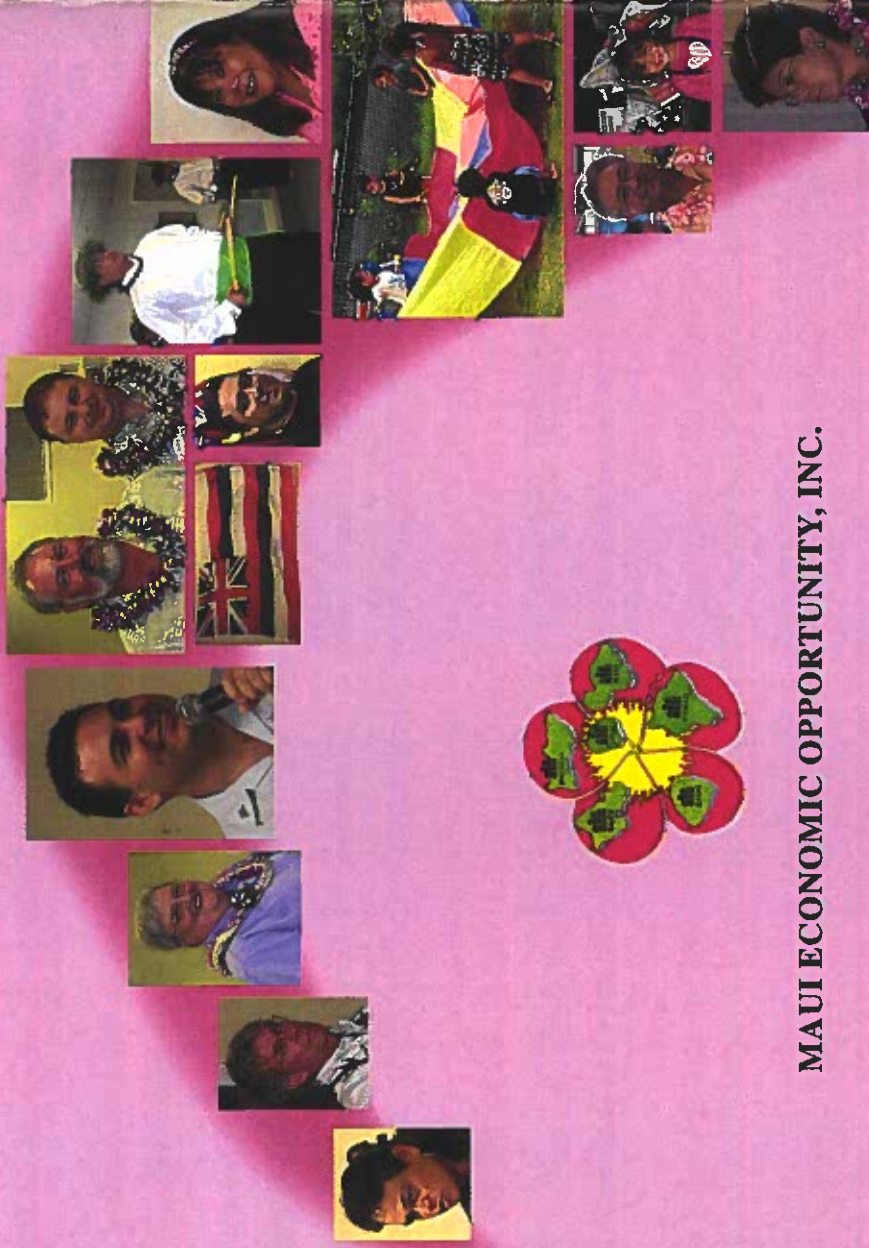


ANNUAL REPORT

Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. July 2005 – June 2006



MAUI ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, INC.

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**Yes
We
Can**

Helping People. Changing Lives.



Established 1965



MAUI ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

MEO provides 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 safe, supervised fun for teens. Reintegration services to help former inmates return successfully to the community. A helping hand with housework so a seniors can stay in their homes. 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 a 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.

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Helping People.

Changing Lives.

WEB SITES

Maui Economic Opportunity	www.meoinc.org
Community Action	www.communityactionpartnership.com
Head Start	www.headstartinfo.org
AmeriCorps	www.americorps.org
Farmworker Programs	www.afop.org
Community Transportation Association	www.ctaa.org
Government of the State of Hawai‘i	www.hawaii.gov
Government of the County of Maui	www.mauicounty.gov

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.



On March 16, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson presented the U. S. Congress with what he called A Proposal for A Nationwide War On The Sources of Poverty. The president explained the timing and intention of his proposal this way: "Because it is right, because it is wise, and because, for the first time in our history, it is possible to conquer poverty, I submit, for the consideration of the Congress and the country, the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.

"The Act does not merely expand old programs or improve what is already being done. It charts a new course. It strikes at the causes, not just the consequences of poverty. It can be a milestone in our one-hundred eighty year search for a better life for our people."

He wanted to see his war against poverty focus on unskilled, under-educated and underprivileged young Americans and hoped that it would find its strength in the spirit of American generosity and the action of volunteers. Another original facet of Johnson's war against poverty was the plight of laborers and farmers. He hoped to help these citizens "to break through particular barriers which bar their escape from poverty."

The wisdom that made Johnson's plan both unique and especially resilient was in his decision to put the responsibility for developing action program at the community level. "It will give every American community," he said, "the opportunity to develop a comprehensive plan to fight its own poverty and [it will] help them to carry out their plans. It will give the entire nation the opportunity for a concerted attack on poverty through the establishment, under my direction, of the Office of Economic Opportunity, a national headquarters for the war against poverty."

In the decades since Johnson initiated the Office of Economic Opportunity, agencies like Maui Economic Opportunity Inc. have dedicated themselves to the Community Action Promise—to "helping people help themselves and each other"—

MEO Inc. and all members of the national Community Action Partnership are dedicated to addressing the causes of poverty in ways that have the best possible chance of resulting in what President Johnson called an "escape from poverty," rather than merely temporary relief of the effects of being poor.

