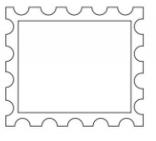
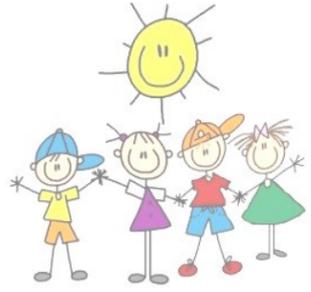




**Friends of the Children of West Hawaii**  
 PO Box 9041  
 Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96745



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 -----  
 Jefferson Gourley | Executive Director



# Olelo 'o Aikane

"The Voice of the Friends"

## Mele Kalikimaka 'o na Opiopio



Most of us tend to think of Christmas as an exciting and happy time each year when we celebrate with friends and family, exchange gifts with one another, and overall celebrate life, as well as the various religious beliefs we each hold. Unfortunately this is not always the case for many of the children served by Friends of the Children of West Hawaii and the community partners we work with. For many of these children the holiday season is a reminder of not being able to be with family members they love, or a reminder of the fact that they no longer live with members of their family due to negative experiences.

Family Services, PARENTS Inc, The Neighborhood Place of Kona, Orchid Isle Psychology, and the Department of Human Services Child Welfare Services, Friends of the Children of West Hawaii is pleased to be able to state that every request received this holiday season was positively responded to with gifts through our Christmas gift project.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, Friends of the Children of West Hawaii was able to distribute more than \$5000 worth of gifts to children and youth who have been victims of abuse or neglect, are at risk of abuse or neglect, or who may be at risk for negative behaviors or attention. These gifts ranged from guitars, cameras, and skateboards, to action figures, coloring books, and athletic equipment, as well as so much more.

No child should ever feel as though they are not cared for and loved. This fundamental belief of Friends of the Children of West Hawaii is the fuel for our annual Christmas Gift Project for the children served by our organization. In 2017 Friends of the Children of West Hawaii held *Mele Kalikimaka 'o na Opiopio* (Merry Christmas for the Youth) as our Christmas Gift Project. The project entailed a gift drive during November and December, followed by the purchasing of additional gifts as necessary and distributing these gifts to the children served by Friends of the Children of West Hawaii. Working with Catholic Charities, The Salvation Army, Child &

Mahalo to all in our community who contributed to *Mele Kalikimaka 'o na Opiopio* and helped us to insure that none of these children felt forgotten or unloved during the holiday season. This project could not have happened without the support of our community, and with the generosity we have seen this year, we can be sure that this project will be able to continue for years to come.



"Ensuring the youth of our community have the support necessary to enjoy the experience of childhood and grow into healthy leaders while also preventing abuse, neglect, and at-risk behaviors."

January 2018

# A Round 4 The Kids

2nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Hole in One  
Win a BMW!



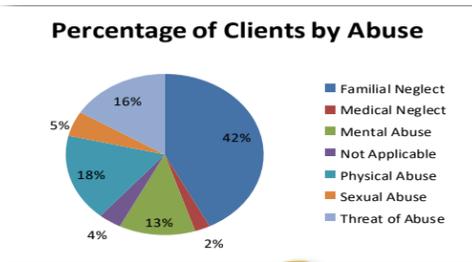
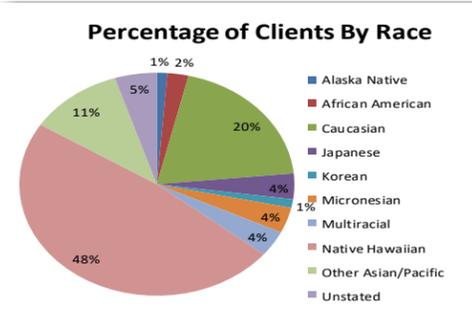
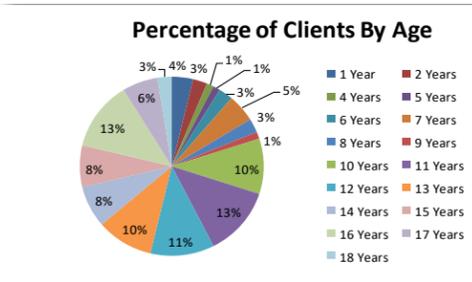
\$150

March 31, 2018  
Waikoloa Beach Course

Register online with the form in this newsletter, or online at [www.fcwh.org](http://www.fcwh.org). For more information visit [www.fcwh.org](http://www.fcwh.org) or email [info@fcwh.org](mailto:info@fcwh.org)

# 2017... a summary

2017 was an exciting year for the Friends of the Children of West Hawaii, with a new board of directors, the selection of a new executive director, the establishment of a new office, the holding of our first ever golf tournament, and more. Over the course of the year we were able to provide assistance to nearly 500 children in West Hawaii through grant funding from the County of Hawaii, the Geist Foundation, the Hughes Foundation, the Friends of Hawaii Charities, and many others. In total nearly \$30,000 was spent DIRECTLY on enhancements, necessities, and services for children who have been abused or neglected, children at risk of abuse or neglect, or who are otherwise designated as "at-risk". New data tracking and monitoring procedures in place this year have allowed us to more accurately evaluate demographic and client data to see who we are serving and how effective our service is. The pie charts to the left are examples of this data, including what percentage of the clients we serve are what age, what percentage is of each racial background, and what percentage is referred for each category of abuse or neglect. Some surprising statistics that stick out are the fact that 48% of the clients we serve are some percentage of Native Hawaiian descent, and the fact that 42% of all referrals to us are for children who have been victims of Familial Neglect. In addition to simply being interesting facts, these statistics will be used in developing additional programs and services of Friends of the Children of West Hawaii in order to reduce the number of instances in over-represented demographic groups, as well as to document program progress and effectiveness for grant funding.



