Coming together to raise funds for Hawaii’s children, families

Today’s $1 edition helps local nonprofit carry out key services, programs

BY KYLE GALZEA
SPECIAL REPORT FOR KEIKI DAY

Since 1995, Keiki Day has become a highly anticipated—and extremely important—fundraising event, while also serving as a "friend-raising" opportunity that highlights the complicated issues facing families and young people in Hawaii.

While the funds generated through Keiki Day are vital for one of Hawaii’s leading advocates for children, the awareness generated within the community through the annual event is priceless. The sales of this year’s special Keiki Day edition of the Honolulu Star-Advertiser directly benefit Parents And Children Together, a Hawaii-only family service agency established 50 years ago that assists more than 15,000 people on a yearly basis.

The one-day event is supported by some of Hawaii’s notable personalities—including politicians, celebrities, athletes, coaches and business leaders—as well as more than 1,200 volunteers who donate their time to sell special editions of the newspaper for just $1 apiece on Oahu, Kauai, Maui and Hawaii Island. Extra copies of the paper also are available in classrooms today across the islands, thanks to the generosity of sponsors, individual donors, businesses and schools.

Parents And Children Together, a private nonprofit organization, strives to provide Hawaii’s children with a peaceful and safe environment in which they can grow via 18 crucial programs. The fields represented through the organization are: early childhood education; domestic violence prevention and treatment; child abuse and neglect prevention and treatment; behavioral and mental health support; youth development; and economic and community development.

“One of the things we do is we have a comprehensive (approach) that involves working with families,” says Ben Naki, Parents And Children Together vice president of early education programs. “It’s one thing for kids to learn basic classroom skills, but it’s equally important to ensure families are supported, from mental and physical health care to nutritional values and addressing comprehensive issues. Family
Celebrating 50 Years... Together!

“Together” is a powerful word. By working together, we become more efficient. By banding together, we become stronger. By sharing together, we show compassion and generosity toward one another. There’s so much we can accomplish if we come together as a neighborhood, as a community, as a state.

This year, Parents and Children Together celebrates 50 years of serving the people of Hawaii. Our work would not be possible without the ardent support of the service community, government agencies, the legislatures, the private sector and community members like you, together. We help 15,000 parents, children, individuals and families access much-needed social services and support every year.

This Keki Day is a celebration of our 50-year journey and the work we’ve accomplished together. We’re proud to present original artwork and stories from keiki all over the state, each sharing what the word “together” means to them.

We’re also celebrating healthy relationships that bring people together — the bond between a child and his or her parent, grandparent, aunt or uncle, brother or sister, coach, prophet or teacher that provides guidance, safety and support. For 50 years, Parents and Children Together has worked to strengthen these important bonds with our educational, social service and community building programs.

Most of all, we’d like to thank you for standing with Parents and Children Together all these years, supporting our mission and sharing our vision of a peaceful, safe and vibrant Hawaii, where everyone has the opportunity to fulfill their dreams. With your support, we hope to continue serving Hawaii for the next 50 years and beyond.

Mahalo.

Ryan Kamimoto
President and CEO, Parents and Children Together

Mahalo to this year’s Parents and Children Together Keiki Day Sponsors

CREATIVE CONTEST JUDGES

Shannon Carvalho, Daniel Danno, Keihan Gollin, Kim Gould, Cheryl Doolin, Dawn Kehrle, Ryan Kamimoto, Aid Meun, Iona Nakai, Silvia Schrarr, Margaret Takashibana, Jimmy Tran

PRINCIPAL SPONSOR

Bank of Hawaii Foundation

INSERT SPONSOR

AIA Insurance Agency

MAJOR SCHOOL SPONSOR

Grace Community

APPON SPONSOR

Jamba Juice Hawaii

RALLY HOST

Romano’s Macaroni Grill

PLATINUM NEWSPAPER SPONSORS

First Insurance Company of Hawaii

Hawaii/SA Federal Credit Union

GOLD SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP SPONSORS

Coldwell Banker Pacific Properties

First Hawaiian Bank

The Century Companies

Loper Hui

SILVER SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP SPONSORS

Friends of Derek Kawakami

Hawaii Federal Credit Union

Kleinstück & Latta, LLP

Ehnhoff Architects

Zephyr Insurance Company, Inc.

BRONZE SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP SPONSORS

AkohaGraphics, Inc.

Aqua Enginners, Inc.

Bishop & Company, Inc.

Edward Enterprises

Cappy Fos

Kim Gould

HFS Federal Credit Union

Juana Jokunok & Mihoko Ito

Dawn Kehrle

Ryan Kamimoto

Mike & Kary Moses

Ben Nakai

Charles & Suzanne Nakao

Pacific Service & Development Corp.

