

# FAMILY SUPPORT HAWAII



ANNUAL REPORT  
2019-2020

## SUPPORTING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES IN PROVIDING LOVE AND CARE FOR OUR CHILDREN ... SINCE 1979

The COVID-19 pandemic has definitely thrown our program a curve ball, but we are hanging in there and doing our best to be flexible and address the many needs of our **EARLY HEAD START** families. From the beginning, program staff have been meeting every Monday virtually. We meet with staff individually, as sites, and as a whole staff. Staff members have been able to access virtual training opportunities during this time, including the Region 9 Head Start Association's First 1,000 Days EHS Conference and Family Engagement/Cultural Awareness Conference, PATCH classes, and other training events throughout the state.

All program services (both center-based and home-based) began providing virtual services on March 23, 2020. Virtual services include phone and video visits, food drop-offs, learning packets, food boxes/bags and diapers/wipes (thank you to the Hawaii Diaper Bank for your support!) to all families. Today, an increasing number of our families are receiving outside home visits, utilizing proper health and safety measures.

Families have been provided with food boxes/bags as well as information on food distributions in their respective communities. Produce boxes have been provided containing lettuce, kale, squash, bananas, tomatoes, potatoes, etc. along with canned goods on a bi-weekly basis. We want to thank our partners at Keala'ola Farm, St. Michael's Church (Kailua-Kona) for helping us get much-needed food out to families on a regular basis.

Every other week, learning packets are prepared and distributed to families. These include age-appropriate activities for parents and children to engage in. Staff members check in each week with families to discuss these learning activities and provide additional developmental support as needed. Each activity has a corresponding parent sheet that describes the activity, how to engage their child in the activity, and how to extend the activity using other materials used in the home. Each activity is based on the program's child development curriculum, *The Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers, and Twos*.

Packets are also individualized based on the ages of the children.

Utilizing grant funding from the Castle Foundation and the Hawaii Island United Way Family Violence Prevention Division, hygiene packets were also distributed to families. These have included information about COVID-19 in their home language, soap and information on handwashing, adult face masks, hand sanitizer, and a children's book about handwashing. Information on the prevention of family violence was provided discreetly inside a first aid kit. Information on community food distributions, financial services, and other health and wellness resources was provided each week to families.

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ALOHA!

from front page

**FAMILY SUPPORT HAWAII** (FSH) is a private non-profit organization founded in 1979, with the mission *“to support families and communities in providing love and support for our children.”* Our programs are found across West Hawaii and we have offices in Kailua-Kona, Waimea, Kealahou, and Naalehu. Over fifty FSH employees, volunteers, and an array of collaborative community groups create the workforce necessary to carry out our mission. FSH is organized into four primary services: Child Welfare/Family Strengthening, Early Childhood Education, and Child Development. Each division has multiple programs that fall within our mission statement and serve to empower children, families, and communities.

This past year has been filled with successes and new challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic. We have managed not only to improve our services to West Hawaii families, but have done so in a fiscally prudent and socially responsible way. FSH continues to lead the way in creating healthy environments to support families in raising healthy children. However, much more work lies ahead. We are particularly challenged by the impact of the pandemic on our community and families and are working with community groups to respond to this problem. Above all, we will continue our mission *“to support families and communities in providing love and care to our children.”*

I invite you to continue to partner with us to make sure our children, families and communities continue to receive the support they need. The spirit of family and community are strong forces in our mission. We could not do this without your continued support!

*Mahalo,*



Ray Wofford, LMSW, MBA  
Executive Director

**EARLY HEAD START** staff members have been assisting families in getting their children to well-baby appointments once the offices were re-opened, and have helped families to coordinate with WIC for virtual visits. Phones and phone cards have been provided to parents as needed; they have enabled families to communicate with the program and with other service providers.

The teen parent program at Kealahou High School has not yet reopened, but the classroom at the Greenwell Family Development Center reopened on August 17, 2020, utilizing increased health and safety procedures. The teachers and children are spending the majority of their time outside, meaning that we have had to enhance the outside learning space. We were able to purchase ride-on bikes for all the children and, with the help from funding from the Kona Brewfest, we were able to build a beautiful garden space that the children are loving! They are learning so much about the gardening process and are even getting to take home produce that they grew themselves!

We would like to thank our staff and our community partners for the hard work they have been putting in during this time. Many of our families have experienced job loss or job hour cutbacks during this pandemic, resulting in many other kinds of challenges. In addition, many of our families have older children who are completing their schooling online, which has been a challenge. The Family Support Hawaii *Techie for the Keiki* program has been so helpful in securing laptops for families who otherwise would not have been able to access them. Providing much-needed resources and referrals to services for families has been key during this time, and this requires extra attention and coordination with multiple entities. Our staff members have worked tirelessly to ensure that our families have the tools and supports that they need to get through this time and we sincerely thank them for their dedication. They are amazing!

