

ANNUAL REPORT

40TH ANNIVERSARY

Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.

July 2004 — June 2005



Helping People. Changing Lives.

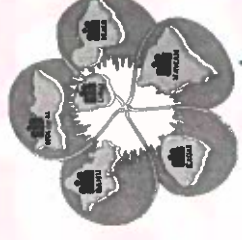


A Member of the
community Action.
PARTNERSHIP
Helping People. Changing Lives.

**MAUI ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY, INC.**

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Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793

P.O. Box 2122
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Maui Economic
Opportunity, Inc.
EST. 1965

MAUI ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

MEO provides the tools to help people and change lives. A ride to the doctor, to work or to school. Training to improve job skills and employability. Help to find a job. Early childhood care and education that gives children and their families a head start in life. Learning life skills, earning money, preparing for the workforce—and fun for teens. Reintegration services to help former inmates return successfully to the community. A helping hand with housework, so a senior can stay in their home. Advice and devices to save electricity and money. A friendly counselor to pull things together when the world seems to be falling apart. Education and prevention to help stop drug abuse. Small loans that make a big difference in starting a business. Wheel chair accessible buses that can carry those with special needs to day care, or to the senior center to have lunch with valued friends. Advocacy to better the life of the community. Basic tools for living, for earning, for self-reliance, for community involvement: Provided by MEO in the belief that instead of giving people a fish, it is better to teach them how to catch fish for themselves.

COVER PHOTO:
Sandy Baz, Deputy Director, with Hawai'i Governor Linda Lingle and Gladys Baisa, Executive Director, at the 32nd Annual Senior Aloha Party.

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THE COMMUNITY ACTION PROMISE

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

The Mission of MEO is to help the low income, elderly, children and youth, persons with disabilities, immigrants, other disadvantaged persons, and the general public to help themselves, so that they may become self-sufficient and enrich their lives.

Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. is a private, non-profit Community Action Partnership Agency, chartered March 22, 1965 by federal mandate, under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. The agency is currently in its 40th year of providing an enormous array of services annually to over 20,000 people throughout tri-isle Maui County and the State of Hawaii.

MEO is one of only a handful of agencies — out of over 1,000 community action agencies nationwide — selected by the National Community Action Partnership to receive an Agency of Excellence Award, highlighting superior administrative operations and program excellence. This translates into advocacy and outstanding services tailored to the needs of our community.

We administer the largest specialized transportation program in Maui County, with vehicles carrying the elderly, low-income, persons with disabilities, youth and Head Start children, seven days a week up to 18 hours a day. MEO's award winning Head Start program provides services to 385 children through 15 centers countywide. The MEO YouthBank, including an AmeriCorps program, provides opportunities for youth ages 14-26, to work, to learn, and to prepare for their future.

Community Services staff work with challenging situations in the lives of individuals, providing emergency assistance, job placement, training, and other support services. MEO Business Development Corporation provides loans and training to start small businesses, create jobs and boost the community's economy. Enlace Hispano provides services to the Hispanic-speaking and immigrant populations. The Being Empowered and Safe Together (BEST) reintegration program serves individuals making the transition from prison to the community. Advocacy efforts work to create a better community for everyone.

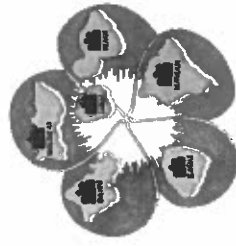
MEO is managed through a tri-partite Board of Directors, representing the Private, Public, and Government sectors of the community. The Board is recognized throughout Maui County and Hawaii as volunteer leaders in the service field.

COMMUNITY ACTION CODE OF ETHICS

We, as community action professionals ever respectful of cultural diversity, dedicate ourselves to eliminate poverty in the midst of plenty in this nation by opening to everyone the opportunity for education and training; the opportunity to work; and the opportunity to live in decency and dignity, and commit ourselves to:

- ❖ Recognize that the chief function of the community action movement at all times is to serve the best interests of the poor.
- ❖ Accept as a personal duty the responsibility to stay current on emerging issues and to conduct ourselves with professional competence, fairness, and effectiveness.
- ❖ Respect the structure and responsibility of the Board of Directors, provide them with facts and advice as a basis for their decision-making, and uphold and implement the policies adopted by them.
- ❖ Keep the community informed about issues affecting the poor and to facilitate communication among the poor, the non-poor private sector, and locally elected public officials.
- ❖ Conduct our organizational and operational duties with positive leadership exemplified by open communication, creativity, dedication, and compassion.
- ❖ Exercise whatever discretionary authority we have under the law to promote the interests of the poor.
- ❖ Serve the community action movement with respect, concern, and responsiveness, recognizing that service to the poor is beyond service to oneself.
- ❖ Demonstrate the highest standards of personal integrity, truthfulness, and fortitude in our community action activities in order to inspire confidence in the community action movement.
- ❖ Perform our professional duties in such a way so as not to realize undue personal gain.
- ❖ Avoid any interest or activity, which conflicts with the conduct of our official duties.
- ❖ Protect confidentiality in the course of our official duties.
- ❖ Strive for personal professional excellence and encourage the professional development of our associates and those seeking to become community action executives.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. Est 1965

99 Mahalani Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793
Phone (808) 249-2990
Fax (808) 249-2991



Dear Friends:

This has been a year of transition and of accomplishment for Maui Economic Opportunity. Gladys Baisa, our tremendously talented and caring Executive Director is retiring at the end of 2005 after 36 years with the agency, 21 of those years spent leading MEO to new achievements of excellence and community service.

The Board has been planning for this transition for 6 years and we are certain that when we choose a new Executive Director, we will select an individual of high achievement, outstanding skills and a deep concern for the low-income community we serve.

This is also the year that MEO celebrated its 40th Anniversary as a Community Action Agency serving Maui County and the State of Hawaii. MEO Inc. was chartered March 22, 1965 by federal mandate, under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 and now provides services to over 20,000 people annually.

In 2004-2005, MEO transitioned its public shuttle services to the new Maui County Department of Transportation, allowing us to focus on our core mission as a specialized provider of transportation services to seniors, persons with disabilities, those with medical needs and youth.

MEO played a key support role in the Maui Nui Housing Task Force which was successful in the passage and the Governor's signing of legislation to increase funding for low-income rental housing. In addition the Task Force introduced affordable housing legislation to the Maui County Council which is under active consideration.

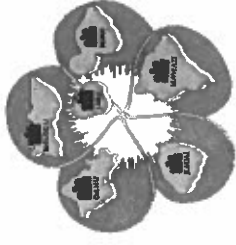
MEO also spoke out on behalf of immigrants, was active in fighting for Drug-Free Communities with the support of funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and called attention to the need for a comprehensive community-based approach to addressing the problem of homelessness in partnership with government.

None of this, and more, would have been possible without the leadership of the MEO Board of Directors, a dedicated staff and countless volunteers. Your efforts have made Maui County a better place and your work is deeply appreciated by all those whom MEO has served this year.

Sincerely,

Mercer "Chubby" Vicens
Mercer "Chubby" Vicens

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. Est 1965

99 Mahalani Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793
Phone (808) 249-2990
Fax (808) 249-2991



Dear Friends:

This year Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. celebrated 40 years of service to the people of Maui County and the state of Hawaii. For me, personally, it has also been a celebration of my 36 years of service to MEO. First, serving as your Finance Director and then serving for the past 21 years as your Executive Director.

From our beginnings—with the Head Start program and our community service projects—we have traveled on a journey of discovery and of possibilities limited only by our imagination and our energy, neither of which has ever been in short supply at MEO.

I firmly believe that MEO has survived and grown because we never forgot why we are here. Our focus has stayed on the needs of the client and what works for them. Programs may come and go. Funding can be challenging. But, the mission of MEO, our primary purpose, remains central to our strength and our future.

That mission is summed up in four clear words: Helping People. Changing Lives. It is expanded upon by the Promise of Community Action, which we recite at the beginning of every meeting and event held by MEO. That promise includes the phrase, "and makes America a better place to live."

