



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

1965-2015



ANNUAL REPORT 2014 - 2015



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MEO DIRECTORY

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Community Services	249-2970	249-2971	cs@meinc.org
Enlace Hispano	249-2993	249-2971	enlace.hispano@meinc.org
Early Childhood Services	249-2988	249-2989	ecs@meinc.org
MEO BDC	249-2990	249-2991	micro@meinc.org
IT/MIS	249-2990	249-2991	webmaster@meinc.org
Human Resources	249-2990	249-2979	hr@meinc.org
Fiscal Services	249-2980	249-2979	fiscal@meinc.org
Youth Services	249-2990	249-2991	youth_services@meinc.org
Transportation	877-7651	871-2171	medtrans@meinc.org

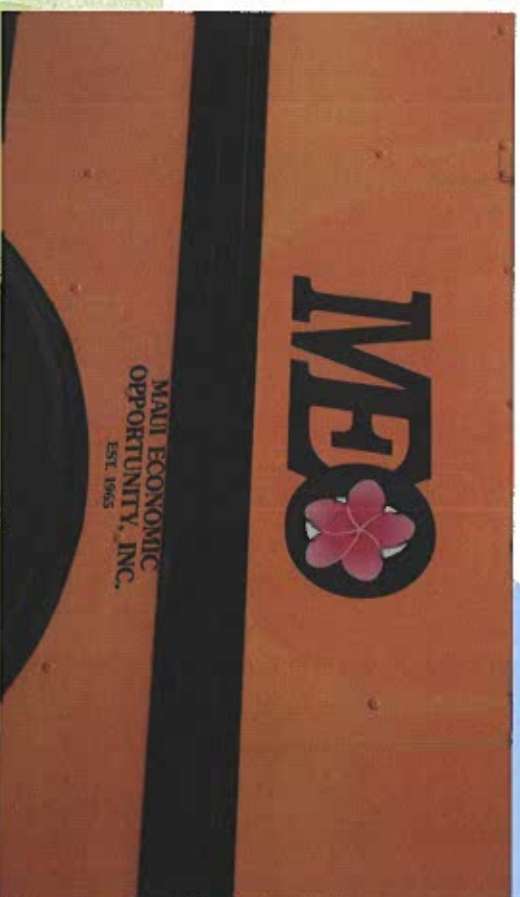
THE PROMISE OF COMMUNITY ACTION

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 MEO MISSION

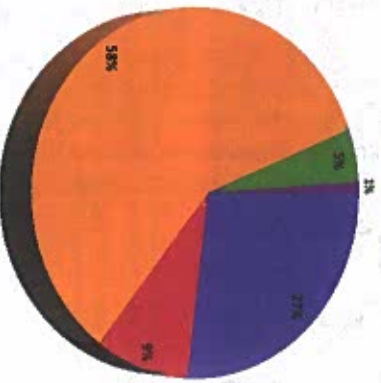
Strengthen the community while helping people in need restore their hope, reach their potential and enrich their lives.



- Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. www.meinc.org
- Community Action..... www.communityactionpartnership.com
- Head Start..... www.headstartinfo.org
- AmeriCorps..... www.americorps.org
- Assn. Farm Worker Opportunities Program..... www.afop.org
- Community Transportation Association..... www.ctaa.org
- State of Hawaii Government..... www.hawaii.gov
- County of Maui Government..... www.mauicounty.gov

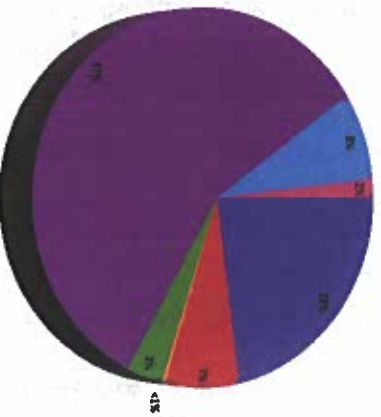
FISCAL SUMMARY

Revenue by Source



- Federal with State pass through - \$4,273,045
 - State of Hawaii - \$1,396,672
 - County of Maui - \$9,410,233
 - Other - \$898,995
 - Private Foundation - \$131,918
- Total - \$16,110,863