He added, "through a new Community Action program we intend to strike at poverty at its source—in the streets of our cities and on the farms of our countryside among the very young and the impoverished old. This program asks men and women throughout the country to prepare long-range plans for the attack on poverty in their own local communities . . ."

MEO Inc. formed to take up the challenge of the war against poverty and to devise strategies for helping the needy in Maui.

Statement of the Mission of MEO

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 MEO enrich their lives.



On March 22, 1965, Maui Economic Opportunity Inc. was chartered by federal mandate under provisions of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.

Today, the agency is providing a comprehensive range of services to those in need throughout Maui County and across the state of Hawai'i. The array of MEO services grows and changes in response to the challenges faced by the poor, the young, the disabled, the elderly, immigrants and others who struggle to live decent, sustainable, dignified lives.

The executives and staff of MEO know that serving the poor and needy is the chief function of the organization and that, to do so, they must stay close to the client populations and informed of the obstacles the needy must overcome.

Even the most efficient and dedicated professionals cannot hope to do all that the community requires.

So, volunteers, part-time employees, a well-composed board of directors and other agencies—both as partners and referral service providers—are essential to achieving the goals of MEO.

Volunteers and benefactors are greatly appreciated. See page 10 of this report. Employees are regularly and genuinely celebrated for providing excellent client service. They are recognized as employees of the month. Human Resources publicly honors the help of current employees, and special acknowledgments are devised for successes unique to specific departments. See pages 8 and 9.

The board of directors of MEO includes representatives from government and from the private sector of business and industry, and an similar number of seats filled by Maui residents who represent the client sector. Separate panels direct MEO Business Development Corp. and Head Start. See page 7.

That's how MEO approaches its mission of serving the poor and needy—by calling on as many capable people as possible, by involving as many service agencies and organizations as possible, by providing as many different services as possible to as many people as possible. All of this designed to provide families and individuals with skills and tools they can use to make better lives for themselves and their communities.

To accomplish this in Maui and Hawai'i, a complex of multi-ethnic communities, consideration is always given to cultural diversity, including special attention to the traditions of the Hawaiian host culture. These demands are seen by MEO as opportunities for understanding rather than burdens, and they underpin some of the most effective community outreach efforts MEO is able to accomplish.

In the final analysis, Maui Economic Opportunity Inc. excels among social service agencies, but is always seeking to do more because families and individuals in Maui still suffer the privations and indignities of poverty and need.

A note from President of the Board M. Chubby Vicens

The directors chose Sandy Baz as executive director.

Sandy had, of course, been groomed for the position, but the board of directors take their responsibilities very seriously. We considered our options carefully and found ourselves in complete agreement that there was no better candidate for the job of leading Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. into the 21st century.

Sandy is clearly very dedicated to the principles of Community Action, and he definitely has a deeply-rooted passion for the goal of defeating poverty and guiding Maui families to self-sufficiency.

It is also very important that Sandy understands and respects the division of labor by which the board does its higher-level thinking, planning and visioning and he, as executive director, carries out the programs and policies of MEO in a hands-on, day-to-day and month-to-month way.

This year, MEO's 42nd, has been transitional in a number of ways. Gladys Baisa retired after 36 years with the agency, 21 of them at the helm, and we transitioned to the Sandy Baz administration. Former Board of Directors President Brian Klaschka—whose guidance was very greatly appreciated—remained close to MEO and its board as directors as the director of the Transportation Department. This year, he left MEO and Maui. This transition was eased by the fact that Klaschka was here for the installation of the board for the 2006-2007 program-year and also by the fact that Director of Transportation designee Harry Johnson was prepared to step up to one of MEO's most demanding executive positions.

If all the changes and transitions in MEO have been heartening and easy for us, we on the board of directors also know that some things are not changing. Drugs and crime continue to haunt Maui. Poverty and need are still preventing many local families from living happy lives, free from the fear of homelessness or hunger.

Exactly what leadership the MEO Board of Directors can provide that will help us all transition to a future less dominated by drugs and need-driven crime, I do not now know. Precisely how we can increase the effectiveness of MEO in its efforts to conquer poverty, no one knows. What I know—what I can promise you—is that we will continue to find new ways to give the people of Maui and Hawai'i a hand-up toward the lives all working people deserve, lives free of despair and even characterized by hope and high expectations.

Sincerely,

M. Chubby "Vicens"
Mercer "Chubby" Vicens

A message from MEO Executive Director Sandy Baz



Sananda "Sandy" Baz

The past year has been very exciting for us at MEO.

After years of planning, we were finally able to produce a conference about the very subject that is the reason for our existence in the Maui community. That was Poverty: A Reality in Maui on May 2. Alice Lee, director of the County of Maui Department of Housing and Human Services spoke. More to the point, many people who live in poverty, people who work two jobs to make ends meet and still need help also told their stories ... and Akaku Community Television was there to record and broadcast everything.

MEO also joined with other Community Action Agencies nationwide in an effort to clarify for our respective communities the reality and horror of underage drinking. That powerful and sadly disturbing meeting on April 5, was attended by a capacity crowd of citizens and services providers who were moved—we can hope, moved to action—by the real-life stories of several speakers who told true stories from their own lives.

We repeated or reinvented many other community outreach events, and we saw tremendous growth in many program areas.

MEO Business Development Corporation Inc. and its Core Four classes for entrepreneurs have never been busier.

B.E.S.T. Reintegration, Transportation and Community Services have more clients/users and applicants than ever. Head Start and Kahi Kamali'i are serving more families, giving parents more opportunities to provide for themselves and their children.

Our housing advocacy efforts and support of the Maui Nui Housing Task Force have resulted in some excellent informational and outreach events, and they are likely to bear fruit in the form of more accommodating regulations when Councilmember Danny Mateo's policy on workforce housing is passed later in 2006 or early in 2007.

