

THE BACK PAGE

Of the twelve million children under the age of three in the United States today, a staggering number are affected by one or more risk factors that undermine healthy development. One in four lives in poverty. One in four lives in a single-parent family. One in three victims of physical abuse is a baby under the age of one. Carnegie Foundation/Starting Points Report

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Family MATTERS

Maui Family Support Services, Inc. Vol. 4, Issue 2 December, 2000

*Issues
concerning
families with
young children*

20TH ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL REPORT

Forward...into the Future

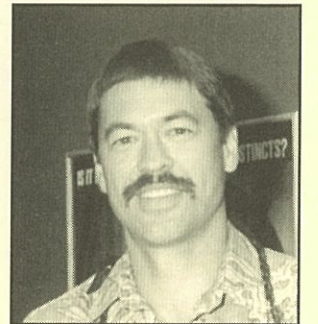
What a proud milestone MFSS has reached! The agency just celebrated 20 years of continuous service to our community. Our last year as a "teenager" opened the door to acquiring a permanent home for agency services and the long-held vision of creating an early childhood service center.

We have completed an Organizational Assessment which lead to changes in MFSS' structure and processing of work tasks. We are continuing with our strategic planning process which will enhance the quality of services, guide and strengthen MFSS for the future. As you will read on page 3, the Capital Campaign is well underway, though we still need much more help from the community. Edy Salenger has been a spectacular Campaign leader.

MFSS is indebted to the Maui Mental Health Association and the Oahu-based Hawaii Family Support Center for our humble beginnings 20 years ago. Both organizations were honored at our recent anniversary celebration. By sustaining us with people, energy and resources, they helped MFSS grow up to be strong, competent and dedicated to its mission of strengthening families and helping keep children safe. These were MFSS' earliest partners and over the years, we have developed cooperative partnerships with hundreds of other community agencies, resources and families.

Acknowledgments for the accomplishments of MFSS are also due to past and current Board members, Staff, and other generous volunteers such as the Capital Campaign Cabinet and RSVP. Our RSVP volunteers process mass mailings like this newsletter and staff our weekly Napili Plaza Craft Fair which is a community partnership with Maui Land and Pineapple. It is a joy to work with Board, Staff and Volunteers who are deeply committed and give so much of themselves.

Thank you to all who help MFSS maintain its distinction as an effective and caring agency with a prominent reputation for excellence. We are looking forward to continuing through the new millennium and invite you to join us.



Michael E. Kim, M.D.



Bettye S. Williams

Michael E. Kim

Michael E. Kim, M.D.
Board President

Bettye S. Williams

Bettye S. Williams
Executive Director

Community



Billianor Family

"I Have a Clear Path Now"

Jimmy Billianor

It's hard to be a single parent of four kids, and it's a challenge.

When my youngest, Dustin, was born in 1996, he had a heart murmur. My MFSS home visitor helped show me how to handle his kind of sickness, and made sure I understood the directions for giving his medications. She also helped with forms I needed to fill-in. Since I've been playing the part of both a mommy and a daddy for the last three years, I had to pick it up real quick, and I'm still at it.

There are a lot of other things that my worker, Claudia, taught me. For instance, how to teach Dustin different colors and his ABCs. It's like Claudia said, it's a game

that you play with your kids, and the more games you play, the more alert they get.

I first heard about MFSS through my doctor. I think if MFSS hadn't helped me, I'd still be at square one. But by talking to Claudia, all of my anger came out. She advised me to calm down, look forward, and think about my kids. Of all the agencies I went to, I got the most leadership and understanding from MFSS. But it's not only the agency that helps you, you have to help yourself. They can guide you, they can give you all the advice they want, but it's you yourself that has to follow-up. And the only way I can accomplish things is by looking forward, not back. Put all that happens to you in the back, and just go straight ahead. If I can do it, I know that a lot of other single parents can do it too.

We have family discussion every Wednesday. Everything comes out on the table. Dislikes, likes, what the kids are looking forward to, their future. My big girl wants to be an attorney. My advice to her is, "Go for that goal. Don't let anyone tell you that you can't make it. Don't let yourself down, go for it." My older son wants to be a policeman. I told him that in order to be a policeman, you have to study hard, and you have to stay out of trouble. He's doing a good job on it. My little girl, she wants to someday be a nurse or a doctor. Dustin wants to be a policeman too. To see that happen, I have to coach them the right way. I always say to my kids, "You can do it."