MEO has taken on this challenge many times over and will continue to do so. Poverty changes over time. When we began in 1965, the largest group in poverty was our seniors. Today, it is our children. Both were and are unacceptable. Those in the golden years of their lives and those at the dawn of a new life need what MEO has to offer, what is their right as Americans, and what makes America a better place to live.

This year, as in years past, MEO has been fortunate to receive the support of our many private and public sector partners, and to benefit from many countless volunteer hours. To those volunteers and to our staff and board members, I say thank you. You are MEO and it is an honor to serve you.

Aloha and mahalo,

Gladys C. Baisa

Gladys C. Baisa

BOARD INSTALLATION BANQUET

Maui County Council Chair G. Riki Hokama, a long time board member and supporter of MEO, presented many warm memories as the keynote speaker at the 40th Annual MEO Board of Director's Installation Banquet.

Hokama, who regaled the audience with stories from his many years of working closely with Executive Director Gladys Baisa, promised to continue his support for MEO in the years to come. Pointing out the record of MEO, and the need for its services in Maui County, he spoke eloquently about the dedication of the board, volunteers, staff and community partners who have combined to help MEO serve the community during the past four decades.

Premiered at the dinner was the new MEO video that presented a history of the agency and a picture of the services offered by MEO today. Highlighting past and present leadership, the video took viewers from the early days of 1965, through chili and rice fundraisers to get MEO's first van for persons with disabilities, to successful efforts at economic development and to the many successful programs now in place.

Alexa Kahui conducted a moving installation of officers, using gems as symbols to represent the responsibilities inherent in each office and the leadership that is required for success in each position.

M. Chubby Vicens spoke and expressed his commitment to vigorously carry out his duties as the President of the Board of Directors. Officers also installed in the evening ceremony held at the Dunes' Restaurant included May Fujiwara, Vice-President, and Betty Delima, Secretary/Treasurer.

Executive Director Gladys Baisa presented gifts of recognition and appreciation to Brian Klaschka, Rose Marie Duey, Jersula Manaba and Gladys "Cookie" Brown who were retiring from the board.

Joseph Williams, Tony Ramil, Brian Klaschka, Jeffrey Kuwada, Nancy Shimoda, Kathleen Lewis, Betty Delima and May Fujiwara each received the Velma M. Santos Award for perfect board attendance.

The evening concluded with the traditional joining of hands and the singing of "Hawai'i Aloha."



Riki Hokama, Chair of the Maui County Council, spoke eloquently about the dedication of MEO's Board of Directors, volunteers, staff and many community partners.



Alexa Kahui (left), Sandy Baz, Deputy Director, Riki Hokama, Maui County Council Chair, M. Chubby Vicens, Board President and Gladys Baisa, Executive Director, enjoy their meal at the 40th Annual Board of Directors Installation of Officers Banquet.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (as of June 30, 2005)

RESIDENT SECTOR

- Poouai Tataipu, Head Start Policy Council
- Nancy Shimoda, Central Maui Seniors
- May Fujiwara, Vice President, West Maui Seniors
- Jersula Manaba, Moloka'i Community Action Council
- Gladys Brown, Moloka'i Community Action Council
- Setsuko Karen Mendes, Lanai Area Council
- Betty Delima, Secretary/Treasurer, East Maui Seniors
- Kathleen Louis, Hale Mahaolu

PRIVATE SECTOR

- Francis Torres, Maui Puerto Rican Association
- M. Chubby Vicens, President, A & B Properties, Inc.
- Joseph Williams, Maui Contractors Association
- Stephen Castro, ILWU
- Patti Chevalier, Maui Chamber of Commerce
- Capt. Christina Taylor, Salvation Army
- Tony Ramil, Maui Filipino Council
- Thelma Shimaoka, Alu Like, Inc.

GOVERNMENT SECTOR

- Richard Drayson, Representing House Speaker Emeritus Joseph M. Souki
- Jeff Kuwada, Representing the Maui County Council
- Mayor Alan Arakawa, County of Maui
- Rose Marie Duey, Representing the Maui County Council (Replacement in progress), Representing the Maui County Council
- Councilmember G. Riki Hokama, Maui County Council
- Councilmember Danny Mateo, Maui County Council
- State Senator Shan Tsutsui

MEO BUSINESS

DEVELOPMENT CORP.

- Paul Felix, President
- Masami Fukuoka, Vice President
- Leinaala Kihm, Secretary
- Wesley Lo, Treasurer
- Gladys Baisa
- M. Chubby Vicens
- Keone Ball
- Bard Peterson
- Jeff Kuwada

HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL

REPRESENTATIVES

- Poouai Tataipu, Chairperson
- Acacia Glidewell
- Natalie Akiyama
- Catherine Espino
- Thyra Dudoit
- Nadine Kalua
- Pakalana Phillips
- Rudy Nakooka
- Charlene Defetley
- Laurie Bissarra
- Alia Tesorio
- Leyette Rodrigues
- Benjanette Kawaa
- Leanette Flores
- Alexis Horton
- Francis Torres
- Carol Freitas

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

(July 2004 — June 2005)

The Employee of the Month program recognizes MEO employees for superior performance, team work and client service. The award is designed to promote morale and encourage excellence. A committee of their peers chooses the Employee of the Month. Those selected are awarded a day off of their choice and a cash award.



JULY (2004)
Leilani Cabanilla
Education
Coordinator
Head Start



NOVEMBER
Irene Yoakum
Driver Supervisor
Transportation



MARCH
William Kalani
Driver
Trainer/Safety
Assistant
Transportation



AUGUST
Stephanie Torricker
Receptionist
Community
Services



DECEMBER
Mona Kailiponi
Fiscal Director
Fiscal Department



APRIL
Louis Turbeville
Director
Management
Information
Services



SEPTEMBER
Loreta Pacubas
Community
Services Director
Community
Services



**JANUARY
(2005)**
Ivy Nuuhiwa
PAT Driver II
Transportation



MAY
Debbie Lorenzo
Assistant Fiscal
Director
Fiscal Department



OCTOBER
Regina Agcaoili
Case Manager I
Head Start



FEBRUARY
Edgar Yoshida
PAT Driver I
Transportation



JUNE
Makalani Lee
PAT Driver I
Transportation
Moloka'i

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

MEO is honored to recognize the following employees for achieving Perfect Attendance in 2004. This award recognizes employees who have not used any accrued sick leave or taken any unpaid leave of absence in the calendar year. Monetary awards are given based on consecutive years of perfect attendance.

1 YEAR

Dwyane Amano
Sandy Baz
Diane Durnam
Serine Feliciano
Claudia Geng
Cheryl Hatch
Ken Hunt
Caroline Jacinto
Rosario Labuguen
Kathy Moniz-Narasaki

Cleo Oliver

Marsha Pascua
George Rosa
Leona Stephens
2 YEARS
Donna Borge
Sylvia Reilly
Doris Rogat
Wilbert Torricker

3 YEARS

Dennise Engano
Victor Reyes

4 YEARS

Cesar Gaxiola

8 YEARS

Williette Doong

10 YEARS

Victor Agtarap

11 YEARS

Lyn McNeff
Debra Spencer
William Kalani

12 YEARS

Debra Lorenzo
Barbara Sentel

15 YEARS

Mona Kailiponi

DRIVER OF THE YEAR & CASH FOR NO CRASH

The Driver of the Year Award is presented to a driver, selected by their peers, who exemplifies the MEO tradition of service, safety, excellence and caring for our clients. Bill Jenkins, Senior Vice President, John H. Connors Insurance, presented the award.

Drivers who are accident/incident free in a calendar year are eligible for a monetary award based upon hours worked. Cash amount contingent upon availability of funds.

DRIVER OF THE YEAR 2004: Ivy Nuuhiwa

MINIMUM 1700 HOURS

Alma Castellanos
Dell Finn Castroverde
Gary Congdon
Randall Dean
Darrell Demello
Trixy Kapoi
Julia Kekona

Gretel Koko-Kong

Viewed Malakini
Sherrylynn Nishikuni
Ivy Nuuhiwa
Elizabeth Pszyk
Joy Puckett
Charlene Roman
George Rosa

Noel Sanchez

Mauro Tianio
Esmeralda Venegas
**MINIMUM
1400 HOURS**
Jessie Esperanza
Makalani Lee

Wayne Nahookaika

Theron Saracam
**MINIMUM
800 HOURS**
Jeanie Mendes
Efren Pastrana
Collette Weston

TRANSPORTATION

MEO transportation provided 484,074 passenger trips to serve the growing specialized transportation needs of Maui County.