Tina Parras-Jones

Servpac, Inc.

David & Carol Shihata

Hugh O’Hara & Nuna Spirtings

Nari & Margaret Takashibana

Jill Takahata

Lisa Uyemoto

Teresa Vast

Marie Vermillion

John Whalen

HARPED by repeat supporters Romano’s Macaroni Grill, the Keki Day kickoff launch Parents and Children Together’s signature community awareness-raising event with a bang! Texas representatives who will be balking Keki Day special editions of the Honolulu Advertiser — with more than 1,900 volunteers — will serve up all over the island, fought and stretched their legs to push up for the annual event.

Senior vice president of audience sales for each of the publications, Aron Kozik, joined Parents and Children Together’s president and CEO Ryan Kamimoto and vice president of early education programs Ben Nakai to rally the crowd and educate them on the star points of welling.

(Revels Parents and Children Together representatives Tina Popas, Kim Gould, Mike Moore, open Kekauoha and Margaret Takashibana drum up excitement for Keki Day at Romano’s Macaroni Grill 50.) The kickoff went like a high dive with Makai Chanik’s solar eruption.

Mahalo to our friends in the broadcast media for their public service support.

HARPER by repeat supporters Romano’s Macaroni Grill, the Keki Day kickoff launch Parents and Children Together’s signature community awareness-raising event with a bang! Texas representatives who will be balking Keki Day special editions of the Honolulu Advertiser — with more than 1,900 volunteers — will serve up all over the island, fought and stretched their legs to push up for the annual event.

Senior vice president of audience sales for each of the publications, Aron Kozik, joined Parents and Children Together’s president and CEO Ryan Kamimoto and vice president of early education programs Ben Nakai to rally the crowd and educate them on the star points of welling.

(Revels Parents and Children Together representatives Tina Popas, Kim Gould, Mike Moore, open Kekauoha and Margaret Takashibana drum up excitement for Keki Day at Romano’s Macaroni Grill 50.) The kickoff went like a high dive with Makai Chanik’s solar eruption.

Mahalo to our friends in the broadcast media for their public service support.
Local organization marks golden anniversary

While the organization has since expanded to offer programs that focus on domestic abuse prevention and mental health support, each program is connected to the mission of creating safe and promising futures for Hawaii’s children and families. Several in the old adage, “It takes a village to raise a fam- ily.” Parents And Children Together, community plays an important role in building and strengthening the relationship that must exist in a child’s life.

Parent’s And Children Together has always been driven by its mission to help Hawaii’s most vulnerable: the children. Celebrating 50 years in an achievement for any organization. For one that has touched thousands of lives and offered Hawaii’s vulnerable families a path forward, it’s a testament to the strength and importance of community.

Parent’s And Children Together serves over 15,000 parents, children, individuals and families annually through its statewide programs in five areas of focus: Early Childhood Education, Domestic Abuse Prevention & Treatment, Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention & Treatment, Community Building and Economic Development and Mental Health Support.

**Early Childhood Education**
- Family Peace Center teaches non-violent problem solving skills while emphasizing partnership, equality and respect among families.
- Family Violence Intervention Services provide a safe environment for victims with children in their non-violent parents.
- Ohio Domestic Violence Shelter offers a safe and confidential facility for women and children who are victims of domestic violence.
- Harry & Jeannette Weinberg Lahan Transit House provides transitional housing for up to one year for women who are victims of domestic violence.
- Trafficking Victim Assistance Program offers comprehensive and victim-centered case management services for survivors of human trafficking.

**Domestic Abuse Prevention & Treatment**
- Lu‘au Integrated Services provides programs for child abuse and neglect prevention and intervention through foster care and permanent placement on the island of Lanai.

**Mental Health Support**
- Intensive Support Services Programs are offered on Oahu, Maui and Kauai for families and youth with serious behavioral, social and emotional challenges.

**Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention & Treatment**
- Joan Lea Home Visiting Program offers home visits on Oahu for parents with children from birth to three years residing in downtown Honolulu to Kahului.
- Human Home Visiting Program offers home visits for parents with children from birth to three years residing in Diamond Head, Waikiki, Pearl City and Windward areas of Oahu.

**Community Building and Economic Development**
- Mikulu Program bridges the gap from homelessness to housing by conducting outreach at designated public parks to provide health screenings, learning activities and family monitoring.
- Family Centers provide small family building and child abuse and neglect prevention services within Kohala Park Terrace/Kohala Homes and Konahele.
- Economic Development Center offers programs to strengthen an individual’s ability to secure and keep employment.
- Community Teen Centers promote the development of healthy youth through providing educational, recreational, community building and support services.

