

supporting families
and communities
in providing love
and care for
our children
... since 1979



family support hawai'i

2021-2022 Annual Report



As Family Support Hawaii (FSH) enters its 44th year providing the highest quality programs for children and families, we want to thank our donors, volunteers, families, and staff for your continued support of our mission “to support families and communities in providing love and care for our children.” We know that the work we do and have done could not have happened without your generous donations of funds, volunteer time, material goods and emotional support. You are there in spirit when we serve families, and we know they are grateful for all your contributions. Our Fall campaign is key to completing our financial commitments to funders and families and we ask you to continue your support. As always, the funds received will go directly to improving the lives of West Hawaii children and their families through the programs we have featured in this Fall Newsletter.

Our staff is proud to be a part of the community we serve, living and working, nurturing their own families under the “community tree.” With your support we can “plant more trees” in more communities, extending the shelter and support we provide to more families, to strengthen the love and care they provide for their children.

It is a collective effort that has kept our doors open and given us the continued drive to serve families. We are guided by our hard-working Board of Directors who give their time to keep us on track and fiscally sound. Program volunteers help us extend our hand to those we could not otherwise reach due to funding limitations. Volunteers, for example, attend program activities so that more children can

participate in more ways. These “branches” of our community tree are an integral piece of our present and future accomplishments, and for this we are grateful.

Family Support Hawai'i will be closing out 2022 with continued hope for those we serve and looking forward to what we can accomplish together in 2023.

EARLY HEAD START

Our Early Head Start program has been getting back to our regular program services after so many adjustments during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are providing home-visiting services in the north, west, and south parts of Hawaii Island and continue to serve six children at our licensed infant and toddler center at the Greenwell Family Development Center in Kealahou. Unfortunately, we had to close our center at Kealahou High School for parenting teens due to the new administration wanting to use our space for other needs.

We have been actively engaging with many of our community partners, which helps to support our families with necessary resources. Some of our focus areas have included financial literacy/economic self-sufficiency, social and emotional development/mental wellness, language and literacy, and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) for infants and toddlers. We are excited about the new Keiki Museum in Kona, which is located at the Kona International Marketplace. We are also looking forward to holding our second Family Literacy Night, which will be held

on Thursday, December 8, 2022 from 5:00-7:30 pm at the Hawaii Island Community Health Center above Kealahou High School. The theme is “The Gift of Reading” and we will be hosting our EHS families for a wonderful evening of books, music, dancing, holiday activities, and food.

During this season of thanksgiving, we would like to thank all our staff, families, community partners, and other stakeholders. Without you, we could not do the wonderful work that we do and we are grateful for the support. **MAHALO!**

EHS provides home-visiting and center-based services to pregnant women and children from birth to three who live in Ka'u, Kona, and North Hawaii, offering child development, family development, health, nutrition, and mental wellness services for enrolled families. Activities include home visits, socialization groups, parent-to-parent support, developmental screenings and assessments, education about health, safety, and nutrition, as well as therapeutic support for those with special needs. Parent Committees and the EHS Policy Council are two unique opportunities for families to become involved in decision-making for the program.

EHS also 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. The program has transitioned to a new child assessment system called the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP), in which children are assessed three times per year. School readiness skills are assessed in the areas of Approaches to Learning-Self-Regulation; Social and Emotional Development; Language and Literacy Development; Cognition, including Math and Science; and Physical Development-Health. Data gathered from the DRDP 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.

Children were assessed in Spring 2022 (June) and in Fall 2022 (October 2022). In all five domain areas, *Approaches to Learning-Self-Regulation; Social and Emotional Development; Language and Literacy Development; Cognition, including Math and Science; and Physical Development-Health*, Early Head Start children showed an overall increase and progression across the levels. Although not developmentally appropriate for all children to show an increase in levels, between 32% and 59% of children (depending upon the objective) demonstrated an increase between the Spring and Fall checkpoints. On a domain level for the entire assessed group, the largest progression was made in the *Approaches to Learning-Self-Regulation* domain and the *Cognition* domain. The greatest increase (59%) in a specific objective was demonstrated in the Social and Emotional objective “*Relationships and Social Interactions with Familiar Adults*”.

The Family Support Hawaii Early Head Start program conducted a comprehensive Community Assessment in the summer of 2018, solicited input from the governing bodies and Parent Committees, collected and analyzed meaningful data, and collaborated with all staff in order to strategically plan for its **Five-Year Program Goals and Objectives**. Beginning in May 2023, the program will be entering the fifth year of this program planning/five-year grant cycle. The program goals are as follows:

Program Goal #1–The Family Support Hawaii Early Head Start program will enhance its mental health services to improve the well-being of children, families, and staff to maximize their potential and quality of life.

Program Goal #2–The Family Support Hawaii Early Head Start program will work in partnership with parents and community partners to promote children’s growth in the areas of language and literacy, including those who are dual-language learners.

Program Goal #3–The Family Support Hawaii Early Head Start program will implement effective and intentional parent-family engagement activities to improve family self-sufficiency and financial literacy.

- The total number of children served: 118
- The total number of families served: 96
- The average monthly enrollment: 88%
- The percentage of eligible children served: 21%
- The percentage of enrolled children that received medical exams: 100%
- The percentage of enrolled children that received dental exams: 75%

Parent Engagement Activities–EHS 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 2021-2022 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

Parenting Topics

- Oral Health
- Nutrition/Food Budgeting Cooking Demonstration
- Children’s Growth and Development
- Job Readiness Skills
- Money Matters-Financial Literacy Project
- 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

HOME VISITING

Home Visiting Services (HVS) continues to provide parenting support for families working with Child Welfare Services, Voluntary Case Management, and Family Strengthening Services. HVS utilizes a combination of skill building, case management, and counseling to provide wrap-around care for its clients. Last year, HVS integrated the Parents as Teachers home visiting curriculum into its framework to expand its services. Implementation has been very successful, and we have received positive feedback.