# 2018... a preview

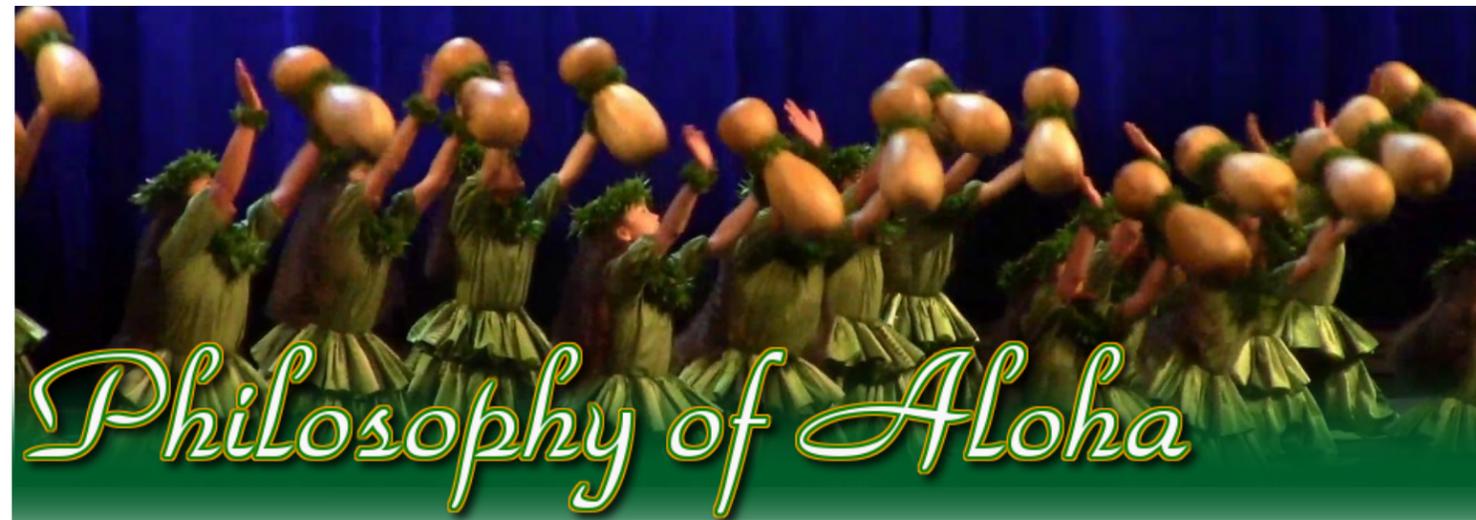
It is hard to believe that 2018 is already upon us, but non-the-less, it is here. As we look forward to the upcoming year, Friends of the Children is excited to be able to state that funding has been secured to continue our ongoing Enhancements for Youth and Basic Necessities programs. We will also be working with community partners to continue the SOS school supply drive in the summer and the Christmas Gift Project in the winter.

Due to ongoing strategic planning activities, Friends of the Children has also identified several new targets which we will be endeavoring to address over the course of the new year:

- Anti-Bullying and Diversity Education in partnership with PFLAG Kona/Big Island

- Continued Development of the Youth Leadership Alliance
- Resurrection of the "You've Got A Friend" bag for children removed from home
- After School Enrichment Activities
- Case Management
- Sex Trafficking Education and Prevention

Much of this programming is funded by grants from various government and private entities, however that funding does not cover all expenses. As a result we also have an exciting year of fundraising planned, including our second annual golf tournament in March, a "Hook 'em and Cook 'em" fishing tournament, a snorkel cruise, a gala ball, quarterly mailings, and more.



# Philosophy of Aloha

Aloha...to many the meaning of the word Aloha comes down to the most simple of translations; Aloha means "Love". However Aloha is more than that.

Aloha is the essence of relationships in which each person is important to every other person for collective existence. Aloha means to hear what is not said, to see what cannot be seen and to know the unknowable." Aloha Spirit is a way of life,

an attitude, a way of being, that acknowledges the following: Akahai – meaning kindness (grace), to be expressed with tenderness;

Lokahi – meaning unity (unbroken), to be expressed with harmony;

Oluolu – meaning agreeable (gentle), to be expressed with pleasantness;

Ha'aha'a – meaning humility (empty), to

be expressed with modesty;

Ahonui – meaning patience (waiting for the moment), to be expressed with perseverance.

As Friends of the Children of West Hawaii moves forward with strategic planning and development it is important that this philosophy be at the forefront of our minds. It is a philosophy which promotes the well being of all within a community,

# The Force Is With Us...



Thanks to the generosity of the team at Wyndham here in Kailua-Kona and their management, Friends of the Children of West Hawaii had an opportunity to see two dozen of the children we serve really end the year on a high note. As a part of the Wyndham holiday celebration 25 tickets were donated to Friends of the Children of West Hawaii to be distributed to children served by the organization so that these children could join the Wyndham team on Friday, December 29 to see *Star Wars The Last Jedi*.

This was an amazingly generous donation, and Friends of the Children of West Hawaii was not the only organization to benefit from such generosity from Wyndham at this time. 25 tickets were also donated to another

non-profit organization in the hopes of providing a positive experience to those in need in our community.

In addition to the movie tickets, several property owners with Wyndham made contributions in order to provide popcorn and drinks for the children attending. Many of the children attending with FCWH rarely attend movies in the theatre due to cost, and one family with six children was particularly pleased to be able to take part in this opportunity.

Not only was this a great positive experience for the children attending, it was also a great opportunity for donors in our community to see the impact they have on the children we serve. Mahalo Wyndham, for such generosity for our children!