Expenditure by Service



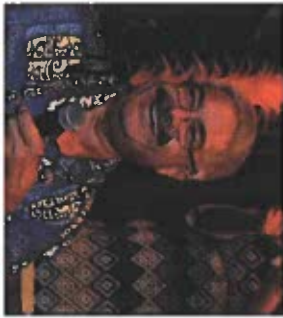
- Education - \$3,687,751
- Employment & Training - \$1,122,260
- Family Strengthening - \$50,000
- Self Sufficiency - \$528,480
- Improve the Quality of Life - \$9,146,153
- CIP - \$1,301,000
- Other - \$275,219

REACH THEIR POTENTIAL

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THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



"None of what has been accomplished by MEO could happen without a committed board of directors and the work of hundreds of volunteers that since 1965 have been the backbone of Community Action."

Kai Pelayo
MEO Board President

The MEO Board of Directors

Resident Sector	Private Sector	Government Sector
Dionne Phillips	Kai Pelayo	Clifford B. Alakai
Alice Ragasa	Kevin Yoshida	Scott Okada
Arleen Gerthig	Ned Davis	Michael Nobriga
Adale Rugg	Julie Powers	May Fujiwara
Debbie Naeole	Thomas Welch, Jr.	Justin Woodson
Nora Kawasaki	Cyrus Kodani	Kathleen Louis
Valerie Masanda	M. Chubby Vicens	Michael Molina

The Annual Board Meeting was followed by a tour of MEO's new Transportation facility. The board was looking at the project that was the culmination of many years of effort by MEO, with the support of business leaders, public officials at the state and county levels and private partnerships.

The MEO Officers are:

President: Kai Pelayo
Vice President: Kenji Yoshida
Secretary: Adale Rugg
Treasurer: Cliff Alakai.



STRENGTHEN THE COMMUNITY

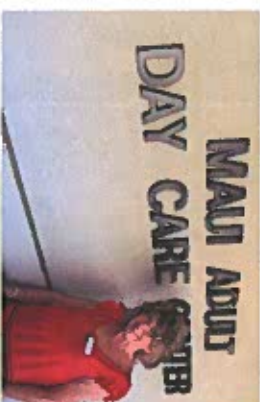
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

"It is hard to imagine Maui County without MEO. They are everywhere and they try to fill the pukas and I think that it is good to have an organization looking out for the well being of the community. Until MEO established their transportation service, it was always a guessing game for seniors about how they were to get from one place to another."

Roy Katsuda
Executive Director

Hale Mahaolu

MEO and Hale Mahaolu have been partners in community service for 34 years. Roy Katsuda is the Executive Director of Hale Mahaolu and has worked with every director of MEO up to and including the current CEO, Lyn McNeilf. Asked what makes a good partnership with MEO, Katsuda said, "First, it's based on trust and do you believe in their mission. Do you believe it what they are doing and it is good if they believe in what you're doing."



"MEO has gone above and beyond our expectations. Right now they are providing service to about 33 percent of our clients. Within the service areas they transport all the way from Up Country to Central Maui. In Hana they provide transportation for excursions. All of our centers receive excursions two times a month."

Sandy Freeman
Executive Director

Maui Adult Day Care Centers

Sandy Freeman has partnered with MEO for 24 years. Fifteen as the executive director of Maui Adult Day Care Centers, three years as a board member and six additional years when working with the Alzheimer's Association. The partnership began by seeking to meet the need for transportation by her clients. Maui Adult Day Care has five centers on Maui and within each area they need services provided. MEO was one of the originators of Maui Adult Day Care forty-one years ago. For Freeman, the partnership with MEO is based on on-going communication that has always been part of the MEO-Maui Day Care Centers relationship. "If there is a concern with a bus or a schedule, they always step up to the plate and make it happen," she said.

