

PROGRAM:

Common Grace  
Kindness 4 Kids



# 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.

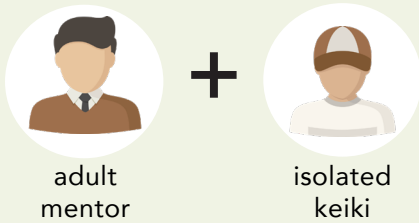
**Aries Jackson**  
**Common Grace Executive Director**



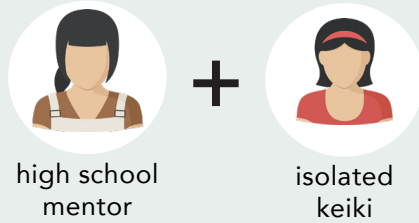
Aries Jackson (left) with members of the Board at Common Grace's event at the Salvation Army's Kroc Center.

# Our Programs

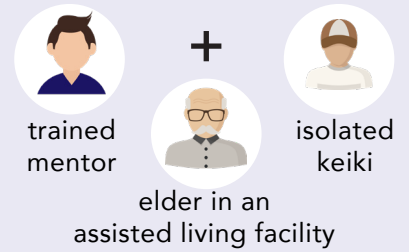
## COMMON GRACE



## MĀLAMA MENTORS



## GRANDGRACE



## 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



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

## MENTORING

**58**

COMMON GRACE  
ADULT MENTORS

**400+**

MENTORSHIP  
HOURS

**3**

MENTOR-MENTEE  
BONDING EVENTS

**180**

MĀLAMA MENTORS  
HIGH SCHOOL MENTORS

Liza encourages her mentee  
with a high-five.



Stephanie and her mentee  
spending quality time together.



## SCHOOLS SERVED



**37** ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOLS

### HONOLULU

Ala Wai  
Ali'iolani  
Ka'ahumanu  
Kalihi  
Kalihi-Waena  
Kuhio  
Liholiho  
Likeli  
Lunalilo  
Ma'ema'e  
Manoa  
Palolo  
Royal  
Waialae  
Waikiki  
Wilson

### CENTRAL

'Aiea  
Kipapa  
Mililani 'Ike  
Mililani Waena  
Waialua

### LEEWARD

August Ahrens  
Kapolei  
Lehua  
Palisades  
Pearl City Highlands  
Waiau  
Waipahu

### WINDWARD

Ahuimanu  
'Aikahi  
Ben Parker  
Kailua  
Keolu  
Maunawili  
Kainalu  
Pu'ohala

### KAUA'I

Kapa'a



**9** HIGH  
SCHOOLS

### HONOLULU

Farrington  
Kaimuki Christian  
Kaimuki  
Kalani

### LEEWARD

Waipahu

### CENTRAL

'Aiea

### WINDWARD

Castle  
Kailua  
Kalaheo

## COST AT A GLANCE



# 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

**Bottom Left:** Jay Jarman, Founder, safely delivers food to a family in need. **Bottom right:** A girl from Pālolo Valley is holding up new markers and crayons she's received from our school supply drive. **We raised almost \$4,000!** Thank you!



**Below:** Our first ever Mālama Mentors All Star Workshop! Outstanding mentors learned how to speak professionally in the workplace.



**Below:** Our second online Mālama Mentors All Star Workshop focused on addressing personal talents and career goals.



## 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.

**Below:** Finding ways to celebrate our graduates, like visiting them with posters and balloons! Congratulations!



**Below:** SomeBuddy Cares mentors spend time safely with their mentees.



**Below:** Virtual mentoring included meeting mentee's pets, like this gecko!

