

Building Connections

A Newsletter for Resource Families

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April 2018

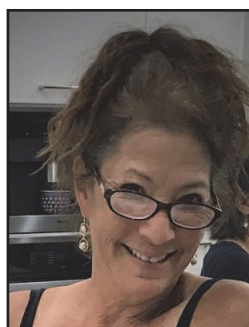
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Well-Being's Advocates

By Wilma Friesema

Being the voice for a child in an adult world — that's the role **Lynn Pregitzer** would take on as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer. As a successful retiree with her doctorate in Organizational Leadership, Lynn wanted to volunteer and give back to the community, but she wanted to do something that wasn't lightweight. Her education had taught her that a good leader helps others and works in the area of his or her strengths. Lynn had always worked well with children and enjoyed their company. The CASA program, with its advocacy work on behalf of children in the Child Welfare System (CWS), seemed like the perfect fit.



Kathy Esposito-Mason was the daughter of a bailiff; her mom had worked in Family Court for 25 years so Kathy was no stranger to the court system. After her mom passed away, Kathy, who had worked in sales for a publishing company, knew she wanted to contribute to the community and honor her mom's legacy. Becoming a CASA volunteer would let her serve deserving children *and* be engaged in the family court system her mom had loved so much.

When they became CASA volunteers both women joined a National Association that is devoted to serving children who are in foster care. Begun in 1976, CASA volunteers — like their paid attorney counterpart, the Guardian ad Litem (GAL) — are court appointed members of the community who give of their time and energy to help ensure children's needs are fairly represented in court. Hawaii's CASA program has been in existence since 1983 and serves children statewide. During this past year alone, volunteers have worked with over 350 children.

CASAs don't sit on the sidelines, which makes Kathy and Lynn happy; they actively get involved with the children and team of professionals who are working on the case. From the start, CASAs strive to get as full of a picture as possible about the children's history, circumstances, and current needs by getting to know the children through consistent visits, talking to everyone involved, attending meetings, and reviewing records. The court's mandate is for CASAs to advocate for, and be protective of, a child's well-being. It is a mandate they take very seriously.

It's also a mandate that makes the experience so rewarding. For both Lynn and Kathy it's personally moving to be that voice for the children in court; to speak up for what the children want and need, and to advocate for what will help them grow and thrive, even if that goes against some of the adults' opinions. That's what Kathy did for a teenage boy who had confided in her that he wasn't happy in his foster placement. Though the foster family was safe, he felt pressured to conform to their religious beliefs and practices which infused their daily life. He was

HUI HO'OMALU STATEWIDE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Hui Ho'omalua Statewide Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) provides support to the resource family community through identifying ongoing needs, facilitating communication and by sharing resources.

The Building Connections Newsletter is published quarterly by Partners in Development Foundation, 2040 Bachelot St., Honolulu HI 96817-2433, to provide information regarding foster and adoptive care to resource families, service providers, and to the public.

This newsletter may be viewed on the following websites:

www.hawaii.gov/dhs/protection/social_services/child_welfare/foster

www.pidfoundation.org

If you would like to receive this newsletter, please call:

441-1125 (O'ahu),

888-879-8970 (Toll Free) or

E-mail: RAC@pidfoundation.org

miserable, but afraid to tell them. He even contemplated running away.

Though it was viewed as “disruptive” to change his placement, Kathy advocated for just that. While some team members disagreed with her recommendation, eventually the youth was placed with an adult relative. Since then, the change has worked out well and the youth is now happily living with family. All because Kathy listened to the teen and took him seriously.

For CASAs, it’s “all about the children” and how to help them exit CWS in a far better state than when they came in. Though, at times, striving for that improvement can be demanding and stressful, the investment is worth it. Besides truly making a difference in the children’s lives, Kathy and Lynn have personally grown from their experiences. For Lynn, a deep and growing sense of appreciation is one treasured result. It’s an appreciation for the social worker’s hard work, and that of the resource caregivers and other professionals. It’s an appreciation for the amount of expertise and resources that are available to Hawaii’s needy children. And it’s a deep sense of gratitude for the safety, security, and sense of community that she had as a child, and that her children experienced growing up. It’s that safety and security that she also sees in her friends’ and neighbors’ families. She often reflects on how lucky they all are.

