Yoshiaki Fujitani was born in Maui in 1923 and moved to O’ahu with his family where he graduated from McKinley High School and attended the University of Hawai’i. As a sophomore at the university enrolled in the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC), Fujitani was one of many cadets given D.C. ordered HTG to disband. The men though, would regroup and form the labor battalion 34 Construction Engineer Regiment, more popularly known as the Varsity Victory Volunteers (VVV).

A few months later, Fujitani’s father was interned as “potentially dangerous” and held briefly at Sand Island before he was shipped off to the mainland for three years. Fujitani left the VVV and worked at American Optical Company to help provide for his family.

In 1943, a military intelligence instructor from Camp Savage, Minnesota, came to Hawai’i to recruit; Fujitani volunteered. He was assigned to Fort Ritchie, Maryland then to the Pacific Military Intelligence Research Section.

Fujitani found himself in Tokyo as a translator when the war ended. Using the G.I. Bill, he attended the University of Chicago to study Buddhism. After his studies, he spent three years in Kyoto. A delegation came to Kyoto from Wallau and asked him to return to Maui and take the reins of the mission there. He stayed in Maui for 4½ years.

In 1960 he was assigned to the Honolulu Medical Center, president of the Hawai’i Medical Center, and named to the Policy Advisory Board for Elderly Affairs, and chair of the White House Council on Aging in Hawai’i. She was appointed to the National Advisory Committee on Aging by presidents Carter, Reagam, and Clinton. Kanazawa also supported our local community as an officer of the Board of Directors of Kuakini Medical Center, president of the Hawai’i Legal Auxiliary, and a member of the Health and Community Services Council and the State Commission on the Children and Youth. Additionally, Kanazawa served as vice chair of the Hawai’i Gerontology Project and as director of the Western Gerontological Society. For her unavering work, Kanazawa was inducted into the YWCA Academy as a role model and a leader among women. She received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the University of Hawai’i for her distinguished accomplishments.

Kanazawa was instrumental in founding Project Dana, a Buddhist-based elder-care program sponsored by the Hawai’i Hongwanji Mission, that provides assistance to the elderly and respite to caregivers. Project Dana’s success as an interfaith volunteer caregiver program impacts lives everyday in profound and compassionate ways. Today, even in her nineties, Kanazawa continues to selflessly give of herself to help others.

Calvin Sia graduated from Dartmouth College, Western Reserve University, School of Medicine, and holds a pediatric residency training at Kuakelani Children’s Hospital in Honolulu, Hawai’i. He had been in full time primary care pediatric practice in Honolulu from 1958 until 1996 when he retired to devote his time as principal investigator on various grants promoting integrated services in early childhood. He was also a professor of pediatrics in the UH John A. Burns School of Medicine.

Sia has been a tireless child advocate. In Hawai’i, he initiated Hawai’i Healthy Start, a home visiting program to prevent child abuse and neglect, and support positive child development. This program has been replicated throughout the U.S., Canada, and the Philippines.

Sia was instrumental in implementing the Medical Home concept nationally. In the 1960’s, Medical Home was envisioned as a central source for medical information about children, especially those with special needs. He laid the groundwork to develop Medical Home into a policy which stated that “medical care of all infants, children and adolescents should be accessible, continuous, comprehensive, family-centered, coordinated, compassionate, and culturally effective.”

In 1984, Sia helped establish Emergency Medical Services for Children, an initiative designed to reduce child and youth disability and death due to severe illness or injury. Additionally, Sia served in voluntary leadership capacities for many organizations, including Variety School and KPW’alani Medical Center for Women and Children.

Sia has received recognition and awards from organizations statewide and nationally. Among them are the first Emergency Medical Services for Children National Heroes Lifetime Achievement Award and the National Governor’s Association Private Citizen Award. Hawai’i also celebrated Dr. Calvin Sia Day, a recognition from then-Governor Benjamin Cayetano. Sia holds an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the University of Hawai’i.

Nora Harmsen began providing volunteer dental services in South Bend, Indiana. In 1997, she moved to Hawai’i and made her home. She volunteered at Ka Pili Palma Health Center where she worked from 2004-2011.

Concurrently, Harmsen was the principal volunteer in maintaining programs for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). She helped local efforts in the absence of professional staff. Harmsen also helped make the renowned FCA Breakfast, where young athletes enjoy a morning meal and are expected to respond to a question of faith. Harmsen’s compassion for the needy has no boundaries.

In 2005, Harmsen went on her first two-week dental mission to the impoverished Kwajalein Atoll and its surrounding islets in the Marshall Islands. Since then, Dr. Nora (as she is affectionately known) and her assistant have provided a wide range of dental care that included fillings, cleanings, fluoride varnishes, extractions, and other services performed mostly in difficult, stressful environments. During these missions, they frequently traveled by W-22 landing craft, boat, truck, airplane, and foot, and often backpacking more than 80 pounds of equipment. Harmsen’s missions have delivered dental services valued at nearly $700,000.

