



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HELPING HANDS HAWAII SELECTED FOR “WEINBERG FRIENDS” GRANT  
BY ROTARY CLUB OF HONOLULU**

Funds to support agency’s Ready to Learn Program serving homeless and low-income students

HONOLULU, Oct. 6, 2015—The Rotary Club of Honolulu (RCOH) presented a \$10,000 grant from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation’s “Weinberg Friends” program to Helping Hands Hawaii (HHH) at the RCOH meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015 at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel’s Monarch Ballroom. HHH is a non-profit agency that provides behavioral health and human services to vulnerable populations in Hawaii. Funds will support HHH’s Ready to Learn (R2L) Program, which gives low-income and homeless students free basic school supplies kits year-round. The grant will provide support to approximately 1,000 students (average cost is \$10 per kit).

Annually, HHH expends approximately \$30,000 to bulk-order discounted school supplies to ensure the most economical and effective use of funds. It also encourages school supply drives at businesses and within the community and has partnered with local media, financial institutions and other private businesses/companies to broaden its reach to donors.

This year HHH raised nearly \$44,400 in school supplies and monetary donations for the R2L program. The additional assistance available through this grant will offer more children the tools they need to succeed in the classroom. Of the more than 187,000 public school students in grades K-12, approximately 45 percent are from households that qualify for the free or reduced lunch program. This means more than 75,000 students come from households that struggle with poverty.

“When you are living in a household that struggles to provide food, shelter and clothing, school supplies often are not possible,” said Jan Harada, HHH President & CEO. “Educational success is a continuum of many things and school supplies are one part of that interconnected continuum to help them obtain a good education.”

The Weinberg Friends program allows an organization, such as RCOH, to perform a community service project that benefits the poor and needy. Upon completion of this volunteer effort, the service organization nominates another service provider to receive a grant. RCOH was privileged to recommend Helping Hands Hawaii for a \$10,000 Weinberg Foundation grant.

MORE

On Saturday, Aug. 22, 2015, 40 RCOH members along with family and friends performed the community service project at the Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii's Spaulding Clubhouse, doing intensive landscaping, property cleanup and planting of new shade trees.

“Our members have supported Helping Hands Hawaii with financial and volunteer resources for many years,” said Garrett Grace, RCOH President. “Since 1974, Helping Hands Hawaii has been a vital lifeline for our community, connecting individuals, families and organizations with essential human and material resources. Our club is dedicated to service above self, and this partnership with the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation and Helping Hands Hawaii allows us to accomplish that vision locally.”

### **About the Rotary Club of Honolulu**

The Rotary Club of Honolulu (Club #14, District 5000) was granted its charter on July 1, 1915. Celebrating its Centennial with a year of special events, the RCOH is the oldest and largest Rotary Club in Hawaii. The club meets for lunch every Tuesday at noon at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. New members are welcome, insuring our service to the community thrives.

### **About Helping Hands Hawaii**

Helping Hands Hawaii (HHH) was founded in 1974 and connects individuals, families and organizations with essential human and material resources. Through our various programs, we provide a full continuum of care and help people overcome obstacles like homelessness, mental illness, substance abuse and language access. Our strong partnerships with local social service providers and innovative approaches strengthen our community by helping people to help themselves. To learn more about HHH, its programs or services, please visit [www.HelpingHandsHawaii.org](http://www.HelpingHandsHawaii.org).

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