A YEAR OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.

This year, specialized transportation required to meet the needs of persons with disabilities, the low income community, those with special needs, the disadvantaged, elderly and youth presented ever-increasing challenges in the areas of scheduling, personnel retention, and funding.

In 1970 MEO began its transportation program to provide access to lifeline services for low-income seniors and others without transportation. By 1972, MEO was providing 920 passenger trips a month. In the year ending June 2005, MEO provided 484,074 passenger trips.

The decision was made to cease providing fixed route public transportation and concentrate on specialized demand response transportation that is compatible with MEO's mission. The Public Shuttle program provided by the department in the Wailuku-Kahului corridor was discontinued as of June 30, 2005 and turned over to a county-private sector provider partnership. All services were to be maintained in place.



Shopping, going to the doctor, visiting friends... all a part of "Helping People. Changing Lives." at MEO.

Early on, the community identified a need for transportation for persons with disabilities. In response to requests from those in wheel chairs, MEO fundraised to retrofit a used van with a wheel chair lift. Beginning with this van, MEO has continued the commitment to specialized transportation today and for the future.

Since those early days, MEO Transportation has kept true to its core mission of providing services to the low-income, the elderly, those needing medically related transportation, persons with disabilities, preschool children, dialysis patients, and the Youth of Maui County.



Seniors enjoy fuller, healthier, longer and more productive lives when they can get out and stay active.

TRANSPORTATION

MEO'S TRANSPORTATION SERVICES ARE SPECIALIZED. Paratransit service provides transportation to persons with disabilities and partners to provide an on-demand non-emergency transport service.

MEO TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Kaunoa Leisure Program
- Senior Nutrition Program
- Youth Transportation
- Ala Hou
- Ka Lima O Maui
- Employment for the Disabled, Low-income and Economically Challenged
- Head Start
- Easter Seals & Adult Day Care
- Rural Shuttle



Safe transportation to supervised youth activities helps keep our kids out of trouble and drug free.

EXCELLENT CLIENT SERVICE. "Yes We Can" is an attitude central to MEO's transportation program. Clients are continually surveyed as a foundation to providing the most relevant service. Any suggestions or complaints are seen as learning opportunities and are followed up on and resolved as soon as possible, with our standard being within at least 48 hours.



Specialized transportation for life saving dialysis treatment is provided daily. Expanded service from Hana helps ensure rural patients are treated on a regular basis.



Non-emergency transportation for patients going to and from medical treatment is provided by trained MEO Patient Assistance Technicians (PAT's).

VOLUNTEERS

On Valentine's Day each year MEO says "thank you" for the many hours our volunteers have given to MEO. Simply put, we could not do our work without them.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR. The 17th Annual Valentine's Day Volunteer Luncheon was held on February 14, 2005. Eddie Nishihara was named MEO's "Volunteer Hall of Fame" awardee. In the resolution that accompanied the award, he was cited for volunteering in MEO's Surplus Food Program for over eleven years and during that time assuming the leadership of distributing surplus commodity food to over 3,000 low-income residents annually and 30 non-profit organizations and elderly housing developments in Maui County.

FREE LEGAL CLINIC. This is the 15th year that MEO's Legal Clinic has been supported by pro bono attorneys. This year attorneys Larry N. C. Ing, Paul Horikawa, Dave Jorgensen and Gordon Stewart helped MEO's seniors, 60 years and older, with their legal needs. Those persons who own no real property other than their home are eligible for the assistance. We are grateful for the free legal services provided to our low-income seniors.

SURPLUS FOOD DISTRIBUTION. The Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program makes surplus agricultural commodities available to income eligible low-income individuals and families. "MEO's Helping Hands," a dedicated group of volunteers, this year helped thousands of low-income individuals and families receive food commodities. In May, the surplus food distribution was transitioned to the Maui Food Bank. The Maui Food Bank will continue the food distribution at the same locations and on the same dates and times as the previous MEO program.

Sam Aiona, Director of the State office of Community Services, which allocates the surplus food for distribution said, "With the transition of this program to the Maui Food Bank, we create collaboration and a partnership that eliminates duplication, consolidates services and ensures that individuals and families in need of food assistance are served in a comprehensive and efficient manner."

VOLUNTEER HALL OF FAME

Lawrence N.C. Ing	1989-1990
Violet E. Pszyk	1990-1991
Ichiro Takahashi	1991-1992
Harold Shimoda	1992-1993
Virginia Freitas	1993-1994
Jim Whitehead	1994-1995
Yukiko Kanoholani	1995-1996
Frank Lee	1996-1997
Beatrice Kahanu	1997-1998
Lawrence N.C. Ing	1998-1999
Lanky Nagata	1999-2000
Jeffrey T. Kuwada	2000-2001
Edward Oliveria	2001-2002
Haruko D. Nakata	2002-2003
Louise Borsella	2003-2004
Eddie Nishihara	2004-2005

HEAD START

I would suggest to every parent to please send their child to Head Start. The outcomes for the child and the family are very rewarding and every culture is respected and nourished.

MEO Head Start celebrated 40 years of providing Head Start service to Maui families on May 18, 2005. MEO Head Start opened up with just four centers that were part of the day. Forty years later, MEO has 15 centers throughout Maui County, 11 of the 15 are full day, and we have a partnership with the accredited preschool on the island of Lana'i. Our Department of Education/Head Start Inclusion programs involved 5 classrooms, with a total of 43 children served with certified special needs. In the past year, we have served a total of 385 children 3-5 years of age.

The need for Head Start services at the state public housing complex, Kahekili Terrace, prompted the installation of a fire hydrant in order to have a Head Start center at the housing complex. Kahekili Terrace was able to open and provide services to 10 children at the start of the 2004-2005 school year.

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION is the highest standard reached by quality early childhood programs. This prestigious honor is presented to programs that exemplify the meaning of "best practice," going above and beyond in providing services on a daily basis. Programs are initially awarded accreditation for three years, and then are required to repeat the process for re-accreditation status. MEO Head Start currently has MCC, Kaunakakai A and Kahului A as nationally accredited centers. We are waiting for our letter from NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) acknowledging Makawao A as an accredited center.

THE NATIONAL REPORTING SYSTEM for Head Start was implemented in the fall of 2003. The NRS is a standardized assessment designed to measure literacy and cognitive development of all 4 and 5 year old children enrolled in Head Start. We have seen a substantial increase of knowledge in the children due to the exposure and experiences gained during the school year. The effects of early intervention in quality early childhood programs like MEO Head Start makes a significant difference in the lives of young children.

SUCCESSFUL LITERACY PROGRAMS including Raising a Reader (RAR); Reading is Fundamental (RIF) and Book Packs are



Lyn McNeff is the Director of MEO's award winning Head Start program.



A successful Free to Grow/Head Start project, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is the Resident Patrol, consisting of community members from the Kahekili Terrace housing community.

HEAD START

enjoyed in MEO's Head Start program and designed to help families build an enjoyment of reading aloud to their child, fostering the importance of literature in the home setting. The Hawai'i Community Foundation awarded MEO Head Start with funding to maintain the Raising a Reader program on the island of Molokai. Funds were used at our Kaunakakai A and B Head Start programs to enhance their library and for purchases of additional supplies that promote the RAR project.



Curious children eager to learn new skills, glue, crayons and water, a committed teacher and a parent volunteer.

THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION project "Free to Grow" continues to make an impact towards community and family strengthening. This project is integrated with the Head Start program to provide intensive case management for 20 families experiencing domestic, substance, and/or child abuse. A Community Advocate Specialist works also directly with the Wailuku community to identify individuals who demonstrate abilities to become leaders.

