

# MidWeek

## Foundation Proves A Windfall For Kailua Youth Clubhouse

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By [Carol Chang](#)



The Schuler Family Foundation presents a \$200,000 grant to the Windward Clubhouse of the Boys and Girls Club earlier this month. Pictured are members from both organizations, (from left) Suzy Churchill, Tom McDonald, Natalie Oda, Pam Jones, Bet and Jim Schuler, Duane Samson and state Sen. Will Espero. Photo by Nathalie Walker, [nwalker@midweek.com](mailto:nwalker@midweek.com)

The Windward Boys & Girls Clubhouse is the first of three area organizations to win substantial grants from the Schuler Family Foundation this year.

Hawaii developer James Schuler himself presented a check for \$200,000 to the BGC clubhouse in ceremonies Jan. 15 at Kailua Intermediate School.

“The youth at the Windward Clubhouse will directly benefit from this wonderful, generous gift,” said Suzy Churchill, a Kailua resident and member of the BGC of Hawaii board of directors. “We are grateful for the Schuler Family Foundation’s incredible commitment to Hawaii and our children.”

Housed in spare classroom space on the KIS campus, the long-planned clubhouse has been offering multiple after-school activities to children age 7 to 17 since it opened last May. Site manager Duane Samson - a police sergeant at night - has welcomed about 450 youths into positive programs, which is a rarity for Kailua’s idle children on weekday afternoons.

“There’s not enough room, not enough of anything,” added Churchill, noting that the Schuler grant goes into the clubhouse’s \$10 million capital campaign. Fundraisers for daily operating expenses are under way. (To offer help, call Samson at 271-2168.)

The foundation also has awarded \$250,000 to Le Jardin Academy for the development of new school buildings, and \$100,000 to Castle Medical Center for its expansion project.

“We deeply care for the communities we serve,” said Schuler. “We are honored to be part of the Windward Oahu region, and pleased to share our aloha with these special recipients, who are dedicated to providing important services and making a positive difference in the lives of our neighbors.”

A former Windward resident, Schuler is president of the foundation, which is the giving arm in Hawaii for D.R.Horton, the nation’s largest homebuilder. (The company purchased about 6.5 acres of land in Kailua town last year from Kaneohe Ranch for development as condominiums. The project site currently has 217 aging low-income apartment units which affect student enrollment at Kailua elementary and intermediate schools.)