The executive staff and senior staff in all departments have worked very hard this year. I wish I could promise them less work or a lighter load in the coming year or in any number of coming years, but I can't. Poverty is a reality in Maui, unmet needs are waiting for someone to find ways of meeting them. If not by us, who will work to relieve poverty and help Maui families create new possibilities for themselves? If not now—always now and now—when will poverty and need be addressed.

No, we have our work cut out for us, but the MEO staff is up to the job.

Sincerely,

Sandy K. Baz
Sandy Baz



Keynote speaker Meredith Ching, vice president of Alexander & Baldwin, praised the work MEO does to fight poverty and need in Maui, and said she greatly appreciates the working partnership of MEO and A&B.

Alexa Kahui, left below, installed the officers of the MEO Board of Directors on June 28, 2006. Left to right, Betty DeLima, secretary-treasurer; May Fujiwara, vice president; and Mercer "Chubby" Vicens, president. MEO Executive Director Sandy Baz joins them, at right.

Installation of the MEO Board of Directors

MEO Executive Director Sandy Baz thanked and said "aloha" to five retiring directors and welcomed five members whose service began July 1.

Retiring board members include Richard Drayson, Francis Torres, Michelle Kaylor, Maui County Councilmember Danny Mateo and Brian Klaschka who had stepped down earlier to temporarily fill a staff position running MEO's Transportation Department.

The retirement celebration included special recognition of three retiring MEO staff members. Brian Klaschka (mentioned above) was one of them. Susan Souza also retired from the transportation department after more than 20 years on the job. Finally, the earlier retirement of former Executive Director Gladys Baisa was recalled with a special proclamation presented by Hawai'i Senators Roz Baker and Shan Tsutsui.

The new board members were Cliff Alaka'i, representing Hawai'i House Speaker Emeritus Joe Souki; Grant Chun of Maui Chinese Cultural Association; three new resident sector directors: Irene Ka'ahanui, Barbara Haliniak and Laura Sakamoto-Wilkinson.



Board and Council Members of as of June 30, 2006

MEO BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESIDENT SECTOR

Michelle Kaylor
Head Start Policy Council

Nancy Shimoda
Central Maui Seniors

May Fujiwara
Vice President, West Maui Seniors

Barbara Haliniak
Moloka'i Community Action Council

Irene Kaahanui
Moloka'i Community Action Council

Setsuko Karen Mendez
Lana'i Area Council

Betty Delima
Secretary-Treasurer, East Maui Seniors

Kathleen Louis
Hale Mahaolu

MEO BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRIVATE SECTOR

Grant Chun
Maui Chinese Cultural Society

Mercer "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.

MEO BOARD OF DIRECTORS GOVERNMENT SECTOR

Clifford B. Alakai
representing State Rep. Joe Souki

Jeff Kuwada
representing the Maui County Council

MEO BOARD OF DIRECTORS GOVERNMENT SECTOR (continued)

Councilmember Joseph Pontanilla
Maui County Council

Councilmember Mike Molina
Maui County Council

Councilmember Riki Hokama
Maui County Council

Councilmember Danny Mateo
Maui County Council

Senator Shan Tsutsui
Hawai'i State Senate

MEO BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORP.

Bard Peterson, President
Leinaala Kihm, Secretary
Wesley Lo, Treasurer

M. Chubby Vicens

Sandy Baz

Keone Ball

Joseph Williams

Paul Felix

Gordon Stewart

HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Helen Moyes, Haiku

Michelle Frendo, Kahului A

Alex Fiesta, Kahului B

Taryn Taylor, Kaunakakai A

Penny Galam, Kaunakakai B

Michelle Kaylor, Kihei B

Laura Sakamoto-Wilkinson, Lahaina

Precious Naleieha, MCC

Loretta Kepa, PrePlus

Jlorra Aguilar, Wailuku A

David Enomoto, Wailuku B

Shari Franco & Kelli Haaf, Community

Christine Taylor, MEO Board



Mary Farnworth
Infant/Toddler Specialist,
Kahi Kamali'i
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
July 2005



Tracy Nobriga
Case manager,
Community Services
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
August 2005



Agnes Groff
Community Relations
Liaison, MEO Admin.
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
September 2005



Rosario Labaguen
Bus Aide,
Transportation
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
October 2005



Victorio Agtarap
Branch Manager,
Lana'i Branch
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
November 2005



George Reioux
Operations Manager,
Transportation
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
December 2005



Automotive Tech Staff
Automotive Tech Staff
See note at right.
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
January 2006



Sanoce Delos Santos
Family Case Manager,
Head Start
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
February 2006



Geo. 'Keoki' Rosa
PAT I Driver,
Transportation
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
March 2006



Michelle Olsen
Administrative Asst.,
Human Resources
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
April 2006



Crispin Versola
Bus Aide,
Transportation
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
May 2006



Zessica Apiki
Branch Manager,
Moloka'i Branch
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
June 2006

Employee of the Month

The Employee of the Month program recognizes MEO employees for superior performance, teamwork and client service. The award improves morale and encourages excellence.

A committee of their peers chooses the Employee of the Month. Those selected are rewarded with a day off of their choice and a cash award.



Employees of the Month, Jan. 2006, all four Automotive Tech Staff members.

Perfect Attendance

This award is in recognition of MEO employees who have used no accrued sick leave and taken no unpaid leave of absence in the calendar year. The monetary awards are based on consecutive years of perfect attendance.

16 Years
Mona Kailiponi

13 Years
Debra Lorenzo
Barbara Sentel

12 Years
William Kalani
Lyn McNeff
Debra Spencer

11 Years
Victor Agtarap

5 Years
César Gaxiola

4 Years
Dennise Engano

3 Years
Donna Borge
Doris Rogat
Wilbert "Wil" Torricer

2 Years
Dwayne Amamo
Sananda "Sandy" Baz
Serine Feliciano

Claudia "Monica" Geng
Cheryl Hatch
Caroline "CJ" Jacinto
Cleo "Kai" Oliver
Marsha Pascua

1 Year
Regina Agcaoili
Fred Baisa
Janelle Baoy
Debbie Cabebe
Sanoce Delos Santos
Mauricia Domingo
Lydia Joao
Doralyn "Dora"
Kahookele
Mary Kaiwi
Doreen Kepano
JoAnn Nakagawa
Regina "Susie" Thiemann

Mahalo!

