

THE BACK PAGE

"And all of us, whatever our incomes, can begin to rebuild community in America, living in less selfish and more purposeful ways and redefining success to include service and responsibility for others."

Marian Wright Edelman.... "Guide My Feet"

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Maui United Way
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2nd Annual Family Resource Fair

Mahalo to over 26 community agencies and 30 businesses involved in making the 2nd Annual Family Resource Fair a great success. Cosponsored by Maui Family Support Services and County of Maui, this event brought together families served by MFSS and a wide spectrum of resources.

Personnel from health and human services agencies distributed brochures and explained their services to attending families. Many agency displays featured interesting demonstrations and videos. Lots of fun and games were provided for the keikis so parents could take full advantage of the opportunity to become acquainted with available community resources.

Everyone attending was treated to a delicious and healthy lunch provided by donations from generous Maui businesses and individuals. The Fair was held in March at the Wailuku Community Center.

*I would like to support the children and families
 in our community by becoming a member of the*

Family of Friends

I enclose ___ \$ 20 Membership ___ \$100 Patron
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Maui Family Support Services, Inc.
 333 Dairy Road, Suite 201
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Caring About Families and Our Community



Family MATTERS

Maui Family Support Services, Inc.

Spring, 1996

Issues
 concerning
 families with
 young children

"IT TAKES A VILLAGE AND OTHER LESSONS CHILDREN TEACH US"

"It Takes A Whole Village To Raise a Child" African proverb

Speaking from her heart about real people and their very real problems, Hillary Rodham Clinton says, "Nothing is more important to our shared future than the well-being of children."

In the First Lady's bestselling book, "It Takes A Village And Other Lessons Children Teach Us", Mrs. Clinton points out that the village of the old proverb looked very different from our communities of today. But the essence of "village" is more than a place, it is our daily relationships and interactions.

A community reveals its vision and its values in the way it responds to the needs of children. A community that supports and encourages parents to work for the fullest development of their child's potential is a healthy community. Mrs. Clinton tells how individuals and groups are making important, healthy differences in the lives of children in their villages.

Writing about Hawaii's Healthy Start program, she says, "The home visitor helps the parents learn about their child's developmental needs and acts as a liaison with other agencies to make sure that the family's needs are attended to—from marriage counseling to employment training to drug abuse treatment."

"When we give children the nurturing, time, and care they need, they are more likely to develop emotional intelligence, confidence in their intellectual abilities, and the capacity to cope with life's adversities. These qualities are important not only in themselves but because they help children to become good citizens who contribute to the quality of life in their communities and to our ongoing civilization.", writes Mrs. Clinton.

Maui Family Support Services is proud to be involved in collaborative community efforts, working with others to bring about a brighter future. This issue of *Family Matters* highlights several such group efforts and the people who lend their leadership to them.

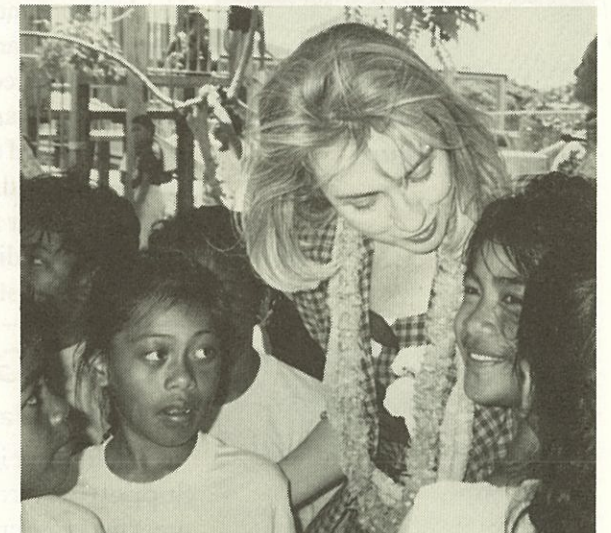


Photo courtesy of Parents and Children Together

Hillary Clinton and Friends in Hawaii

Community in Action Edition

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LOCAL VOICES



Bettye S. Williams

LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

MFSS' Executive Director, Bettye Williams is serving an exciting second year as President of the Association of Weinberg Fellows. Membership in the statewide Association is open only to administrators who have graduated from the Weinberg Fellows Program. Its purpose is to strengthen and upgrade the management capacity of Hawaii's not-for-profit agencies, so that they can better serve the public, particularly the poorest of the poor.