## HOME VISITING SERVICES

The children and families receiving help from FSH's Home Visiting Services Program enter our program already experiencing high levels of stress due to their involvement with the child protection system as well as from the issues that led to their involvement with that system. But they have been additionally stressed with the COVID pandemic. Those who have lost their incomes are less able to weather such events as cars breaking down and unexpected medical expenses. With their children no longer attending school in person, they have more demands, including having to provide home-schooling for their school-age children, when they may not feel prepared to do so. Especially for those living in public housing, their children have been unable to play outside, and so have much energy to expend. Meanwhile the families may not have the resources to get the children out and active (e.g. a car and/or gas money). All these factors add up to more stress at home.

Some of our HVS staff also have young children who had been in school, but now are home. These staff persons have had to rearrange their calendars and budgets to allow for childcare so that they are able to focus on their work. They sometimes work late at night or early in the morning after their own children have gone to bed or before they get up, to prepare reports or document recommendations. Staff also need to provide home-schooling for their own children, so they have less time to do more. Though this gives the program staff a first-hand experience of challenges faced by our families, it has added to the team's stress. Most of our interaction with each other has been via electronic devices, and we do miss the support we had from face-to-face interactions in the past.

It has also been a challenge for staff to deliver services to families by video or phone. Our visits in the past were of course face to face, and staff could read expressions, see the interactions between caregiver and children, and build a good

rapport. Though it been easier to maintain established relationships via electronic devices, it is more challenging to establish rapport and trust with new families in this way. Even when face to face visits do happen, they must be done in an outdoor location (garage, carport, etc.) and at a physical distance. Staff no longer bring books and toys, as doing so would increase the risk of infection for both client and staff.

Despite these challenges, both staff and families report good results even when services are delivered primarily electronically. In these times of higher stress and limited resources, the families we serve have expressed much gratitude for the help we have been able to provide them.

## EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

Early Intervention Services (EIS) continues to deliver services and receive referrals in both the Kona and North Hawaii programs. Both the EIS staff and families have had to make many adjustments regarding service delivery, literally overnight, due to COVID-19. EIS works with children 0-3 who have a developmental delay or are at risk for developmental delays. Therapists provide strategies via our “coaching model” and parents carry out recommendations as developed through discussions with the entire team. Due to COVID-19, there have been many challenges for families, such as having limited access to technology or connectivity, and having to homeschool older siblings. Through community resources and flexibility of EIS staff we have worked diligently to provide services by any means possible. We have found that a positive outcome of telehealth services is parents having taken the lead in their child’s development and their diligence in carrying out strategies and recommendations provided by the therapists.

## TECHIE FOR THE KEIKI

Family Support Hawaii has brought smiles to scores of keiki in West Hawaii by providing them with free laptop computers.

As the COVID-19 pandemic took root in Hawaii, and schools turned in late March to online learning to finish up the school year, FSH saw a need to get computers into the hands of students in order to keep up with their course work. Our Family Support Hawaii Information Technology Specialist formed a Facebook group named **Techie for the Keiki**



and, within hours, people were donating laptops and tablets to be refurbished by him and donated to students.

The initiative continued to grow as the word got out. Teachers were messaging to make requests on behalf of students they knew needed equipment. Techie for the Keiki responded to nominations from Kealakehe, Kahakai, Konawaena, and Holualoa elementary and middle schools. Eventually a waiting list had to be established, with students needing to wait two weeks to get a computer.

Many generous donors have stepped up to donate laptops that might require replacement of a keyboard or a charger. Needing to purchase these items, the program put out a plea to the Facebook group for sponsorship of hardware parts, and they responded with Amazon gift cards. FSH also setup an account so people could donate cash for the cause. To date, since March, we have provided about 150 devices (new and refurbished laptops/desktop/tablets) to students in West Hawaii. To ensure that these devices went to the neediest children, teacher nominations and requests were given priority for new devices, as these requests are based on their knowledge of their students’ capabilities, needs, and backgrounds.

For example, Konawaena Middle School teacher, Jannica Cuaresma Breslin, nominated one of her students, and FSH was able to provide him with a computer within a

couple of weeks, allowing that student to revise work and boost his grades. She reported, “That student was so grateful that there are community members that cared for him. He was so very surprised that strangers thought of him and made this kind gesture. The big world suddenly felt a little smaller and closer for that student.”

Mina Narita works in the school system with ELL (English Language Learners), and she said many of her students lacked the technology they needed to complete assignments online. She wrote about those who received equipment from the program, adding that since the students have siblings, the gift benefitted not one but four students. “The students that have received your donations were humbled and so appreciative, as were the parents,” she said. “They had been working with paper packets but I can’t imagine how isolated and disconnected from school they might have felt. I feel relieved that at least these students have now access to learning,” she said.