In addition to her unyielding volunteer work, Harmsen is the only dentist for the 2,500 residents of the island of Lanai. She lives part-time on Lanai, and remains on-call to serve its people even while on O’ahu.

When he was in full time primary care pediatric practice in Honolulu from 1958 until 1996 when he retired to devote his time as principal investigator on various grants promoting integrated services in early childhood. He was also a professor of pediatrics in the UH John A. Burns School of Medicine.

Sia has been a tireless child advocate. In Hawai’i, he initiated Hawai’i Healthy Start, a home visiting program to prevent child abuse and neglect, and support positive child development. This program has been replicated throughout the U.S., Canada, and the Philippines.

Sia was instrumental in implementing the Medical Home concept nationally. In the 1960’s, Medical Home was envisioned as a central source for medical information about children, especially those with special needs. He laid the groundwork to develop Medical Home into a policy which stated that "medical care of all infants, children and adolescents should be accessible, continuous, comprehensive, family-centered, coordinated, compassionate, and culturally effective.”

In 1984, Sia helped establish Emergency Medical Services for Children, an initiative designed to reduce child and youth disability and death due to severe illness or injury. Additionally, Sia served in voluntary leadership capacities for many organizations, including Variety School and KPW’alani Medical Center for Women and Children.

Sia has received recognition and awards from organizations statewide and nationally. Among them are the first Emergency Medical Services for Children National Heroes Lifetime Achievement Award and the National Governor’s Association Private Citizen Award. Hawai’i also celebrated Dr. Calvin Sia Day, a recognition from then-Governor Benjamin Cayetano. Sia holds an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the University of Hawai’i.

This program commenced on February 3, 2012 at the Tripler Fisher House in a formal ceremony and will be found at all 54 Fisher Houses nationwide.

Harmsen’s compassion for the needy has no boundaries. In 2005, Harmsen went on her first two-week dental mission to the impoverished Kwajalein Atoll and its surrounding islets in the Marshall Islands. Since then, Dr. Nora (as she is affectionately known) and her assistant have provided a wide range of dental care that included fillings, cleanings, fluoride varnishes, extractions, and other services performed mostly in difficult, stressful environments. During these missions, they frequently traveled by W-22 landing craft, boat, truck, airplane, and foot, and often backpacking more than 80 pounds of equipment. Harmsen’s missions have delivered dental services valued at nearly $700,000.

In addition to her unyielding volunteer work, Harmsen is the only dentist for the 2,500 residents of the island of Lanai. She lives part-time on Lanai, and remains on-call to serve its people even while on O’ahu.

When he was in full time primary care pediatric practice in Honolulu from 1958 until 1996 when he retired to devote his time as principal investigator on various grants promoting integrated services in early childhood. He was also a professor of pediatrics in the UH John A. Burns School of Medicine.

Sia has been a tireless child advocate. In Hawai’i, he initiated Hawai’i Healthy Start, a home visiting program to prevent child abuse and neglect, and support positive child development. This program has been replicated throughout the U.S., Canada, and the Philippines.

Sia was instrumental in implementing the Medical Home concept nationally. In the 1960’s, Medical Home was envisioned as a central source for medical information about children, especially those with special needs. He laid the groundwork to develop Medical Home into a policy which stated that "medical care of all infants, children and adolescents should be accessible, continuous, comprehensive, family-centered, coordinated, compassionate, and culturally effective.”

In 1984, Sia helped establish Emergency Medical Services for Children, an initiative designed to reduce child and youth disability and death due to severe illness or injury. Additionally, Sia served in voluntary leadership capacities for many organizations, including Variety School and KPW’alani Medical Center for Women and Children.

Sia has received recognition and awards from organizations statewide and nationally. Among them are the first Emergency Medical Services for Children National Heroes Lifetime Achievement Award and the National Governor’s Association Private Citizen Award. Hawai’i also celebrated Dr. Calvin Sia Day, a recognition from then-Governor Benjamin Cayetano. Sia holds an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the University of Hawai’i.

This program commenced on February 3, 2012 at the Tripler Fisher House in a formal ceremony and will be found at all 54 Fisher Houses nationwide.

Harmsen’s compassion for the needy has no boundaries. In 2005, Harmsen went on her first two-week dental mission to the impoverished Kwajalein Atoll and its surrounding islets in the Marshall Islands. Since then, Dr. Nora (as she is affectionately known) and her assistant have provided a wide range of dental care that included fillings, cleanings, fluoride varnishes, extractions, and other services performed mostly in difficult, stressful environments. During these missions, they frequently traveled by W-22 landing craft, boat, truck, airplane, and foot, and often backpacking more than 80 pounds of equipment. Harmsen’s missions have delivered dental services valued at nearly $700,000.

In addition to her unyielding volunteer work, Harmsen is the only dentist for the 2,500 residents of the island of Lanai. She lives part-time on Lanai, and remains on-call to serve its people even while on O’ahu.