These executives fulfill a tremendous commitment to their professional development and make a significant difference in carrying out their agency's mission. They are dedicated to promoting the highest standards of professional excellence in order to improve the quality of life for our Hawaii community. Many graduates have developed successful collaborative intra and inter-island activities and are eligible to receive "Aim For Excellence" monetary awards.

Congratulations to our leader, Bettye and mahalo to the Weinberg Foundation for providing continued funding and to the Hawaii Community Services Council for administering the successful Weinberg Fellows Program.



Jo Ann Harris

PULLING TOGETHER

by Jo Ann Harris, Clinical Director, MFSS

Although our individual agency budgets have been slashed, Maui Family Support Services works hand in hand with other community services to meet the most critical needs of families we serve.

Collaborative efforts can achieve remarkable results, for example....In 1992, a Hawaii survey showed only 61% of the State's 2 year olds had been fully immunized. Maui's rate was a dismal 29%. With energetic cooperation between Maui Family Support Services, Public Health Nursing, Kiwanis, Maui Chamber of Commerce, American Lung Association, Haleakala Dairy and other organizations, Maui's rate climbed to 81% in 1994. **MFSS' program rate of completely immunized two year olds was 91%.** Community collaboration produced this dramatic improvement.

Another collaborative effort focused on the island of Lanai, a community that historically lacks community services. In 1994, the Lanai Human Services Alliance, funded by Maui County, was formed to provide the community with a broad base of social and mental health services. MFSS now has a full-time Lanai resident home visitor who provides Healthy Start and Perinatal services for island families. Other collaborating agencies include, Aloha House, Alternatives to Violence, Kokua Services, Maui Youth and Family Services, Maui Aids Foundation, Parents Anonymous, Sex Abuse Interventions, and Women Helping Women. The Alliance has office space provided by The Lanai Company and a Lanai resident intake worker to provide information, referrals and to schedule appointments for the member agencies.

By working together, we can provide benefits for families which would otherwise be impossible. In light of the State's financial situation, it is increasingly important that the entire community pull together to support our children and their families. It truly takes a whole village to raise a child. Maui Family Support Services is one hut working on minimal *kala* (money) but lots of *ho'omau* (perseverance).

AKAMAI GUIDANCE



Terry Lock

GOOD BEGINNINGS

As more and more parents go to work, the availability of quality child care and education is a growing concern. To understand how our community is addressing this issue, *Family Matters* talked to Terry Lock, Coordinator for the Maui County Early Childhood Resource Team.

FM: What is the Maui County Early Childhood Resource Team?

TL: It is a team of early childhood education and care professionals, whose goals'

include expanding the number of early childhood care programs and raising the quality of all such programs in our community. The Resource Team is funded by Maui County.

FM: How do you plan to accomplish these goals?

TL: The Resource Team is working on a three year action plan, which has two major areas of community activities.

The first, Advocacy, assists in the development of public policy affecting early childhood care and education at both County and State levels. The Resource Team will provide workshops and presentations for early childhood service providers, distribute new policy and legislation information, and represent the County of Maui within the early childhood community.

The second area, Development, provides technical assistance, linking resources to child care services for interested individuals, groups and employers. It assists in the development of new child care and preschool resources in the community.

The Resource Team is also supporting an Initiative called "Good Beginnings", currently before the 1996 Hawaii State Legislature.

Placing a priority on the first five years of a child's life, "Good Beginnings" is a master plan for a new early childhood education and care system. The Initiative offers a framework for all partners in the early childhood education and child care community to work together for quality programs and services.

FM: What is the Resource Team's relationship with MFSS?

TL: Maui County is in the process of negotiating a partnership with MFSS to be the lead Agency for the Maui County Childhood Resource Team.

MAUI COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD RESOURCE TEAM has information on...

- ◆ County permit process and licensing
- ◆ Early Childhood career development
- ◆ National program accreditation
- ◆ State & federal legislation effecting the child care business
- ◆ Prevention of child abuse, responsibility of providers
- ◆ Americans Disability Act requirements for providers
- ◆ Center-based program administration and development
- ◆ Curriculum planning
- ◆ Setting up physical environment
- ◆ Children with special needs
- ◆ Family literacy

Available for consultation on childcare issues and concerns

Call (808) 878-3035

THE BACK PAGE

I want people who struggle and work daily for children to know they are valued.....I hope people who choose to care for children, and whose programs and services are usually cut first and deepest, will carry on anyway. Serving children well is not a job. It is a calling.

Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president, Children's Defense Fund

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MFSS Graduation Exercises

Sixty-five families completing the Healthy Start program were honored at a graduation ceremony and reception on June 20th. Laura Bio-Brooks, a graduating parent, and Wendy Choi, Psy. D., Chair of MFSS Program committee, were guest speakers.