Driver of the Year & Cash for No Crash Awards



Randall Dean Driver of the Year
This prestigious award is presented to a driver, selected by peers, who exemplifies the MEO traditions of service, safety, excellence and caring for our clients. Driver of the Year Randall Dean, left, is seen here with Bill Jenkins of John H. Connors Insurance who presented the award to him.

Drivers who are accident/incident free in a calendar year are eligible for monetary awards based on the number of hours worked. Cash amounts are contingent on the funds available.

Minimum 1600 Hours
Eric Amaral
Dell Finn Castroverde
Randall Dean
Darrell DeMello
Iris Dumayas-Borge
Carolyn Freitas
Trixy Kapoi
Dawn Kawelo
Julia Kekona
Kimo Kenyon
Gretel Koko-Kong
Viewed "Pani" Malaikini
Jonnie Oliveira

Minimum 400 Hours
John Keohuloa
Jeanie Mendes
Marvin Vargas
Brian Atkin
Alfred Bailey
Ronald DeGuzman
Nathaniel Durosan
Frank Ramirez Jr.
Juan Tabbilos
Ricky Torres
Lance Wendell
Diosdado Yadao

Minimum 1200 Hours
Prisciliano "Pete" Passion
George "Keoki" Rosa
Noel Sanchez
Barbara Sentel
Miryan Velazco
Esmeralda "Amy" Venegas
Vainimala Vi
Makalani Lee
Elizabeth Pszyk
Loreta Divina

Volunteers

Volunteer of the Year

Merton G. Kekiwi, Sr. was nominated and selected as Maui Economic Opportunity's Volunteer of the Year for 2005. He has been a volunteer with the BEST Reintegration Program since he was re-recruited as a Mentor in November, 2004.



Merton G. Kekiwi

Merton mentored his mentee from the time he was in Maui Community Correctional Center until he transitioned back into the community. Just recently, they both decided that the mentee was doing terrific and Merton could move on to take on another mentee. Merton was very involved with his mentee, he helped him with issues about his children, problems with his mom and his new life partner. Through the ups and downs, Merton was always there for him. He always kept the case manager informed about what his mentee was going through or needed.

Merton is also always there for the BEST program. He helped prepare for all our mentoring get-togethers, supplied equipment, brought keawe wood, marinated meat, did the BB Qing, shared his horses and ran the gymkhana events for all to enjoy.

Merton did not hesitate to mow the yard at the BEST transitional house when we did not yet have a mower. He jumped right in to work out fencing costs and make a supply list for the yard. He took his own time and materials to put up a fence at the BEST house on Vineyard Street. When we needed pans for the endowment dinner, he delivered them. Merton has even volunteered to help us in the initial phases of the Waiehu clean-up.

MEO Benefactor of the Year

Stanford S. Carr, president of Stanford Carr Development LLC, was recognized as MEO Benefactor of the Year by the BEST Reintegration Program.

In a letter

to Mr. Carr on Sept. 28, 2005, Program Director Carrie Ann Shirota wrote, "Your contribution of the Waiehu property will help BEST to achieve our vision of



Stanford S. Carr

'community justice.' This approach to prisoner reentry means providing individuals with the tools to succeed upon their return 'home'... This will strengthen families and make our entire community a better place to live."

Carr's generosity did not end there. On several other occasions, Carr continued to improve the property by building a fence requested by neighbors and arranging for the disposal of abandoned vehicles.

In short, Carr demonstrated a citizen's dedication to principles that guide the work of MEO: "Helping people help themselves and each other..." and making Maui a better place to live.

Merton is a can-do, will-do person who gives from the heart. He never hesitates to help and to give whatever he can. Even with his busy schedule as a school bus driver and a guardian grandfather who also runs the Hawai'i High School Rodeo Association, he always makes time for MEO and the BEST Reintegration Program. He lives by our motto because he is always helping people and changing lives.

—Margot Sneed, PROTECT Program



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

Merton G. Kekiwi

2005-2006

Community Service

- Chore services
- Rental Assistance
- Employment core for Immigrants
- Employment core for low-income persons
- Enlace Hispano acculturation
- Hawai'i Community Foundation
- Legal services/seniors
- Vision & hearing assistance
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance
- National Farmworker Jobs Program
- Seniors coordinators
- Senior Scoop
- Senior community service employment
- Senior discount Red Card
- Enlace Hispano school outreach
- Weatherization (energy-saving) Assistance



Augustina Alejo knew what she wanted and she was willing to have a hand up from Community Services.

Community Services and NFJP: A Motivated Client's Success Story

Augustina Alejo is an MEO success story. She worked on a farm, harvesting vegetables of different kinds. She was earning \$50 a day with no medical insurance or fringe benefits. Augustina's goal was to be a certified nurse's aide. However, she needed to go to work as soon as possible because her husband was laid off. She needed to work for their subsistence and was ready to grab the first opportunity that came.

A Community Services case manager worked to help prepare her for the workforce with Life Skills Training, Job Readiness Training, etc., also enrolling the participant in the Workforce Development Division for job openings.

Her case manager helped with referrals to various employers, including hotels and the fast food industry. Because of Augustina's determination to get to work, she was placed at her first job as a cashier at K-Mart, 40 hours a week at a rate of \$9 an hour. However, her desire to achieve her main, original

3,878

Senior services clients

1,308

Clients provided with immigrant services

794

Households given energy assistance

230

Individuals served with employment services

145

Clients provided with rental assistance

Energy-related services:

12 solar systems

13 heater timers

10 heater jackets

Youth Services

YouthBank

- Leadership development
 - Family Strengthening
 - Life skills
 - Employment Skills
 - Acculturation activities
 - Outdoor experiential activities
- ## AmeriCorps
- Conservation career experience
 - Resource management techniques
 - Biweekly living allowance
 - Educational Award
 - Helicopter safety training
 - Wildland fire fighting

How much of a difference can MEO Youth Services make in a life? AmeriCorps Program Assistant Donna Borge says Daisy is a perfect example.



