



# Family Matters

Volume 11, Issue 1

April 2008

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## 2nd Annual Fatherhood Celebration

Maui Family Support Services is inviting the public to a fun-filled day of activities celebrating fathers, uncles, tutus, brothers, stepfathers, and all men that care for children. Our second Annual Fatherhood Celebration promotes the importance of fatherhood involvement in our children's lives.

This event is also designed to educate our community to better understand the importance of a healthy family. There will be activities focus-

ing on positive interactions between all caregivers and their children.

You can come and enjoy musical entertainment by 2006 Grammy Award winner, George Kahumoku, Jr. and other local artists. In addition, there's free food, fun games, prizes, pool access, and great information for parents!

The event will be held on Sunday, June 1st 2008 at the War Memorial Soccer

Field from 1 pm to 5 pm.

For more information, call Roy at 242-0900 ext. 279.



"A dad is someone who picks you up when you fall, brushes you off, and lets you try again. A dad is someone who holds you when you cry, shines with pride when you succeed, and has faith in you even when you fail..."

Unknown

## Best Places to Work in Hawaii



Kehau Kaleiohi, FSW; Daphne Ladia, Program Specialist; Zina Andrade, Admin Supervisor strike a pose while preparing for the Participant Holiday Party.

MFSS received an Award of Merit from Mayor Mufi Hannemann of Honolulu in recognition of its being selected as one of the Best Places to Work in Hawaii. Out of over 185 Hawaii companies that signed up to par-

ticipate, MFSS was one of the 69 companies that made Hawaii Business Magazine's 2008 "Best Places to Work." MFSS ranked 21st in the medium company category.

The "Best Places to Work in Hawaii" program was free and open to all organizations. Participating companies must have at least 25 employees working in Hawaii. Employees were asked to answer 66 confidential survey questions, which were used to evaluate the employee's

workplace experience and company culture. The questions focus areas are: leadership and planning, culture and communication, role satisfaction, work environment, relationship with supervisor, training and development, pay and benefits, and overall satisfaction.

Thank you to all MFSS employees for your hard work and perseverance!!!

"A smile is an inexpensive way to change your look"

Charles Gordy

## Playing with Play dough and Legos

As a parent you can support healthy child development. Children are not born with fine motor control. The process begins early when infants and toddlers reach for and grasp objects. But development and coordination of wrist and finger muscles - necessary for handwriting later - come slowly and require lots of practice.

Adults can help children develop fine motor control by providing appropriate materials. Play dough and Legos are great materials.

One of the many skills learned through playing with playdough and Legos

is the development of strength and dexterity in hands. Simply through pinching, rolling, and shaping play dough, children develop strength in finger and wrist muscles. Connecting Legos together develops hand muscles and the pincer grasp, the touching of the thumb and fingers that is important for holding pens, silverware, brushes, and other tools.

Play dough and Legos are both open-ended materials. These materials not only help develop fine motor skills but also provide opportunities for practice and discovery of many math-related skills.

Both materials provide hours of enjoyment, many ways to enhance fine motor skills, and great opportunities for intellectual development.



### Play Dough Recipe

1 cup flour	1/2 cup salt
2 teaspoons cream of tartar	1 tablespoon oil
1 cup water	food coloring
Flavor extracts (optional)	

Mix flour, salt, and cream of tartar in saucepan. Mix water with oil, food coloring (and extract) and add to flour mixture. Cook at medium high heat until sticky and starts to form a ball. Stir constantly. Put mixture on counter and knead with hands for a few minutes.

Be careful - it's **HOT!!!**

Store in airtight bag/container.

## Staying Safe While Having Fun Under The Sun

The weather is warming up, the days are longer and there's more time to be outside doing all kinds of fun things! But if you're going to be out in the sun, especially on a hot day, you need to stay safe. Here are some tips on how to be safe.

- **Don't Feel the Burn**

Even though the sun is hot, it does cool things. It keeps us warm. It makes flowers and plants grow. It even gives us Vitamin D so we can better absorb calcium into our bodies for strong bones.

To prevent sunburns, always wear sunscreen. Use sunscreen with an SPF rating of 15 or higher. The letters SPF stand for Sun Protection Factor, and the number rating tells you how much longer you can stay in the sun without getting sunburned. Reapply sunscreen at least every 2

hours. Do this more often if you've been swimming or sweating a lot - even if the sunscreen is waterproof. And take frequent breaks from the sun by going indoors or moving into the shade.

- **Drink Up!**

Drinking water is an important part of staying healthy, especially when it is hot outside. When you're sweating, you lose water that your body needs to work properly. And if you're playing or running around in the sun, you lose even more water, because you sweat that much

more. There are lots of cool-looking water bottles around, so get one you really like, fill it up and drink up!

Don't forget that your eyes need protection from the sun, too. Always wear sunglasses in the bright sun.



## Keiki Safety

**To get more info  
about toy recalls  
call**

**1-800-638-2772**

**or visit**

**[www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)**

### Lead in Toys - Why the recent toy recalls...

We have been seeing repeated recalls of often familiar toys that we buy for our children and they play with everyday.

#### Why such a big fuss?

Lead is a naturally-occurring metal found in the earth. It is used by many industries for a variety of reasons. It is difficult to detect because it cannot be seen, tasted or smelled.

If it is something found in nature why is it so dangerous?

Lead can harm your children in the following ways:

- Decreased growth
- Poor muscle coordination
- Learning disabilities
- Hyperactivity
- Memory problems
- Decreased IQ scores

*When levels are extremely high, it can cause seizures, coma and death.*

There are two ways that Lead can be used when making toys:

**Paint:** Many other countries still use lead in their products. Most of our products and toys are made in other countries.

**Plastic:** Lead is often used to make plastic toys more flexible and heat resistant. The use of lead in plastic has not been banned in the U.S.

Talk to your pediatrician about having your child's lead levels tested

## Do you know the Car Seat and Booster Seat Laws?

### Car Seats: Children Under 4 years old

- Children under 4 years old, riding in a motor vehicle, must be in a federally approved child safety seat.

