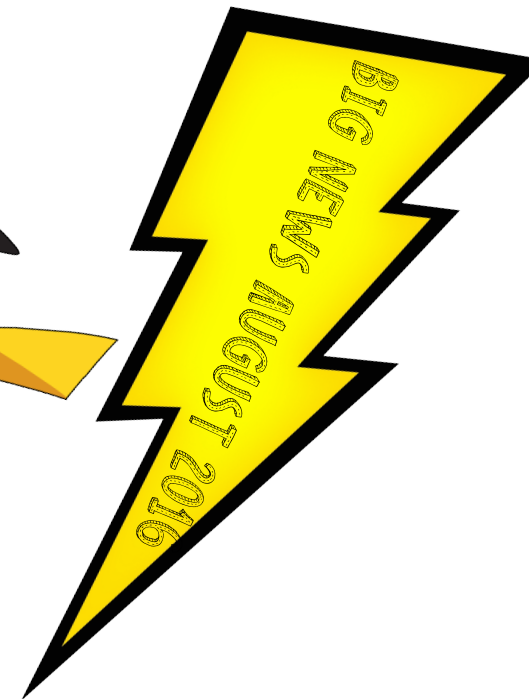
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Kindness 4 Kids

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Aloha Common Grace and YouthGrace Supporters,

Time flies by when you are having fun! Jay and I (Big Dawg and Captain Aries) had a blast teaching the juniors and seniors of Kaimuki High School how to be great mentors (or “coaches”) to their keiki from Palolo Elementary. After 12 weeks of in-class instruction, the high school students mentored the kids at the elementary school where relationships were built through one-on-one friendships.

At the end of the 12 weeks of mentoring, the keiki had the privilege to attend their coaches' high school graduation. In their brand new outfits, we shuttled them to Waikiki Shell where they attended the Kaimuki High School 2016 Graduation Commencement Ceremony. They were so anxious and excited to give their coaches their leis. After watching the beautiful graduation ceremony, the keiki ran around to find their coaches. Finally, they found each other. Happy faces and hugs were everywhere and surrounded the high school graduates. In the midst of the wonderful craziness of their own graduation, they were surprised to see their keiki show up to congratulate them. The kids even brought their coaches gifts. These high school students were blessed and, at that moment, realized the result of their relationships with their little kids. They hoped to empower the keiki to continue with their education and one day graduate high school and beyond. Check out Big Dawg's powerful statement on the flip side.

Aries

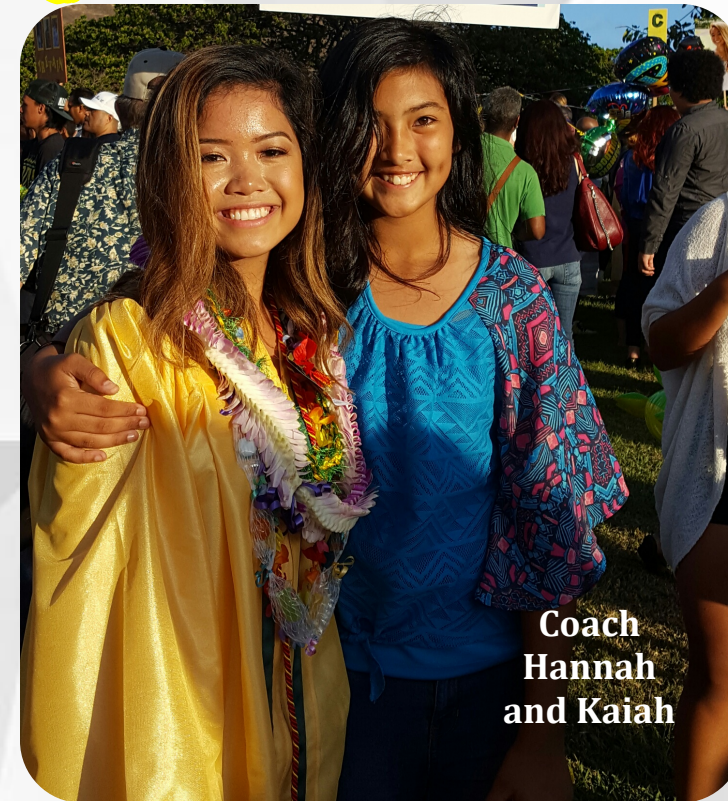
kaimuki high school graduation class of 2016



Nava and Coach Austin



Merjessleen and Coach Angela



Coach
Hannah
and Kaiah



Coach Jayson and Logan



Simon and Coach Landen



Jazzmine and Coach Ashton



Coach Isaiah and Treston

For more information, check out our
new YouthGrace tab at our website,
commongrace.org.



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