"We have always tried to be a good partners and support them at budget hearings and provide testimony and support for what they have done for us," Freeman said. She went on to say, "We couldn't be doing what we are doing without MEO." More than one-third of those served by Maui Adult Day Care could not get to the facilities without MEO because their families are unable to take them.

The partnership between MEO and the Centers has improved the quality of life for the Center clients, added years to those lives and saved them merely sitting and watching TV.

HELP PEOPLE IN NEED

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



"M.E.O. transportation juggles complex schedules every day from early morning starting at 4:30 a.m. until past 10 p.m. at night. And the drivers and dispatcher's perform their work with compassion, dedication and an individualized approach to each rider."

Tony Krieg
Chief Executive Officer

Hale Mākua Health Services

For over 25 years Hale Mākua Health Services has partnered with Mauu Economic Opportunity. We rely on MEO for medical transportation for our clients going to and from Mauu Memorial Medical Center and from our Adult Day Health program to home. The drivers are very responsive to each other and help out when the needs of the handicapped and disabled riding change, hour by hour. For example, when a person who needs dialysis has to be picked up from home and back, their situation can change. It is not always possible for their treatment to end at a specific time and so the drivers have to be flexible in their routes. The conversation between the dispatcher and the drivers is extremely professional.

Without MEO transportation, Maui's elderly, handicapped and disabled would not be able to get out of their homes for health care and their daily social needs. At the same time, non-profit organizations like Hale Mākua Health Services, Ka Lima, Boys and Girls Clubs would not be able to serve their clients outside of Kahului/Wailuku without this vital transportation service. MEO clearly lives up to its mission: Helping people. Changing lives.

"Hawaii Petroleum is committed to making a positive contribution to the communities in which our Ohana Fuels stations operate, and gives local residents a way to support the community with every tank of gas they purchase."

