



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACTS:  
Caroline Witherspoon  
or Lisette Gonzalez  
Becker Communications, Inc.  
(808) 533-4165

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII CELEBRATES 65-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

**\*\*\*New campaign will kick off at event to be held on March 16 at Tamarind Park\*\*\***

HONOLULU, HI (March 6, 2012) – This month, Catholic Charities Hawai'i will celebrate 65 years of compassionate social service to the community through a "We Believe" campaign intended to draw attention to the wide variety of programs it provides to Hawaii's most needy. The non-profit serves tens of thousands of Hawaii residents, regardless of faith or culture, who are struggling with an array of social issues.

"We believe in the dignity of each person," says Jerry Rauckhorst, CCH president and CEO. "We also believe in our organization's ability to have a significant impact on the lives of the neediest in our community. And we hope to inspire others to believe in our mission and to join us through volunteering and support."

Catholic Charities Hawai'i will kick off "We Believe" with a downtown community fair to share information about its 30-plus programs in such areas as homelessness, senior care, abuse and youth behavioral problems. Attendees can also learn about ways in which to support the organization and its programs. The public-invited event will be held on Friday, March 16 at Tamarind Park from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

(more)

## **-2- CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I CELEBRATES 65-YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

Catholic Charities Hawai'i was started 65 years ago by a small group of Maryknoll Sisters when World War II's devastating impact reached the many families in the Territory of Hawai'i. Bishop James J. Sweeney responded to the urgent needs of Hawai'i's children and families by inviting four Maryknoll Sisters from New York to begin a professional social welfare agency in Hawai'i. In 1944, Sister Victoria Francis, an experienced social worker, and a small group of Maryknoll Sisters, arrived in Honolulu to establish Catholic Charities, now known as Catholic Charities Hawai'i.

"Through the years, we have been blessed with the opportunity to expand our services to reach more and more individuals and families," said Jerry Rauckhorst, President and CEO of Catholic Charities Hawai'i. "Our caring staff is dedicated to helping those in need, help themselves, bringing hope to those who have lost hope. Through the support of our volunteers, donors, board members, and the Diocese of Honolulu, we are able to continue our mission of serving those with the greatest need."

Since its inception, the organization has expanded its services to address eight different service areas which include: 1) Child Abuse and Neglect, 2) Homelessness, 3) Children's Emotional and Behavioral Problem, 4) Unplanned Pregnancy, 5) Adult Violence and Abuse, 6) Difficulties Encountered by Immigrants and Refugees, 7) Difficulties Adjusting to Life's Challenges and 8) Sustaining Independent Living for Seniors and Persons with Developmental Disabilities.

For more event information, please visit [facebook.com/CatholicCharitiesHI](https://facebook.com/CatholicCharitiesHI).

### **About Catholic Charities Hawai'i**

Serving Hawai'i since 1947, Catholic Charities Hawai'i offers assistance to people in need, regardless of faith or culture. Long trusted in the community for their innovative and professional approach to human services, Catholic Charities Hawai'i provides much needed services through over 30 programs statewide. Catholic Charities Hawai'i is fully accredited by the Council on Accreditation. They are a partner agency of Aloha United Way and a member of the nationwide Catholic Charities USA organization. For more information please visit [www.catholiccharitieshawaii.org](http://www.catholiccharitieshawaii.org).

# # #