



WHEN HELP WAS NEEDED, WE WERE THERE.

From the beginning, the Y's Men's Club helped the YMCA do more.

They raised funds, recruited and trained volunteers, supported youth and families, and took on practical projects wherever they were needed.



Y's Men sponsored and supported family-building activities at the YMCA. At a 1926 Nu'uaniu Father-and-Son gathering, Y's Men and other YMCA volunteers served as "foster fathers" for boys whose fathers had died.

Better to Build Boys Than to Mend Men



By 1929, the YMCA of Honolulu was doing more work with lower-income boys whose parents worked on plantations than any YMCA on the mainland, with 204 Boys' Clubs throughout rural O'ahu. Y's Men helped recruit and train the volunteer leaders who carried YMCA programs into communities including 'Aiea, 'Ewa, Hau'ula, Kahuku, Kailua, Kāne'ohe, Lā'ie, Nānākuli, Pearl City, Wahiawā, Waialua, Wai'anae, Waimānalo and Waipahu.



"Better to build boys than to mend men" was the Y's Men's call to action in 1939 as concern grew about juvenile delinquency. To keep boys constructively engaged, especially during the summer, the club spent \$650 to equip the Nu'uaniu YMCA basement for free woodworking and model-airplane classes for boys ages 10-18.



During World War II, Hotel Street's shoeshine boys became a community concern. After a policeman brought some of the boys to the YMCA asking for help, a club was organized with Y's Men's support to improve their business practices and conduct while providing recreation.



After the Depression, Y's Men reorganized in Honolulu on November 30, 1937. With more automobiles on Hawai'i's roads and pedestrian safety becoming a growing concern around schools, the club made traffic safety its first project. Members worked with elementary schools to support the existing Junior Traffic Cop program — later known as JPOs.



Fundraising was part of the movement from the beginning. At the Nu'uaniu Y, Ko Fong Lum organized members of the YMCA's Boosters' Club — volunteers who qualified by selling **\$100 worth of YMCA memberships** — into Hawai'i's first Y's Men's Club. By 1929, the YMCA of Honolulu Y's Men's Club at Nu'uaniu had taken full responsibility for the Y's annual membership effort. That support continued through the Sustaining Campaign and lives on today through the YMCA Annual Campaign. Photo: volunteers gather for a Campaign Report Meeting in 1958.