### Booster Seats: Children 4-8 years old

- Use for children between the ages of four and eight, who weighs between 40 pounds (18.1 kilograms) and 80 pounds (36.3 kilograms). Kids should continue using the booster seat until they are 4'9" tall and weigh at least 80 pounds.
- Use until the vehicle lap and shoulder belt fit correctly. (The lap belt should fit low and snug on their hips, and the shoulder belt should not cross over a child's face or neck.)
- Never put the shoulder belt behind a child's back or under their arm.
- A high back or low back booster with no shield may be used.

**The driver is held responsible for compliance with the law. Violators of Hawaii's Child Passenger Restraint Law are required to attend a 4-hour class and may be assessed a fine of between \$100-\$500 depending upon the number of offenses. However, the most compelling reason for using a booster seat is the safety of your child.**

## Program Updates!!!

### ROKK

The first Raising Our Keiki's Keiki (ROKK) group was held in December 2007. Since then, groups of grandparents have come together for support and education about raising their grandchildren. During the group tutus were able to share challenges and joys of raising and caring for their grandchildren. It is a fun, very informal, and relaxing time to get together and realize that grandparents who are raising their keiki's keiki are not alone and "ROKK!"

To all the Kupunas, Abuelas & Abuelos, Nanas & Tatas come join us. The next group will be on Wednesday, May 21, 2008, from 9 am to 11 am at the MFSS office. A selection of morning munchies will be served, so bring your appetite and stories to share.

For more information, call Patty at 242-0900 ext. 270.

### The SPOT

The Support for Parents of Twins and more (The SPOT) group began meeting in January. Several mothers of twins attended. One mom is expecting, another has adult twins, and our coordinator, Edel, has 2 year-old twins. The expecting mom got information on subjects, such as creating a birthing plan, feeding and breastfeeding, how to tell the twins apart, how to involve the dad, and other preparations such as child care when returning to work. Participants shared resources and tips on raising twins or other multiples.

If you are a caregiver, expecting or raising twins or more, and would like support or just want to share your experiences, come join us on Thursday, May 29, 2008, from 3 pm to 5 pm, at MFSS Office.

For more information, call Edel at 242-0900 ext. 241

## Healthy Start Special Luncheon

On January 8, 2008, Hawaii Healthy Start network had a special luncheon for members of the Legislature. It was co-sponsored by Senator Roz Baker and Representative Josh Green, MD.

Representing Maui was parent, Jennifer Hunt, along with her 10-month old son, Kin, and Director of Program Services, Lucy Feinberg.

Jennifer told the Legislature what Healthy Start has meant to her and the great support she has felt from the program. She expressed her thanks for being asked to speak saying that she "enjoyed learning about the inner workings

of things, like who gives the funding and how they decide." She was the best speaker of the event without a doubt!

This was a first for the Network and the nine members of the Legislature who attended saw it as very informative. We are planning to do a similar presentation next year.

The needs of Healthy Start families continue to grow and become more complex, and we must help the Legislature understand the continued importance of Healthy Start to the families across the islands.



"While we try to teach our children all about life, our children teach us what life is all about."

Unknown



## Participant's Holiday Party - Dec. 21, 2007

The Participants' Holiday Party took place at Maui Family Support Services on December 21, 2007. We had 140 adults and children attend. The families received books provided by Reading is Fundamental (RIF), took photos with Santa, participated in numerous fun activities, and joined the MFSS staff for a meal and dessert.

The men joined Roy, our Fatherhood Coordinator, outside under the tent, to talk story and make wooden tool boxes for their children.



We would like to thank the following for their generous donations which made the event a success and helped us bring holiday cheers to all the families we serve:

- The fabulous EHS Team for coordinating the event
- All MFSS staff and volunteers
- Staff of Condominium Rentals Hawaii.
- Kiwanis Club of Kahului
- The Mayor Alan Arakawa Kokua Fund for financially supporting the event
- Alvin Jardine and Bernard Paet of Bentos and Banquets by Bernard for the generous donation of food and supplies
- The Maui News
- MCM Sales
- Andrea and Byron Reeves
- Jody Kele
- Jocelyn DeCoite



- Alby Vierra
- Leanne Ventura
- Byron and Virginia Gonsalves of Upcountry Plumbing and Repairs
- LaDonna and Dan Gubitz
- Dan and Vicki Baston

"The biggest adventure you can ever take is to live the life of your dreams."

Oprah Winfrey

## Mahalo for an AWESOME Holiday!!!

We would like to send a big Mahalo out to all the people and agencies who made the 2007 Holiday Season brighter for our participants.

Haleakala Waldorf School started the Holiday Season with their annual food drive to benefit MFSS families. Families were able to come to the MFSS office and pick up food for before the Thanksgiving Holiday. Staff also brought food bags to the families who were unable to come pick up food.

The Kiwanis Club of South Maui, Big Kmart, and the Maui Police

Department once again sponsored the Shop With A Cop event held on December 16th, at Big Kmart. 61 children benefited from this awesome event.

Staff of the Mayor's Office coordinated a donation drive within their office to benefit MFSS families. Donations of new and gently used toys, clothes and other items were donated by the staff rather than giving gifts to each other during the holiday.

Once again many MFSS participants were recipients of the Friends of the Children's Justice Center Gift Giveaway, with gifts

being distributed to the children of MFSS families in Maui County.

"I felt very lucky and very blessed that people I didn't know cared enough to send gifts for my child. The toys were age appropriate and an unexpected joy." said one mom from Lanai Healthy Start.



## Staff Spotlight ... Early Head Start

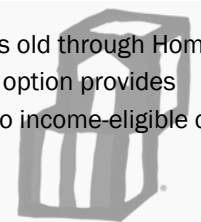


*Left to Right, Top:* Arlene Tendo, Parent Child Educator (PCE); Bethany Wren, Caregiver; Tanya Baston, Center-Based Program Supervisor; Christine Nakao, Caregiver; Jeannine Gines, Caregiver; Kuuipo Gonsalves, PCE; Gail Raikes, EHS Program Manager

*Bottom:* Alethea Lee, Parent Involvement Facilitator; Chantel Pacheco-Teeter, Caregiver; Linda Corden, Caregiver, Edeluisa Baguio-Larena, Home-Based Program Supervisor; Cyntia Pennington, PCE.

