

MENTORSHIP MATTERS BANQUET

On June 29th, over 200 guests showed up at the Mānoa Grand Ballroom to eat, drink and be merry! We introduced our new Assistant Director of Mālama Mentors, Micah Ganiron, thanked our free yearlong marketing campaign team from Ad2 Honolulu, held a silent auction and reached our fundraising goal of \$30,000 and then some. WOW! Thank you to our dedicated volunteers and to all in attendance for helping us help kids.



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Dear Common Grace Family, we have big news to share with you in this issue of BIG NEWS!

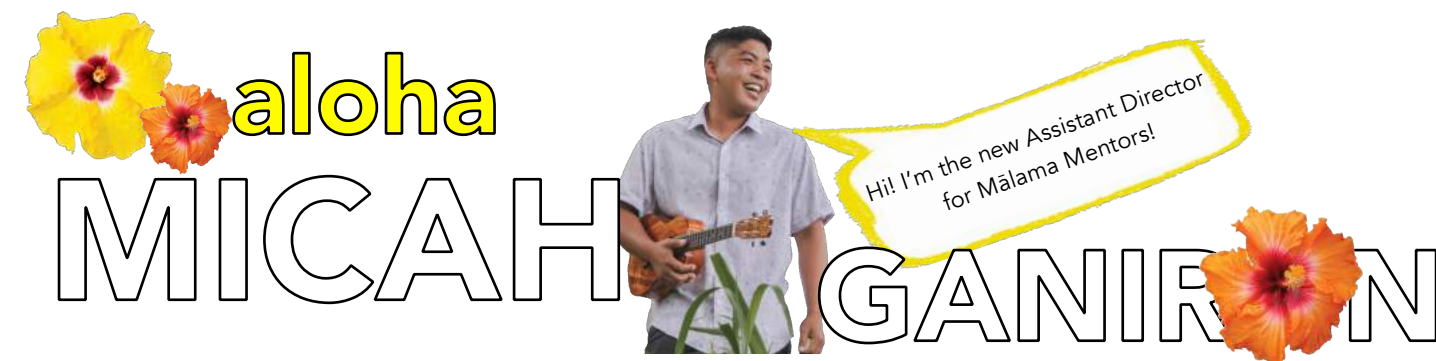
- We found my replacement. Micah Ganiron has the personal warmth, organizational skills, love for kids and boundless energy to take over my job as Director of Mālama Mentors (MM is the high school division of Common Grace). Please meet him on the Mālama Mentors website and add him near the top of your prayer list. He has what it will take to surpass me but, you know, "Big shoes to fill". I'm so vain, right? My head is so big, I should have said, "Big hat to fill"! I have the whole rest of 2019 to leave my influence on Micah but I'll continue to volunteer with Common Grace until you all get sick of me.
- Check out the photos of MM mentors putting their graduation caps on their little kids. It's certainly the first time these children ever thought or began to dream of graduation in their own futures. Makes me HOPE-FULL!
- THE 1ST ANNUAL (maybe) FUNDRAISING/FRIENDRAISING BANQUET was awesome! We received enough donations for about half of Micah's salary, so that was good. But, the best thing about it was having over 200 supporters and former adult mentors fill up the Grand Mānoa Ballroom for good food and a great time.
- I must say Co-Executive Director **Aries Jackson** is doing a magnificent job in every aspect of our mission. She is a terrific teammate. Love her. Pray for her. Aries is vital to the Common Grace!

Yours because I'm His,

Jay

congrats GRADUATES!

Here are just a few of our Mālama Mentors graduates. JUST LOOK AT THEM! 

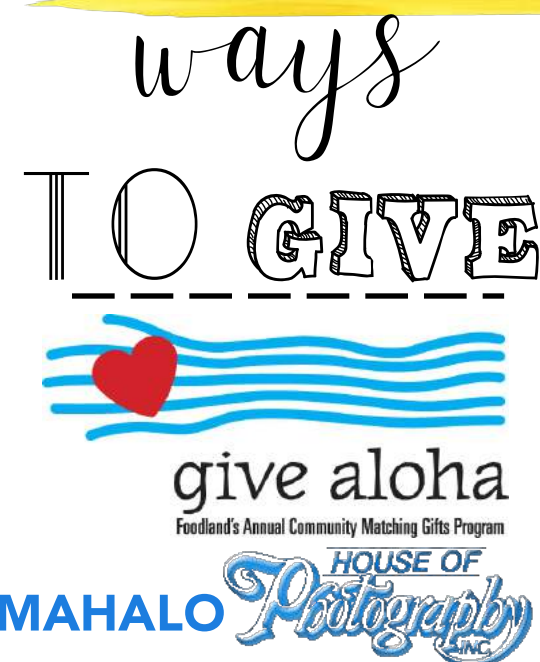


Hooray! There's finally someone my age in the office! After talking story for a while, Micah and I found out we went to middle school together. AND we were in the same grade! I was cooler than him, so I never knew him (although, maybe we were both just dorks in different dork groups? Juuuuust kidding Micah, I thought you were one of the cool kids...as cool as band geeks could get).

Aside from being passionate about helping the youth in our community, Micah also has loved music from an early age, starting when his grandma passed down her old Kamaka ukulele. His technique blossomed when he started learning under Jake Shimabukuro as well as his brother, Bruce. In fact, he just released a new single, *Let Me Sing*, produced by the famous Imua Garza, and performed at the MayJah RayJah Music Festival at the Aloha Stadium. He describes his music as "island pop" with Kolohe Kai/MAGIC! vibes. He is definitely going to incorporate his talents in our upcoming events. You can check out more of his music at micahganiron.com.

This year, Micah will be a "Head Coach" at our Kalani High School and Wilson Elementary School partnership, teaching mentoring curriculum to the high schoolers and facilitating mentoring sessions. He will also be an Assistant Coach at our new MM partnership, Castle High School, which is paired with Pū'ōhala School on the windward side. We will have over 240 high school mentors and elementary school children in our program for 2019-2020. More than 260 training and mentoring sessions will occur across the island by the end of the school year. We can't wait to pair each mentor with a kid who really could use the genuine friendship of a role model!

-Leighna Lariosa,
Creative Communications Strategist



1. Monthly or one-time online giving (www.commongrace.org/donate)
2. Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com + choose us!)
3. During the month of September, we're participating in the Foodland Give Aloha campaign. Donors can choose to donate up to \$249 to any participating non-profit organization at any Foodland location. Give your clerk the number **78587** while you're checking out. And don't forget to hand them your Maka'i card or 10-digit phone number! Aloha!

*check out commongrace.org/plan-your-giving to help you choose how you'd like to maximize your donation during the year!