Right now, my personal situation is more stable than what it was a few years ago. I've been through the worst already. I have a clear path now. Claudia comes to visit us regularly and calls to find out how things are going. I'm happy. Dustin is doing good now. I want him to go to school as soon as possible—he's signed up for Headstart.

My kids can say that I never walked out of their lives. From the hard times we went through until now, I stayed with them.

Family of Friends

Special Community Partnerships

Friends of the Children Advocacy Center 700 Club
Malama Na Keiki Foundation RSVP - Kaunoa Senior Citizens

Family of Friends Members

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MFSS T-shirts for Sale

Artist Pam Andlin's work featured on front.

Limited number of T-shirts available at \$10.50 each or 2 for \$15.50 (Price includes tax). Call 242-0900 to order and arrange pickup.

Join the Family of Friends

I would like to support children and families in our community

I enclose \$1000 \$750 \$500 \$250
 \$150 \$100 \$60 \$ _____
Other _____

For: Building Fund Program Services Both

Please make your check payable to: **Maui Family Support Services, Inc.**

or Charge my VISA Master Card American Express

Account # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

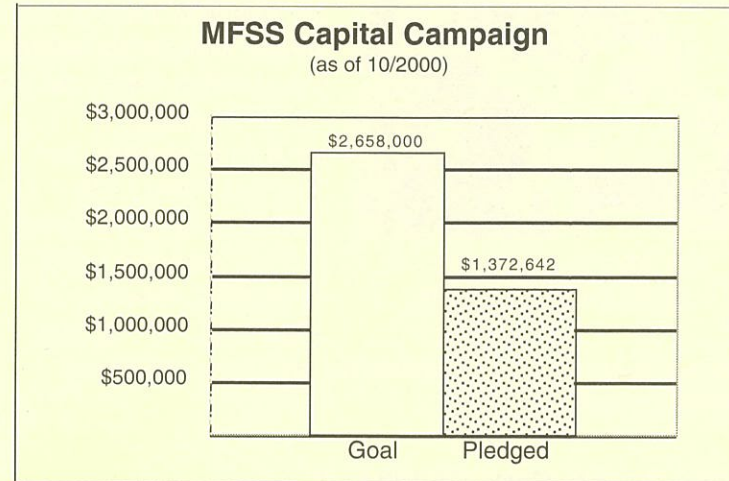
I would like to volunteer to help with special events or in other areas.

Please call me at _____

Family of Friends

Capital Campaign Contributors:

Alexander & Baldwin Foundation, Anne & Jacob Starr Foundation, Atherton Family Foundation, Bank of Hawaii, Banky-La Rocque Foundation, Frank R. Baum, MD, Hilary & Zadoc W. Brown, Jr., Drs. George & Wendy Choi, Steve Clark, MD, Commercial Properties of Maui, Cooke Foundation, Ltd., County of Maui, Scott Crockford, Dr. David Derris, Fred Baldwin Memorial Foundation, James W. Geiger, Esq., Renee & Reane Gonzales, William S. & Alyce B. Haines, Grant E. Howe, Linda Baker Hunter, Hyman & Marjorie Weinberg Foundation, Colleen Inouye, MD, Senator Daniel Inouye, Mary Blaine Johnston, Esq., Michael Kim, MD, Clyde Kono, Kosasa Foundation, Rosalyn Loomis, Esq., Mae McCarter-Alberstein, McInerney Foundation, Joel S. Rand, Edy & Gary Salenger, Harold K.L. Castle Foundation, Samuel N. & Mary Castle Foundation, Susannah Schroll, State of Hawaii, Strong Foundation, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, Bettye S. Williams