*Not Shown:* Denise Miya, PCE

Early Head Start offers services to moms-to-be and to families with children up to 36 months old through Home-Based or Center-Based (Kupukupu Child Development Center) Programs. The Home-Based option provides weekly home visits and twice a month group activities. The Center-Based option is offered to income-eligible children six weeks to three years old. Here's an up-close and personal look at the EHS team:



**Gail Raikes - EHS Program Manager:** "I have been with EHS Program since September 2000 and continue to experience the satisfaction and rewards of being a part of such a vital service to the community. I would not be able to immerse myself in my work without the unconditional love I receive from my husband, my stepson, and our dog and cat."

**Alethea Lee - Parent Involvement Facilitator:** "I am a proud mother of my beautiful 17-month old daughter. I enjoy supporting our parents to become involved in program governance and advocacy for the program. Going to the beach and the Swap meet are things that I enjoy doing in my free time."

## Early Head Start - Home Based

**Edel Baguio-Larena - Home-Based Program Supervisor:** “I have been with MFSS for 6 years. It’s very fulfilling to see families achieve their goals and to see babies grow and develop. I have two beautiful 28-months old children, they’re twins - one boy and one girl. When not working, I love spending time with my husband and my children.”

**Kuuiopo Gonsalves - Parent Child Educator:** “I have worked for MFSS for 7 years. I enjoy working with parents and children making a difference in their lives. On my personal time, I enjoy helping my nephews be involved in all of their sporting activities.”

**Arlene Tendo - Parent Child Educator:** “I have worked as a Parent Child Educator for more than 2 years at MFSS. Meeting new families and having them warmly receive me to help and be a part of their lives has been very rewarding. I wake up each morning with a positive attitude and am thankful for my many blessings.”

**Cynthia Pennington - Parent Child Educator:** “I am a mother of two wonderful kids, a 12 years old girl and a teenager boy who is 15. I enjoy reading, exercising and spending time with my family. As a new employee at MFSS, I look forward, along with my team, to make a positive impact in the lives of parents and their children...”

## Early Head Start - Center Based

**Tanya Baston - Center-Based Program Supervisor:** “My favorite part of doing what I do is watching both the children and staff grow and develop. I truly feel blessed to be a part of such a wonderful team. When I’m not at the center I enjoy spending time with my own two children and my family.”

**Christine Nakao - Caregiver:** “I enjoy staying home and relaxing when I’m off. I read a lot and I surf the internet. Soon I’ll be starting online classes to help me further my career. Once a week, I go bowling in a league. It’s nice to know that I had a part of all this learning that the children are doing, it makes me feel so proud.”

**Rosa Alvarez - Caregiver:** “I moved to Maui 5 years ago from San Jose, CA. I have been blessed with 3 children and 3 grandchildren. I am currently working on my CDA. I enjoy work in the center with the children and the opportunity of being part of the children’s lives and watching them grow from infants to toddlers.”

**Bethany Wren - Caregiver:** “I have been working at MFSS for almost a year now. I like working with children because I love watching them develop and grow and knowing that I contributed to their development. Children are a true blessing and I could not see myself working with anyone but children. “

**Jeannine Gines - Caregiver:** “I enjoy working with children because it is a joy for me to see the infants and toddlers grow and see their progress in learning and developing in many different ways. I could not ask for a better job than working with children.”

**Chantel Pacheco Teeter - Caregiver:** “I’ve been working in the Kupukupu Center for about a year and a half. I enjoy working with the kids and their parents. I love kids because they are really interesting and very smart and you can learn something from them everyday.”

**Linda Corden - Caregiver:** “I absolutely love children and working with children makes me happy and gives my life meaning. I want the children to feel comfortable when they are at the center with me, so I treat them as if they were my own children. I like coming to work because I like the staff and the environment.”

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Maui Family Support Services, Inc.  
1844 Wili Pa Loop  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

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*...because keiki matter...*

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

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

Please call me at \_\_\_\_\_

*Visit us online at [www.mfss.org](http://www.mfss.org)*

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*Please inform MFSS of name and/or address changes*

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# Family Matters

## 28th Annual Report

Volume 11, Issue 2

...because keiki matter...

November 2008

### From Our Board President... Dr. Michael E. Kim



Maui Family Support Services, along with many other non-profit organizations in Hawaii, received steep funding cuts from the State. The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities recently reported that at least

29 states face an estimated \$48 billion in combined shortfalls in their budgets for the new fiscal year. Hawaii wasn't even on their list.

"Expenditure cuts and tax increases are problematic policies during an economic downturn, because they reduce overall demand and can make the downturn deeper. When states cut spending, they lay off employees, cancel contracts with vendors, eliminate or lower payments to businesses and non-profit organizations that provide direct services, and cut bene-

fit payments to individuals."

On the other hand, we know that economic downturns create financial stresses that can increase social stresses. With the need for more services to lower social stresses at hand, the ability to provide those services is hampered by funding cuts.

However, we at MFSS are committed to the win-win situation and will do our best to provide the best possible services, because children, families and our community are that important.

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### 13th Annual Stand for Children Celebration and Rally

The National Stand for Children Campaign began in 1995 in Washington, DC. It advocates for child care, schools and other essential programs that give children a fair chance in life.

Sponsored by MFSS, this annual event is part of an ongoing effort to bring attention and support to the children and families of our community.

Maui's 13th Annual Stand for Children Celebration and Rally was held on Saturday, Sept 20th at the Queen Ka'ahumanu Shopping Center.

Along with MFSS, thirteen other community agencies participated with tables providing activities for parents and children and information about resources that are available in our community.