MEO Youth Services Changes Young People's Lives

Daisy Medeiros-Engano is from a single-parent home. She's a good example of what YouthBank can do. Daisy came to YouthBank at age 12. A child doesn't know what she will do when she grows up? College? Career? The military? Who knows?

Daisy was already thinking a bout these questions. She *knew* she needed to do something that would make a positive impact on her life and those around her. She learned skills like CPR and first aid, team building, conflict resolution and managing peer pressure, as well as job skills.

She took everything she was offered.

Daisy had found her passion when she began working outdoors in the program. She felt good as conservation projects and outdoor activities increased.

Like many of the young people, Daisy enjoyed the work. Even more important, these activities were healing to their troubled souls. Daisy and her friends became more caring and more

YouthBank

- 239** members served
- 128** events and experiences
- 14,559** contact hours

AmeriCorps

- 17** members
- 12,700** hours worked
- \$79,250** federal living allowance earned
- \$37,250** federally awarded scholarships

Out-of-School Youth

- 27** young people served
- 11** return for further education
- 5** GED diplomas earned
- 9** entered/maintain employment
- 6** received support services

Transportation



The blessing of new buses, like this event on Jan. 9, 2006, is a big event for Transportation. Seen here, left to right, Rev Phillip Kaina, Councilmember Mike Molina, MEO Executive Director Sandy Baz, Maui Mayor Alan Arakawa, MDO Assistant Director Don Medeiros, and MEO Transportation Director Brian Klaschka.

Travis Urayanza, right, spoke at the bus blessing.

245,310

Trips provided this year, 111% of annual goal

33,308

Employment trips, including Ala Hou, 116% of goal

74

Buses in service on Maui, Moloka'i and Lana'i

45

Service vehicles equipped with wheelchair lifts

3

Vehicles added to the fleet this year

Goals Exceeded

Youth trans. was at 153% of the annual goal; Ala Hou Moloka'i, 163%; Ala Hou Maui, 140%; dialysis, 133%; nutrition, 122%; and adult day care, 118%.

Transportation Changes Lives

Travis Urayanza is just 19 years of age. Nonetheless, he spoke with great confidence and maturity at the blessing of three new buses in January. Having lived with the challenges of cerebral palsy all his life, he has had to apply himself consistently to achieve independence and take his place as a productive member of the Maui community.

Despite the difficulties Travis deals with every day, he has been a valued employee of K-Mart in Kahului for almost a year. To meet the demands of his work schedule, he depends on work-and-back transportation in a wheelchair-lift equipped bus.

Knowing that MEO could provide him transportation to and from work at

no cost to him, he asked for the assistance he needed. An MEO program coordinator worked with him, and he qualified for this service under both a County of Maui program and the Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC), a federal matching funds program.

The success of this employment transportation program—like so many programs in which transportation changes people's lives and possibilities—can be attributed to the coordinated efforts between the County of Maui, the State of Hawai'i Office of Community Services, private donations, and MEO.

Travis Urayanza's is a success story that proves transportation matters.

- Transportation services
- for the elderly—
 - nutrition and leisure rural/remote shopping
 - for children and youth—to/from Head Start
 - school activities youth centers
 - for the disabled employment
 - medical appointments
 - assisted shopping
 - enrichment trips



MEO Business Development Corp.

- Supporting small business through
- Microenterprise loans
- Business planning classes
- Consultation services
- Maui Micro Alumni Network activities
- Technical assistance for SBA Community Express Loans

Susie Thieman of MEO Business Development Corp., left, presents the first Hand-Up Entrepreneurial Award to Diane Beaucaire.



Building a Business and a Life with a Little Help from MEO BDC

Diane Beaucaire, owner of Diane's Cleaning, was presented the first annual Hand-Up Entrepreneurial Award established by MEO Business Development Corp. to honor a business entrepreneur who has successfully established an innovative business on Maui and served as an example to other Maui entrepreneurs.

The award was presented at a Chamber of Commerce mixer held at the MEO Family Center in November, 2005.

"I am not a public speaker," said Beaucaire in accepting the award, "but I know that these people helped me when no one else would, and I know that hard work pays off if you just keep at it. I am very grateful and I accept this award on behalf of myself and my family."

Susie Thieman, MEO Business Development Corp. CEO, said "Diane is an outstanding example of what it means when we say that MEO provides a hand up and not a handout. She first came to us with the dream of opening her own

business and of being able to buy a home for her family. She has now accomplished both goals!"

A single mother of four young children, Beaucaire started her business in 1998, focusing on cleaning windows.

In 2000, she expanded her window-cleaning business by adding general residential cleaning. This also meant she was providing employment for 3 to 4 additional people.

In 2001, Beaucaire discovered that working on final construction area clean-ups could be a profitable activity, and began bidding on union construction projects. Hers is one of only two cleaning companies on Maui fully qualified to bid on union construction site cleaning projects.

In 2004, she realized her dream of being able to purchase a home. Her first owned-home is a three bedroom on Maui, adequate for herself and her children.

Beaucaire has had three loans from MEO BDC that helped her in starting and growing her operation to become more efficient.

25 Micro loans granted this year for a total of 501 since 1998

\$138,802

Loaned this year, part of \$2.2 million loaned since 1998

163

Graduates of MEO BDC's Core Four Business classes this year bringing the total to 727 since 1998

91+

Jobs created or retained by BDC business class graduates and loan recipients this year, and 900+ since 1998

MEO Moloka'i Branch

- Community/Social Services
- Emergency rental assistance
- Help with medical/dental costs
- Entrepreneurship Services
- Core Four business classes
- Microenterprise loans
- Employment Programs
- Case management
- Pre-employment training
- Head Start
- Half- and full-day sessions
- Transportation
- Youth Services



A successful Moloka'i family: Alicia, 11, left; Sharolyn; Tupuluua, 3, who is enrolled in Head Start; Shyla, 9; and Tatiana, 4.