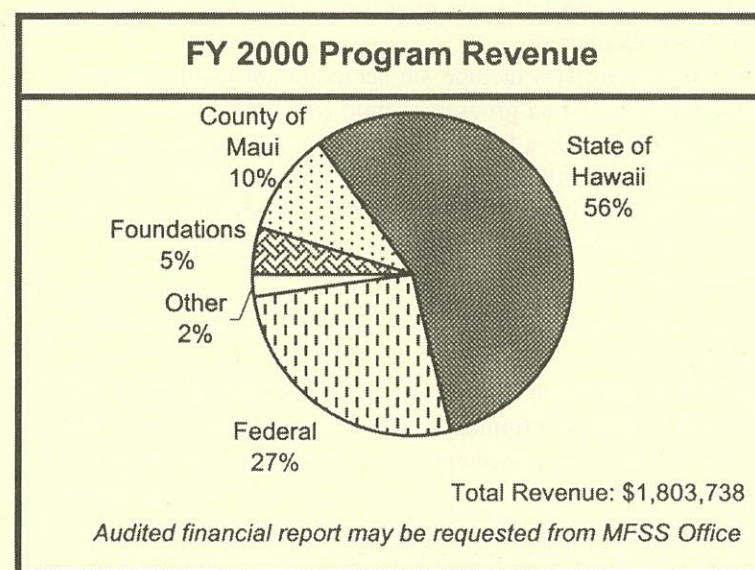


In-kind Donations

Bailey House Museum, Olga Bates, Jody Beatty, Jimmy Billianor, Monty Carpenter, Condominium Rentals Hawaii, Hal Drudge, Kimberly Duro, Kaye Fukumoto, Hillside Shell, Michelle Hisamoto, Rene Housos, Maurice & Yvonne Jo, Alan Kuiper, Mahan Center Woodshop, Anna Mayeda, Bob & Audrey Rodrigues, Michelle Rose, Eugene Tanner, Ana Villa, Dawne Villaverde, Sandra Wagner, Waldorf Haleakala School, County Dept. of Water Supply

Major Financial Support

Atherton Family Foundation,
County of Maui
Administration for Children
& Youth,
Children's Trust Fund,
Dept. of Education,
Dept. of Health,
Dept. of Human Services,
Hawaii Community Foundation,
Maui Hotel Association,
Fred Baldwin Memorial
Foundation,
Samuel N. & Mary Castle
Foundation



Community

Maui Mental Health Association and the Beginning of MFSS

The celebration of Maui Family Support Services' 20th year Anniversary of community service, would not be complete without recognition of how it all began.

In 1978 the Mental Health Association in Maui (MHA/Maui) organized a task force in response to the increased number of child abuse reports. Using seed money from the Hawaii Family Support Center (HFSC) in Honolulu, a Maui Family Support Services (MFSS) desk, staffed by a Vista volunteer, was placed in the MHA/Maui office. The HFSC sent two trainers to Maui to give trainings and develop screening procedures.

By October 17, 1980, MFSS had grown and was granted a charter as a nonprofit corporation. From these early beginnings, MFSS has continued to grow and serve the families and children of our community.

The Mental Health Association in Maui is a nonprofit citizen's organization that receives no government funds so they will be free to advocate for better care and treatment for people suffering from mental illness. Education to help remove the stigma usually associated with mental illnesses is a major role of the Association. The MHA/Maui is located at 95 Mahalani St., Wailuku. They can be reached at 242-6461.

Capital Campaign Update

Edy Salenger, Chair, Capital Campaign Cabinet

We are very excited and grateful for the support the community of Maui and the State of Hawaii have shown for Maui Family Support Services' Capital Campaign. Many people are participating. They are private individuals and also the individuals that make up the foundations, corporations and government agencies that have helped us to move toward our campaign goal of \$2,658,000.

In August, 2000, MFSS became the proud new owner of our office building and the lot next door, in the Wailuku Millyard. We are now in position to continue our campaign to create an *Early Childhood Service Center*. Our work is not done, we still need your help to make this dream come true. When this project is complete, the Center will model a comprehensive, culturally sensitive, family-centered approach while delivering a wide range of services to low income families and at risk families with young children.

Our heartfelt appreciation to all the people who have supported us in the first phase of this campaign. Special thanks goes to the entire Board of Directors and Capital Campaign Cabinet of MFSS, Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Maui County, the State of Hawaii, and the many individuals, charitable foundations and corporations which are listed on page 6 of this newsletter. Thank you all for the great support you have shown so far, let's finish this campaign and leave a legacy that will protect the children and families of Maui in the years ahead.