**For 50 years, Parents And Children Together has pro-vided community-based services starting at The Towers at Kohala Park, formerly known as Kohala Park Terrace, and growing into a multi-faceted organization serving our most vulnerable populations on Oahu, Kauai, Maui, Molokai, Lanai and Molokai.**

If you are interested in learning more about Parents And Children Together, visit ParentsAndChildrenTogether.org or call us at (808) 861-3205.
Keiki: Lending a hand through ‘friend-raising’

advocates are part of the program and stay in touch with the families, so it’s more than just dropping off and picking up kids from school, including job placement skills and action plans.

Head Start and Early Head Start are among the early education programs Naki oversees. Head Start is focused on helping 3- and 4-year-old kids and their families. On Oahu and Hawaii Island, the programs prepare for kindergarten. Early Head Start helps infants and toddlers up to age 3 prepare for preschool opportunities, and includes classrooms and homes visit components, while also facilitating areas for kids to play together as parents build support networks.

Additionally, Parents And Children Together was hatched as Early Head Start Child Care Partnership that connects Kanaka‘kai to provide the latest information, educational services for working families and those going into school. In the early childhood education field, we see more opportunities to partners and are excited to help those in the classroom," says Naki. "Certainly if things go their way in the future, we will see more preschool classes on campuses, and it will be great to see the services available to help our kids go to school before kindergarten.

In addition to chronicling the day’s top news articles and features readers have come to rely on us from the Hawaiian Star-Advertiser, each Keiki Day edition contains information and tips for parents, teachers and children, as well as the chance to celebrate the original stories, artwork and poetry from students who entered the Keiki Day Creativity Contest. Children from grades kindergarten through 12 submitted stories related to this year’s theme of “Together.” From thousands of submissions, judges selected the entries that are displayed in this issue, following a tradition that began two decades ago with the Hawaiian Star-Advertiser and continues today via the Hawaiian Star-Advertiser. As part of the Keiki Day initiative, teachers use the newspapers and the corresponding information included in the Keiki Day insert as part of their daily lesson plan, while also recognizing the winners of the creativity contest.

"This year’s theme is ‘Together,’ and we continue to focus on building relationships that matter the most,” says Ryan Kasamoto, president & CEO of Parents And Children Together. "We’ve been working with communities and families to address the issues facing them today. Over the next 24 years, we will continue to focus on the most important issues of poverty and making ‘kapu’ina before they become bigger issues, we want to get ahead of these issues as an agency.”

Honoring 50 years of service

Since 1961, Parents And Children Together has served as one of Hawaii’s leading nonprofit organizations dedicated to providing a wide range of innovative and educational social services. The organization’s 50th anniversary this year will be celebrated during this fall’s Keiki Day fundraising efforts, and Parents And Children Together was also recognized for the tremendous work it does in the community by Governor David Ige in an official proclamation presented on April 23 at the State Capitol.

It’s not a part of our work since the beginning. Living on a small is being organized in the community is our secret sauce, how we do our work, and we wouldn’t do it any other way," says Ryan Kasamoto, president & CEO of Parents And Children Together. "It has been working with communities and families to address the issues facing them today. Over the next 24 years, we will continue to focus on the most important issues of poverty and making ‘kapu’ina before they become bigger issues, we want to get ahead of these issues as an agency.”

Together’s ohana-centered program to continue, thanks in part to this highly anticipated annual fundraising drive," said Dennis Francis, president and publisher of Oahu’s daily newspaper. "That is why the Hawaiian Star-Advertiser is proud to serve as a long-time partner with such an important organization, and we remain committed to the families within our community.

Keiki Day represents the organization’s largest fundraising opportunity of the year, and because the money is unrestricted — it is earmarked for specific programs as many contracts and donations specify — Parents and Children Together is able to help in the gaps created by economic fluctuations and potential government funding delays. "These early education programs are federally funded, but Keiki Day really helps us with a crucial money to provide these services,” says Naki, who has been a part of the organization since 1986. “The funding helps us sustain and gain flexibility without relying solely on government funding and grants. It also helps us get our name out there in the community, and a lot of people know of us because of Keiki Day. It’s a great way to get the word out about our programs.

Ultimately, the goal of Parents and Children Together is to establish and build strong and lasting relationships through its programs that will allow participants to find and follow a path to positive life. — Keiki Day as a plan is a critical role in ensuring the continuation of these programs.