Even a Strong Moloka'i Mother Needs a Helping Hand Sometimes

In December 2002, Sharolyn Molena moved back home to Molokai from O'ahu with her five children and her partner David Na'o. She wanted her children to experience the life-style she knew growing up on Moloka'i. It wasn't easy.

Both Sharolyn and David struggled with finding employment and housing. They lived with family members until they could find a place of their own.

In 2005, Sharolyn and David came to MEO for assistance in finding good jobs that could support their family. They participated in our Pre-Employment Training classes and both were successfully hired by Hotel Moloka'i.

After a short time, David left his job with Hotel Moloka'i and was soon

25 Disabled seniors benefit from chore service

384 Individuals and families receive food distribution

20 Individuals assisted with medical/dental expenses

225 Families assisted with home energy bills

130 Seniors use Red Card discount program

65 Individuals use case manager services

40 Children in school-year Head Start

incarcerated at the O'ahu Community Correctional Center. He will be in OCCC until early 2007. Sharolyn was left to care for their five children on her own.

Sharolyn, with the support of her case manager from MEO, successfully applied for employment as a full-time rental agent at Dollar-Rent-A-Car. She has been employed at Dollar for the past 8 months.

MEO encouraged and helped Sharolyn to enroll her youngest child in Head Start. This has enabled her to continue working full-time, a necessity if she is to support her family.

The MEO staff is proud of Sharolyn's accomplishments and believes she has every right to be proud of herself as well!

40

Disabled persons transported to programs for nutrition, health, etc.

32

Working people provided regular transportation to-from work sites

750

Youth transported to after-school activities at youth center and library

100

Rural residents transported to town three days a week

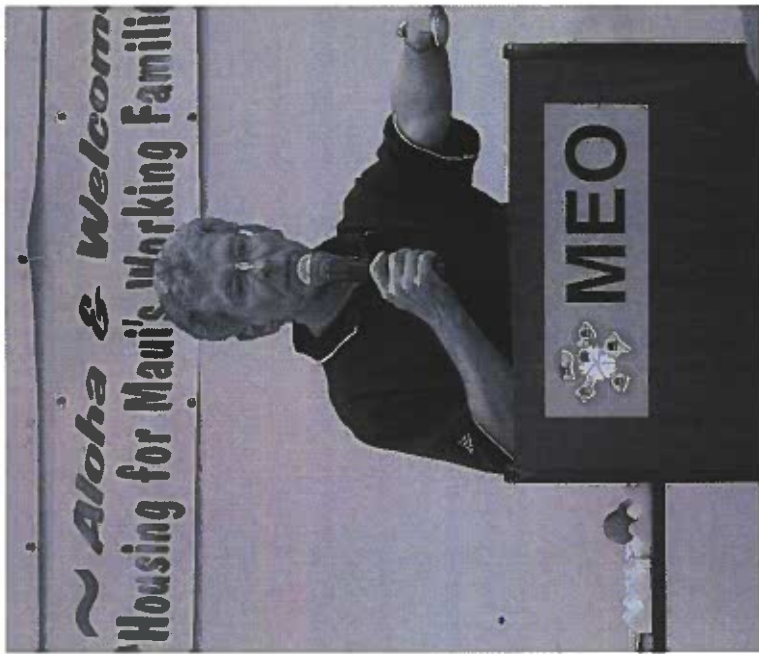
Advocacy



County budget hearings are very important. It is in these public meetings that County Council members collect the information on which they base all-important decisions about the allocation of public funds. MEO clients and staff work together to advocate in favor of needed funding for essential programs for the poor and those who might otherwise be unable to fully participate in the life of the community.

Advocating on behalf of those who live in poverty and need is central to the mission of MEO. Sometimes, the organization's advocacy is addressed to our elected officials, working to secure funding or other accommodations from government. Sometimes it involves discussions with developers as well as government, working to

secure housing that is really affordable for those who struggle to keep their families properly fed and housed. Advocacy also includes engaging all family members in the lives of children, keeping senior citizens and people living with challenges connected with the wider community, and helping inmates re-enter the community.



