

Old Friends

Michael BRODERICK

>> When Michael Broderick appeared on *MidWeek*'s cover — on April 3, 2011, to be exact — he recently had stepped into the role of president and CEO of YMCA of Honolulu.

It was a change that came as a shock to many at the time. He had been serving as Family Court judge for several years. But Broderick saw the move as an opportunity to effect change.

"I felt I could help prevent some of the tragedies and suffering I saw every day in Family Court," he says.

Broderick recalls telling *MidWeek* that, after taking the position with YMCA, one common story he began hearing from people was of how the organization changed their lives.

That, he says, hasn't changed.

"I can be at the grocery store, at the car wash — as soon as I mention that I work for the Y, more often than not, a person will start off by saying, 'Let me tell you my Y story,'" says Broderick.

YMCA's presence within the community continues to thrive. Broderick points to its many youth programs, like those in place at 22 middle and high schools across the island, that offer on-site help with substance-abuse issues.

In other ways, the organization has drastically changed.

It is building a new central facility in the Ala Moana area, and YMCA A+ care has expanded to 54 schools, now reaching more than 7,000 children throughout the state. It also has introduced programs to address childhood obesity, and others that assist adults with ailments such as arthritis and Parkinson's disease.

Every year — for the last five years, says Broderick — the organization has awarded about \$1 million to "fund programs that meet critical health and social needs in our community." Some of these monetary contributions also help more than 100,000 individuals who utilize many of the Y's services — summer camp, swim lessons, even help with mem-



PHOTO FROM YMCA OF HONOLULU

bership fees.

And that's hardly all Broderick and YMCA have been up to lately — there are also the free swimming lessons it offers to children living at Institute for Human Services, an almost 65-year-old Youth and Government program that teaches kids about the democratic process and civic engagement, and another that works with high school juniors in need to help them get to college.

"My instinct has proven right," says Broderick of changing careers. "Every day, across the island, the Y is changing and, in some instances, saving lives."

"I am as excited about the job today as I was when I was hired in 2010."

It's a job Broderick clearly loves, one of which he speaks passionately. None of it, though, he says, would be possible without his staff that sets the precedent for what YMCA stands for.

"One of my biggest surprises I have discovered since working for the Y, and the thing I am most grateful for, is how committed every member of our professional team is to helping people live better lives," he says.

"We have more than 1,200 employees, and every person I meet who works at the Y is kind and caring," Broderick adds. "There is a culture of giving, and it permeates throughout the entire organization."

For more information, visit ymcahonolulu.org.

— Jaimie Kim