Programs

All Home Visiting Programs - FY 2000

Families Served 520 Children Served 623
 Families not Confirmed for Child Abuse and Neglect 99%

Family Profile

Age at Admission:

Mother age 20 and under . 30%
 Father age 20 and under . 20%

Education of Mother:

Neither High School
 or GED graduate 22%

Employment:

Mother Employed 42%
 Father Employed 65%

Geographic Location:

Central Maui 38%
 Upcountry 24%
 Kihei/South Maui ... 18%
 Lahaina/West Maui .. 16%
 Hana/East Maui 2%
 Lanai 1%
 Outside Maui or Lanai 2%

Ethnicity of Families:

(As defined by participants)
 Hawaiian 41.0%
 Filipino 22.0%
 Caucasian 13.0%
 Japanese 6.2%
 Other Pacific Islanders 4.8%
 Puerto Rican/Mexican/Hispanic 4.4%
 Other Asian 2.5%
 Portuguese 2.7%
 Other Mixed 3.4%

Healthy Start

The Hawaii Healthy Start Program focuses on three major goals in the development of healthy children and families, and has become an international model.

The goals include increasing parenting skills such as methods of coping, importance of nurturing and positive nonviolent discipline; teaching parents about stages of child development and methods of encouraging optimal development; assisting parents in learning to problem solve and access community resources to alleviate stressors such as domestic violence, homelessness and lack of health insurance.

There is special emphasis on health care practices such as timely immunizations, family planning, early prenatal care, and proper dental habits. Families may enroll during pregnancy or until the infant is 90 days old. Home based services are available on Maui and Lanai and may continue until the child is five years old.

Family Focus

Available to any Maui family with one or more children up to the age of five, Family Focus is an early intervention program aimed at strengthening and supporting families. Assistance is provided through home visiting services and/or information and referral to additional community resources.

Family Focus staff helps strengthen families by promoting good health, positive child development, parent-child interaction and improved parenting skills. They assist parents to create stable, nurturing home environments which reduce family stress.

Early Head Start (EHS)

A Maui and Lanai program with continuous enrollment, Early Head Start is open to low income, pregnant women and families with children up to three years old. Efforts are made to enroll families with special needs children.

Designed to enhance children's physical, social, emotional and cognitive development, EHS works to enable parents to be better caregivers of, and teachers to, their children. The program also works to assist parents in reaching their own goals, such as economic independence.

Parental involvement is critical to the program's decision-making process and parents participate on the Policy Council and Parent Committees.

Early Identification Team

The Early Identification (EID) team is on the job seven days a week. At Maui Memorial Medical Center, EID facilitators talk to all new parents who consent to assessments of their strengths, needs and concerns. The Team accepts referrals from physicians, professionals or other community resources.

When appropriate, the family may be offered MFSS home visitation services and given a prenatal or After Birth packet outlining many of the services available to families with young children in Maui County.

Early Identification

EID Screenings ... 1,615
 EID Assessments ... 655
 EID Admissions ... 192

Programs

Parents as First Teachers (PAFT)

The focus of the Parents As First Teachers (PAFT) program is on preparing parents to be their child's first teacher. This is accomplished through parent education, training and developmental assessments.

Child development staff present classes to MFSS Family Facilitators and prepares projects that promote parent-child interaction and benefit child development. Facilitators use these projects in their home visits, working directly with parents and children. Such activities may center on art with the use of colors, shapes and symbols or learning through music.

PAFT organizes a program of activities for Tots and Parents Day events, which are designed to bring families together to socialize, share resources, provide support,



New Mom Tishre Prentice with MFSS Family Facilitators

discuss specific areas of parent/child interaction and current health and safety issues.

Maui County Early Childhood Resource Team (MCECRT)

The Maui County Early Childhood Resource Team believes that the early years of a child's life are critically important to his/her healthy growth and development and eventual success in school and later years. Therefore, the team, along with a local community council, strives to improve the availability, affordability and quality of early care and education for children, from birth to five years old, in Maui County.

Current projects include, an accreditation mentor project for early childhood programs, child care subsidies to working families, a family education project at Makawao School, childbirth "reunion" classes, start up help for new playgroups and assistance to licensed and unlicensed child care providers and programs. For more information call 242-1608.