For Kathy being a CASA has allowed her to see a side of life she normally wouldn’t be exposed to. Seeing the challenges other families face has increased her empathy for others, and, like Lynn, has increased her appreciation for all that she has. It’s also helped her grow. “I’ve learned so much,” she told me. “Every case is different. It tests you. You have to go outside of the box, and you have to take your own initiative. Being a CASA has really expanded me.”

For both Lynn and Kathy, however, it’s the personal relationship with the children that’s most gratifying. They love the children, and the children know it. As Lynn so aptly put it, “You have to put your heart into it. With children, they can feel if your heart is in it or not. Being authentic is crucial. The connection has to be genuine.”

It’s well documented that children in foster care have a higher mountain to climb than their non-foster care peers. Only 55% have a high school diploma or GED by age 19, compared to 87% of the general population. By the age of 21, 25% become parents compared to 6.6% of non-foster youth. At age 19, only 33% are employed, full or part-time, vs 44.7% of their peers. Homelessness, drug addiction, and incarceration rates are also higher.

Having a CASA to watch guard over their well-being gives these children some much needed assistance in climbing their mountain. Studies have shown, that children who have a CASA are more likely to obtain permanency, have fewer placements, spend approximately 8 months less in foster care, and do better in school. They are also reported as having improved social skills and a more positive outlook for the future — two capacities linked to improved well-being.

Internal and external changes are what happen through the CASA experience — for the children and for the adults who serve them. It’s a commitment that impacts all involved, but also ripples out into the well-being of their greater community. The truth is, whenever children grow and thrive we all reap the benefits of their engaged spirits and energy. For that, and for the hope and resiliency they inspire in children, CASAs, such as Kathy and Lynn, truly deserve a big MAHALO from us all.

GO GREEN!

Want to help our environment? Contact us today and request an electronic copy!



Help! Looking For Stories!

Would you like to share some helpful tips? Got an inspirational story to tell? Know of some useful resources in your community?

These are just some of the many possibilities that you can contribute to this newsletter. Please send them over so we can all benefit from each other’s wisdom!

We would also appreciate any feedback, comments and suggestions on ways that we can improve this newsletter so that it is useful to you. What would you like to see in it? Topics of interest? We look forward to hearing from you!





ONLINE SUPPORT GROUPS

A Great New Resource: Online Support Groups

By: Megan Garver, Support Group Coordinator – Resource Families Support Services

Our first Online Support Group for Resource Families was a success! On March 14, 2018, families from all over the state of Hawaii came together through Zoom Web-conference to participate in a facilitated Support Group. Some of these families had never attended a support group before, while others were long-time attendees of support groups at various physical locations. They attended online and also by dialing in by phone, which is a great option for families who prefer to stay low-tech.

Peggy Leong, facilitator, and Jill Rabinov, co-facilitator, who are both experienced service providers through our Windward Support Group, were present to provide support and advice to the resource families attending the online support group. Along with facilitation from service providers, information about available resources was also offered to the families. For example, families were informed about upcoming events such as the 11th Annual Conference for Resource Families and available Enhancement Funds. Of course, resource caregivers were also encouraged to share their insights and experiences with each other.

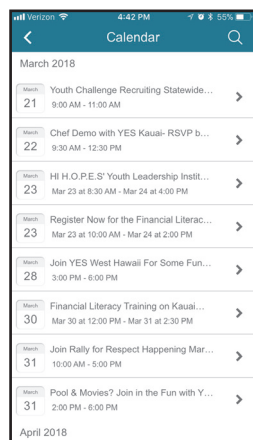
Our support groups are often described by families as an excellent way to build a network of support, and, with our Online Support Groups, we hope to extend this resource to families who cannot attend physical locations and families who may need additional support during challenging times.

We hope to continue offering groups online for as long as there is interest in the community. We would love to see more families receive much needed comfort and comradery. As a resource caregiver, you face unique challenges that many other families may not fully understand. We want you to know that you are not the only one and that we are here to support you.

As part of our goal to make this service relevant to families statewide, service providers from different regions will be facilitating the Online Support Group. We will also be offering information on resources and services that are accessible throughout the state. Any feedback regarding your thoughts and needs for support groups are welcome. Information regarding our events and services is available through the Warm Line (808-545-1130 and Neighbor Islands Toll-Free 1-866-545-0882). Our next Online Support Group is scheduled for June 6, 2018. Please keep an eye out for the flyer in the mail!

