2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT
Our Mission

Our mission is to bring kindness to children in Hawai‘i’s public elementary schools by connecting them with caring mentors who offer them compassion, attention, kindness and encouragement.

The seed of Common Grace was planted in 1999, the day after two teenagers shot and killed their fellow students at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado. Jay Jarman, founder of Common Grace, was devastated and approached the principal of a local high school in Hawai‘i, asking, “What would it take to prevent a similar tragedy from happening?” “Adults who care enough to come on campus and befriend our kids,” the principal answered. “Neither of the Columbine shooters had even one adult friend that cared about them—whether they lived or died.” Jay asked his community for help. Friends, family, retirees, business people, and college students responded. Since 2003, Common Grace has helped over 3,000 children and families in an effort to provide friendship for lonely kids.

MAHALO

You’ve already heard it over and over again—this year has been tough. But it’s also been an opportunity for us to reach out and become closer to the children we help and their families! Thankfully we were able to have all of our mentor-mentee bonding events before social distancing and lockdowns: Christmas trolley rides, Christmas caroling at Pālolo Chinese Home for the kupuna and lastly, The Salvation Army Kroc Center. We also launched a campaign to revitalize our church partnerships for our adult mentor program. We visited our partners with the goal to reconnect with, support and encourage them through these challenging times. We increased training for adult mentors from one workshop to three, which were more in-depth, personal and really delved into the importance of mental health for children and the Common Grace solution.

As the worldwide threat of COVID-19 became more apparent, we transitioned into virtual mentoring, which clocked in over 300+ mentoring hours on just our high school side. We knew our children’s families were struggling, so to support them we held school supply and food drives, along with extended summer mentoring. Needs for resources and emotional support are at its highest and we are here to provide in the best possible way we know how—simply to be a friend to a child in need.

The thing I appreciate about struggles are the opportunities for us to help. Humans are stubbornly resilient. We can make it through this. And from the bottom of my heart, thank you for your unyielding support. We could not help these children without you.

Aries Jackson
Common Grace Executive Director

Aries Jackson (left) with members of the Board at Common Grace’s event at the Salvation Army’s Kroc Center.
Our Programs

COMMON GRACE
- adult mentor
- isolated keiki

MĀLAMA MENTORS
- high school mentor
- isolated keiki

GRANDGRACE
- trained mentor
- isolated keiki
- elder in an assisted living facility

Our Values

COMPASSION
A connection and understanding of elementary school children on an emotional level.

ATTENTION
An undivided focus on the child.

KINDNESS
The act of giving towards the child without expecting anything in return.

ENCOURAGEMENT
Positive reinforcement to instill courage and confidence in the child.

Our Method

LISTEN
- 10 mins

READ & HOMEWORK
- 20 mins

PLAY
- 30 mins

Common Grace and Mālama Mentors at the Splash of Color spring event.
Our Numbers

COSTS FOR 1 YEAR

- **$10,000**
  - **PER SCHOOL**
  - **PARTNERSHIP**

- **$728**
  - **PER STUDENT**
  - **FOR 1 YEAR**

- **$61**
  - **PER STUDENT**
  - **FOR 1 MONTH**

- **$15**
  - **PER STUDENT**
  - **FOR 1 SESSION**

SCHOOLS SERVED

- **37**
  - **ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**
  - **HONOLULU**
    - Ala Wai
    - Ali‘iolani
    - Ka‘ahumanu
    - Kalihi
    - Kalihi-Waena
    - Kuhio
    - Liholiho
    - Likelike
    - Lunalilo
    - Ma‘ema‘e
    - Manoa
    - Palolo
    - Royal
    - Waialae
    - Waikiki
    - Wilson
  - **LEEWARD**
    - August Ahrens
    - Kapolei
    - Lehua
    - Palisades
    - Pearl City Highlands
    - Waiau
    - Waipahu
  - **WINDWARD**
    - Ahuimanu
    - ‘Aikahi
    - Ben Parker
    - Kailua
    - Keolu
    - Maunawili
    - Kainalu
    - Pu‘ohala
  - **KAUA‘I**
    - ‘Aiea
    - Kipapa
    - Mililani ‘Ike
    - Mililani Waena
    - Waialua

- **9**
  - **HIGH SCHOOLS**
  - **HONOLULU**
    - Farrington
    - Kaimuki Christian
    - Kaimuki
    - Kalani
  - **CENTRAL**
    - ‘Aiea
  - **WINDWARD**
    - Castle
    - Kailua
    - Kalaheo

MENTORING

- **58**
  - **COMMON GRACE**
  - **ADULT MENTORS**

- **400+**
  - **MENTORSHIP**
  - **HOURS**

- **3**
  - **MENTOR-MENTEE**
  - **BONDING EVENTS**

- **180**
  - **MĀLAMA MENTORS**
  - **HIGH SCHOOL MENTORS**

COST AT A GLANCE

- **$52,485**
  - **27%**
  - **Operational Expenses**

- **$226,570**
  - **73%**
  - **Program Expenses**
Our Impact

SURVEY SAYS...

MENTEE IMPACT
95% of mentees feel happy with their mentors
96% of mentees enjoy spending time with their mentors
95% of mentees trust their mentors

MENTOR IMPACT
97% of mentors feel like they are better listeners
96% of mentors learned to be more patient
96% of mentors learned to be more concerned about others

“IN THEIR WORDS”

MENTEE
We have a lot in common. I can open up to her and she can open up to me. – ANONYMOUS, MENTEE

MENTOR
Mentoring is one of the most important things I could do for a child during this time. We need someone in our life who guides us and gives us a sense of direction when we feel lost. – MEGAN, MENTOR

PARENT
I feel like it’s a good social connection, because I think it actively promotes inclusiveness and respect. – TERRI, PARENT

HELPING DURING THE PANDEMIC

Mental health problems affect one in six children, and rates go up during community crisis like COVID-19. One of the strongest factors in protecting a child from these negative outcomes is a healthy relationship with at least one supportive, caring adult they can count on for protection and comfort and who will help keep life predictable.

VIRTUAL MENTORING
We kept our mentors and mentees in touch throughout the stay-at-home order. Starting in April, mentors and mentees met virtually.

SOMEBUDDY CARES
To provide social and emotional support to our keiki, especially after an entire quarter spent in lockdown, we extended our mentorship services into the summer. Mentors met safely with children once-a-week from June to July.

ALL-STARS
High achieving mentors from each of our 9 partnering high schools have been chosen to receive career development training. We safely held two of these training sessions this summer.

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE
COVID-19 has brought additional financial strain on many of our keiki’s families. To alleviate some of this financial stress, we raised over $3,700 to purchase school supplies for our partner elementary schools.

FOOD DRIVE
Many parents have lost jobs due to COVID-19. So far, we have delivered 52 boxes in 4 weeks to 16 families and we are continuing to reaching out to our mentees’ families to see if we can assist with food. We have partnered with Kalihi Union Church who supplies the groceries.