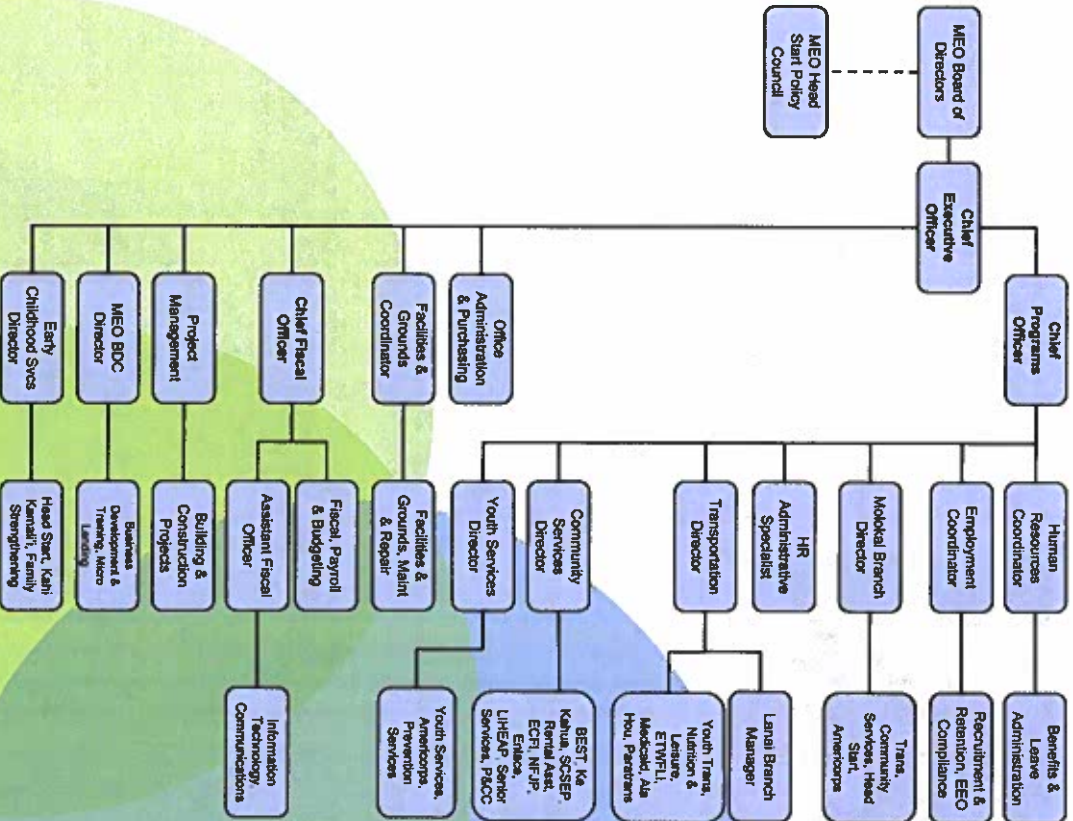
Kimo Haynes
President



Hawaii Petroleum
Mauu Economic Opportunity received \$8,385.30 from Hawaii Petroleum through its Ohana Fuels, "Fuel Up. Do Good." Community Giving Program. During the award presentation at MEO's headquarters, CEO Lyn McKee said, "We are grateful to Hawaii Petroleum for their support. They are wonderful community partners. This funding will allow us to assist clients who may otherwise be turned away. Grants are typically specific, dictating who qualifies and receives assistance. If the individual does not meet the funding source's eligibility criteria, we can't help. These funds will allow us to help the "gap" group who are in serious need of assistance."

Kimo Haynes, President of Hawaii Petroleum said, "The mission of our Ohana Fuels Giving Program is to help meet the needs of the communities we serve by supporting nonprofit organizations that improve overall quality of life. Ohana Fuels proudly sponsors programs that enhance the vitality of our neighborhoods, celebrate community success, and expand the capacity of local charities to serve our community."

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



A NOTE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



This has been a year of accomplishment, struggle and the realization of a long-sought goal by MEO—the creation of a unified transportation center for the MEO bus system and paratransit services that includes the only bus system servicing Hana, Molokai and Lanai.

In 2005, MEO purchased 5 acres of land from A&B for \$1.6 million and with an additional 5-acre donation of land from A&B; the MEO Transportation Center was born. Dedicated on April 11, 2015, it represents the network of relationships MEO has developed over the years with funding from state and county sources.

This was the year in which we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the 1965 founding of MEO as an initiative of the “War on Poverty” by the administration of President Lyndon Johnson. The gala event we held at the King Kamehameha Golf Club and we honored our many partners over the years, including Speaker Joe Souki and other former executive directors and leaders.

There were reductions in funding due to a 5 percent cut through sequestration of funds by Congress, the poor economy and reduced foundation funding. Even with the painful backdrop of the reality of funding cuts in many programs, MEO achieved multi-year funding for our award-winning Head Start program.

The struggles of MEO only strengthen the organization and make each person who was served and helped to succeed even more precious. MEO truly is all about “Helping People. Changing Lives.” From Youth Programs to Enhance Hispanso to the Being Empowered and Safe Together (BEST) reintegration program and the senior transportation, paratransit services to rental assistance and Early Childhood Services—MEO reaches across all ages and all groups in Maui County.

None of what has been accomplished by MEO could happen without a dedicated staff that always rises to the occasion. A committed Board of Directors and the work of hundreds of volunteers that since 1965 have been the backbone of Community Action.

There are many challenges ahead. Poverty remains persistent. Income inequality continues to grow and affordable workforce housing remains elusive. Homelessness has increased as the cost of housing has grown. The phrase “working poor” remains in our language describing when an individual works full-time and is still in poverty. Yet these challenges do not discourage us. They call us to action and we will overcome them as we have in the past.

Aloha,

Kai Pelayo

EMPLOYEE ACTIVITIES



MEO celebrates its Administrative Professionals acknowledging support staff for their contributions and team effort to provide community service.

The Maui Hotel & Lodging Associations’ Annual Charity Walk has raised millions over the years in support of Maui’s non-profits. Groups participate as an organization and by getting pledges for their walk. MEO staff joined in this year, rising early in the morning, putting on their walking shoes and taking on the event course that ended with great breakfast prepared by a host of Maui hotels and restaurants.