Foster HOPE Hawai'i APP On Apple and Android

IT'S FREE, AND FULL OF INFO! We'll highlight a different feature each edition.



Check out the “Calendar” page! Features important dates for college deadlines, community happenings, and more! The app is updated regularly, and you can set it up to receive alerts of upcoming events and new resources.

The Foster HOPE Hawai'i app is one way the State of Hawai'i is working to empower youth who are in the foster care system and the many adults who support them. The Independent Living Collaborative, which implemented and maintains the app, is led by EPIC 'Ohana and includes Hale 'Opio, the Salvation Army, Hale Kipa and Maui Youth and Family Services.

Hui Ho'omalu *GLUE Bake Sale & Silent Auction, 2018!* By Shane Taylor



Pictured left to right: Elisa Agpaoa (CCH), Richele Awana (PIDF), Stephanie Helbush (PIDF), Abbey Diaz (PIDF), Jenny Amita (FPH), Jericka Balacy (FPH)

This year's GLUE Committee hosted yet another great Bake Sale! This year's Bake Sale was a collaboration of Partners in Development Foundation, Catholic Charities Hawaii, Family Programs Hawaii, donors, staff, and volunteers. Everyone participating provided some wonderfully "Onolicious" homemade goodies, and the Silent Auction was filled with amazing items!



Tasty treats included beautifully wrapped chocolate flowers, decadent brownies, intricately made butterfly candies, and a bubbly love potion of Sparkling Water. Cookies, Valentine's Chex Mix, brownies, and banana bread were also top sellers. Silent Auction items included merchandise such as Tamura's Hats, Shirts, and various food and drink items from Zippy's, California Pizza Kitchen, and Menehune, to name a few!



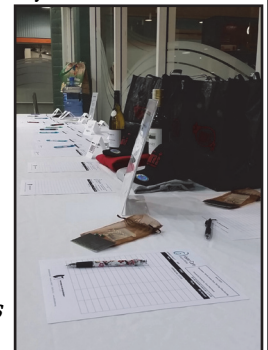
This year's GLUE Bake Sale was able to collect \$1,119.50 from Bake Sales, \$1,387.00 from Silent Auction items, and \$81.00 from Monetary Donations. This makes a Grand Total of **\$2,587.50!**

100% of the proceeds will be going towards various events throughout the year that are provided for Resource Families and the Youth in Foster Care such as National Foster Care Month celebrations statewide, National Reunification Month, and National Adoption Month.



Many thanks to everyone who volunteered their time and talent to support Hawaii's Resource Families and Youth in Foster Care!

Mahalo!



YOUNG MOVERS AND SHAKERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE!



SOARING SAMARITANS YOUTH MOVEMENT

By Michele Carvalho

Taylor and Jordyn Jackson, two Los Angeles-area sisters, have a mighty passion for playing soccer and helping others. The sister duo founded a charity, Soaring Samaritans Youth Movement, to bring

play to children around the world by hand-delivering balls to underserved kids living in challenging conditions. Since the charity's inception, the sister team has given soccer balls to communities in Costa Rica, Cabo San Lucas, Tahiti, Hawaii and Las Vegas, among other places. Taylor and Jordyn pay for 100% of the transportation and delivery of the balls out of their own pockets and through fundraising effort, selling handmade bracelets.

On Good Friday, March 30, 2018, Taylor and Jordyn distributed soccer balls to foster and adopted youth in the Hamakua area at Hamakua Baptist Church. Emily Rogers of Hanai Hamakua, foster care ministry, and Michele Carvalho, Community Liaison for PIDF-Hui Ho`omalu coordinated an event for the kick off of National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Jackson girls distributed the indestructible soccer balls to foster families as well as some toys and books to the children. Hanai Hamakua provided Easter baskets to the children, had an Easter egg hunt with prizes and the church and Hui Ho`omalu served lunch for everyone. About 40 people attended, both children and adults.