The Honorable Mayor, Charmaine Tavares, attended and presented the Proclamation declaring Sept 20th as Maui Stand for Children Day.

**If you or your Agency would like to participate in or help with next years Stand For Children, please call 242-0900 (Leinell) ext. 266 or (Roy) ext. 279**



Thank you to the following for being a part of this annual rally:

- Kamehameha Maui Preschool
- Maui Community College HS/EC Program
- Na Keiki Makamae O Ka Nani Papa Ukulele Group
- Island Warriors Freestyle Fighting Academy
- Queen Ka'ahumanu Center \* TIFFE \* Maui Family YMCA
- MPD Community Relations \* Child and Family Services
- Children of the Rainbow \* Horizons Academy
- MEO Head Start \* Neighborhood Place of Wailuku
- Hui Malama Learning Center \* Good Beginnings
- Maui Tang Soo Do \* Guitarist Steve Monroe
- Zenshin Daiko Drummers
- Maui Training Center Capoeira

"if we don't stand up for children, then we don't stand for much"  
-Mirian Wright Edelman

## 2nd Annual Celebration of Fatherhood



In celebration of Father's and Male Caregivers, MFSS held the 2nd Annual Celebration of Fatherhood on June 1st at War Memorial Soccer Field.

This wonderful family event highlights the important role of all male caregivers.

Families enjoyed free popcorn, shave ice, lunch, and other goodies throughout the day as

they listened to wonderful entertainment provided by George Kahumoku, Jr., Maui Kila Kila with Wesley Furamoto, Ohana and Abrigo Ohana.

Keiki enjoyed the bouncing castle, swimming in the War Memorial pool, petting the dogs at the Maui Humane Society AniMobile Adoption van, visits with the Backyardigans, Dora the Explorer and Diego, as well as the various games and activities provided by MFSS and the 16 other agencies that participated in this event.

Thank you to the following for helping us make this event a success: Kiwanis Club, Neighborhood Place of Wailuku, Planned Parenthood, TIFFE, WIC, Waipuna Chapel Youth Group, Friends of the Children's Justice Center, Good Beginnings, Hui No Ke Ola Pono, Imua, Alcoholics Anonymous, Big Brothers-Big Sisters,

Child & Family Services, Community Children's Council Office, Community Clinic of Maui, and Dept. of Health Family Planning Education Services.

This event was funded by Hawaii Children's Trust Fund with support from the Kent & Polli Smith Fund, The National Responsible Fatherhood Initiative & the County of Maui.

**We are currently looking for sponsors for next year's event in June 2009. If you are interested in being a sponsor or would like to participate, please contact Roy at 242-0900 ext. 279.**



## The 1st Maui Fatherhood Forum

As part of our goal to promote responsible fatherhood, MFSS sponsored the Fatherhood Forum held on August 8, 2008 at the Dunes at Maui Lani.

The fatherhood forum brought together over 45 individuals from 12 different Maui and Big Island organizations that provide services to families.

We were honored to have Chris Beard, the Director of the National Responsible Fatherhood Capacity Building Initiative (NRFCCI) out of Washington DC, as our guest speaker. Chris discussed how the U.S. Government is taking steps to promote responsible fatherhood by providing fi-

nancial assistance to agencies that serve families. He also advocated for an increased focus at the local level of our state/county government, community leaders, businesses, and agencies to pull together and make responsible fatherhood a priority for the lives of all children.

Also sharing at the forum were Carole Vida of MEO Head Start Male Involvement Program and Greg Dela Cruz of Neighborhood Place of Wailuku, and hosts Jani Sheppard, CEO of MFSS, and Roy DeLyon, Fatherhood Involvement Team Coordinator at MFSS.

Maui Family Support Services has been recently awarded a grant

from the NRFCCI. Out of 300 applicants, only 25 agencies were chosen from across the nation. This grant will allow MFSS to increase services provided to fathers and male caregivers within Maui County.



## Grupo Hispanico: Spanish Group



Healthy Start's Grupo Hispanico (Hispanic Group) is providing opportunities for Hispanic families to socialize with each other, connect to available resources and continue to be aware of and improve their family and cultural strengths.

As Hispanic backgrounds are very diverse, coming from many different areas

and regions, from Spain to the Caribbean, Mexico, Central and South America, the GH team embraces all families of Hispanic culture.

Grupo Hispanico provides variety of activities. The families met in Maalaea for a day of underwater sea adventures, courtesy of the Maalaea Ocean Center. The families had such a great experience we decided to continue meeting. In 2008, the group came together for a potluck at Keopuolani Park. The families shared their cultural backgrounds, reminisced, played Latin games and sang traditional childhood songs from their different cultures. After a good work-

out from playing, everyone enjoyed handmade tortillas and spicy casseroles! The Grupo Hispanico team has also facilitated a Sugar Train ride in Lahaina, a picnic at the beach, a swim meet at the Lahaina Aquatic Center and meetings at the Lahaina Women's Shelter and the Lahaina Civic Center.

The GH team focuses on addressing issues that impact family functioning and child rearing practices since these families also face particular challenges because of language, cultural, political, social,

and economic barriers. Presentation topics and guest speakers have included information on resources such as MEO Hispanic Link, Na Loio Center for Immigrant Rights, Hui Malama Learning Center and Women Helping Women.

For more info, **please contact Ave at 242-0900 ext. 235**



## A note from Jani . . .



*L. Jani Sheppard, CEO*

Challenge can give birth to opportunity under the right circumstances. MFSS has experienced extreme challenges fueled by deep funding cuts coupled with increased demand for services. We have to do more with less ... mirroring the circumstance of the families that we serve.