MEO HEAD START/FREE TO GROW has a diverse Governance/ 'Ohana Strengthening Coalition consisting of community partners dedicated towards promoting healthy families and communities in Maui County. Highlighted projects funded by Free to Grow included the "Kid's Day" events held in December 2004 and June 2005 and organized as a joint effort with MCCC (Maui Community Correctional Center) and designed to provide incarcerated women the opportunity to spend quality time with their children in a relaxed, fun atmosphere. Another successful Free to Grow project is the Resident Patrol, consisting of community members from the Kahekili Terrace housing community. The Community Advocate Specialist, in partnership with Maui Police Department, helped to sustain the resident's patrol that was started over a year ago, the longest active resident patrol in the state. As a result, the Wailuku community has seen a decline of crime activities, increased trust of the police and an increase in pride among residents.

FREE TO BE is a program that practices and utilizes the innovative strategies of the Free to Grow program. This is a Maui County funded program for young children in partnership with Ka Hale Ake Ola Homeless Resource Center that offers family strengthening strategies through early childhood education, parent-child time and parent support group sessions. The program also offers quality childcare to the children whose families are taking the parenting classes.

THE HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL (a body of elected parents as leaders from every center, as well as community representatives) conducted our annual self-assessment using the federal monitoring tool, PRISM (Program annual self-assessment for Systems Monitoring). This tool reviewed each program service area of Head Start, providing a comprehensive evaluation for administrators to rate the programs effectiveness and quality. As in past years, no negative findings were identified in the program self-assessment.



Literacy programs in MEO's Head Start program are designed to build an enjoyment of reading in children and the entire family.

KAHI KAMALI'I

Kahi Kamali'i, (the Place for Children) is a quality MEO Infant-Toddler center serving young children from 12 months to 3 years of age, including children with special needs.

Kahi Kamali'i celebrated its second year of providing services to families on Maui in April 2005. The program continues to offer childcare to working families and to children with special needs. We receive funding through the County of Maui, and through a U.S. Department of Education grant focused on promoting a safe, healthy program for high-risk children and their families. Additional support for working families is provided by the State of Hawai'i Childcare Connection program.



Where do bubbles go? This is the beginning of questions that will last a lifetime.

The program is licensed by the State of Hawai'i Department of Human Services. We serve 20 children between the hours of 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Kahi Kamali'i has served an accumulative total of 58

children since opening in April 2003. This MEO program works in partnership with the J. Walter Cameron Center, owners of the facility. We also implement collaborative services with the IMUA program, offering an inclusive setting for children with special needs. Special services including speech, occupational and physical therapies are conducting on-site at Kahi Kamali'i.

Parents are invited to attend monthly committee meetings to discuss program plans including curriculum design and implementation. The program has chosen the Creative Curriculum as its foundation model regarding environment and program design. Plans are individualized to support each family and their child.



Drive carefully. The co-pilot is watching every move. It's learning to play together while developing eye, hand and small muscle coordination.

KAHI KAMALI'I

Parent and Teacher conferences are held twice a year to discuss each child's growth and development. Individual assessments are collected using the Ounce Scale observational tool. This method of on-going monitoring keeps track of the children's growth in six areas of development. It also includes a "Family Album" booklet in which parents document their child's development and milestones.

A program evaluation was completed on August 11, 2005 by an independent early childhood professional. The following excerpt was taken from the narrative report to show evidence of meeting the program's objectives.

"The Kahi Kamali'i Infant and Toddler Center continues to strive for improving and meeting their objectives of delivering quality services to children and their families. They (the caregivers) provide warm, attentive and responsive care which cultivates the child's emotional, behavioral and social development during these important early years."

MEO can take pride in the fact that Kahi Kamali'i has proven itself to be a quality infant-toddler childcare program.



Hi, what's you 're name? Do you want to play on the slide?



A healthy, delicious and nutritious beverage and snack is always welcome.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

In 2004-2005 the need for rental assistance challenged our case managers to work with their clients in an effort to seek creative solutions, avoid homelessness and to urge that additional public resources be devoted to meeting this crisis.

Reaching out to Maui County's disadvantaged, MEO's Community Services Department provided essential services such as rental assistance, emergency food, job placement services and senior homemaker services.

Decreases in federal, state and county funding of social programs and changing requirements forced social agencies to diversify financial resources. This challenged MEO case managers to design and implement solutions that leveraged federal and state funds with private grants in order to assist their clients.

CASE MANAGEMENT. MEO's Community Services Department staff follows five steps to successful case management with individuals and families: (1) intake and problem identification, (2) planning of services, (3) implementation of solutions, (4) outcome evaluation and, (5) follow-up. Community Services case managers provided comprehensive case management to 93 low-income persons and families, 52 immigrants, 95 migrant farmworkers and 70 seniors over the age of fifty-five.

MEO's Community Services Department deploys case management staff on Maui, Moloka'i and Lana'i. Case management provided services in three major areas: pre-employment, job placement and life skills training. Other services provided by the case management staff include: client linkage and referral to other social agencies, supportive counseling and referral to educational facilities for vocational training such as Certificate for Nurses Aid & Commercial Drivers Licenses Training.

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION. MEO's Community Services Department administers the Maui County Emergency Rental Assistance Program to provide emergency assistance to the homeless and for those at-risk of becoming homeless. This program provides eligible applicants with temporary financial assistance to pay for emergency shelter. If persons are facing utility disconnection due to overdue bills, they may also receive



Gladys Baisa (left) MEO's Executive Director and Sandy Baz, Deputy Director, present May Fujiwara, President of the Lahaina-Honolua Senior Citizens' Club, with a commemoration at the celebration of the club's 35th anniversary.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

assistance to pay those bills. During the year, Community Services helped 299 families with rental or utility assistance with an average of \$500 per family. There remains a significant waiting list each year for this program.

SENIOR SERVICES. As the number of eligible seniors grows each year, MEO's Community Services Department provides much needed services, including: health education, access to legal counsel through volunteer attorneys and support of the independent senior clubs. MEO provided support to 43 independent "Senior Clubs" during fiscal year 2005. Active in their community, senior club members enjoy better physical, mental and spiritual health through activities organized by the clubs. The senior clubs also received support from MEO's Senior Coordinators who attend various club meetings and schedule speakers on a monthly basis to keep seniors informed of different activities at the local and national levels. This well-organized senior community elects leaders and advocates for senior causes.

The Community Services Department offers services to seniors through funding provided by the Hawai'i Office of Community Services and the Maui County Office on Aging. Provided services included homemaker services, shopping assistance, yard maintenance and assistance with laundry to disabled and frail seniors. This year 220 frail, disabled or elderly persons received homemaker services and an additional 141 received chore services, exceeding MEO's annual goals by almost 85% and promoting a safe, healthy and independent living style for seniors.

SENIOR DISCOUNT RED CARD PROGRAM. One hundred and ten Maui stores collaborated with MEO to provide 5% to 15% discounts on food and merchandise to seniors over the age of sixty. The number of participating seniors increased this year on Maui, Moloka'i and Lana'i attesting once again to the popularity of the discount program among seniors, who spread word of the benefits it offers to other seniors by word of mouth and during presentations at senior clubs.

EMERGENCY NEEDS ASSISTANCE. The Hawai'i Community Foundation renewed the 6 Community Services grants that MEO's Community Services Department administers to provide rapid emergency assistance to individuals and families. The department assisted 109 Adults and 36 Children (18 years and below) with these grants for needs that included children care, clothing, dental and medication services, transportation, utilities, insurance, working tools and equipment.



Legal counsel for seniors meeting guidelines is provided by Larry N.C. Ing (center), and his partners David Jorgensen (left), Paul Horikawa (right) and Gordon Stewart (not shown).

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

This year saw the conclusion of the Maui-to-Work program. Four hundred sixty-one clients were enrolled in the program over five years with 305 (170 full-time, 135 part-time) placed in unsubsidized employment. This was an outstanding record of achievement.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT (WIA 167) NATIONAL FARMWORKER JOBS PROGRAM. MEO's Community Services Department implemented one more successful year for this statewide employment and training program targeting low-income farm workers and their families. This year case managers enrolled 95 new participants. Of those, all 95 became financially self-sufficient by securing employment in the retail food and the tourism sectors, health care and the medical field.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING. The results of effective case management were that 145 low-income underemployed or unemployed individuals were enrolled for job placement. MEO's successful Employment Core Services for Immigrants surpassed its annual planned enrollment.

SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (SCSEP). This program assists seniors to achieve greater self-sufficiency and independence through part-time volunteer employment. Through SCSEP, 70 seniors were placed into full-time employment after a period of work experience, more than doubling the annual goal for unsubsidized placements.

MAUI-TO-WORK. This year saw the conclusion of the MEO Maui-to-Work program with an excellent record in case management, job readiness training and other support services to assist its clients to overcome barriers to employment during its five years of operation. Four hundred sixty-one clients were enrolled into the program with 305 (170 full-time, 135 part-time) placed in unsubsidized employment. This was an outstanding record of achievement.



A participant in the Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP). Through SCSEP, 70 seniors were placed into full-time employment.



Loreta Pacubas, Community Services Director (left), takes an application for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. The program helps to pay the cost of household energy bills.

Community action was born in advocacy and the unwillingness to accept the paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty. That same spirit continues today at MEO.

MAUI NUI HOUSING TASK FORCE. With the support of MEO, the MNHTF enjoyed victory in its 2-year campaign to increase the state property conveyance tax and use a portion of the additional revenue to build affordable housing. Governor Lingle signed the legislation and Stephanie Aveiro, the head of HCDC, delivered the Governor's message of endorsement at the 2nd Anniversary meeting of the Task Force. The Task Force has also submitted a comprehensive ordinance designed to revamp Maui's affordable housing laws to the Maui County Council's Housing and Human Services Committee.



Giovanni Rosati (right), Coordinator of the Maui Nui Housing Task Force, presents a copy of the "Affordable Housing Now" ordinance to Councilmember Danny Mateo, chair of the Housing and Human Services committee.

THE MAUI COUNTY SENIOR FAIR—A FAIR FOR THE

WHOLE FAMILY. In partnership with the Maui County Office on Aging, MEO has produced the Fair for three years running. In addition to flu shots, fairgoers enjoy local food and craft booths and gather information that will help them live healthy lives. Among the many health items covered are colon cancer education, hearing care information, 3-wheel Electric Cart and Wheelchair information, bath safety products, portable oxygen information, blood pressure checks, free cane tips, eye health information, free hearing screenings, free hearing aid checks and cleaning, hospice materials, stress tests, long term care information, free blood sugar checks, cholesterol screening and health care fraud protection information.

COMMUNITY FOOD AND NUTRITION. In the face of growing concern regarding obesity, the increase in adult diabetes, preventable heart problems and tobacco and alcohol abuse, MEO initiated a series of 6 healthy eating, healthy living cooking shows in partnership with the Office of Community Services, the Maui Culinary Academy and the Maui Community College Media Arts Center. The programs were videotaped on local farms using fresh and low cost ingredients easily accessible to Maui families. Titled "E hele Mai 'Ai," or "Come Eat," the half-hour shows were broadcast over 6 months on Maui County community access TV and are to be made available to similar TV stations throughout the state.

CIVIC PARTICIPATION. Participation in public meetings and providing information regarding policy initiatives and funding decisions that affect the low-income community continues to be a priority for MEO. Federal, state and local elected and appointed officials recognize that the quality of their decisions is enhanced, and the civic life of the community is improved, when informed citizen participation is encouraged.



Bobby Santos, Director of the Maui Culinary Academy, prepares a new version of "My Mothers Beef Stew," on site at the Ulapalakua Ranch, using grass fed Maui beef with no hormone additives and recipe ingredients typically found in USDA commodity food distributions. With him is Becky Speer, host of the E hele Mai 'Ai program.

On Maui, the installation of a solar hot water system produced monthly energy cost savings of 24 percent. On Lana`i, savings averaged 33 percent or \$81 per month.

LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP). For the eligibility period that ended June 2005, 664 participants qualified to receive temporary energy assistance by either being eligible for an Energy Credit or Energy Crisis Intervention. The Energy Credit assists eligible low-income families by providing a credit amount that may be used later in the year. Of those receiving an energy credit, 434 were for Maui Electric Company (MECO), 10 were for the Maui Gas Company and 198 were for electric on Moloka`i. Energy Crisis Intervention (ECI) assists households to restore or prevent the termination of electric or gas disconnection. Seventeen households received crisis assistance for MECO and 5 for Moloka`i.

WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (WAP). Maui Economic Opportunity's Weatherization Assistance Program installed 36 energy saving devices in low-income households, which exceeded the annual goal of 34. Twenty households were provided with education survey audits on Maui, Moloka`i and Lana`i. We served 17 elderly individuals and a total of eighty-six low-income individuals that received the benefits of having an energy saving device installed at their residence.

Energy saving devices included hot water heater blankets, hot water heater timers and solar hot water heater systems.

SOLAR HOT WATER HEATER SYSTEM. On Maui, prior to the installation of a solar hot water heater system, one typical household averaged 696 kilowatts per month. That figure dropped to an average of 537 kilowatts per month after installation. Total kilowatt savings over 3 month averaged 159 kilowatts. This translated into an average monthly energy cost saving of \$31, or 24% compared to the cost before solar installation.

On Lana`i, the monthly savings were \$81 on average, or 33% less than prior to installing a solar system.



MEO energy educator Fred Baisa (left) is on a site inspection visit with Mike Hane from the Hawai`i State Office of Community Services. Hane is conducting an inspection on a solar hot water system installation.

Enlace Hispano's goal is to foster economic and social self-sufficiency in Maui's Hispanic population.

ACCULTURATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH. This year Enlace Hispano provided services to 1,040 Spanish-speaking individuals and families. These services included in-office consultations about everyday questions and problems, medical, educational and legal referrals, translations, immigration information, outreach and training. Together with community professionals, Enlace Hispano held such events as a CPR course in Spanish, Oral Health Instruction and Tobacco awareness education. In addition, a semester long class was held in collaboration with Maui Community College to bring together MCC students with Hispanic community members interested in practicing English, allowing both to practice one another's language and share cultural experiences. Enlace Hispano hosted a visit from the General Consulate of Mexico. Their visit provided an opportunity for Mexicans on Maui to receive services for which they would otherwise have to travel to San Francisco.

TOBACCO PREVENTION. Throughout the year Enlace Hispano worked extensively with the community to provide tobacco awareness, prevention information, and cessation advice. Through a grant from the American Legacy Foundation, the Aire Fresco (Fresh Air) Program was created. Aire Fresco's Tobacco Prevention Outreach Specialist (TPOS) has worked tirelessly to spread the word about the dangers of tobacco. In a partnership with the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) program, the TPOS has done outreach work at a WIC clinic with Spanish speaking mothers of infants and young children. He shares tobacco information as well as translates nutrition and parenting advice for the WIC participants.

The Aire Fresco program has also assisted in the creation of the Maui Soccer Association, a soccer league that has brought together members of the Hispanic community in an outstanding display of sportsmanship and teamwork. Enlace Hispano continues to be active members of the Maui Tobacco-Free Partnership. At the annual MTFP meeting, MEO was awarded "Outstanding Organization of 2004" and special recognition was also given to each of the



Ignacio "Nacho" Cardenas entertains at the Somos Amigos Festival with his beautiful version of the classic Mexican love song, "Amor."



The Aire Fresco program assisted in the creation of the Maui Soccer Association that brought together members of the Hispanic community in an outstanding display of healthy sports activity and community building.

ENLACE HISPANO ~ HISPANIC LINK

MEO departments involved in this effort. Enlace Staff members have attended several trainings and conferences including the "2005 National Conference on Tobacco and Health" in Chicago from May 4th-May 6th.

