

There's someone we'd like you to meet...

Greetings Common Grace 'Ohana!

Kathryn "Ninja Kat" Lee, the new YouthGrace Director speaking. From my hiring in September until now, there've been a whirlwind of experiences and challenges as I settle into my new role—helping over forty teens from five different high schools understand the meaning of relationship and to be fantastic mentors to their lonely elementary school kids. Jay and Aries have done a tremendous job making me feel comfortable and welcome, allowing me to jump right into teaching the training sessions, meeting with school principals, and helping to write our recent letter about the Gracemobile (Didn't those teens look excited?).

Look at me, off and running without telling you all a thing about myself (I can't help it, I'm excited too!). I'm a 29 year-old who still has the playful heart of a 9 year-old. I'm a fan of crochet, anime, video games, and I'm a TA for a stage combat class on the weekends (from which I get my "Ninja" nickname). But my two favorite hobbies are creative writing and performance. In January of 2016, I graduated from the University of Southern Maine's Stonecoast Program with a Master's degree in creative writing. I have also performed in over 20 musicals at Diamond Head Theatre over the last 15 years, most recently playing the role of Judy Haynes in *Irving Berlin's White Christmas*.

But the most pivotal role I've ever played is being a mentor to my Common Grace child, Takie.



I met her last spring at Palolo Elementary School and our friendship has continued to blossom as I followed her to Jarrett Middle School. We still meet every Friday at 2pm to play Mancala, have a bubble tea, talk story and have fun! I hope that one day, when Takie is in high school, she will be inspired to become a YouthGrace mentor and help another child in need.

As we come the end of the Fall semester, our current YouthGrace teens are finishing their 12 week mentor training program and will soon be ready to love on lonely elementary schoolers all over the island! What I'd like to ask from you—our wonderful Common Grace family—is to keep our YouthGrace mentors in your Thanksgiving prayers and to specifically pray for the selection of little kids who would be perfect fits for each one of them. It is an exciting time for YouthGrace and I can't wait to update you about our progress in the Spring!

Much Mahalo!

Kat

Common Grace
Kindness 4 Kids

P.O. Box 31116
Honolulu, HI 96820

(808) 282-4335

commongrace.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Big News
December 2016

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
KANEEOHE, HI
PERMIT NO. 116

THANKSLIVING THANKSGIVING GIFTSGIVING

Had breakfast with an old friend. Ron Ching. Veteran pastor, seminary teacher, China-missions visionary, thoughtful, compassionate person. Now retired but still vital. Ron told me he figures God will sustain his life for +/- ten more years. "And God told me to **give something to somebody every day** for the rest of my life." So he gives. The bus driver received a sack of potato chips. A homeless man was sifting through a garbage can so Ron asked, "What are you looking for?" "Cigarette butts." When's the last time you had a fresh cigarette?" "Can't remember." "C'mon, lets go into 7-11. What's your favorite brand?"



Potato chips, cigarettes, a dollar here, a dollar there; something to somebody every day for the rest of his earthly life—Ron's late-life assignment from God!

Common Grace motto is "Kindness 4 Kids". It assumes the constant and intentional gifts of time, energy and love by mentors, teen mentors, all our staff and volunteers. You'll meet Kat in this letter. She's a giver. Aries has been helping me direct CG for 18 months and she proves, daily, how generous she is. You, dear friend of ours, have been providing prayers and gifts for years. We are all, in our own ways, like Ron Ching. Thanksgivers. I love it and I love you.

[Signature]

Why Common Grace?

Kindness 4 Kids

This past summer, we prayed for someone who would help us make a professional video for Common Grace in order to touch the hearts of people and inspire them to spend just an hour each week with a lonely child. One day, while in our favorite coffee shop, our summer intern introduced herself and sat with a girl she didn't know because of a familiar sticker she recognized on the girl's laptop. It turned out the girl had just graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in media and filmmaking, was a member of our partner churches and wanted to help us make a video for free (don't worry, we paid her). What a blessing! The beautiful finished product is on our website at www.commongrace.org. It will only take six minutes of your time but will surely leave a stamp on your heart. Below are a few of the mentors featured in the video. You can see the relationships with their Common Grace children have moved them. They, and all of you who support us, have changed kids lives more than we will ever know.



“We're there to help them, love them, encourage them and just give them the extra attention and hugs they don't have at home.”
-Aries Jackson

“It was easy for me to think about my job and what I needed to do in the week but Common Grace encouraged me to say, 'Hey, let's think about somebody else.'”
-Seth McCormack



“...the relationships that we built were really significant. I didn't realize how significant until we met with the counselor, Lissa. One thing that she brought out that, for those kids, it might've been the first time that they'd ever seen an intact family working together. That broke my heart. I was like, 'Oh my gosh, how can I quit now?'”
-Dan Kim



“I wanted to do Common Grace because I've mentored in the past. When I moved to Hawai'i I wanted to help a little kid that didn't feel in place, just like how I didn't feel in place when I first moved here.”
-Ashton Sasser



“I felt compelled as a dad to step up and do it.”
-Ernie Maxilom

BIG
MAHALOS TO *HOUSE OF Photography*