RIO CLAYTOR'S EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

By Stephanie Helbush



Rio Claytor, Mililani High School Senior and Eagle Scout candidate, decided to dedicate his Eagle Scout project to benefit children in foster care. Learning about some of his closest friends who experienced out-of-home care, he was inspired to put on an event to raise donations to benefit children in foster care. On January 6, 2018, Rio, with the help of his parents, Mililani HS football coach and teammates, put on a football clinic for local children. In lieu of payment, he asked each participant to donate needed items for children in care. Hundreds of items were collected and distributed to DHS shelters. Mahalo Rio for your heart for children in foster care!



Adoptive Families Needed Through Wendy's Wonderful Kids



Dominique is a 15-year-old male teen of Caucasian/Pacific Islander descent. He was born and raised on the Big Island of Hawaii in Hilo town, and entered into foster care at 9 years old. Dominique presents as a very kind and pleasant young man. He is average height and one who likes to ask a lot of questions.

Dominique is a huge fan of going to the movies, and his favorite genre are scary movies. He likes the creativity of movies, and loves being entertained. Dominique also loves to go out to eat, and when it's possible, he is always looking for ways to surprise people by treating them.

Dominique is doing well in school despite his learning disabilities. Having to move around and adjust to new schools and environments has also caused him to struggle with school in the past, but he continues to improve, and has a desire to be successful in his studies. His developmental age is younger than his chronological age and Dominique tends to get along with kids that are younger than him.

Dominique has a strong desire for stability in his life and wishes to be placed with a family on a permanent basis. He longs to be in a family with a younger brother, so that he could have someone to share life with and whom he could help be a big brother to. Because of the environment that he grew up in, Dominique can be triggered by adults who yell or threaten him with consequences. A caring and patient family who can support Dominique's development could make a world of difference for his future success.

Wendy's Wonderful Kids seeks to find good homes for great kids in tough situations. If you are interested in learning more about Dominique and his need for permanent, nurturing connections, please contact Mindy Chung, Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter, at (808) 540-2552 or by email at mchung@familyprogramshi.org.

Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard: Common Question

The following is an excerpt from the Don't Say "NO" Until You "Know" guide, which was developed by the State of Hawai'i Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Services and our community partners. The guide presents common questions and answers for Resource Caregivers on providing normalcy for children/young people in foster care to participate equally in age or developmentally appropriate extracurricular, social, and cultural activities as their classmates and peers. These Q & A's can be found within the Normalcy Guidelines provided by your DHS licensing worker.

Question: Are children/young people who are in foster care allowed to attend or have sleepovers with friends or relatives?

Answer: Yes. The children/young people who are in foster care may have sleepovers with friends or relatives up to two days with the Resource Caregiver's approval. Resource Caregivers shall use the reasonable and prudent parenting standard in determining whether to give permission for sleepovers.

*A Resource Caregiver shall not approve sleepovers if there is a court order or service plan that would prevent sleepover or the child's CWS has instructed that sleepovers shall not occur with a specific person(s).

Some helpful guidelines for overnight stays: Resource caregivers should talk to the parents where the child/young person is spending the night to avoid relying on the child communication for all information. Who is going to be in the home? Confirm pick up and drop off times and locations. What are the plans for the evening? Check for pet or food allergies, as well as medications the child is required to take. If plans change, ensure they know to call you so you can give verbal approval. Make a plan if the child/young person becomes uncomfortable. Exchange phone numbers with the parents. Give the child/young person YOUR phone number.

Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) 17-1625-46 Child's absence from resource home. This rule supports normalcy for children and youth in foster care by stating, "When a child is to be absent from the resource family home overnight or longer, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SLEEP-OVERS WITH FRIENDS OR RELATIVES OF UP TO TWO DAYS WITH RESOURCE FAMILY APPROVAL."



There may be times when you, as a resource caregiver, have a question or concern and are not sure where to go for help. We will be presenting scenarios in each newsletter as a way to highlight different situations and suggestions on "Who Ya Gonna Call?"

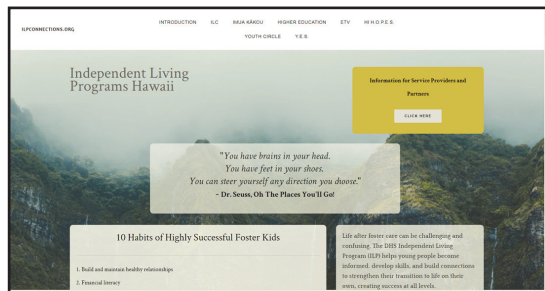


Emergencies happen! If your child needs emergency medical care (after hours) call 911 and head to the nearest ER if needed. Be sure to call your child's social worker through the DHS Hotline **(1-888-380-3088)** **CONFIRM #**



CHECK THIS OUT!

