

For the first time in its 60-year history, Trinity Lutheran School, Wahiawa has awarded a local student with a full tuition paid grant for the 2017-2018 academic year, which began July 26. The winning Wahiawa student, Callie, is in the fourth grade this year, and was one of over a dozen applicants who qualified for the contest.

The Trinity Lutheran School Wahiawa Kaiaulu Student Grant opportunity was developed specifically to reach out to local Wahiawa families as the school and church seek to connect and serve its immediate, surrounding community.

Callie's mother had been driving her daughter more than an hour each way out of their hometown of Wahiawa so that her daughter could attend a school that offered all that they wanted for Callie's education, but the commute was exhausting, and Callie's mom, who values being an active parent, was unable to get involved in school activities.

"We are truly honored to have received this amazing blessing for Callie," said Mom, who expressed a desire for the magnitude of private school education, experience, religious belief and practice that Trinity Lutheran offers.

"The level of interaction from Principal Sheets, Pastor Ryan, other faculty and parents that we've received so far, have been overwhelmingly and so wonderfully welcoming. We are truly grateful and honored to have received this opportunity and are extremely excited for the school year to start." - Local Press Release

Trinity Lutheran Church and School has learned a lot from reaching out to our immediate community in this way. We received so many applications for this grant that the need in our community is clearly visible. It is disheartening to think of how many children and their families would love to be part of our school's Gospel ministry, but lack the funds to do so. It is also encouraging for us to think of creative ways to expand such grants in the future and reach our local families.

After her first quarter at the school, we asked Callie what Trinity means to her. She said, "My favorite thing about Trinity is getting to learn and play with my friends." She was pleasantly surprised to meet some friends that she had known before and also to make new ones.

This has been one piece of a concerted effort to be more open and engaged in our community. Both church and school have opened our doors to community groups and joined in Wahiawa community projects. You can see these examples at our websites: www.trinity-hawaii.org and www.tls-hawaii.org and at our Facebook pages.

Our next immediate steps are to keep increasing our engagement and using our facility and resources to serve those around us. Our longer range goal is to expand our Student Grant programs for more families, and create sustainable local partnerships to that end. We are thankful for the resources God has given us and the freedom we have to share the Gospel in worship, the classroom, and our community. We are grateful for the partnership we have received from the District Mission Agency. Your mini-grant of \$1,000 covered the majority of costs for our every door mailer. This truly laid the groundwork for getting the word out and

encouraging us to move in outward in this community focus. We hope to expand this and other outreach efforts this year and into year two.

In Christ,

Pastor Ryan Alvey