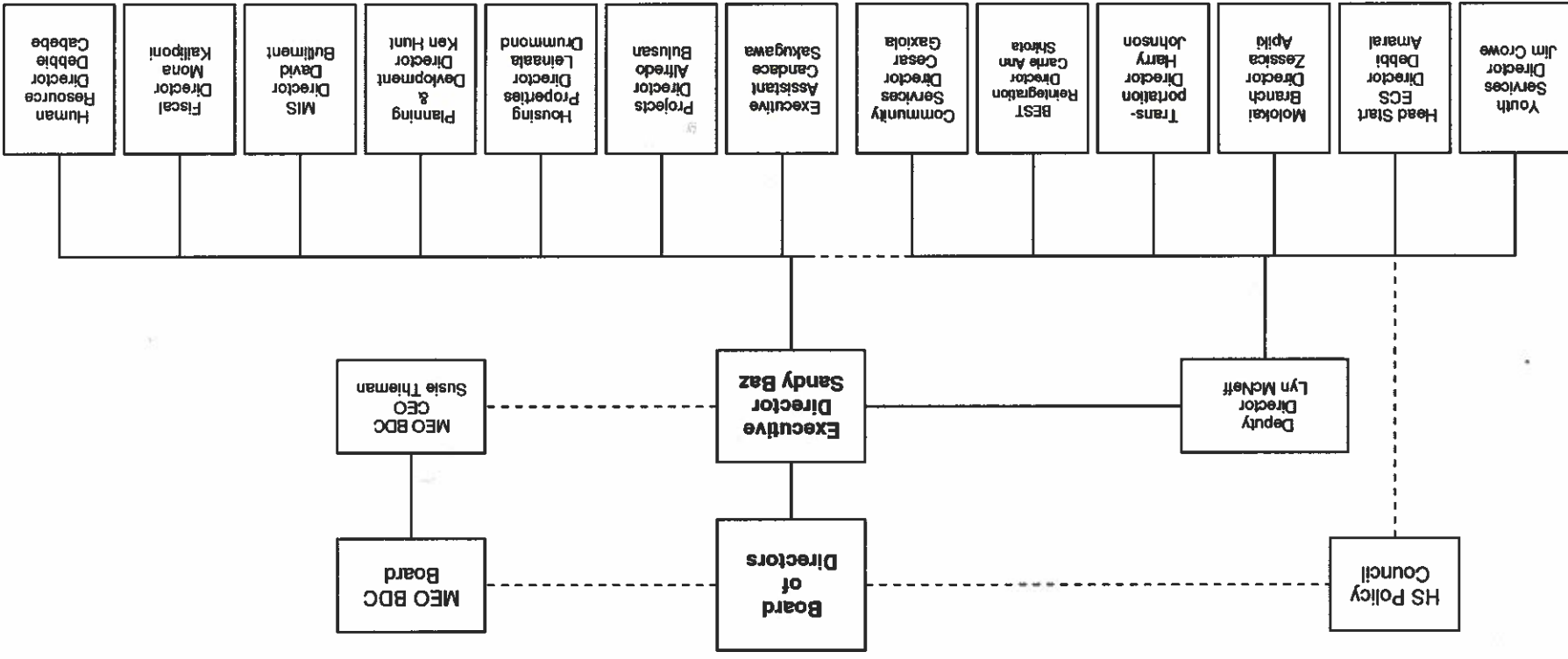
For the past three years, an important element in MEO's advocacy for the poor in Maui has been its support of and involvement with the Maui Nui Housing Task Force. That work seems near to bearing fruit in the coming year in the form of a legislated county policy for affordable housing. Above, developer Charlie Jencks address MNHTF.



Leilani Zinsman, chairman of the Maui Senior Planning & Coordinating Council has been a partner in MEO's advocacy for seniors for many years. She has also organized and produced Senior Aloha parties for seven years. Whether for reasons of health, disability, poverty or family circumstances, older Mauians often need advocates.



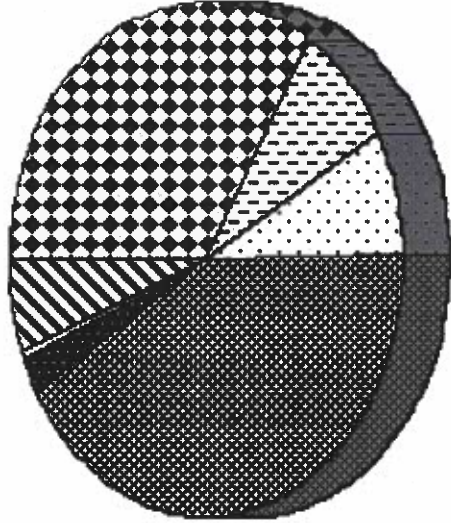
Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. Organizational Chart



Fiscal Summary

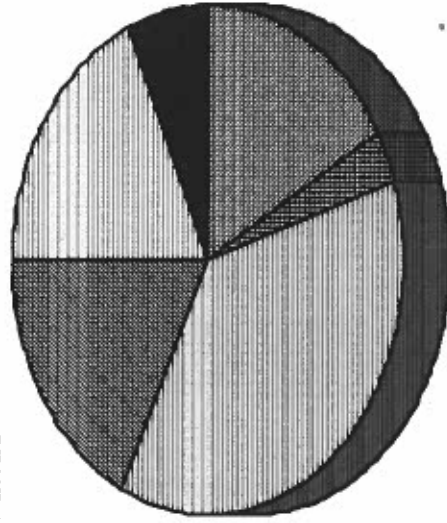
Funding Sources

Federal	■ 1	33.95%
State-OCS	■ 2	7.92%
State-other	■ 3	7.95%
County	■ 4	41.38%
Private Foundations	■ 5	2.30%
Venture	□ 6	0.70%
Donations & Other	■ 7	5.80%
Total Funding.....		\$15,376,153.00



Use of Funds

Education	■ 1	18.23%
Employment & Training	■ 2	6.84%
Family Stability	■ 3	16.71%
Improved Living Conditions	■ 4	3.32%
Improved Quality of Life	■ 5	37.17%
Assets (buses, buildings, etc.)	■ 6	17.73%




Major Funding Sources


<i>Federal</i>	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
	U. S. Department of Justice
	U.S. Department of Labor- W I A
	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
	U.S. Corporation for National Service- Americorp
<i>State of Hawaii</i>	Office of Community Services
	Department of Human Services
	Workforce Development Division
<i>County</i>	Department of Housing and Human Concerns
	Office on Aging
	Office of Economic Development
	Department of Transportation
	Community Development Block Grant
<i>Private</i>	Alu Like- Native Hawaiian Childcare
	Hawaii Community Foundation
	American Legacy
	Hawaiian Telecom
	Dan H.C. Kong Memorial Fund
	Maui Electric Company

MEO also appreciates other donors and the participation of members of the community.

MEO Executive Staff as of June 30, 2006



Sandy Baz
Executive Director



Lyn McNeff
Deputy Director



Mona Kailiponi
Fiscal Director



Debbie Cabebe
Human Resources Director



Candace Sakugawa
Executive Assistant




César Gaxiola
Community Programs Director




Carrie Ann Shiota
B.E.S.T. Reintegration Director




Debbi Amaral
Early Childhood Services Director



Jim Crowe
Youth Services Director



Harry Johnson
Transportation Director



Susie Thieman
CEO, MEO Business Development Corporation



Zessica Apiki
Moloka'i Branch Manager



Ken Hunt
Planning and Development Director



Leinaala Drummond
Housing/Property Program Director



David Bulliment
MIS Director



Alfredo Bulusan
Project Director



Joseph W. Bean
Media Specialist

2005-2006 A Very Special MEO Year



July 30, 2005
Senior Aloha Party 2005

MEO and the Maui Senior Planning & Coordinating Council cooperate to produce the Senior Aloha Party every year.