MEO staff enjoys the Annual Holiday Staff party in December and are treated to lunch, holiday fun and door prizes with thanks for their good work.



Things can get pretty exciting at an MEO staff meeting and these three employees have decided to filter out any distractions with a tried and true method using the tools at hand.



SPECIAL EVENTS/ACTIVITIES



Surrounded by the buses that provide transportation services to youth, the elderly, the disabled and the medical needy, MEO's transportation staff steps back for an internal blessing by a fellow employee. The MEO dispatchers, bus drivers, mechanics and others are all united in their desire to serve others and to give back to the community. That desire is reflected in the care they show their clients.

It was all smiles as MEO Transportation staff joined with their colleagues, including CEO Lyn McNeff, for their first formal photo in front of the new MEO transportation facility. With all transportation services in one central location MEO will be able to continue to deliver outstanding transportation services in a cost-effective and efficient manner with superior client service the overall goal.



The 41st Annual Maui County Senior Fair was held on October 25, 2014 at the Maui County War Memorial Gym. The theme of the 2014 Fair was "Safe Today, Healthy Tomorrow," encouraging seniors to stay active and lead healthier lives. In addition to a myriad of vendors, locally grown produce, health tests and flu shots, there was outstanding entertainment and health related educational programs.



Rudy Esquer, former grants manager, Maui County Department of Housing and Human Concerns, and Kevin Block, former Director of Maui County Immigrant Services, are honored on Cesar Chavez Day at MEO for their outstanding service to the Hispanic community on Maui. MEO's Enlace Hispano program Director Leonardo Sequeira presented the awards on behalf of MEO.



REACH THEIR POTENTIAL

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

MEO celebrated 50 years of service to the people of Maui County with a wonderful sold-out fundraising event and dinner. This is also the year that saw MEO open its central transportation facility in Punene. A dream of many years was finally realized thanks to MEO's many partners and supporters in the community.

For more than two generations MEO has been engaged in the fight against poverty through community advocacy and by providing needed services such as transportation, early childhood development, youth services, inmate reintegration back into the community, micro loans and business development services to low-income entrepreneurs.

MEO's mission is to strengthen the community while helping people in need restore their hope, reach their potential and enrich their lives. Here are a few findings from MEO's 2014 needs assessment that illustrate the need for constant change, as the conditions of poverty change and our efforts must change with it.



Maui County demographics show that the population has experienced its largest increase in the past seven years. Nearly 43% of the county's residents are between the ages of 45 to 65, which will continue to place an increased demand on services for seniors, including human services transportation. Over 36% of Maui County's 51,281 households have children under the age of 18 living with them. With this high percentage of families, the demand for quality childcare and education as well as prevention education and awareness will continue.

Nearly half of all renters pay 35% or more of their total income on rent. Seventy percent of the over 19,000 rental units in Maui County cost between \$1,200- \$1,800 per month. This demonstrates the continuing need for strong rental assistance programs and the need for constant advocacy for affordable work-force housing.

Nearly nine percent of Maui County's population is below the poverty level. One in every five individuals works two or more jobs to make ends meet. Fifty years ago the group most in poverty was our seniors. Today, the largest group in poverty is our children. This challenge requires new strategies, targeted funding and a refusal to accept that this situation is inevitable.

The struggle to end poverty is a complex task and takes many partners working in cooperation to give a hand up to the individuals and families who are trying hard to make a better life for themselves and their children. We are grateful to our Board of Directors, staff and many volunteers for their contributions to this important struggle.

Aloha,

Lyn McNeff

REACH THEIR POTENTIAL

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VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2014



Maui Community Correctional Center Warden James Hirono (gray shirt & tie) accepts Maui Economic Opportunity's 2014 Volunteer of the Year Award for the work done by MCCC and the Work Line Program that assists MEO with many projects throughout the year.

