Solving homelessness in Hawaii for more than 40 years

1978 – The Peanut Butter Ministry Begins

Our story began as a volunteer-driven movement to help those living on Oahu’s streets. On his 58th birthday, Father Claude DuTeil sat outside a Chinatown storefront where he sparked conversations with unsheltered individuals by offering them peanut butter sandwiches and coffee. Having experienced alcoholism and depression, Fr. DuTeil saw the need for more integrated clinical intervention. He knew that progress could only be achieved by working together as a community. He sowed the seeds of compassion that grew to become IHS, The Institute for Human Services. With the help of community organizations, businesses, the faith-based community and government, IHS’ first drop-in service center on Smith Street. The center was open every day and welcomed 60 people daily.

1982 – IHS incorporates as a 501c3, private, non-profit agency.

1986 – IHS Sumner shelter opens

IHS changes locations frequently after opening its drop-in service center. With the help of Mayor Fasi’s administration, City & County of Honolulu and federal funding, 350 Sumner Street was built to provide respite and access to shelter, meals and other services. Sumner shelters up to 250 to 300 single men, women and/or families every night. With wide-spread public support, churches, multiple businesses and
restaurants took turns in the kitchen and served an average 3,600 to 4,800 meals per week.


1997 – IHS opens the Kaaahi Women & Family Shelter.

With the help of Mayor Jeremy Harris’ Administration and financial support from The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, IHS fulfills Fr. DuTeil’s vision of opening a separate shelter for women and families.

2006 – Present – Connie Mitchell joins as Executive Director.

2006 – Present – IHS grows to become a fully-integrated homeless service provider.

2007 – IHS begins expansion of homeless services, including case management, housing, employment and two health and wellness centers at the Kaaahi and Sumner shelters.
2012

IHS opens the Kaamahu Housing and Employment Service Center.

Providing homeless outreach and a weekly drop-in service center at the Waialua Community Service Center in Haleiwa.

2013 – IHS opens its first specialty shelter, the V.E.T. House in Kalihi Valley.

2014 – IHS dedicates Rooftop Training and Education Center at Kaaahi Shelter for prevocational Urban agriculture program featuring aquaponics.

2015 – IHS expands services into Waikiki & Moiliili with outreach, transportation and a monthly drop-in service center.

2015– IHS & the City & County of Honolulu opens Hale Mauliola Housing Navigation Center.

2016 – In partnership with Queens Medical Center and Castle Medical Center, IHS expands its specialty shelter options to include medical respite homes known as the Tutu Bert Houses to medically frail homeless discharged from the hospital.

2018

IHS pilots Homeless Intensive Case Management Plus to intervene with frequent users of emergency services in partnership with Adult Mental Health Division.

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Pilot Preschool in the Park program with Parents and Children Together provides early childhood education for homeless families.

Pop-up outreach fairs are established in Windward Oahu.

IHS helps launch HPD’s Chinatown Joint Outreach Center with a service provider collaborative.

Kahauiki Village opens providing permanent affordable housing for 30 homeless families.

2019

Tutu Bert's House Kailua begins medical respite in Windward Oahu.

IHS adds Beacon of Hope and House of Redemption to help formerly incarcerated women and men
transition into community.

IHS establishes weekly Waikiki Service Depot and evening outreach.

Assisted Community Treatment Law strengthened to better enable court ordered treatment for those disabled by mental illness.