In the midst of these challenges, and in the little time there is to reflect on them, I am struck by the power and commitment of those who care. Despite fewer staff and less funding, the passion and commitment of the staff, Board and other volunteers to serve children and families in our community has not wavered! We have been reminded that it is not always what a group of people do when things are going well that defines their character and passion, but what they do when things are not easy and when things are challenging. The MFSS team has demonstrated that they are truly committed to serving children and families, despite the circum-

stances. As you read through this newsletter and see just a snapshot of the wonderful services MFSS provides, we ask that you look for an opportunity within these challenging times: an opportunity to participate in a movement with others who are passionate about ensuring strong and healthy children and families in our community. There is an opportunity to donate your time or finances, an opportunity to participate in advocacy for funding, volunteer time for childcare while parents participate in groups, donate goods or services for the Annual Holiday Party attended by over 250 children and families...just give us a call and we'll find a place for

you to take the opportunity to share your gifts and talents to help others.

With the commitment of the MFSS team, and your generous support, we *will* get through these challenging times because that is who we are as a community . . . and our children and families deserve no less.

Mahalo for your support and our very best to each of you for a joyful and peace-filled holiday season!





## MFSS Service Impact: Participant Spotlight

Maui Family Support Services has had the opportunity to serve many families through our various programs. Here's what some families have shared about their experience with MFSS.

Rochelle and her daughter Samantha live on Lanai. Rochelle shares: "MFSS has helped to make the first 3 years less stressful. Nora, our Family Support Worker was very kind to us, thank you to Nora for all the help and support that you gave me and my daughter. Through your help and this program, I have reached my goals for Samantha and now she is so excited and ready to go to preschool! I hope you can help more families in Lanai to learn about child development and most of all to help parents and their children to be ready and face the future without any fear."



ROKK is for grandparents who are raising their grandkids or a caregiver to their grandkids. Next meeting is on Jan. 21st at MFSS office

For more info, call Patty at 242-0900 ext. 270.

A member of the Raising Our Keiki's Keiki (ROKK), Glenda, shared "I'm very grateful for the grandparents support group. For some time, I've thought to myself "wouldn't it be wonderful if there was such a thing as a grandparents support group," then lo and behold, I found it listed at the Office of Aging. It's been really great connecting with other grandparents, telling our stories and sharing our experiences. I find that we share many of the same concerns and joys as grandparents and it's good to know we're not alone. When we come together there is so much wisdom to be gained and the group is very supportive. I'm thankful that this group is now a part of my life.

Vibe shares "I signed up with MFSS because I was pregnant with baby no. 5. I was assigned to Melanie as my FSW. I had numerous visits with her while I was pregnant and after giving birth to my baby. Melanie helped me a lot, not only with my newborn but with my other kids as well. I got a lot of good tips and information from her on how to live a happy and healthy life with my family. My family is so blessed to be a part of MFSS."



Wendy shared, "My daughter, Kimi has been fortunate to attend the Kupukupu Child Development Center since she was about two months old and will soon be transitioning out because she'll be turning three years old. Along the way, she has gained structure, affirmations, and skills to take to the next level of her educational experiences. She will also take all of her "aunties" (caregivers) encouragement and love. We will miss all of you and wish the program the ability to reach more and more families in our community."

## EHS Oral Health Screening

Early Head Start ended last year's program year with an Oral Health Screening by Dr. Cally Adams. She is a member of Early Head Start Health Services Advisory Committee. Besides being a member, she has been kind enough to volunteer her time to conduct the screening at the MFSS office. Participants had their teeth examined. Dr. Cally Adams is a Pediatric Dentist at Kahului & Kihei Hawaii Family Dental Centers.



For appointment info call Kahului Center at 877-5328  
or Kihei Center at 874-8401

## Thank you Job Corp



Kelsey Reyes took some time away from work to say goodbye and mahalo to James and John, two of the many volunteers from Maui Job Corp.

A valuable contributor to MFSS' volunteer workforce is Maui Job Corps. Job Corps is a no-cost education and vocational training program administered by the U.S. Department of Labor that helps young people, ages 16 through 24, get training and better jobs.

At Job Corps, students enroll to learn a trade, earn a high school diploma or GED, and get help finding a good job.

Job Corps provides career counseling, work learning opportunities and transition support to its students. MFSS has benefited from seven volunteer students who arrive, every work day, promptly at 8:00 am, thanks to transportation provided by Job Corps and "Uncle Pete," and stay until 3:00 pm.

For six weeks, the students help with numerous tasks including assisting: in the reception area, answering multiple phone lines, filing, creating flyers, preparing for large and small events, updating data bases, and sending out large mailings. The students are flexible, skilled and very reliable.

The Coordinator at Maui Job Corps, Jack Spock, provides coordination with students and work learning sites. Because of his efforts, working with the students from Maui Job Corps is an organized and rewarding experience for MFSS.

## Why Volunteer??

- Acquire job-related skills
- Give back to the community
- Hug a baby or toddler
- Invest in spare time
- Improve your resume
- Forget your own trouble
- Teach your child about the community
- Get involved and have fun
- Make a difference
- Improve communication skills
- Learn more about an issue
- Get out of the house
- Voice your opinion
- Take action on something you believe in
- Gain a new perspective

If you have an interest in volunteering at MFSS, please call 242-0900

## Lokahi Giving Project

Maui Family Support Services is honored to participate in the Lokahi Adopt-A-Family program. During the last Holiday Season, several of our families were adopted through this wonderful program and were greatly blessed by the generosity of the donors.

There are a variety of ways that you can support the Lokahi Giving Project this Holiday Season. By adopting a family, making a monetary donation on their website or by helping or donating at one of the Mall Drives that will take place in December.

To find out more information about adopting a family in Maui County contact:

Meriel Jane Collins at 808.591.4295 (Phone), 808.591.4276 (Fax), or by e-mail [mcollins@khon.com](mailto:mcollins@khon.com).

To make a monetary donation, visit the Lokahi website at [lokahigivingproject.com](http://lokahigivingproject.com)

If you would like to help at a Mall Drive, please contact Robin Lindsey at [robinkoka@yahoo.com](mailto:robinkoka@yahoo.com)



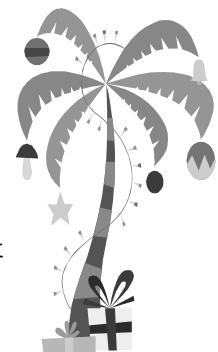
## Shop With A Cop

The Shop With A Cop event has helped parents to provide gifts for children that may not otherwise have any gifts for the Holiday.

