

Pearson Place

Pregnancy Resource Center

1145 Bishop Street, Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 942-0328 | pearsonplace.org

COVID-19 and Pearson Place

Wow, what an interesting start we've had with the year 2020 and the recent COVID-19 pandemic! Even in the best of times, starting up a new venture will have its challenges, but nobody could have foreseen the impact the virus would have on all of the state's businesses and nonprofits. It seemed as if we were barely getting started in promoting our pregnancy resource center's new location when, like so many others, we were forced to temporarily close our doors in an effort to help minimize the spread. We also knew that we needed to protect our staff and volunteers along with any potential clients.

These are uncertain times for all of us, but rest assured that we have now reopened and are looking forward to serving the community. We continue to be blessed and surprised by God, who has surrounded us with many other wonderful people who believe in our mission.

Many of you know that we rent our office space from the Daughters of St. Paul, who operate Pauline Books and Media located below us. They graciously waived our rent for the period that we had to close our center because of the virus, and for that we are so incredibly grateful.

Prior to the pandemic, the Knights of Columbus Pro-Life Coordinator, Paul Maple, held a baby bottle fundraising drive with the Knights of Columbus at St. Elizabeth Parish. Words alone cannot express how surprised and thankful we were to receive a check for over \$5,000 presented to us by Father Damien De Veuster Council 6906 just days before we reopened our center.

As always, we remain grateful for the awesome privilege of being able to help our clients choose life. You make this all possible.

With deepest heartfelt love and thanks,

Susan Duffy, President
The Pearson Foundation of Hawaii, Inc.



From left to right: Mary Smart, Manager, Pearson Place Pregnancy Resource Center; Susan Duffy, President, The Pearson Foundation of Hawaii, Inc.; Paul Maple, State of Hawaii Pro-Life Coordinator, Knights of Columbus Council 6906



From left to right: Mary Smart, Manager, Pearson Place Pregnancy Resource Center; Susan Duffy, President, The Pearson Foundation of Hawaii, Inc.; Mrs. William Hays; William Hays, Grand Knight, Knights of Columbus Council 6906; Gary Jose, District Master, Hawaii Knights of Columbus



We celebrate 50 years! June 1970 - June 2020

We are 50 years old this month! In June 1970, Maui building contractor, Robert Pearson, established the first Crisis Pregnancy Center in the United States here in our state. In March of that year, shortly before Hawaii's liberalized abortion bill became law, Pearson announced his plan to establish a place where pregnant women who might be considering abortions could come to "think it over."

Pearson, operating out of his home, offered housing, counseling, prenatal care, and financial support to pregnant women. His goal in providing these services was "to let women know that they have alternatives to abortion," and his plan seemed to work. Pearson-type centers were clearly needed, and he and his wife Kathy traveled all over the country with seven of their children, setting up centers and holding seminars to explain the process.

At one point, Pearson set up a marathon 28 centers in 30 days and eventually established 200 centers in the U.S. and 20 in Canada. By 1971, still two years before the Supreme Court's decision in Roe v. Wade, there was a proliferation of pregnancy centers, crisis hotlines, and pro-life adoption agencies around the country.

Today, The Pearson Foundation of Hawaii, Incorporated continues to promote Bob Pearson's legacy and operates the Pearson Place Pregnancy Resource Center in downtown Honolulu.



Maybelle Helfrich - A Pearson Legacy



We give thanks for the life of Maybelle Helfrich, who entered into eternal life on December 28, 2019 at age 92. Maybelle was a dedicated and faithful counselor with The Pearson Foundation, where she touched the lives of many. See our video for a beautiful story of how Maybelle impacted a generation and years later brought us Tammy, who volunteered with us. Visit our website hipp.team (Hawaii Pearson Place Team) or watch on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GpziKgMjbHk&feature=emb_title.



Thank you, Maybelle,
for your years of service to the Pearson Foundation
and your dedication to helping both expectant mothers and
the unborn.



*You saw me before I was born.
Every day of my life was recorded in your book.
Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.
~Psalm 139:16*



From the Desk of the Pearson Place Office Manager

We welcome our newest volunteer!



Ava Montes is Pearson Place's newest volunteer. Ava has lived in Hawaii for twelve years, spending most of her childhood at the pool, the beach, and homeschool co-ops. Now a twenty-year-old senior at the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ava studies English Writing and Theology, two of her favorite subjects. She loves artistic pursuits such as drawing and painting, sunsets, running her Etsy shop, the movie *Signs*, cats, and--of course--babies.

Through Pearson Place, Ava now has the chance to actively aid women in crisis pregnancies as the assistant newsletter writer and a parish liaison as well as an office helper. She appreciates serving the pro-life movement and is grateful for the opportunity to be a summer volunteer. Please keep Ava in your prayers!

How can I get involved?

Our faithful volunteers are the lifeblood of our ministry along with all those who support us with monetary donations or gifts of needed items. We are a Christian organization fueled by the desire to help all of God's people. We are funded solely by the generosity of individual donors, churches, local groups, and organizations. All gifts are tax-deductible. For more information, call **(808) 942-0328** or visit our website hipp.team (Hawaii Pearson Place Team).

Scenes from the Annual March for Life January 16, 2020 at the Hawaii State Capitol