"We are huge fans and we need to find ways to support them to help so Hawaii continues to be a great place to live,” Kasamoto says.
Introducing the Keiki Day Creativity Contest Winners

All across Oahu, students representing kindergarten through 12th grade have been working hard to express what this year’s Keiki Day theme of “Together” means to them. From over 1,000 submissions, judges have chosen the following 25 essays, poems and artwork as winning depictions of the importance of sticking together. As you’ll see here, they all deserve a round of applause.

Grace-Ann Kaai

SCHOOL: Kanoelani Elementary
TEACHER: Mrs. Andrade

ARTIST

Choose Love
Together

Lauren Peralta

SCHOOL: Mokapu Elementary, MCBH
TEACHER: Mrs. Shay

WRITER

TOGETHER

Together is my favorite place in the whole wide world. Together is feeling safe and the most loved. Together is how I learn to be kind and understanding. Together we can care and help family and friends. Together is teamwork. Together is where I find my strength. Together is when we are all the strongest. Together is all being accepted with our uniqueness. Together.
Riley Rees
**ARTIST**

**SCHOOL** Mokapu Elementary, MCBH  
**TEACHER** Miss Yoneshige

Daniel “Kūpono” Dunaway

**WRITER**

Togetherness is fun, funny, scary all kinds of feeling but one thing that brings us together is harmony, peace because nothing can break harmony and peace it is not something you get it is something you earn.

Johan Kernstock
**ARTIST**

**SCHOOL** Aliiolani Elementary  
**TEACHER** Ms. Ho

**SCHOOL** Ala Wai Elementary  
**TEACHER** Alison Fukuda
TOGETHER LIKE A RAINBOW

Together is each color in a rainbow. In Hawaii, we come from all different cultures. There are people who have different skin colors. However, I’ve seen people come together and make a wonderful, beautiful rainbow. Just like in the old days, we can come together by talking stories.

People are often so busy looking at their phones. They text and do not talk in real life. Technology began to get popular, but people started getting into it and now they text all the time and barely ever look up from their phones to talk to anybody because they are addicted to their phones. Before you know it everyone is texting and not talking and listening to other people. I see people going on their phones when they are at the dinner table.

On the other hand, if we work together like each color in a rainbow we can make a difference. Imagine if we would all work together and make a difference upon the world. In the plantation times you earned your things. Talking stories, having a BBQ with friends and family, and just spending face to face time together. When me and my sister clean our room separately we fight but when me and my sister clean the same parts together we don’t fight and it is much faster. We need to all help to make Hawaii a better place for the keiki today and tomorrow.

TOGETHER

Together with friends I shall always be. No matter what, they will always need me. Because nothing separates me from thee. I’ll always be there, we’re like apples and seeds.

You and me we will always be. Together, together is what I can see.
Reese Jolly

**ARTIST**

SCHOOL: Navy Hale Keiki School
TEACHER: Ms. Kristine Quach

Fourth Grade WINNER

Nisha Leandro

**WRITER**

TOGETHER
I’ll always be by your side
On this roller coaster called life
No matter how far or wide
Even if your world is in peril and sterile

I will never give up on you
When you’re with me, I can do anything
Our friendship is tried and true
We can take on what life brings

As our imaginations soar
As wide as the sky
We open a new door
Together we fly

You make me proud
In any situation that applies
I think you’re perfect in every way
Any problem, we do with pride

I’ll always be by your side.

Fifth Grade WINNER

Cameron-James Samson

**ARTIST**

SCHOOL: Kapunahala Elementary
TEACHER: Mrs. Erin Furuya

Fifth Grade WINNER

Enchanted Lake Elementary
TEACHER: Ms. Taradee
TOGETHER POEM

One brick alone can’t do anything, but many bricks together can build a tower. A lone wolf can’t hunt alone but with his pack they can easily hunt a deer. Just like how a garden is more beautiful than a single flower. Working together as a team you can see things so much more clearly.

If you do things for society other people will do things for you. It’s just like how good karma happens to you, it’s very great. Even if you don’t want to work as a team try something new. It will help you accomplish more and get out of that solo state.

Teamwork is essential and don’t think that being alone is better one bit. As long as you’re together it is always better than being alone. Even if you think that everyone but you can fit. Take those thoughts out of your mind and have yourself shown.

If you see someone struggling lend a helping hand. Because together you can get so much more done. That person will thank you so right now help them stand. Be their strength and they’ll help you out a ton.

Julian Barradas

Enchanted Lake Elementary

Ms. Teradee

Alejah Callorina

Kapolei Middle

Daryle Mishina

Prescilla Pascua

Our Lady of Good Counsel School

Mrs. Bautista
Clara Ontal

“THE POWER OF UNITY”

Our voices unheard, blocked by ignorance. Being silenced, force to wear a muzzle. But we can protest for deliverance if we are connected, like a puzzle.