The Kiwanis Club of South Maui along with Maui Police Department and Big Kmart have provided this awesome event for Maui keiki over the last several years.

Each child receives a free breakfast, a gift from Santa and a gift card to use while they shop with the help of one of Maui's finest.

If you would like to support this event, please call Daphne at 249-2800 ext 241.





# Meet the MFSS Team



(L to R) Jani Sheppard, CEO; Melanie Padgett, Project Specialist; Zina Andrade, Administrative Supervisor; Doris MacFarlane, Director of Finance; Cynthia Koziolas, Director of Clinical Services; Edel Baguio-Larena, EHS Program Manager; Colleen Welty, HS-EnHS-LPP Program Coordinator; Daphne Ladla, HS-EnHS Administrative Coordinator; Daisy Butay, Accounting & IT Specialist;



(L to R) Robin Dickson, Data Management Assistant; Debbie Butay, Program Assistant; Kelsey Reyes, Administrative Assistant; Anita Romena, Office Assistant; Sasa Ewaliko, Program Assistant; Leone Purugganan, Office Assistant; Michelle Pietsch, EID Clinical Supervisor; Mei Amuro, Senior Family Assessment Worker (FAW); Jackie Balberdi, FAW II;



(L to R) Cindy Coleman-Jakubczak, FAW II; Tiare Johnson, FAW I; Patty Parana, FAW I; Cynthia Lallo, Child Development Specialist (CDS) Coordinator; Darlyn Kin Choy, Senior Child Development Associate; Judy Waters, CDS; Cleo Bloedon, CDS; Leinell Coloma-Nahooikaika, Teen Services/Fatherhood Involvement Team (FIT) Co-Coordinator; Roy DeLyon, FIT Co-Coordinator; Ann Sugrue, Clinical Specialist



(L to R) Shannon Reinelt, EHS Intern; Denise Miya, EHS Center-Based Program Supervisor; Rosa Alvarez, Caregiver; Chantel Pacheco-Teeter, Caregiver; Jeannine Gines, Caregiver; Tabitha Thibodaux, Caregiver; Elisa Leialoha, Caregiver; Alethea Lee, Parent & Community Partnerships/Disabilities Coordinator



(L to R) Kuipo Gonsalves, EHS Home-Based Coordinator; Arlene Tendo, Parent/Child Educator (PCE); Cynthia Pennington, PCE; Makana Garaganza, PCE; Ave Diaz, Home Visiting (HV) Supervisor; Tammy Ruiz, Family Support Worker (FSW) II; Kehau Kaleiohi, FSW II; Michelle Ehrmann, FSW II; Florita Saribay, FSW I; Nicole Shea, FSW I



(L to R) Glenna Okamura, HV Supervisor; Nora Etrata, FSW II; Ashley Canillo, FSW II; Renee Morris, FSW I; Jeanine Mason, HV Supervisor; Melanie Pali, FSW I; Saudina Torres, FSW II; Judy Thompson, FSW I; Toni Rodrigues, Mental Health Specialist



(L to R) Kathi Jones, Registered Nurse; Raenelle Coloma, FSW I; Gina Santos, FSW I; Jennifer Valdez, FSW II; Karen Cooper, FSW I; Lottie Burrows, Molokai FSW I; Josephine Tancayo, Molokai FSW I; Corrine Young, Molokai FSW I; Shirley Burrows, Molokai Program Assistant;

## Staff Spotlight: Administrative Team Makes an Impact

MFSS strives to serve the families and children of Maui County. It's a large but rewarding job that wouldn't be possible without the support of our wonderful administrative team. Here's an up-close and personal look at this hard-working team:



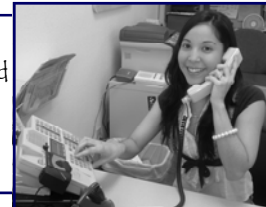
**Zina Andrade** (Administrative Supervisor) – "I have been with MFSS for 16 years, and I am truly blessed to be part of this great team helping to make a positive impact in the lives of the children and parents we serve. During my free time, I love spending time with my lifetime partner, Juan, my son, Jarrett, and our dog, Ziggy."

**Robin Dickson** (Data Management Assistant) – "I have been with MFSS' Administrative Team for 12 years. It is busy work, but it's "all good." The staff here at MFSS are dedicated, hard-working, family oriented, compassionate, and for the love of our "keiki" all working towards fulfilling the Agency Mission of helping families."



**Debbie Butay** (Program Assistant) – "I have been working at MFSS for two years. I am so thankful for working at MFSS because not only do I get to bring my son to work when I need to but the employees are very supportive, understanding and friendly. I am a mother to a wonderful 13 month old baby boy, Sean. My boyfriend, Randy, and I enjoy bringing Sean to the beach during our free time."

**Kelsey Reyes** (Administrative Assist) – "I am proudly the 2nd generation to work at MFSS. My mom loved working at this agency, and from the very 1st day I stepped foot on the job I knew why she loved it so. It takes a special, warm-hearted, positive person to work in this field, and each and every employee at MFSS has these qualities. I am so happy to wake up each day and come to a job that I love, with people that I love, and to know that I get to be a small part in fulfilling the MFSS mission."



**Anita Romena** (Office Assistant) – "I just started two months ago but I really enjoy working here at MFSS. I retired from the County of Maui Water Dept. after 26 yrs of service and from Kaiser Permanente after over 10 yrs of service. I was a single mom to 4 children and now have 14 grandchildren. Hanging out with my grandchildren I don't feel like their grandma, I feel like one of their buddies. I thank God for the challenges and trials I've been through and the many blessings that have followed."