HVS is fortunate to be a part of the Hawaii Department of Human Services’ new Family First Hawaii initiative, which reduces foster care placement through evidence-based preventative services. Family First Hawaii’s goals are to restructure Child Welfare Services to offer programs for families at risk of losing their children due to abuse and neglect. This line of defense helps keep children in the center of trauma-informed child welfare practice, bolster family support, and reduce re-traumatization for children who may have previously gone to foster care. The HVS program has seen a shift over the last 12 months; whereas we used to primarily serve children in foster care placement, now most cases involve preventative services to keep kids safely in their homes of origin. This is a testament to the positive cultural shift in Child Welfare Services in expanding its pathways to improve services.

There have been numerous success stories over the past year but when HVS reflects on what’s made positive outcomes, it’s the united teamwork of Family Support Hawaii’s programs that has helped families in Home Visiting Services reach their goals. In the past year, over half of the kids have been dually enrolled in at least two FSH programs, if not more. HVS works closely with Early Intervention, as sometimes developmental delays and stress or tension can be inextricably linked. Early Head Start included HVS families in their bi-monthly family group “socializations” where families can receive peer support and understand that they’re not alone in the highs and lows of parenting. The Fatherhood Initiative has a mentorship program uniquely tailored to fathers. Having an agency that can provide all this seamlessly is critical in supporting families.



FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE

Family Support Hawaii has been delivering the Fatherhood Initiative for over 18 years to support our community's fathers to be more engaged and successful with their families. Research confirms the importance of father involvement in a child's social, emotional, and educational development. Children that grow up with an involved father are more likely to have positive outcomes such as graduating from high school, avoiding drug abuse, and achieving financial stability. Resilient families build resilient communities.

Over the past year, the Fatherhood Initiative has offered monthly support group meetings for fathers in Kona and at Ulu Wini transitional housing, as well as providing case management for fathers involved in family court. Fathers in the program find that they are not alone in the challenges they face. They learn about a variety of topics including Building a Support System, Communication, Discipline, Forgiveness, Conflict Resolution, and Self-Care.

If you would like to be a part of one of our monthly groups, or act as a mentor for a father in need, please contact Ben Huss, Program Director, at 808-640-9550 or email fatherhood@fsswh.org.



EARLY INTERVENTION

The Kona and North Hawaii early intervention services are crucial for infants and toddlers with developmental delays or who are at risk for delays. Medical conditions, trauma or negative experiences can impact a child's development, therefore the earlier we identify these issues and connect a child to services, the better the outcome for children and their families. Though COVID continues to impact our programs and families we serve, we are now better prepared to offer alternatives regarding how services are delivered.

We have continued to offer both in-person visits and services via virtual platforms to accommodate families. Our team of qualified therapists continue to provide support, evaluations/assessments, and most importantly offer coaching to families for implementation of strategies. Equity and access to services are important to us as we continue to engage families.

We at FSH would love to share one of our success stories from a family we serve, with a child named Tegan. She has been with the North Hawaii Child Development Program since she was four months old. Tegan has a diagnosis of Down Syndrome, and following her birth, she required procedures for her heart conditions and needed a feeding tube for all her nutrition. Over the last two years, Tegan has received services from our Physical Therapist, Speech Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, and Teachers, who love getting to visit Tegan and her family.

Lately, Tegan has been learning signs to help her get her needs met. Tegan loves getting into mischief and is an avid climber, often scaling tall furniture and barricades! She loves to color and play outdoors, and Mom reports that Early Intervention visits

have also helped Tegan improve her socialization skills. She enjoys make-believe play like rocking and feeding her baby dolls... which has given her lots of great practice now that she's a big sister.

Tegan's parents have been excellent participants in the Early Intervention process, advocating for Tegan's needs, working on strategies at home between sessions, and sending us cute Tegan's photos.



Financials

Mahalo

...to all of the individuals, trusts, foundations, and businesses for their contributions of time, money, and/or in-kind support for the past year.



PUBLIC FUNDS RECEIVED FY 2021-2022

US Dept of Health and Human Services	\$	1,632,308
US Dept of Education		23,561
US Dept of Agriculture		7,897
State and County		919,734
Contributions and Other Revenue		316,340
Public Funds		2,583,500
Private Funds		316,340
Total Federal		1,663,766
Total Non Federal Share		1,236,074
Total Funding	\$	2,899,840

EXPENSES FY 2021-2022

Wages, PR Taxes, Benefits	\$	1,495,007
Indirect Expenses		403,840
Outside Services		266,684
Occupancy		149,155
Supplies		143,309
In-kind Expense		59,461
Training, Travel, Conferences		50,785
Depreciation		40,986
Insurance		40,522
Equipment and Vehicle Exp		39,916
Telephone		24,307
Project Expenses		21,211
Utilities		18,629
Fundraising Expense		11,457
Mileage Reimbursement		7,683
Professional Fees		5,227
Dues and Memberships		3,861
Client Assistance		357
Postage, Printing, Advertising		350
Other Expenses		311
Total Expenses	\$	2,783,058

FINANCIAL AUDIT

In accordance with the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133 our Financial Audit Report for fiscal year ending **June 30, 2022** by Carbonaro CPA & Associates INC was released on **December 1, 2022** and did not report any findings. The complete financial report is available online at our website at <https://familysupporthawaii.org/about-us/annual-reports/>