

A Collaborative Community Build Playground for KPT's Keiki

Executive Summary

Residents of Kuhio Park Terrace and Kuhio Homes are working with partner agencies, the Good Beginnings Alliance, PACT, Aloha United Way and Island Recreation to build a playground for the approximately 1,000 keiki without a place to play.

Description of organization, including mission or purpose as it pertains to the project: The Good Beginnings Alliance, working in partnership with families, communities, policy makers, providers and advocates: shapes public will and public policy, mobilizes action, and maximizes resources to ensure that all of Hawaii's young children are safe, healthy and ready to succeed.

The Good Beginnings Alliance is the fiscal agent in this collaborative effort. Identification of the need grew out of a Talk Story for the Littlest Keiki sponsored in 2003 by the Good Beginnings Alliance Partnership for Hawaii's Keiki, the Kuhio Park Terrace Resident Association and the Kuhio Homes Resident Association.

Other members of the collaboration are: the Kuhio Park Terrace Resident Association, the Kuhio Homes Resident Association, the Aloha United Way, Parents And Children Together and Island Recreation. The collaborative is also working closely with Urban Real Estate Co., which manages KPT/Kuhio Homes and has had a very positive response from the Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii.

Description of project: Residents of Kuhio Park Terrace and Kuhio Homes are working with community partners to locate, design, fundraise for, publicize and build a playground for their children. The site, which has been identified for the playground, is next to the Community Hall, where bathrooms are located. It has a handicapped accessible entrance. Residents and partners have worked with Island Recreation to develop a design for two sturdy structures, one for children aged 2-5 years old and one for children aged 5-12 years old. Quality rubber surfacing will be used to maximize safety and long-term usage. A groundbreaking and dedication will be held in November. The residents and community partners will build the playground on a "Community Build Day" next spring.

Seven committees have been formed to take on the work of building the playground. They are: Design, Fundraising, Public Relations, Security and Maintenance, Volunteers, Construction and the Core Committee, which will act as the key committee in developing and carrying out the overall plan. To date the Design, Fundraising and Security and Maintenance Committees have been meeting. Other committees will become active in October and November.

Population served and/or need or opportunity identified: The Kuhio Park Terrace/Kuhio Homes Public Housing development has the lowest median income of any community with a concentrated population in the state of Hawaii. A population of

approximately 2,500 people live in two 16-story high rise buildings and 141 low rise buildings in KPT and 134 one and two story concrete townhouse type buildings in Kuhio Homes. In this complex there reside approximately 1,000 children under the age of 13 who have no playground or safe place to play. In 2003 a community-wide Talk Story for the Littlest Keiki was facilitated by residents, trained by the Good Beginnings Alliance, and attended by approximately 400 residents who identified the need for a playground as the greatest need for children in their community.

Project objective: The single most important objective of this project is to create a playground for children so that they are able to discover and enjoy the wonders of play in a safe outdoor environment.

Method to determine project effectiveness: Since this is a community build project its success will be measured by continued community support, adequate fundraising for the project, good publicity for the residents, continued participation of the partners and active participation in building the playground itself.

Two months after the Community Build Day all of the partners and other members of the Core Committee will meet to discuss final aspects, what went well and what still remains to be done. Six months after the playground is built a survey will be distributed to community parents to examine playground usage, safety, impact, if any, on the lives of children and families. Eight months after Community Build Day another evaluation meeting will be held to examine survey results, consider any remaining needed work on the playground and evaluate its usage.

Sources of support after foundation funding ceases: A fundraising committee made up of residents and community partners will also be requesting funding from other foundations, both local and national, from community businesses and civic groups and will be raising money by doing community sponsored fundraisers such as car washes and plate lunch sales.

Adjustments that will be made to the project if only partial funding is received, from all sources, for the project: A modified playground will be built even if full funding is not received from all sources. It will be smaller and will not meet the needs of the many children as well as the one that has been designed. However, even scaled back structures will be greatly preferable to the current situation in which no play structure or playground is available for the children.