SOMOS AMIGOS (WE ARE FRIENDS). On September 18, 2004, Enlace Hispano welcomed approximately 4,800 people to the 5th annual Somos Amigos Festival, which celebrates the Hispanic and Portuguese cultures of Maui. It is much anticipated in the community and has become known for its delectable, authentic food and lively music. Festival planning began six months before the event. Participants included churches, members of the Maui Puerto Rican Association, the Portuguese Association of Maui, several restaurant owners, and members of the Hispanic community. We are very thankful for the contributions of Maui County, Office of Economic Development, the Hawai'i Tourism Authority and the participation of many other local agencies and partners.

CÉSAR CHAVEZ DAY CELEBRATION. On March 31, 2005 Enlace Hispano held their first annual César Chavez Day Luncheon to celebrate the life and legacy of César Chavez, a Mexican-American activist who changed the lives of hundreds of thousands of migrant farm workers. After losing their farm during the Great Depression, his family became migrant farm workers. For more than three decades, Chavez led the first successful farm workers union in American history, achieving dignity, respect, fair wages, medical coverage, and humane living conditions for migrant farm workers.

Mr. and Mrs. Gaxiola were awarded the first annual "MEO César Chavez Award" for their dedication to the Hispanic community on Maui. César Gaxiola spoke emotionally of his own experiences of coming to America from Mexico and how important the struggle that Chavez launched continues to be today. More than 70 guests shared music, food and a very moving afternoon.



Mr. and Mrs. Gaxiola (standing right) received the First Annual César Chavez award at the César Chavez Festival held at MEO on March 31, 2005. The award honors them for their many years of work in the Hispanic community.



Enlace Hispano provides individuals and families with translations, health and tobacco cessation training, medical, legal and employment referrals, driver's license assistance and general advocacy in the community.

REINTEGRATION

MEO's Being Empowered and Safe Together (BEST) program, in collaboration with the Department of Public Safety, provides services to persons transitioning from prison to the community.

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY CONTINUES TO STRENGTHEN. Since December 2002, MEO's Being Empowered and Safe Together (BEST) program, in collaboration with the Department of Public Safety (PSD), has provided services to persons transitioning from prison to the community. Funding in the amount of \$1.9 million assists inmates in areas such as mental health and substance abuse treatment, support services, vocational training, cognitive restructuring, case management, and education related to improving employment success. Nation-wide recidivism rates run as high as 67%.

MEO's BEST Program intends to reduce the recidivism rate to 25% on Maui. BEST staff and partners participated in the Delancey Replication Workshop in San Francisco this year. MCCC's Warden Alan Nouchi, Maui Intake Service Center's Branch Manager, Wayne Matsuda, Hawai'i Paroling Authority, Maui District Office Supervisor, Rick Fujihara, Adult Client Services Administrator of the Second Circuit, Ernest Delima, Rudy Esquer, Grants Manager for the County of Maui, Kanoe Medeiros, BEST Administrative Assistant-Cultural Assistant, and Verdine Kong, Director of the BEST Program experienced "hands on" training with Delancey residents. With the purchase of the Vineyard Street, "BEST House," BEST will provide a training ground, shelter and a strong family environment for persons being released from MCCC.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION AT MAUI COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL CENTER. To date, 71 participants have received BEST services. 20 clients are out of custody and are being supervised on parole or probation. Eight BEST clients graduated from Pre-employment Training this year at MCCC. On April 8, 2005, BEST organized a mini job fair. The BEST team pitched in to organize and contact potential employers looking for good workers. Twenty-one BEST clients and 13 employers attended the job fair at MEO. Nine individuals were offered jobs on the spot. BEST clients were especially interested in union apprenticeship programs that were featured.



Na Pa'ahao Maoli, a part of the unique BEST cultural renewal program, performs at the Queen Ka'ahumanu Center.

REINTEGRATION

CASE MANAGEMENT

Housing: As housing costs soar, rental prices increase and make the task of finding affordable housing for BEST a daunting task. This year we assisted 17 individuals with housing assistance including referrals and financial aid.

Cultural Renewal: Na Leo I Ka Pu uwai's (Voices of Heart) encore performance in February was a special experience for all of us. Actors and dancers performed for Maui students in hopes that their stories could prevent young people from ever beginning to use ice. On May 23, 2005, beloved Kumu hula, Debbie Kamali'i, died unexpectedly. Her legacy continues with Halau Na Pa'ahao Maoli as it continues to be in great demand.

Mentoring: BEST has 19 volunteer mentors working with inmate-mentees and during the year held two mentor training sessions. Cognitive Restructuring: 13 individuals participated in The Pacific Institute's (TPI) cognitive skills training facilitated by BEST staff at MCCC during this period. The TPI program peaks their interest as it was specifically designed for prisoners and offers relevant information in living a life that offers the possibility of successful change.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Treatment Referrals: Clients in need of substance abuse treatment have been referred to Aloha House and Hina Mauka and financial assistance is provided to ensure their treatment needs. Sixteen clients were referred for substance abuse assessments and appropriate treatment this year. BEST clients in need of mental health services, are referred for mental health assessments while they are incarcerated at MCCC.



Maui Community Correctional Center (MCCC) inmates are part of a "Work Line" that cleaned up the old Cabebe Store in Wailuku so that it can become the BEST House providing reintegration services.



Twenty-one BEST clients and 13 employers attended a Job Fair at MEO. Nine individuals were offered jobs on the spot.

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Family Reunification: BEST has hosted its third family reunification event. A BEST client, now on parole, shared his experiences in reintegration. He emphasized that pride can sometimes get in the way of successful reintegration and if it wasn't for the BEST staff that consistently offered assistance, he could have easily been overwhelmed with his responsibilities and may not have succeeded in his work, his relationship and his stable housing. He told the audience that if they need help they should not be ashamed to ask for help and he let them know that MEO's staff are "for real," i.e. that we follow through with what we say we can do, and it made all the difference to him.

MICROENTERPRISE

MEO BDC has made over 460 loans totaling more than \$1.8 million and trained 503 students in the fundamentals of business startup, operation and expansion.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS. To date MEO BDC has made over 460 loans totaling more than \$1.8 million. We have trained 503 students in the fundamentals of business startup, operation and expansion. We have provided scores of technical assistance projects for existing businesses. None of this would have been possible without the financial support of the County of Maui Office of Economic Development and the State of Hawaii Office of Community Services.

OUTREACH. We have continued to improve our community outreach through participation with organizations such as the Lana'i Chamber of Commerce, Moloka'i Chamber of Commerce, and the Maui Chamber of Commerce.

INITIATIVES. We involve the financial community in much of what we do. Clients who no longer need our services, and become customers of banks and credit unions are one measure of our ultimate success.

A few years ago, we brought the greater financial community into our entrepreneurial training through Banker's Night. This is the final class of the entrepreneurial training and students present their business plans to commercial bankers for feedback and discussion. This has proven invaluable in honing the business plan and breaking down barriers based on the mystique surrounding the banking community as seen by many of our clients.

PARTNERS. Partnerships are the key to our program's success. Our partners include the County of Maui Office of Economic Development, The State of Hawaii Office of Community Services, the U.S. Small Business Administration, Workforce Development, The Maui County Business Resource Center, the State Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Small Business Development Center Network, Lokahi Pacific and Alu Like. We also are thankful for the members of our banking community, especially the Business Bankers at American Savings Bank, Bank of Hawaii, Central Pacific Bank, and First Hawaiian Bank, who



Andy Kiaaina (left), owner of Hawaii Tire Disposal, is shown here with his brother. MEO BDC helped Andy purchase a tire shredder to keep up with all the work there is to do on Maui.

MICROENTERPRISE

give so freely of their time for our Banker's Night program. We are also very thankful for our MEO BDC Board of Directors.

FUTURE. Over the past twelve months we have seen our program grow, not only in the number of people we serve, but also in the volume of loans we have been able to fund and the number of students we have served in our Core Four Business Planning Classes. When we talk about growth, we are talking about all islands of Maui County. We have a small but very productive staff providing loans and classes throughout Maui, Moloka'i, and Lana'i. We will continue to expand our client's entrepreneurial minds and great ideas for products and services through our programs, our training, and loans for low and moderate-income individuals and immigrants.

MEO BDC has recently become a technical assistance provider for the SBA's Community Express Loan program, offering another opportunity to serve the entrepreneurs of Maui County.