The 2005 MEO 'Ohana Day was combined with the celebration of the executive director's birthday giving the party-goers that much more to celebrate.

August 13, 2005
MEO 'Ohana Day & Gladys Baisa's Birthday



The annual Maui County Senior (Health) Fair provides both the joys of a celebratory gathering and the important opportunity for seniors to learn about resources and services they may need.

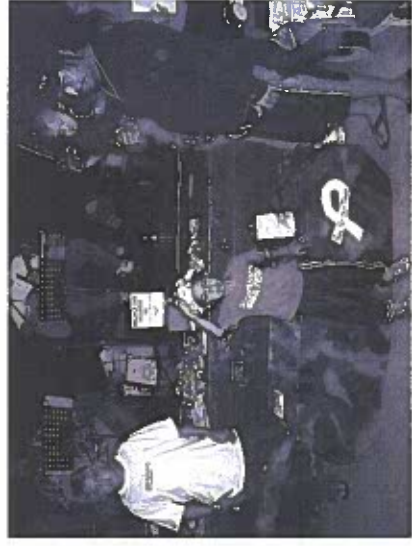
September 17, 2005
Somos Amigos

Each year, MEO's Enlace Hispano, a special outreach of the Community Services department, brings the Latino, Hispanic and Portuguese communities together for a community-wide festival.



October 29, 2005
Senior Health Fair

2005-2006 A Very Special MEO Year



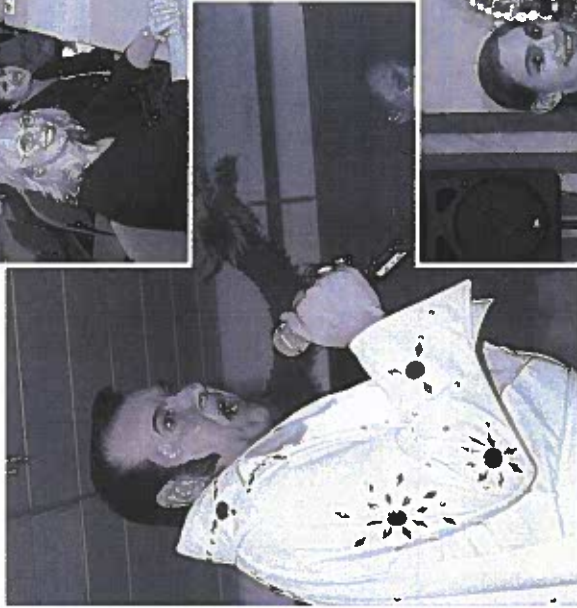
November 8, 2005
Head Start Family Fun Night

Family Fun Night is a very special opportunity for the children and adults in Head Start families. The father seen here is a participant in the Men's Involvement Network. Dad and the keiki in the picture built the "camouflaged" vehicle in the picture together.



December 23, 2005
Annual Employee Party

The annual employee party in December gives MEO staff members a relaxed opportunity to catch up, power down and exchange tips. (Above.)



January 14, 2006
The MEO Endowment Dinner

Elvis (a.k.a. MEO Transportation Director Brian Klaschka) was one of the entertainers at the event that kicked off the MEO endowment fund this year. Programs for the poor—to be safe in an ever fluctuating economy—must have a stabilizing endowment fund.



January 31, 2006
Reception for Sandy Baz as New Executive Director

This year, Sandy Baz took over as executive director of MEO. He is seen here with the entire Baz 'ohana.

2005-2006 A Very Special MEO Year



The annual Volunteer Luncheon is a great opportunity to thank those who work with MEO all year long. (Above)



César Chavez Day celebrates the heroic farmworker activist who gave MEO its "Yes We Can" motto. (Right.)



Dustin Costa was one of several people tragically affected by underage drinking who shared their stories with the community. (Above.)



Poor people and representatives of service providers, speaking at the MEO Poverty Forum, made it perfectly clear that poverty is a reality in these islands. (Left.)



The annual Board of Directors' Installation Dinner is also an opportunity to celebrate achievements. Here Executive Director Sandy Baz, left, is pictured with board members being honored for perfect attendance at meetings throughout the year. They are Antonio Ramil, Nancy Shimoda, Kathleen Louis and Joseph Williams. Board President Chubby Vicens looks on from behind Williams and Louis.

February 14, 2006
Volunteer Luncheon

March 31, 2006

César Chavez Day Luncheon & Celebration

April 5, 2006

Underage Drinking Forum
(During Community Action Month 2006)

May 2, 2006

Poverty Forum
(During Community Action Month 2006)

Jun 28, 2006

2006 Board of Directors' Installation and Dinner

MEO DIRECTORY

MEO has offices in Central Maui, Hana, Kaunakakai and Lana'i City.

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99 Mahalani Street • Wailuku, HI 96793 • meoinfo@meoinc.org

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community.services@meoinc.org

Enlace Hispano 249-2993 Fax 249-2971
enlace.hispano@meoinc.org

Early Childhood Services .. 249-2988 Fax 249-2989
earlychildhood.services@meoinc.org

MEO BDC 249-2990 Fax 249-2991
micro@meoinc.org

B.E.S.T. Reintegration 249-2990 Fax 249-xxxx
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IT / MIS webmaster@meoinc.org Fiscal services fiscal@meoinc.org



Youth Services 873-3101 Fax 873-3103
youth.services@meoinc.org

Transportation 877-7651 Fax 871-2171
meotrans@meoinc.org

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380 Kolapa Place • P.O. Box 677 • Kaunakakai, HI 96748 • molokai@meoinc.org
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