The MEO Volunteer of the Year for 2014 is the Maui Community Correctional Center (MCCC). MCCC staff and the Work Line Program have been longstanding partners for more than forty years. During this time the MCCC Work Line, supervised by correctional staff, have provided numerous hours of labor assisting MEO with its many projects and events.

Past and current projects include construction of the Hale at the Ka'ahumanu Avenue site, building a ramp for the Transportation and Youth Services trailers, clearing the land at Ke Kahua, demolishing and removing debris from the inside of the building at Vineyard Street, working at senior fairs, cleaning windows, hauling boxes and moving furniture with their assistance. It is estimated that MEO saves more than \$63,000.00 annually, thereby allowing more of the grant funds to be spent on direct services.

Warden James Hirono and his staff have been long time supporters of and partners with MEO, collaborating on reintegration and family strengthening projects and initiatives. This partnership has been acknowledged as "exceptional" by other entities and community members and is a strength that is showcased when applying for funding. During this past year MEO served more than 23,000 individuals and families, touching more than 52,000 lives. This would not have been possible without the assistance of entities like the MCCC staff and the Work Line Program.

Volunteer Hall of Fame

Lawrence Ing 1989 – 1990	Frank Lee 1996 – 1997	Louise Borsella 2003 – 2004	David Joergensen 2010–2011
Violet Payk 1990 – 1991	Beatrice Kahanu 1997 – 1998	Eddie Nishihara 2004 – 2005	Kevin Yoshida 2011 – 2012
Ichiro Takahashi 1991 – 1992	Lawrence Ing 1998 – 1999	Merton G. Kekui 2005 – 2006	Bard Perterson 2012 – 2013
Harold Shimoda 1992 – 1993	Lanly Nagata 1999 – 2000	Tonoe Takeuchi 2006–2007	May Fujiwara 2013 –2014
Virginia Freitas 1993 – 1994	Jeffrey T. Kuwada 2000 – 2001	Tommy Lau Hee 2007–2008	
Jim Whitehead 1994 – 1995	Edward Oliveira 2001 – 2002	Joseph Williams 2008 –2009	
Yukiko Kanoholani 1995 – 1996	Haruko D. Nakata 2002 – 2003	Tim Eleneki 2009 –2010	

ENRICH THEIR LIVES

ADVOCACY

MEO and the County of Maui Transportation Department hosted a Rider's Forum in June of 2015 to educate the public about the different types of transportation service available on island. The forum explained how to qualify for each, where the routes go and how to navigate the different systems and rules associated with riding.



MEO celebrated their 50th anniversary of community advocacy and service with the "Dancing with Our Stars" fundraiser on March 21, 2015, at the King Kamehameha Golf Clubhouse. Dancers included Mayor Alan Arakawa, Terri Vencel, Sharon Zalos, Councilmember Don Guzman and Rick Volner, dancing with a partner of their choice.



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RETONE THEIR HOPE



Members of the Lahaina Honouliua Senior's Club gather in preparation for the celebration of the club's 45th anniversary. The club is active in community affairs advocating for MEO at every budget hearing.



More than 700 individuals attended the 41st Annual Kipuna Luncheon held July 26, at the Grand Wailea Resort and Spa featured past MEO Executive Director Gladys Baisa, who spoke about community action and its importance to Maui County.

EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

MEO is honored to recognize the following employees for achieving three, five, fifteen, twenty and twenty-five plus years of service. Monetary awards are given based on consecutive years of service. Cash amount is contingent upon availability of funds.

We thank you for your years of service to Maui Economic Opportunity and to your community.