Congratulations to the graduating families. The parents are to be admired for working to be the best parent they can be, and giving their children a healthy start in life.

Congratulations also to MFSS Family Facilitators and Supervisors, who worked with these families to develop understanding, overcome obstacles, and create stable home situations which enabled children to thrive.

Be sure to *designate Maui Family Support Services*, when donating to a United Way Campaign, Mahalo!



A Maui United Way
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Caring About Families and Our Community



Family MATTERS

Maui Family Support Services, Inc.

Summer, 1996

One Family's Story

by Milly Boren

Joy Tsubaki tells me about her guardian angel as we sit in her comfortable living room high in the hills above Lahaina town. Her angel is Cookie Chong-Kee, a MFSS Family Facilitator.

"Cookie was there by my side at the hospital. She has been there through my goods and my bads. I don't even want to think what would have happened if she had not been there for me".

With eyes still sleepy from working a late shift last night, Joy remembers, "The beginning was kind of rough because I was at home listening to my mom and trying to decide about my daughter's father. He lived a wild life. He was never around. I couldn't rely on him or his parents".

Joy had just turned seventeen when she gave birth to her daughter, eight years ago. She was swayed by her boyfriend and his parents to drop out of Lahainaluna High School in her junior year to focus on the baby. And then, while on birth control, she became pregnant a second time.

So Joy worked two full-time jobs to support her fledging family. Just eighteen, exhausted and confused, there were times that she "wanted her life over already". Joy said, "Being a teenager, being alone by myself, not having a lot of help from anybody, it was to the point I didn't care what anybody said".

Over an eight year period, Cookie drove Joy to resource appointments, helped her through a rugged divorce, helped find physicians for her children, helped her obtain her GED certificate and sought testing for her son's special needs.

Cookie praised Joy's hard work and resilience, admitting the battle was not always easy, adding, "I'm so proud of Joy. She has learned to be very resourceful. She has learned about responsibility and commitment. She's a strong advocate for her children, and most importantly, a very good mother".

Good News Edition

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Graduation Exercises



Joy Tsubaki and family graduate from Healthy Start

For Joy, the world is a brighter place. You can hear the pride in her voice when she says, "I went from living in a slummy little place to building and owning a new house with my new husband. I told him we better build it big because of the kids".

As she hugs her youngest son, who is still warm and sleepy from a nap, Joy tells me, "You know, I wouldn't change a thing. I'm happy with my kids and my husband. I love them. The kids are my babies, my angels"

❖ *Milly Boren is a recent and welcome addition to MFSS Board of Directors*

Family Resource Fair Wins State Award

The Family Resource Fair, co-sponsored by MFSS and Maui County, has won the Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies Coalition (HMHB) State Award which recognizes outstanding programs that promote maternal and infant health through public education and coalition efforts. Having won the State Award, the Family Resource Fair was nominated for the national awards program sponsored by the

Continued on page 3

LOCAL VOICES



The Spirit of Service

by Bettye S. Williams

Marian Wright Edelman speaks about redefining our personal success to include service and responsibility for others. I guess that's one of the lessons I was learning as a youngster in the "Busy Bee Club" and the "Sunshine Band". The caring adults who led these group activities were giving unselfishly of their time and energy. It's this same spirit of service and caring that marked the highly successful National Stand For Children Day on June 1.

Over 200,000 marched to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. for a rally. On Maui more than 350 came together to personally commit to do more to improve the quality of children's lives. Youth speakers told us about

the kinds of support they need to develop as productive adults, retired Senator Mamoru Yamasaki talked about options for funding children & youth services, Mayor Linda Crockett Lingle provided a proclamation as did Kelly King on behalf of the Board of Education. Senator Avery Chumbley pledged his support to children's issues. Musicians donated their time creating wonderful music and two new songs written just for Maui's rally.

Never before had there been an attempt to organize our entire community in this way and to develop community consensus. The Stand For Children grassroots effort involved parents and grandparents, non-profit agencies, County government, businesses, religious communities and individuals all working in partnership. MFSS was honored to coordinate the event.