MCECRT

Public engagement contacts (families and individuals) .. 805
 Early childhood information sharing/referral contacts .. 350
 Parent education workshops 170 families
 Child care subsidy..... 28 children
 Child care subsidy (phone intakes and counseling) 360

Lanai Perinatal Services

Due to the lack of birthing facilities on Lanai, this unique outreach Service has been designed to be available to all pregnant women on the island. Services include early identification of pregnancy, education about prenatal care and planning for birth, which are all essential for a healthy delivery.

Through weekly contact and monthly visits, MFSS staff offers pregnant women a trusting relationship, coordinates services with other care agencies, and addresses health risks that can be minimized through appropriate medical care, good nutrition and health habits, not using detrimental substances and childbirth education.

Follow-up after birth involves teaching parents about child development, parenting skills, family planning and the importance of regular medical health practices such as immunizations and checkups.

Lanai Perinatal Services

Women Served 22
 Age Range:
 15 yrs., 10 mos. - 41 yrs., 5 mos.

Parents as First Teachers

Contacts 2,035
 Parent-Child/Child Development Screens 652
 Training Sessions for Parents 9
 Developmental Delayed Infants and
 Toddlers Receiving Coordination 45

THE BACK PAGE

A 1998 RAND study found that for every \$1 spent on early childhood services, such as those offered by MFSS, \$7 are saved in later years through reduced social, educational and criminal justice services. Prevention is cost effective. MFSS needs your investment in children now.

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Newsletter Editor

Marsha Cavin

"We are the keiki `o ka `aina o Hawai`i nei . . . rainbow children of our special island home. We need the whole island village . . . to help each of us grow . . . so that we can malama (care) for the future . . . the next generation of keiki, yet to unfold."

-- Auntie Kalani Ho`omalulu

"I don't know what these young girls would do if MFSS didn't help them."

-- Department of Education Teen Pregnancy Center Staff

"(A Home Visitor) provided positivity in my negative, scary and hard-to-deal-with situation. All in all, I don't know what I would have done without her. And there are less arguments between my husband and I."

-- A MFSS Parent

"I feel good supporting MFSS; the agency really does make a difference where it counts. I feel I am contributing to a better future for the entire community."

-- Family of Friends Member

Family Matters is published quarterly by **Maui Family Support Services**
Phone: Maui (808) 242-0900/Fax (808) 249-2800; Lanai (808) 565-7484



Family MATTERS

Maui Family Support Services, Inc. Vol. 4, Issue 1 March 2000

Issues concerning families with young children

Good Investment – Positive Results!

Stable families are an asset to the community. Parents who are confident and effective in handling their responsibilities are more likely to raise children who will be caring and responsive community members.

Family life has changed over the past 30 years. Parents often do not have neighbors or an extended family nearby to offer support. Concerns about underemployment or none, substance abuse, domestic violence and unresolved stress are daily burdens some families try to cope with.

Children learn and grow in the family's everyday life. In the best of circumstances, raising children may be demanding and frustrating. All parents need a support system and for many of today's vulnerable families, support is crucial.

Maui Family Support Services offers home visiting support to overburdened families.

Last year our programs served 5,900 families, helping them increase their ability to meet family needs, resolve concerns, learn where to get other help, and become more self reliant.

Our mission is to promote healthy family functioning by providing supportive services which build on family strengths. Our prevention and early intervention programs seek to break the cycle of abuse and disadvantage, and to keep family difficulties from becoming chronic and expensive public problems.

Are you looking for a good investment? Here are just some of the positive results we have seen in families we work with . . .

- ◆ a low rate of child abuse (less than 1%)
- ◆ higher employment
- ◆ less need for public assistance
- ◆ fewer unplanned pregnancies
- ◆ regular use of preventative health services
- ◆ increased high school completion, especially among teen parents

Many of you know the African proverb, "It takes a whole village to raise a child." As part of our Maui County village, we need your help to keep up with the growing demand for client services. These days, it's especially important that we spend our money wisely. Joining MFSS' Family of Friends is a wise investment which will pay rich dividends in the quality of family and village life.

Please help us reach our goal of 1,000 members in this first year of the new millennium! We urge you to invest in children, in families, and in our community. Please fill out the enclosed envelope and send it with your check today. If you have already made a millennium investment, we thank you again. Call or drop by and visit us if you would like to know more about the great return on your investment.