New Independent Living Information Website: www.ilpconnections.org



Child Welfare Services and the Department of Human Services have a new look for its Independent Living on-line resources page, www.ilpconnections.org is a window into a world of information and experiences that captures both the resiliency of foster youth and the bright possibilities for their future. It's also a portal into our community of caring. Built by former foster youth and HI HOPE'S Board member Tuan Gai Giang (pictured right), the page is a collaborative effort between CWS, the Independent Living Collaborative and EPIC `Ohana.

As a former foster youth, Tuan's first impression of DHS's Independent Living Program (ILP) website was that it was traditional, content heavy, and conservatively designed – in other words, it was “definitely a government website.” While the website was communicating important information, it came across as intimidating and overwhelming with its references to laws and an overabundance of facts.

Since then Tuan, the website designer of the new updated ILP site, has worked hard to make the site more appealing and fun for foster youth. His goal: make the information accessible, but not confusing or overwhelming. Instead of wordiness he uses graphics, videos, twitter feeds, and links to Facebook messenger and other apps to make the site more inviting and less intimidating. Bottom line, he wants the website to meet the youth in the language and visuals of their world.

Tuan hopes the website will encourage and empower youth to reach out and use the help that's available. (And to expand their supporters' knowledge and understanding too.) When he was in foster care no such site existed, and he often found it difficult to ask for support because he didn't know where to turn.

Now, as an adult, he sees the value of speaking up and asking for assistance. Though, he says, pride can often be a barrier to doing so, he hopes the videos and testimonials of current and former foster youth will give the website users a greater sense of possibility and internal permission to reach out and use resources that are available. More importantly, he hopes it will inspire youth to believe in themselves and know that they're worthy of support.



New Family Programs Hawaii's program: Na `u e koho



Na `u e koho . . . *the choice is mine*, program provides support services for (but not limited to) Native Hawaiian, at risk, in out-of- home placement seniors in high school on Oahu and East Hawaii (Hilo). Participating youth are provided individual one-on-one support with navigating Federal, State, & Private financial aid applications for continued education and vocational training, as well as Career assessments and planning support.

After the youth graduates, staff will continue to provide ongoing individual support for one year post high school. Employment readiness and Independent Living Skills workshops are provided along with staff assisting youth in setting up lifelong

connections and supports. Na`u e koho works in collaboration with other programs to provide optimal opportunities for youth. If you have any questions, are interested, or would like to refer a youth, please contact Nadine Dudoit, Program Manager at: ndudoit@familyprogramshi.org or (808)348-2219.

Resource Family Basics ~ FYI

CHILD INFORMATION FOLDER (CIF)

Every child in foster care has a CIF. The folder contains all health/medical, psychological, social and educational documents that are available to DHS at the time of the child's placement. The CIF is to be provided to the resource family within 30 days of a child's placement. It is also used to file additional information and case plans provided to the resource family during the placement. If the child moves from the resource home, the complete CIF must be returned to the SW.



ANNUAL CONFERENCE!

April 12—May 7, 2018

Family Programs Hawaii in collaboration with the Department of Human Services and Partners in Development Foundation is happy to announce our statewide 11th Annual Conference for Resource Families, "Trauma Changes the Brain, Making Sense of Challenging Behaviors", scheduled between April 12, 2018 and May 7th, 2018. This conference will be presented by Kathy Bentley and Veronica Lamb. Kathy, a nationally recognized parent educator and the owner of Kathy's Parenting Solutions, will provide an engaging training on how trauma negatively impacts a child's brain development, how that impact may influence behavior, and what caregivers can do to help the child or youth be successful in spite of the trauma. A portion of the conference will also feature Veronica Lamb, a Victim Specialist with Susannah Wesley Community Center's Trafficking Victim Assistance Program. Veronica will be presenting on how trauma increases a child's vulnerability to human trafficking. Dates, times, and locations for each individual conference can be found in the Calendar of Events. Registration is available online at www.FamilyProgramsHawaii.org/conference.