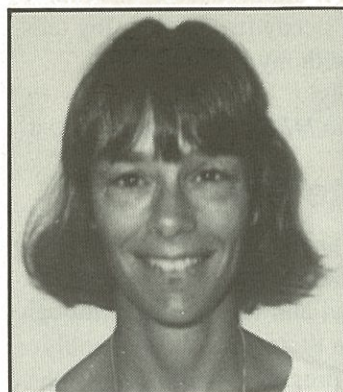
To everyone who came to stand for children; who volunteer with youth groups, team sports and other activities; to those who tutor, mentor or teach children; and to all who work tirelessly on behalf of children and youth, **thank you.**

Today's world is so complex - fraught with dangers and opportunities. Parents need support, children and youth need attention and guidance. Please take the opportunity to be of service by volunteering and supporting groups that work with children. You will be successful.

MFSS Awarded Family Strengthening Grant

Maui Family Support Services was awarded a \$50,000 family strengthening grant from the Hawaii Children's Trust Fund (CTF). The funding will supplement staffing of the Parents As First Teachers Program, allowing an emphasis on children with special needs and their parents.

The CTF was authorized in 1993 by the State Legislature. It is a private/public partnership housed as a component fund of the Hawaii Community Foundation. The mission of CTF "is to ensure that our children develop into healthy, productive, and caring individuals by promoting the advancement of community family strengthening programs. These programs educate, assist, and support families in the prevention of child abuse and neglect".



Outstanding Volunteer and Leader

Congratulations to Michael Guerrero, MFSS Family Facilitator for receiving The Outstanding Volunteer And Leader of The Year Award at the Maui Girl Scouts annual Recognition Dinner. Michael, who leads Central Maui Junior Troop 931, devotes a lot of time and energy to her role as Troop Leader. She organized the children's activities sponsored by the Girl Scouts at the Maui Stand For Children Rally, including the creation of a colorful Rally banner by the girls in her Troop. Michael does all of this in addition to raising two lively children with her husband. Mahalo Michael, for your caring service to our community.

AKAMAI GUIDANCE



"If you give your children love..."

Cookie (Irene) Chong-Kee has been with MFSS for over 8 years, and worked with Joy Tsubaki, featured in the front page story of this issue. *Family Matters* interviewed Ms. Chong-Kee to better understand her role as Family Facilitator.

FM: Mrs. Tsubaki tells how things might have been very different for herself and her children, if it hadn't been for your work as a Family Facilitator. Tell us about the work you do with families receiving MFSS services.

CCK: The goal is to encourage families to become self-reliant. It's important that new parents learn to nurture themselves and their own relationships to best be able to nurture their children. This is difficult for new parents who did not receive this type of parenting as a child.

New parents want information about parenting. They just open up. I provide, and help them understand new information on child development, and I do a lot of modeling, by playing and talking with the baby. Everyone's learning process is different, but they all want what is best for their child. There is a challenge often, in that *their* parents don't agree with new information or philosophy, so I educate the entire family.

FM: What are some of the most important things you tell parents?

CCK: Love your child as yourself. Love yourself. Spend time interacting with your child. Material things are secondary, they do not make up for time and love. If you give your children love, that's what they will give the world. So parents truly are a child's first teacher.

A child is like a little plant. They need to be nurtured mentally, physically and emotionally. Create a healthy, stimulating environment and they will blossom. You will get back what you give. Never, never give up on your children.

FM: Have you found that your work as Family Facilitator affects you personally?

CCK: I've grown by leaps and bounds. I not only teach parents, but I'm always learning from them, too. It helps me be a better Facilitator. I've learned to re-prioritize my own needs, to be more compassionate, patient, and to consider how much time I spend with my own family. I get the ultimate satisfaction of seeing the information I bring to parents put into practice, to create a loving, healthy start for their children. That is a gift for keeps.

All of the Facilitators are working to make a difference. We love the families we work with, in a personal way. There are great opportunities for change and growth but they don't always come easily. Together we can get results. I encourage families to make a difference by sharing the information they have received with other parents.

A great thing about MFSS is the leadership. All the training in the world can't be put into practice, without good leadership, support and encouragement. It is wonderful to be part of this program, truly contributing to the community.

❖ Mrs. Chong-Kee is also a member of The Advisory Committee for Spanish-speaking Women's Health, which received a 1996 community Health Promotion Award for its contribution to Maui's Hispanic community. She has a background in nursing, crisis counseling, and parenting 3 children with her husband Ken.

Family Resource Fair (Continued from page 1)

HMHB National Coalition. The annual Fair is designed to link families served by MFSS with community resources. This year's Fair involved 200 MFSS family members and 28 community agencies, with over \$3,000 in contributions from Maui businesses. The Family Resource Fairs are organized and presented by MFSS staff, coordinated by Lucy Feinberg, Clinical Supervisor, and Bettye Williams, Executive Director.