We were divided, two separate groups Always competing, yet had the same goal. Compromise will end this repeated loop And we will finally be as a whole.

United, we are able to stand up, Since ignorance doesn’t last forever. When they won’t listen, we’ll raise our hands up And we can achieve much more together.
TOGETHER

Together is more than a click of a button, all the things you ignore from the room you’re walled up in, or two screens connected but so far away. Can a “like” so expected make somebody’s day?

Together is more than 600 followers on Instagram, that account you adore, or your live-streaming cam. It’s not being curled on your bed with your iPhone and cat, or the conversations you’ve read and saved on Snapchat.

Together is being with others, face to face, all those moments unforeseen that nothing can replace, like themed birthday celebrations, spontaneous jokes, or heart-felt conversations over ice cream and coke.

Together is an outstretched hand, like flowers enveloped by a vase, a whispered, “I understand,” a gentle embrace, the promise to persevere, to stay true, a promise to be near and to always be here for you.

“A SINGLE HEART”

A single sunflower as tall and vibrant as it may be will not bring tears to one’s eyes the way a meadow of a thousand will do as they stand together in the face of hope and light.

A single droplet of rain cannot do more than kiss the earth’s wounds. But a roaring river of a million drops will trample over jagged edges and pave a new path to change the course of history.

A single word will be as harmless as a word may be But when several are threaded together they may become the single greatest weapon known to Man for their message might have the power to change the course of history.

A single voice can be as loud and unwavering as one’s voice may be But nothing compares to the united sound of a seamless choir of voices for the world will know that they have something to say to change the course of history. Because individually we are but a single tear fallen from this beaten Earth But hand in hand we are an ocean with a single beating heart and we will stand together as we make history.
Kiara Flores

SCHOOL Sacred Hearts Academy
TEACHER Mr. Randall

WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER

“Together”
Create in your family;
In life,
As a decent person;
Without growth, we are stuck.
Stuck in a hole...
Lost,
Alone,
Crying out for someone.

“Together”
Is not giving up on your parents.
Who are going through hard times.
It’s praying for them,
Being strong for them.

“Together”
Is accepting pain,
Learning from it,
And creating change;
Change for the future.
It is having someone in your life
Who is going to be your foundation,
As God is the foundation for a blessed life.

“Together”
Is always accepting your love for who they are
And the challenges that comes with it.
To overcome,
To persevere,
To keep moving forward.
“Together”
Is to grieve over a love one who has moved on.

But not to dwell,
To be there for those who are hurting more than you.
Being the voice that speaks out for those who can’t.
Being that light;
That inspiration.

“Together”
Are the choices we make,
And the consequences we live by.

Together...
We laugh.
We cry.
We smile.
We get angry.
We forgive.
We love.
Most of all,
We’re together...
Heart,
Body,
And spirit.

Isaiah Apilando-Balles

Eleventh Grade WINNER

Marlene Brotchie

SCHOOL Mililani High
TEACHER Ruth Ravina-Koethe

ARTIST

Eleventh Grade WINNER

Great things are done by a series of small things brought together.

-Gandhi
Yuzuha Shibata

**FLYING AWAY**

We let go,
Smiles illuminating our faces, we watch the bal-
loons float away into the bright blue,
cloudless sky.
The calm trade winds ruffle the leaves of palm
trees towering over us,
And they whisk the balloons farther and farther
away from us.
We stand close together, staring up at the mix of
vibrant colors.
Separating, floating toward the future,
Fading from our vision to a place where hope for
new opportunities lies.
Spectra of red, blue, and yellow lead to
unknown destinations.
One may be floating to California,
Another to Canada,
The other perhaps to Washington.
All of us headed to different parts of the world,
We imagine what college will be like.

As she notes observations about astronomy at the
Griffith Observatory,
She’ll remember our nights spent lying on the soft sands
of Makapuu’s Beach, staring up at the brilliant stars.
As he conducts a bivouac lab in the snow-capped
mountains of Langley, British Columbia,
He’ll remember our long hikes through the lush green
trees of Tantalus.
As she studies for her final exams in a trendy
Seattle cafe,
She’ll remember our laughs echoing through small
Kaimuki coffee shops.

**SCHOOL** Kaimuki Christian School

**TEACHER** JoAnna Fong

---

Twelfth Grade

**WINNER**

Vincent Nguyen

**ARTIST**

---

**SCHOOL** Farrington High

**TEACHER** Al Jon Tacata

Twelfth Grade

**WINNER**