**Sasa Ewaliko** (Program Assistant) – "I came to MFSS over 3 yrs. ago and now work on special events. My husband, Irvin, and I reside in Wailuku. We have 3 daughters and 7 grandchildren. I'm self-employed with Punawai Youth Program and a part-time employee with the County of Maui. In my free time, I bowl in the Old Timers Bowling League and dance hula. I thank the Lord for all my blessings and for keeping me in good health. God Bless all of you."



**Leone Purugganan** (Office Assistant) – "I've been with MFSS for over 2 years as a casual Office Asst. I really enjoy working at MFSS and working with everyone. I retired from the County of Maui Recreation Department after 10 yrs of service. I am currently working with the Punawai Youth Program. My husband, Frank, and I reside in Wailuku. We have 2 children, Leila and Lyle, and 3 grandchildren, Isaiah, Leah, and Levi. During my spare time, I enjoy doing crafts."

**Shirley Ann Burrows** (Administrative Assistant - Molokai) – "I've been with MFSS for almost 3 years. I started out as a FSW and just recently transitioned to Admin Assistant. I am a mother of 2 boys (9 and 5 years old) and happily married to a wonderful man for 9 years. I have volleyball for 10 years and when I'm in the mood, I love to sing karaoke."



## MFSS Services and Impact on Families

### Healthy Start

Maui Family Support Services has provided Healthy Start services on Maui and Lana'i since 1988, and in 2005 expanded services to Moloka'i. The Healthy Start Program is a home visiting community based program available to Maui County's expectant parents and families with children up to the age of three years old. Services include home visiting, special support groups and other activities.

Services are provided free of charge to participants using a team approach: Family Support Workers, Home Visiting Supervisors, Child Development Specialists and Clinical Specialists. The program helps families to identify their needs, strengths, goals, and select services designed to reduce stress, strengthen family functioning, promote optimal child development and health and safety.

Early Identification (EID) Team members speak to all new parents at Maui Memorial Medical Center, as well as any interested expectant parents. On Moloka'i, our EID team members interview new parents at the Moloka'i Women's Health Center. Interviewed parents are asked questions to assess

the family's strengths, goals, needs and concerns. Information and assistance is also provided on additional community support, if needed. The team also accepts referrals from individuals, physicians and other professionals.

Healthy Start offers a variety of group activities for families. Our Child Development Team conducts a Family Day every other month at various locations, including Community Centers, swimming pools, parks and playgrounds. The Breakfast Club meets monthly with a variety of activities, including going to the beach, on hikes, and making holiday crafts. The Ohana Circle Parent Group provides parents a place where they can share ideas to enhance and improve the program. Free "Swap" events are held quarterly where participants can donate or pick up gently used clothing, toys, car seats, strollers and other items.

The program is funded by the State of Hawaii, Department of Health, with support from Maui United Way and other community contributions.

For more information, call **242-0900 (Maui and Lana'i)** or **808-553-8114 (Molokai)**.

### Enhanced Healthy Start

Enhanced Healthy Start is an early intervention program for families with children up to 3 years old. Services are provided at least once a week, with a visit by one or more members of our team in the family's home, foster homes, group homes and/or emergency shelters. A Family Support Worker, a Registered Nurse, a Mental Health Specialist, and Supervisor comprise a team of professionals to ensure that each family receives supportive services and information regarding their child's health and devel-

opment, relationships, mental health issues, alcohol and drug use/abuse and intimate partner violence. Team members coordinate with other agencies to avoid duplicative services and provide a safety net for the families.

The program is funded by the State of Hawaii, Department of Human Services and community contributions.

For more information, call **Jeanine Mason at 242-0900 ext. 235**.

### Good Beginnings Alliance

Good Beginnings, in conjunction with Maui County's Early Childhood Resource Coordinator, works to provide a coordinated, early care and education system for young children, birth to age 8 years old.

Good Beginnings is guided by a comprehensive plan under the leadership of the Good Beginnings Community Council. The Council includes fifteen members who represent various Maui programs that work with families of young children.

Located at 251 Napua St. in Wailuku, the Good Beginnings Maui County Early Childhood Resource Center provides resource and referral information to families on early childhood topics, including child care subsidy programs. It facilitates the Maui County Child Care Subsidy program for working families who do not qualify for other assistance programs due to income limits.

Good Beginnings, in partnership with over 50 other early childhood agencies, coordinates registration for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library free book program in Maui County. Children ages birth to 4 1/2 years and living on Maui, Molokai or Lanai can register through Good Beginnings or one of their partner agencies to receive one free hardcover book each month until they reach the age of 5.

Good Beginnings also sponsors a family child interaction learning program at Makawao School for children 1 to 4 years old and their parents or caregivers. The Program also collaborates with the Department of Education to provide Summer Transition to Kindergarten classes for children who have had little or no preschool experience.

For more information, call **Melanie at 242-1608** or visit [www.goodbeginningsmaui.org](http://www.goodbeginningsmaui.org)





## MFSS Services and Impact on Families

### Early Head Start

Early Head Start offers services for infants and toddlers through home-based and center-based options, which are family oriented and family driven. Supports families by providing quality child care and child development services so parents can work or attend school . . . paths to self sufficiency.

#### EHS Home-Based

The Home-Based option offers weekly home visits and twice monthly group activities to support families and children. Prenatal services are provided to expectant mothers and fathers, promoting healthy pregnancies and supportive postpartum care for the parent and child. The program helps the families to connect with services they may not otherwise access. With continuous enroll-

ment, the EHS Home-Based option is open to income eligible, pregnant women and families with children up to age thirty-six months, including children with special needs.

#### EHS Child Development Program

The Center-Based, Kupukupu Program offers a Child Development and Care Center and playground. Kupukupu means “surge forth and grow, such as a young fern.” The Kupukupu Program is offered for income-eligible children six weeks to age thirty-six months, whose parents are working or going to school.

The Kupukupu Program is partially funded through an Early Head Start Grant. MFSS thanks the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, which has provided a \$100,000 Endowment

Fund, exclusively for maintenance and repair of the Child Development Center building.

The Early Head Start program is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families. The program has also received funding from the County of Maui, Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Hotel Industry Funds (Charity Walk) and community contributions.