We hope to see you there!

'OHANA REWARDS

Want to know how you could receive a **\$200.00 gift card**?

Would you like your name to appear in a future RAC newsletter?

Congratulations!!

Kennielee Gaston
Manuel Oliveira
Megan Sanford
Kauai Keola

All you need to do is help us find more homes for Hawai'i's keiki in foster care!
If you can refer, help, cheer, and see your referral to the finish line to become licensed, you could earn a **\$200 gift card** of your choice

Call Hui Ho'omalua today at 441-1117 or 1-888-879-8970 (toll free) for more information!

Happy Anniversary!

How long have you been a resource caregiver? We would like to honor you by printing your name and current years of service in our newsletter. We know you are out there but we need your help. Please send your name and years of service to:

RAC@pidfoundation.org ★ (O'ahu) 441-1125
(Toll Free) 1-888-879-8970

*Mahalo for all you do for
Hawai'i's keiki and families!*

SAFEWAY got Safeway gift cards?

If you received Safeway gift cards from PIDF, CCH or the Department, we strongly encourage you to spend them as soon as possible as we were made aware of fraud on some cards. Please contact

Richele Awana at 441-1127 or

rawana@pidfoundation.org no later than June 15, 2018 if you encounter any problems using the cards.



Welcome to FPH's Resource Family Support Services Corner

By Salome Bala, RFSS Warm Line Family Resource Specialist
Resource Family Support Services (RFSS) is funded by the Department of Human Services



Salome Bala

Ask the Warm Line

It is only a few short months before summer is upon us. As a caregiver, that means one thing, SUMMER BREAK! We receive calls on the Warm Line from families inquiring about the different options for activities and funding available for the children in their home. To see what other families are asking we have included below, the most common questions that are asked, and the answers to those questions.



What can my child do during the summer? What kind of programs can my child participate in as a foster child during the summer, especially since I will be working? – Your child can participate in a number of summer programs. A popular program for children to participate in during the summer is your County run summer program. Registration starts in early May and fills up quickly. Children in foster care may qualify for a fee waiver so please work with your child's DHS social worker or social services assistant to complete the application.

Registration dates, times, and locations of summer activities vary by island. For more information please visit:

Oahu: <http://www.honolulu.gov/parks/program/summer-fun-program.html>

Kauai: <http://www.kauai.gov/SummerPrograms>

Maui County: <https://www.mauicounty.gov/589/PALS-Program>

Hawaii County: <http://www.hawaiicounty.gov/pr-recreation>

There are a multitude of other summer programs as well, for example if you go to the following website link:

<http://www.honolulusummerncamps.com/>, you will see different summer camps available for children. Different companies such as Kamaaina Kids (<https://www.kamaainakids.com/intersessions-summer>) or your local YMCA may have summer programs as well.

Are there funds available for my children in foster care to participate in these programs? – Yes. You may be able to request Enhancement funds to cover some costs for participation.

Enhancement funds are available funds to help enhance the lives of foster children and youth for items and activities that afford them similar opportunities to that of their naturally parented peers. Some examples of funded activities and items include: Extracurricular Activities; Summer School Tuition; Sports; School Functions; Airfare for Family Vacations; Back to School Items; etc. Please contact your Social Worker for general guidelines and requests as funding availability varies by Island and Unit.

Can I bring my children in foster care on a family vacation? – As stated in the Prudent Parenting Policies “Don’t Say No Until You Know”, the answer is **Yes**, with approval from CWS, the Family Court, the GAL, and the child’s parents.

There are several steps to this process so please refer to the following website for more information:

<https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Dont-Say-No-Until-You-Know-Handout-revised-6-2017.pdf>

If you are in need of activity ideas for children in foster care this summer, have questions about the information presented above, or do not have internet access and would like specific information on activities in your area, please feel free to call the Family Programs Hawaii Warm Line at 808-545-1130 or toll free at 1-866-545-0882. More information can also be found on our FPH website as well as our Resource Families Support Services Facebook page at www.facebook.com/FPH.RFSS.



A program of Family Programs Hawai'i



WELCOME CHARLA WEAVER!