3 Years

David Blair
Brenda Brown
Rhina Lynn Juario
Patricia Loughran
Judith Martter
Craig Swift
Zerwas Tolentino
Cassiopea Yamashita
Mark Yokoyama

15 Years

Esmeralda Makaiwi
Danette Neizman

20 Years

Dellfhn Castroverde

25 + Years

Fred Balsa (30)
Carolyn Freitas (34)
Agnes Groff (33)
Roberta Higgins (26)
Lydia Joao (28)
Doralyn Kahookele (26)
Mary Kaiwi (26)

5 Years

Claudia Blair
Jamie Carter
Party Corden
David Daly
Donald Dudoit
Larry Enfield
Bishop Pahia III
Nelson Uremoto

10 Years

Larae Balag
Loretta Divina
Alexandria Domingo
Valerie Kaithiwa
Jonnie Oliveira
Theron Sarocam
Hildie Schap-Gil



HELP PEOPLE IN NEED

BENEFACTOR OF THE YEAR 2014

"The Atlas Insurance Agency has been a supporter of MEO since 2010 and has helped MEO meet the tough challenges of a poor economy and budget cuts at the federal level. Funds raised by Atlas Insurance helped offset budget cuts."

Lyn McNeff, MEO CEO



Helping People. Changing Lives.

Maui Economic Opportunity and Atlas began a relationship back in 2010 through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process while looking for a new insurance brokerage. Since that time Atlas and its leadership team of President Myles Murakami and Vice President Carol Davis have been more than brokers, they have become supporters and advocates for MEO and its clients.

Our experience working with this team has been exceptional! They are very prompt in their replies, easy to communicate with, and work to get the best policies that fit our needs at the best possible price. They take the time to ensure we understand the proposal and carrier options. They are always willing to look at contracts and forms and offer helpful suggestions, while tactfully avoiding providing legal advice. They have also provided numerous hours of technical support going above and beyond what is required under their contract.

When CEO Lyn McNeff shared information about budget cuts to Head Start affecting 20 children and families, Myles offered to help. He proposed making a donation to MEO to use during the Hotel Industry's Annual Charity Walk to help leverage funds from the event. In addition, Atlas stepped up to sponsor MEO's annual Driver of the Year award, providing a plaque and paying a monetary award to one outstanding driver each year.

During this year, Atlas has offered \$14,700.00 in financial support, but more importantly, they have taken a genuine interest in MEO, its employees and clients. Relationships such as these allow MEO to do what it does best, help people and change lives.

Benefactor Hall of Fame

Stanford Carr – 2005	Hawaiian Electric Industries – 2010
Alexander & Baldwin – 2006	The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation – 2011
Grand Wailea Resort Hotel & Spa – 2007	Agape Charitable Foundation – 2012
Quill Group – 2008	Pacific Painting & Refinishing, Inc. – 2013
Bank of Hawaii – 2009	Atlas Insurance Agency – 2014

STRENGTHEN THE COMMUNITY

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER (BDC)

Success Story

The Wailuku Coffee Company was born from the passion and hard work of two good friends and co-workers at the former Café Marc Aurel. Megan Kaneko and Jackie Goring were presented with the opportunity in early 2010 to take over the café where they worked as it was closing.

The Wailuku Coffee Company received entrepreneurial training and a small business loan from MEO's Business Development Center to get their business off to a solid start.

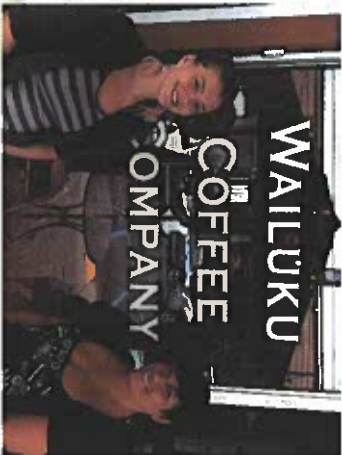
The Wailuku Coffee Company is a venue for local artists to display their work. The café is also a venue for local musicians to play live music on selected evenings. Ninety-nine percent of all products made and sold at the coffee shop are purchased on Maui. All employees are paid a living wage and given free yoga and Pilates classes to encourage overall health, create good healthy habits and reduce health care costs.

BDC Services

- Microloans to small businesses
- Core Four Business Planning Courses
- Technical Assistance

BDC Statistics

- 5 microloans granted this year
- \$39,500 amount loaned this year
- 136 Business Planning Course graduates
- 9 jobs created/retained by graduates this year



"MEO helped us get started with business planning classes and developing a business plan and an initial business loan. MEO helped make our dream of owning a business a reality!" — Jackie Goring, co-owner, Wailuku Coffee Company.