For more information on Home-Based services, call Kuuipo at 242-0900 ext 236.

For more info on the Kupukupu Child Development Center, call Denise at 242-0900 ext 259.

### Fatherhood Involvement Team (FIT)

Promoting male involvement in the lives of their keiki, the Fatherhood Involvement Program provides group presentations and activities to fathers and male caregivers of all ages, with children of all ages, or fathers-to-be.

communication skills, increasing positive peer relations, parenting, child development, pregnancy prevention, and sexually transmitted infections (STI). Services are free, confidential and voluntary.

Services provide one-on-one and group support, information on healthy relationships,

**Contact Roy at 242-0900 ext. 279 or FIT Hotline at 269-5731 for more info.**



### Teen Voices, Best Choices

Providing free and confidential “talk story” sessions for youth ages 11 to 19, Teen Voices addresses relevant teen issues, through group presentations to school health classes, GRADS classes, after school programs, youth groups and other service programs.

Groups are also held by Teen Voices at the MFSS office, or excursions to other locations, such as the beach, and include snacks and great infor-

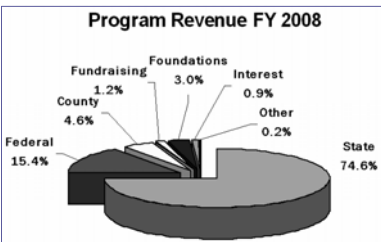
mation! Topics include early childhood development and parenting skills, strengthening life skills, communication skills, increase knowledge of drug use prevention, increasing positive peer relations and influences, promoting healthy lifestyle choices and reproductive health information for prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STI).

For more information, call **Leinell at 242-0900 ext. 266.**

**Financial Position FY 2008**  
(Unaudited)

<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash.....	\$1,023,822
Accounts Receivable.....	929,694
Prepaid Expenses.....	17,442
Deposits.....	2,930
Net Property & Equipment	1,399,024
Land.....	623,099
Deferred Annuity.....	300,000
Long-Term Investment.....	646,935
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$4,942,946</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Accounts Payable.....	45,642
Refundable Advance.....	2,764
Payroll Liabilities.....	165,538
	<b>\$213,943</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	
Unrestricted.....	3,656,188
Temporarily Restricted.....	772,815
Permanently Restricted.....	300,000
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$4,729,003</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	
	<b>\$4,942,946</b>

<b>Program Revenue Income</b>	
Federal.....	\$581,873
State.....	2,820,352
County.....	172,714
Fundraising.....	47,074
Foundations.....	113,793
Interest.....	34,970
Other.....	9,053
<b>TOTAL OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>\$3,779,829</b>



Audited Financial Report may be requested from MFSS Office.

**MFSS reached over 2500 families in 2008!**

<b>Healthy Start &amp; Enhanced Healthy Start</b>	
Families Served..... 579	
Families NOT Confirmed for Child Abuse and Neglect ..... 100%	
<b>Ethnicity of Families : (As defined by Participants)</b>	
Hawaiian.....	43.87%
Filipino.....	16.41%
Caucasian.....	9.84%
Puerto Rican.....	.69%
Other Pacific Islanders.....	.17%
Micronesian.....	6.91%
Mexican.....	4.66%
Other Mixed.....	8.64%
Japanese.....	2.59%
Portuguese.....	1.73%
Korean.....	.86%
Native American.....	.86%
African American.....	1.38%
Samoan.....	.52%
Chinese.....	.86%
Other Asian.....	0%
<b>Where mother is:</b>	
Neither a HS or GED graduate.....	28.32%
Age 20 or under.....	33.16%
<b>Employment Status:</b>	
Mother Employed.....	40.06%
Father Employed.....	65.97%

<b>EID Activity FY 2008</b>	
Screenings.....	1686
Assessments.....	812
Admissions.....	232

<b>CDS Activity FY 2008</b>	
Developmental Screens.....	619
Trainings for Staff & Parents.....	77
Developmentally delayed infants & toddlers receiving Care Coordination.....	113

<b>Early Head Start</b>	
Children Served..... 86	
Pregnant Women Served..... 9	
Medical Home.....	95
Parenting Education.....	70
Preventive Dental Services.....	69
Fatherhood Involvement.....	18
Family Services:	
Emergency/Crisis Intervention.....	2
Housing Assistance.....	15
Transportation Assistance.....	10
Mental Health Services.....	1
Health Education, including prenatal education.....	69
<b>Ethnicity of Families : (As defined by Participants)</b>	
American Indian/Alaskan Native...	3
Asian.....	10
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander..	31
Caucasian.....	6
Bi-Racial or Multi-Racial.....	46

<b>Teen Services &amp; Fatherhood Involvement Services Activity FY 2008</b>	
Teens Served .....	200
Attended Celebration of Fatherhood...	300
Outreach Education .....	150

<b>Good Beginnings Activity FY 2008</b>	
Phone intake / counseling / referrals.....	406*
Families enrolled in GB at Makawao School.....	139*
Children received financial assistance for child care / preschool.....	14*
Children enrolled in Summer Transition to Kindergarten classes.....	72*
Parents / Caregivers attended workshops co-sponsored by GB.....	150*

\* 2008 Good Beginnings statistics not available at printing



# Mahalo!

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*Hawaii Children's Trust Fund*

*Hawaii Community Foundation*

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*Maui Police Department*

*Maui United Way*

*National Fatherhood Initiative*

*Okumura Family Foundation*

*Samuel N. & Mary Castle Foundation*

*State of Hawaii, Department of Education*

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<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Contribution of \$ _____		Please call me at _____

*Visit us online at [www.mfss.org](http://www.mfss.org)*

**Family Matters is published 3x a year by Maui Family Support Services, Inc.**

Maui : Phone: (808) 242-0900 Fax: (808) 249-2800  
Lana'i: Phone: (808) 565-7484 Fax: (808) 565-7484\*82  
Moloka'i: Phone: (808)553-8114 Fax: (808) 553-8115

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