Aloha, my name is Charla Weaver. I would like to introduce myself as the new Family Advocate for Family Programs Hawai'i's It Takes An 'Ohana. I am currently a Resource Caregiver and I can honestly say, this is the hardest task I have ever done.

My desire and passion to help the children started when I was in the sixth grade. I remember my classmate crying while walking to a van with a strange lady. I never saw her again, though I wondered what happened to that little girl.

Growing up on the Waianae Coast, I would often see a van with the State of Hawaii emblem on the doors. Sometimes, I would see children crying in the back seat and other times they seemed perfectly content with a bag of chips and juice in their hands.

In the year 2000, it hit home for my family when a family member's three children were taken into custody and my nieces and nephew were placed into the foster care system. Removed out of school by police and transported by strangers were the scariest moments of their lives. My parent's lives also changed tremendously as they raised the children and became their guardians.

Since then, I always wanted to be a Resource Caregiver, but it seemed impossible. I was extremely busy with my career and raising my own family.

Then on one particular day heading home from work, I noticed one of those vans stopped next to me at a stop light. There was a little girl sitting in the back seat with a slight smile on her face. She wasn't crying, but she seemed so sad. I cried all the way home and shared my heart with my husband.

After much time in prayer, my husband and I decided to follow our heart. In 2013 I walked away from a twenty five year career in the insurance industry. I was an insurance agent at the time. That was the only career I thought I knew, but God knew better.

Today, I embrace my calling as a Resource Caregiver and now as the Family Advocate for Family Programs Hawai'i's It Takes An 'Ohana. This journey has not been easy. Resource Families are confronted with many challenges each day. However, I have discovered there are supports for the families that I did not know existed.

My primary role is to be a consolidated voice of Resource Families and to be a bridge between Resource Families and the child welfare system. I will also proactively follow legislative issues that directly affect Resource Caregivers statewide and communicate these issues to our Resource Caregivers via updates on our website ittakesanohana.org.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Resource Caregivers are needed to assist with Co-Training Hanai sessions and recruitment activities!

Part-time Co-trainers Needed. *Resource Caregivers/Former Foster Youth on O'ahu* are needed to co-train new Resource Caregivers in the HANAI curriculum. Your experience is invaluable to a new family just learning about providing foster care. Come and share what you've learned/experienced over the years with others!!! Trainings are generally held intermittently on some weekday evenings and some Saturdays. Training and compensation provided. Pay rate: \$15.00/hour.

Part-time Child Care Providers needed in West Hawai'i, Kaua'i, O'ahu and Maui to provide child care (i.e., during trainings), in the evenings and weekends on an occasional basis. Training and compensation provided. Pay rate: \$15.00/hour.

Part-time Recruitment Assistants needed in West Hawai'i, Kaua'i and Maui to staff various recruitment booths and share information with potential applicants about the need for additional Resource Caregivers. Training and compensation provided. Pay rate: \$15.00/hour.

HUI HO'OMALU ~ A Program of Partners in Development Foundation

See www.pidfoundation.org/about/careers

Email resume & application w/cover letter to: HR@pidfoundation.org or fax to 440-6619

Calendar of Events

O'AHU

- April 13 (Fri)** **Windward Resource Families Support Group:** 6:00pm-8:30pm. Kailua District Park. RSVP to FPH at 521-9531 ext. 245 by 4/6.
- April 26 (Thurs)** **Central O'ahu Resource Families Support Group:** 5:30pm-8:00pm. Aiea United Methodist Church. RSVP to FPH at 521-9531 ext. 245 by 4/19.
- April 29 (Sun)** **Resource Family Appreciation Day at Ice Palace:** 7:00pm – 9:00pm. Registration is required. RSVP online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/ICEPALACE2018. For more information contact Charla Weaver at 227-9921.
- May 5 (Sat)** **11th Annual Conference for Resource Families – “Trauma Changes the Brain: Making Sense of Challenging Behaviors”** 8:30am-2:30pm. The Salvation Army Kroc Center. RSVP online at www.FamilyProgramsHawaii.org/conference by 4/20. Questions? Call the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882.
- May 11 (Fri)** **Waianae Resource Families Support Group:** 5:30pm-8:00pm. Maili Learning Center. RSVP to FPH at 521-9531 ext. 245 by 5/04.
- June 8 (Fri)** **Windward Resource Families Support Group:** 6:00pm-8:30pm. Kailua District Park. RSVP to FPH at 521-9531 ext. 245 by 6/1.
- June 21 (Thurs)** **Central O'ahu Resource Families Support Group:** 5:30pm-8:00pm. Aiea United Methodist Church. RSVP to FPH at 521-9531 ext. 245 by 6/14.