For more information, please visit [www.techieforthেকেiki.org](http://www.techieforthেকেiki.org), a special project of Family Support Hawaii. The original article courtesy of West Hawaii Today can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/ybd4qeuu>

MAHALO to all of the individuals, trusts, foundations, and businesses for their contributions of time, money, and/or in-kind support from 11/16/2019 through 11/11/2020. Please go to our website, [www.famiysupporthawaii.org](http://www.famiysupporthawaii.org) to view the list. We sincerely apologize if we have inadvertently omitted and/or misspelled your name or name of your business/organization.



# EARLY HEAD START



**F**amily Support Hawaii Early Head Start provides quality educational experiences through center-based and home-based services to pregnant women and children from birth to three years old. The foundations for school readiness begin in pregnancy and continue for the first three years. The foundational nature of developing skills, knowledge, and attitudes in the infant and toddler years are necessary for success in school and for later learning and life. The program uses a curriculum and assessment system which is aligned with the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework, the EHS Child Outcomes for Birth-Three and the Hawaii Early Learning and Development Standards. Assessment data is collected three times per year using the My Teaching Strategies assessment system. School readiness skills are

assessed in the areas of social/emotional, cognitive, language and literacy, physical development and approaches to learning. Results from the My Teaching Strategies assessment, as well as from other sources, are analyzed by EHS staff members and are used to guide individualized plans for the child, training and professional development plans and program improvement plans.

- The total number of children served: **145**
- The total number of families served: **119**
- The average monthly enrollment: **100%**
- The percentage of eligible children served: **33%**
- The percentage of enrolled children that received medical exams: **100%**
- The percentage of enrolled children that received dental exams: **54%**

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

**E**arly Head Start is a family-centered program, following the tenets that children develop in the context of their family and culture and that parents are respected as the primary educators and nurturers of their children. The program strives to engage parents and families through a variety of activities, training and educational opportunities. Throughout the 2018-2019 program year, families in our program had opportunities to participate through:

- Teacher and Home Visitor Visits
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Health Advisory Committee Meetings
- Male Involvement Activities
- Policy Council Meetings
- Community Field Trips
- Parent/Child Socialization Events

## PARENT TRAINING TOPICS

- Oral Health
- Nutrition, Food Budgeting
- Cooking Demonstration
- Children's Growth and Development
- Job Readiness Skills
- Transition to Preschool
- Health and Safety
- Math Learning Activities
- Stress Management for Families
- Support for Children with Special Needs
- Child Observation
- Cultural Competencies
- Domestic Violence and Substance Abuse Prevention
- Community Resources



## TEACHING STRATEGIES GOLD

### ASSESSMENT RESULTS

October 2020

#### CHILDREN AGE BIRTH TO 1

Below Expectations: **5%**  
 Meeting Expectations: **83%**  
 Exceeding Expectations: **12%**

#### CHILDREN AGE 2-3

Below Expectations: **27 %**  
 Meeting Expectations: **60%**  
 Exceeding Expectations: **13%**

#### CHILDREN AGE 1-2

Below Expectations: **14%**  
 Meeting Expectations: **83%**  
 Exceeding Expectations: **3%**

#### TOTAL CHILDREN AGE BIRTH-3

Below Expectations: **13%**  
 Meeting Expectations: **79%**  
 Exceeding Expectations: **8%**



# Financials

## PUBLIC FUNDS RECEIVED FY 2019-2020

US Dept of Health and Human Services	\$	1,531,164
US Dept of Agriculture		8,343
State and County		1,045,955
Contributions and Other Revenue		451,834
Public Funds		2,585,462
Private Funds		451,834
Total Federal		1,539,507
Total Non Federal Share		1,497,789
Total Funding	\$	<b>3,037,296</b>

## EXPENSES FY 2019-2020

Wages, PR Taxes, Benefits	\$	1,674,609
Outside Services		333,318
Indirect Expenses		362,235
Occupancy		133,850
Supplies		145,836
Training, Travel, Conferences		50,929
Equipment and Vehicle Exp		37,927
Inkind Expense		71,531
Insurance		38,559
Telephone		33,653
Depreciation		31,207
Fundraising Expense		7,497
Project Expenses		19,226
Utilities		15,758
Mileage Reimbursement		13,731
Professional Fees		4,430
Postage, Printing, Advertising		474
Client Assistance		949
Other Expenses		5,663
Total Expenses	\$	<b>2,981,382</b>

## FINANCIAL AUDIT

In accordance with the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133 our Financial Audit Report for fiscal year ending **June 30, 2020** by Carbonaro CPA & Associates INC was released on **January 5, 2021** and did not report any findings. The complete financial report is available online at our website at <https://familysupporthawaii.org/about-us/annual-reports/>