Nestor Espejo is shown with the forklift MEO BDC financed to help him build up "Aloha Charcoal," his charcoal and kinaue wood business.

MEO YouthBank provided services to 338 Maui youth in 2004-2005, helping them get on-line and in-line for good grades and good jobs.

Resilience corresponding with strength and spirit. MEO YouthBank members gained resilience through the bustle of life skills, job skills classes, in the midst of their feats of long hikes, campouts pro-social and outdoor experiences and absorbing the awe of culturally historic sites of Maui.

MEO YouthBank provided these services to 338 Maui youth in 2004-2005. MEO YouthBank helped them get on-line and in-line for good grades and good jobs. Helped them get certified in First aid and CPR, Water Safety and other skills. The program led them through some good hard work, making the world a better place through community service. Taught them some solid thinking, reflecting and recording of what they've accomplished. Led them to new experiences they'd never dreamed they'd be doing. It took them to sit at the feet of kumu and kupuna, who taught them the legacy of their ancestors.

College age youth were provided with one year of dramatic service with MEO YouthBank AmeriCorps on the mountain tops and rainforests of Maui and Molokai. They learned valuable environmental skills, planting native plants, removing invasive species and fencing out predators. Participants earned a living allowance and a college scholarship!

Youth who were out-of-school, out of work and age 14-21, signed up for MEO YouthBank's Workforce Development program. Staff helped thirty-one youth to re-discover their study skills and workplace skills. Through counseling, mentoring and with the aid of financial support, they earned their GED or high school diploma. From there they chose to be employed or to continue with higher education.



YouthBank members learn to groom horses in return for rides.

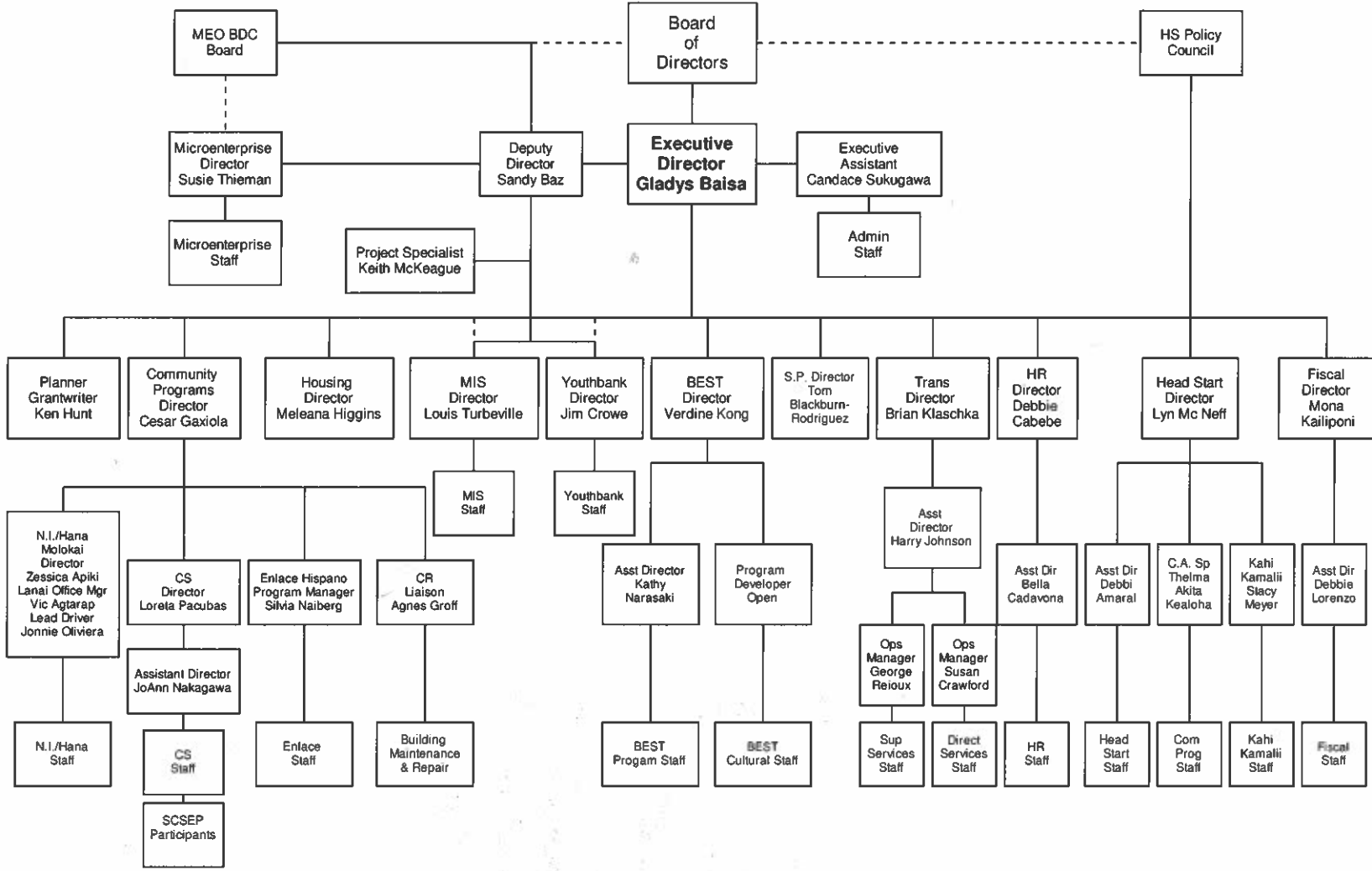


YouthBank participants — many hands make light work in planting native plants.



This was one of the largest graduation classes in our Core Four 30-hour Business Planning Course that teaches students how to set goals, do market research, determine pricing, make the sale, understand and create cash flow projections and write a business plan.

Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. Organizational Chart



COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAMS: Senior Clubs, Red Card Program, Legal Services, Outreach & Referral, Chore Services, Employment & Training for the Low Income, Homeless Prevention Programs, National Farmworker Jobs Program, Employment & Training for Immigrants.

BEST REINTERGRATION: Employment, mentoring, housing, mental health, counseling, substance abuse treatment, family reunification, cultural activity, support services/referrals.

ENERGY PROGRAMS: Weatherization Assistance Program, Low Income Energy Assistance Program.

ENLACE HISPANO; Tobacco education/prevention, job training, community resources information, immigration assistance.

NEW FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT: Transportation Base yard Relocation Project, BEST House properties.

HEAD START PROGRAM: Head Start classes on Maui, Moloka'i, and Lana'i.

MEO BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION: Microenterprise loans, business development and education on Maui, Moloka'i and Lana'i.

MEO CONSULTING: Administration, Fiscal, Personnel, Board Training, Board Planning, Strategic Planning, and other specialized training.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES: Operations on Maui, Moloka'i, and Lana'i.

YOUTHBANK: AmeriCorps, County of Maui, Out of School Youth Program.

MEO YOUTHBANK



AmeriCorps member assisting a firefighter in removing a log during a Wild Land Firefighting Training exercise.



YouthBank participants gain cultural skills in Keanae learning to clean Lo'i (taro) patches.



An AmeriCorps volunteer is trained and certified in CPR.



AmeriCorps member learning to conduct a hook up at Helicopter Training. Helicopters are often the only way to reach remote areas of Maui.