Bettye S. Williams

Michael E. Kim M.D.

Michael E. Kim, M.D.
Board President

Bettye S. Williams

Bettye S. Williams
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Features

Violence Hurts!

Marcia Hartsock, University of Hawaii, Center on the Family
(from the KIDS: You Can't Beat 'Em! Campaign)

Violence of all kinds, including child abuse, has increased dramatically over the years. Experiencing violence creates fear, which can have negative effects on a child's developing brain, creating learning problems. Our children are flooded with harmful messages these days, in their own (or neighbor's) homes, through television, and with their friends. These harmful messages hurt everyone.

What gets passed on to our children is important. We each have a part to play in making sure children have good examples to follow as they grow up. Children learn from us by watching what we do and listening to what we say. Whether we're single or married, young or old, well-off or struggling, we can do something to curb violence and make a difference. Remember, the more often children see positive behaviors, such as people being friendly and cooperative, the more likely it is that they will copy them.

Have you ever thought about what children might be learning from you? Do you promote harm or violence of any kind? Use the list below to check your attitudes and actions – ask yourself whether you do some of these things:

- ♦ I take time to find out what the messages are in the books I read to children and the video games I buy for them.
- ♦ I am careful not to over-expose children to violent or adult-rated movies.
- ♦ I am careful not to use my size to control or intimidate children.
- ♦ I am careful to minimize the amount of time, money and attention I give to movies and other forms of entertainment that show violence.
- ♦ I avoid exposing family members to suggestions of violence. For example, I don't buy toys designed for violent use, such as guns.

Be sure you're doing all you can to eliminate violence in your home and neighborhood.

“Humans are basically good”

Michael E. Kim, M.D., Board President

I grew up with the philosophy that *humans are basically good*. Over time, experience has shown me that this basic goodness can get buried under the stresses of life. We all know the stress of overwork and financial worry, while substance abuse and unemployment are growing community concerns. For many families, the additional stress of a new child leaves parents overwhelmed. Maui Family Support Services helps to reduce stress by showing families how to cope with stressful issues, by teaching positive parenting skills, and by connecting families to other appropriate community resources.

My thanks to our hard-working, dedicated Staff and Board. And once again, thanks to our community and Family of Friends for your continuing support. You can all be proud that your contribution has helped reduce stress for many families and allowed for basic human goodness to express itself.

Features

MFSS taught me to be a positive person

by Mona Lisa Delapinia, Parent
(Reprinted from *Family Matters*, Winter 1995)

I enrolled in MFSS when I was fifteen. A lady from the agency visited me in the hospital when I gave birth to my first child. She gave me pamphlets on parenting and on dealing with stress, which helped a lot, as I didn't know much about being a mother.

Another lady from MFSS named Stacey visited me a couple of weeks later. It was very nice to have her come to see how the baby and I were doing. I had a lot of questions about parenting. I could have talked to my parents, but this was different . . . I felt like I was talking to a friend that I could confide in. During the years to come, I didn't consider Stacy as my “worker”, but as a very close friend.

I still went to school because I was determined to graduate. A couple of months after I gave birth, I was pregnant again, and MFSS helped a lot during those hard times. Most of all, Stacey's visits meant that I could talk about any problems that I had, with someone who would understand what I was going through and who would help me in a positive way.

After I graduated from high school and moved out of my parents' home, I still had the agency to help me. I remember going to MFSS family parties and beach days. The kids would have lots of fun with games and prizes, while learning things in a positive way. I enjoyed it because it was a chance for me to talk with other moms and share experiences. It was a chance to relax and learn new things. There was frequently an interesting speaker; I love to listen to people who have wisdom they can share and help me in my area of need. And the food was great. Still is!

MFSS has taught me to be a positive person. By listening to their wisdom, I have grown to become a mature person. MFSS has given me and my family love, support and understanding. I think there are a lot of families out there who really need this kind of support. It's great to know that MFSS is still helping families. They have done a terrific job helping me and my family, and I'm proud to be a part of Maui Family Support Services.



The Perry/Ruiz family graduating from MFSS' Healthy Start Program.
Home Visitor Dolly Hinau, center top.