The future is not some place we are going to, but one we are creating. The paths to it are not found, but made; and the activity of making them changes both the maker and the destination. – Peter Ellyard

New Colors, New Ideas

What kind of students ask to come to school during their summer vacation? Ones who have the chance to refresh the walls of their workspaces. “Wow! That really pops!” and “It looks like a place of learning” were among the comments heard at the start of the school year as teachers and students stopped in their tracks to admire the colorful front room of a newly redesigned Luke Center. Student leaders spent a few of their summer days painting walls with bright hues and were especially excited about the large, blue Idea Wall that is a focal point in a new, mod sitting area. This wall is covered with Idea Paint, a special coating that makes the entire surface write-on/wipe-off. “It’s like a giant whiteboard,” says Director Carri Morgan. Now, ideas are literally the handwriting on the wall at Luke Center. Luke Leaders use the space to track the progress of their service projects through the semester but anyone who would like to brainstorm their ideas is welcome to come and dream big on this oversized canvas. Other features of the redesigned Center for Public Service include a display area, hands-on service tables with projects that change each month, and a very popular snack station.
The foyer of Wo International Center hummed with conversation at a Fall Service Fair coordinated by Luke Center and Academy Senior CapStone faculty in September. Every CapStone student is required to conduct a service project that serves a need in the community, but some students are not aware of what those needs are. At the same time, many nonprofit organizations have the need for volunteers but find it hard to get the word about their events to those who could help. Luke Center helps connect the need with the service. On September 11, representatives from 27 nonprofit organizations shared information about opportunities at their agencies with 180 students. After circulating among the tables, one student said, “I had always wanted to get involved, but I didn’t have the time or knowledge of where or how to start.”

Another student, interested in design, got the idea to create an infographic after a conversation with a disaster-preparedness group. A musically inclined student will be teaching clarinet to children in schools that don’t have robust music programs, after hearing about a group that reaches out to this underserved population. Connections were even made among the service organizations, with representatives commenting that they were previously unaware of some of the other agencies and the good work they do. Luke Center staff were happy to be a part of raising awareness of service needs and actions.

Putting Passion to Purpose

Luke Leaders are encouraged to follow their passions through individual service projects. After seeing a need while teaching ‘ukulele classes to Farrington High School students and following nearly a year of planning, Elizabeth Winnicki ’17 and Farrington students staged a college fair. They were supported by Luke Center for Public Service, and also by a grant from the Youth Philanthropy Board of Youth Service Hawaii, which helped provide school supplies and refreshments. The event featured representatives from local and continental U.S. colleges and was attended by Farrington students from every grade level. Luke Leader Marissa Kamisugi ’16 has also been serving others by teaching dance classes at the Boys and Girls Club for over a year, sharing a message of the benefits of movement and of having a positive body image.
**Easing the Sting of Little Fire Ants on O‘ahu**

As part of our goal to model and teach ways to be good stewards of the land, Luke Center has partnered with Punahou’s Parent Faculty Association (PFA) in an effort to control the spread of Little Fire Ants (LFA) on O‘ahu. In consultation with experts at O‘ahu Invasive Species Council, the Nature Conservancy of Hawai‘i and Carnival booth chairs, Luke Friends are putting together simple kits that can be used to test plants for LFA prior to donation to Punahou Carnival’s Plant Booth. If you’re considering donating plants for Carnival, please stop by Luke Center to pick up a free test kit!

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**Giving Back on Veterans Day**

School wasn’t in session, but 32 Luke Leaders were hard at work on Veterans Day at two service field trips. One group of students traveled to the Institute for Human Services (IHS) where they learned that a large percentage of homeless guests are military veterans. Some pitched in to wash windows and screens at the men’s shelter. Another group at the women’s and family shelter helped to sort through and tidy up a room full of donated clothing and housewares. Others planted seedlings at the rooftop garden that provides not only fresh produce for shelter guests to eat, but vital job-training skills too. Students were pleasantly surprised to learn that IHS provides more than simple shelter and a warm meal. Computer training and job interview classes also help guests on their journey to stability.

Later that afternoon, another group of Luke Leaders joined JROTC cadets at Arcadia Retirement Residence for a program to honor veterans. The opportunities for service were varied as students greeted residents, chatted with veterans about their lives of service and even jumped up to help lead the singing when the band was late.
A Welcoming Space

Luke Center strives to be a welcoming place for anyone on campus with a heart for service. That message has resonated with a number of people as Luke Center has been a busy hive of activity with clubs, teams, classes and teacher groups meeting to explore their connections to serving others. Academy Hawaiian Culture and Spanish classes both helped with the Canned Food Drive. The IMAGEnation Club spent a spirited afternoon making Halloween cards for patients at Shriners Hospitals for Children. Groups that found Luke Center to be a creative meeting space included the Green Eco-Tour Club which shares information about the sustainable features on Punahou’s campus, and the Conquering Cancer Club, which celebrates survivors and brings hope to those whose lives have been affected by cancer. Our youngest helpers are an enthusiastic “lunch bunch” of 4th-graders who have used their helping hands on a daily basis to create colorful paper lei and to pack boxes of canned food.