

Who Safe Haven Helps

People with mental illnesses who are homeless tend to be vulnerable, disoriented and fearful. Many are victims of robbery, rape or attack. They are overwhelmed by the expectations of traditional programs. Many lack insight into their mental illness and therefore decline available services and treatment.

A large percentage of people who are homeless have mental illness. In Hawaii, that percentage amounts to up to 3,000 individuals.

Safe Haven acts as a “portal of entry” to housing and treatment. It provides a secure, non-threatening, supportive environment, as well as access to psychiatric, medical and social services.

Safe Haven also provides specially tailored outreach, case management, residential, medical and psychiatric services for this segment of Hawaii’s homeless population.



Safe Haven staff conduct classes that help residents achieve more independent living.

Our Mission

Safe Haven’s mission is to provide persons with serious mental illnesses, who have been living on the streets with a secure, non-threatening, residential environment. More specifically, as part of a continuum of care, it serves as the point of contact for engaging this population in treatment, rehabilitation and supportive services. With such services, it is expected that persons who have been homeless and are mentally ill will be able to move to more traditional housing resources in community settings.

How You Can Help

Safe Haven is always in need of monetary donations, as well as gifts of goods and services. Tax deductible donations for Safe Haven can be made through Mental Health Kokua. If you’d like to make a donation, please call us at 737-2523, or email us @ mhk@mentalhealthkokua.org.



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PU'UHONUA

In Hawaiian, Pu'uhonua means place of refuge, of peace, of safety. Pu'uhonua/Safe Haven is a place for persons who are homeless and suffering from mental illness.

Safe Haven



“It’s given me a place to be safe ... I’m a proud person, I don’t take handouts easily.”

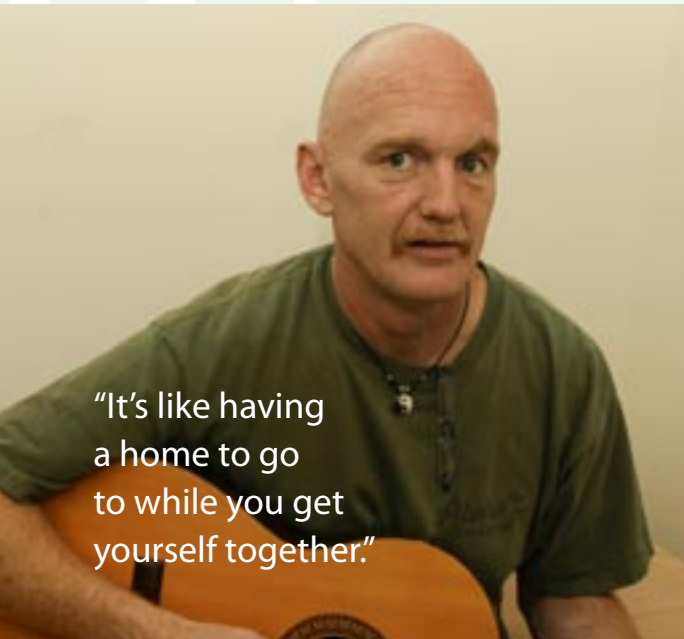


Opportunities to Begin Again

*A project of Mental Health Kokua
in collaboration with
Helping Hands Hawaii’s
Health Care for the Homeless Project.*

How the Community Benefits:

- Safe Haven staff reach out to and engage homeless persons with mental illnesses with the goal of providing appropriate treatment so they can access resources away from the streets and downtown businesses.
- Safe Haven is a cost-effective way of serving a population that might otherwise end up in our prisons or state hospitals.
- Trained, professional staff are on site to respond to residents' needs as well as community concerns.
- Safe Haven is successfully serving mentally ill persons while working in cooperation with local residents, businesses, families and social services agencies.
- Hawaii's sons and daughters who are homeless and mentally ill can eventually live successfully in the community with on-going support.



"It's like having a home to go to while you get yourself together."

Safe Haven Components:

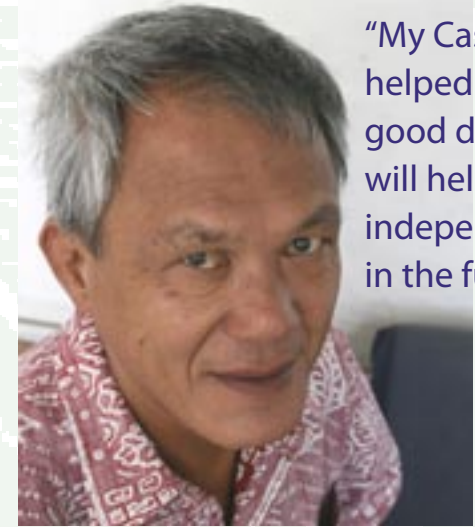
- Case Management and Community Placement Services provided by Helping Hands Hawaii include outreach, gradual engagement, case management, and assistance with accessing permanent housing.
- Residential, clinical and medical care, provided by Mental Health Kokua, include transitional housing and 24 hour on-site staffing for up to 25 people. Social rehabilitation services assist participants in developing skills that will help them to stabilize and attain/succeed in permanent living situations. Psychiatric and medical care are available to eligible residents.
- Activity Center offers social rehabilitation, mentoring/peer support and community placement and reintegration. Basic needs services include meals, mail services, laundry and shower facilities.



"I came through to find my direction in life."

Background

Planning for Safe Haven involved more than 20 organizations and individuals, including persons with mental illnesses and their families, and resulted in a proposal to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Mental Health Kokua received a renewable 3-year \$2.1 million federal HUD grant to set-up a "safe haven" for people who are homeless and have a mental illness. The City & County of Honolulu provided additional major support through the Emergency Shelter Grant program. Safe Haven opened in December 1995.



"My Caseworker helped me find a good doctor and will help me get independent in the future."

Why Safe Haven was developed:

HUD identified "safe havens" as a national need and provided funding for programs on a nationwide basis. "Safe havens" are urban-based facilities designed to provide treatment and supportive housing. Hawaii's Safe Haven was among the first in the nation to open.



"They helped me to become financially secure. They helped me walk away from my enemies and not use violence."