MEO FUNDING SUMMARY 2004-2005

GRANTS		
1. STATE OCS GRANTS		496,664
CSBG/FEDERAL		194,394
TRANSPORTATION		124,000
EMPLOYMENT CORE SERVICES		50,000
EMPLOYMENT CORE SERVICES FOR IMMIGRANTS		48,984
WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM-FEDERAL		47,500
HEAD START		15,399
COMMUNITY FOOD AND NUTRITION		
2. OTHER STATE GRANTS		1,000,000
DEPT. OF PUBLIC SAFETY BEST HOUSE PURCHASES		101,688
CHORE SERVICES-TITLE II		31,500
KAHU KAMALII INFANT TODDLER CENTER CHILD CARE SERVICES PROVIDERS		25,000
OHA - YOUTH BANK		10,000
ELIGIBLE TRAINING PROVIDER		
3. COUNTY OF MAUI GRANTS		3,076,214
TRANSPORTATION		1,071,771
TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT AND PURCHASES		335,000
TRANSPORTATION-FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES		282,029
BEST PROGRAM - CDBG		275,000
BEST HOUSE PROJECT		240,375
TRANSPORTATION FOR DIALYSIS AND MEDICAL NEEDS		230,000
BEST PROJECT RENTAL ASSISTANCE AND TRANSITIONAL LIVING		211,989
TRANSPORTATION FACILITY RELOCATION GRANT		196,000
HEAD START AFTER SCHOOL CARE		180,000
YOUTH BANK PROGRAM		150,000
OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MICRO LOAN PROGRAM		110,000
ENLACE HISPANO		103,000
COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION SERVICES		103,000
MCOOAA HOME/MAKER/HOUSEKEEPING		98,000
HEAD START SUMMER SCHOOL		84,000
FREE-TO-BE PROGRAM		72,000
KAHU KAMALII INFANT TODDLER CENTER CHILD CARE CENTER		65,000
EMERGENCY HOUSING ASSISTANCE		58,000
YOUTH TRANSPORTATION		50,000
BEST HOUSE PLANNING		11,445
SOMOS AMIGOS FESTIVAL		10,000
SENIOR FAIR		3,000
BEST NA LEO I KA PUUWAU		
4. FEDERAL GRANTS		2,373,976
BEST REINTEGRATION PROGRAM		1,886,467
HEAD START		300,000
DEPT OF EDUCATION - KAHU KAMALII INFANT TODDLER CENTER		213,866
NATIONAL FARMWORKER JOB PROGRAM		187,204
SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM		180,000
SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM - 502(E)		106,872
HEAD START - IN-KIND		100,000
CTAA-JOB ACCESS REVERSE COMMUTE PROGRAM		99,063
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AMERICORP PROGRAM		80,000
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII WIA OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH PROGRAM		71,744
FTA 6310 WHEEL CHAIR BUS		50,000
HUD RURAL HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		20,800
SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM - IN-KIND		10,721
LIHEAP		
5. PRIVATE FOUNDATION GRANTS		192,500
HAWAII COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANTS		109,150
ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON/DORIS DUKE FOUNDATIONS		100,260
A & B KEEP PROGRAM		96,100
AMERICAN LEGACY FTG TOBACCO FREE PREVENTION		41,138
FOUNDATIONS - OTHER		29,325
MELLAM FAMILY FOUNDATION		24,000
ALU LIKE - NATIVE HAWAIIAN CHILDCARE PROGRAM		24,000
HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION-AMERICORP GRANT		15,549
A & B B.E.S.T. PROGRAM		8,705
IN MEMORY OF DAN H. C. KONG FUND		2,026
MAUI HOMELESS ALLIANCE		
VENTURE PROJECTS		84,800
MEO ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES		6,000
MEO CONSULTING SERVICES		
MEO OTHER PROJECTS		600,000
OTHER TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS		150,000
MISCELLANEOUS FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNITY DONATIONS		16,288,220
TOTAL FUNDING		

SENIOR STAFF



Gladys C. Baisa
Executive Director



Sandy Baz
Deputy Director



Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez
Special Projects Director



Mona Kaitiponi
Fiscal Director



Debbie Cabebe
Human Resources Director



César Gaxiola
Community Programs Director



Louis Turbeville
Management Information Services Director



Lyn McNeff
Head Start Director



Brian Klaschka
Transportation Director



Verdine Kong
BEST Reintegration Director



Loreta Pacubas
Community Services Director



Jim Crowe
YouthBank Director



Silvia Naiberg
Enlace Hispano Program Manager



Susie Thieman
Microenterprise Director



Ken Hunt
Planner/Grant Writer



Agnes Groff
Community Relations Liaison



Candace Sukagawa
Executive Assistant

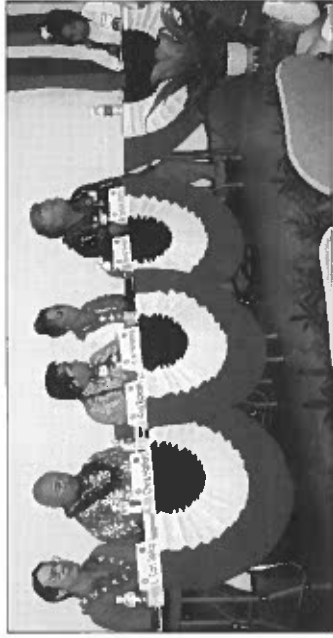


Jessica Apiki
Branch Director Molokai



Victor Agtarap
Branch Manager Lanai

ACTIVITIES



The Maui Nui Housing Task Force held a candidate's forum prior to the election and every candidate for county, state house and state senate office attended.



Jade Miyamoto, at a reception celebrating Head Start's 40th Anniversary, tells how she was enrolled in MEO's Head Start program in 1965 and after she grew up came back to work in the program.



Bishop Pakia, supervisor of the inmate work line at Maui Community Correctional Center, received a special appreciation at the 17th Annual Valentine's Day Volunteer Luncheon.



That's Gladys Baisa, our Executive Director, on the left. Who's on the right is anybody's guess. But he's got great hair!



MEO staff off to another day at the office. Hey! Who's Mr. Cheesehead?



These two Head Start employees are obviously "utterly" delighted to be working at MEO.

SENIOR ACTIVITIES



Kazuma Okumura, age 97, of Makawao, and Katherine Gerdtz, age 93, of Kihei, were named the King and Queen of the 33rd "Lei of Aloha" luncheon held by the Maui Senior Citizens Planning and Coordinating Council. They are the oldest male and female members of the Council's 43 Maui County clubs.



You'll always find our elected officials at the Aloha Party greeting constituents. Including the Mayor and, in the background, Councilmember Robert Carroll.



Over 5,000 people attended the 2004 Maui County Senior Fair produced by MEO. Senior clubs and vendors offered many products, including garden fresh produce.

SENIOR ACTIVITIES



MEO was pleased to partner at the Senior Fair with the Maui Community College School of Nursing and Maui Memorial Medical Center to offer flu shots to our seniors.



Dorothy Nakata (right) and Edward Nishihara are congratulated by Ann Arakawa, wife of Mayor Alan Arakawa, at a ceremony naming the two as "2005 Outstanding Older America Awardees" in Maui County. Mr. Nishihara was also honored in February as MEO's "Volunteer Hall of Fame" awardee.



Sandy Baz, MEO's Deputy Director, is the youngest "senior" at this enthusiastic table of guests at the Aloha Party.

MEO DIRECTORY

MEO, Inc.

99 Mahalani Street • Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii'i 96793
(808) 249-2990 • FAX: (808) 249-2991

Office Hours

7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. • Monday through Friday

Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Family Center	249-2990
99 Mahalani Street • Wailuku, HI 96793	
Community Services, Employment & Training	249-2970
Fax	249-2971
Enlace Hispano	249-2993
Head Start	249-2988
Fax	249-2989
MEO Business Development Corporation (MEO BDC)	249-2990
Fax	249-2991
Transportation	877-7651
Fax	871-2171
YouthBank	873-3101
Fax	873-3103

Branch Offices

Hana	248-8282
Hana Neighborhood Center • Uakea Rd, Hana, HI 96713	
Office Hours: 7:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday-Friday	
Fax	248-7686
Lana'i (Lana'i City)	565-6665
1144 Ilima Ave., Suite 102 • P.O. Box 630068 • Lana'i City, HI 96763	
Office Hours: 7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday	
Fax	565-7263
Moloka'i (Kaunakakai)	553-3216
380 Kolapa Place • P.O. Box 677 • Kaunakakai, HI 96748	
Office Hours: 7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday	
Fax	553-3776
Moloka'i Head Start	553-9805
380 Kolapa Place • P.O. Box 677 • Kaunakakai, HI 96748	
Office Hours: 7:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Monday-Friday	
Fax	553-3776