EAST HAWAII

- May 7 (Mon)** **11th Annual Conference for Resource Families – “Trauma Changes the Brain: Making Sense of Challenging Behaviors”** 9:00am -3:00pm. Imiloa Astronomy Center. RSVP online at www.FamilyProgramsHawaii.org/conference by 4/23. Questions? Call the Warm Line toll free at 1-866-545-0882.
- May 19 (Sat)** **Hilo Resource Families Support Group:** 12:00pm-2:30pm. Christ Lutheran Church. RSVP toll free to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 by 5/11.

WEST HAWAII

- April 19 (Thurs)** **11th Annual Conference for Resource Families – “Trauma Changes the Brain: Making Sense of Challenging Behaviors”** 9:00am-3:00pm. Sheraton Kona Resort & Spa at Keauhou Bay. RSVP online at www.FamilyProgramsHawaii.org/conference by 4/5. Questions? Call the Warm Line toll free at 1-866-545-0882.
- April 30 (Mon)** **Kona Resources Families Support Group:** 5:30pm – 8:00pm. Kealahou High School. RSVP toll free to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 by 4/23.

KAUAI

- April 16 (Mon)** **11th Annual Conference for Resource Families – “Trauma Changes the Brain: Making Sense of Challenging Behaviors”** 9:00am-3:00pm. Kauai Beach Resort. RSVP online at www.FamilyProgramsHawaii.org/conference by 4/2. Questions? Call the Warm Line toll free at 1-866-545-0882.
- May 3 (Thurs)** **Kauai Resource Families Talk Story Time:** 5:30pm-8:00pm. Lihue United Church. RSVP toll free to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 by 4/26.

MAUI

- April 12 (Thurs)** **11th Annual Conference for Resource Families – “Trauma Changes the Brain: Making Sense of Challenging Behaviors”** 9:00am-3:00pm. Maui Beach Hotel. RSVP online at www.FamilyProgramsHawaii.org/conference by 3/30. Questions? Call the Warm Line toll free at 1-866-545-0882.
- May 10 (Thurs)** **Maui Resource Families Support Group:** 5:30pm-8:00pm. Kahului Union Church. RSVP toll free to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 by 5/03.
- June 14 (Thurs)** **Maui Resource Families Support Group:** 5:30pm-8:00pm. Kahului Union Church. RSVP toll free to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 by 6/07.

MOLOKA'I & LANA'I

- Maui-April 12** **11th Annual Conference for Resource Families.** Airfare reimbursements are available. Call the Warm Line toll free
O'ahu-May 5 at 1-866-545-0882 for details.

ONLINE

- June 6 (Wed)** **Online Resource Families Support Group:** 6:30pm-8:30pm. Zoom Web-Conference. RSVP toll free to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 by 5/30.

If you have access to the internet please check the Resource Families Support Services page at www.FamilyProgramsHawaii.org for updated information on future events.

PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

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Statewide Resource Advisory Committee

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The concept for the Statewide Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) was created by the Department of Human Services (DHS) as a means to support the resource family community. Hui Ho'omalu facilitates this committee comprised of adoptive parents, resource caregivers and various community agencies, all dedicated to providing services and support to Hawai'i's keiki and the resource families who care for them. The purpose of the RAC is to identify ongoing needs, facilitate communication, share resources, provide information through a statewide calendar of events and a quarterly newsletter and report on local projects and other topics of interest to benefit Hawai'i's resource families.

This committee, the newsletter and many of the represented agencies are supported and funded by Department of Human Services contracts.

RAC Committee Members:

Catholic Charities Hawai'i—Hui Ho'omalu

Department of Human Services

EPIC, Inc. 'Ohana Conferencing

Family Court

Family Programs Hawai'i—Hui Ho'omalu & It Takes An 'Ohana

Resource Caregivers

Adoptive Parents

Hawai'i Foster Youth Coalition

Partners in Development Foundation—Hui Ho'omalu