HELP PEOPLE IN NEED

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

"For me there are two main things about working at MEO. I really enjoy the people I work with who work together to help people in the community. And I enjoy the aspect of being able to give back to the community and being a part of that community."



Jana Malcolin-Brown
Fiscal
March 2015

"I really enjoy working with our clients who are so sweet and loving and often just want someone to talk with. I feel good because I am giving them enjoyment in their life. Without MEO they are stuck at home when they need someone to help them get to places they need to go."



Francine Santana
Transportation
April 2015

"I love working for MEO Head Start because I really do feel that we follow our mission. We are comprehensive and work with the whole family. We stress that the parents are the first teacher. I feel honored to have witnessed so many successes with the children and parents in our program."



Alexandra Domingo
August 2015
Early Childhood Services

Rose Marie Ducey
Youth Services
October 2014



Rhina Lynn Juarte
Early Childhood Svcs
November 2014



Casi Yamashita
Youth Services
December 2014



Melanie Jaramillo
Community Services
January 2015



Larae Balag
Early Childhood Svcs
February 2015



Craig Vierra
Early Childhood Svcs
May 2015



Mary Kanni
Transportation
June 2015



Po'i Raao
Transportation
July 2015



Robie Robinson
Transportation
September 2015



STRENGTHEN THE COMMUNITY

DRIVER OF THE YEAR



Thad Jensen has strong character, a positive attitude, and is a true professional. He shows care for the clients that we transport, as well as the community at large.

Driver of the Year Hall of Fame



Ricky Torres
2013

Carolyn Freitas
2012

Ajay Gerrard
2011



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ENRICH THEIR LIVES

Thad Jensen has dedication and a constant awareness and concern not only for his clients, but also for his vehicle assignment.

Thad has been with MEO for more than 4 years. During this period, the driver has remained accident and incident free up to the point of this selection as the 2014 Driver of the Year. Thad possesses excellent driving and customer service skills, he goes above and beyond what is required.

Cash for "No Crash"

Drivers who are accident free in a calendar year are eligible for a monetary award based upon hours worked.

1900 Hours	Years Accident Free
Jannie N. Oliveira	10
Marvin P. De Castro	8
Donald K. Dudoit	6
Robert J. Heath	6
Karen L. Reado	6
Doreen A. Pascua	5
Thad E. Jensen	4
Davidette K. Pa-Kalia	4
Barbara Sentel	4
Eric Amaral	3
Julia L. Dudoit	3
David A. Harris	3
Yolanda P. Aquino	2
Rafael P. Castro III	2
Charles M. Kall III	2
Allen K. Kama	2
Kobie A. Robinson	2
Terrance S. Shirai	2
Ricky S. Torres	2
Nelson Umemoto	2
Srivastav K. Agiri III	1
Dino K. Calistro	1
Roland M. Iniba	1
Yolande U. Kashiwa	1
Yolande U. Iniba	1
Yolande U. Iniba	1
Yolande U. Iniba	1
Christophe J. Parker	1
Jennifer V. Santos	1
Samuela Toluata'u	1
Vainimalea Vi	1
Mark K. Gilegama	1
1500 Hours	Years Accident Free
Larry D. Enfield	6
Deffinn E. Castrowerde	2
Elizabeth K. Pzyk	2
1100 Hours	Years Accident Free
Ronald A. De Guzman	7
Loretta M. Divina	2
Aldran S. Morante	1
Adolphe J. Ruiz	1
700 Hours	Years Accident Free
Tatum Delos Reyes-Iniba	1
Robert M. Thomas	1
Trinka A. Vera	1

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Success Story

Patrick Aniban is 51-years old and living with his wife and his 17-year-old daughter. In 2007, Patrick was sentenced to incarceration and when he enrolled into the National Farmworker Jobs Program five years later, Patrick was starting his transition out of the facility.

Patrick was released from the facility after working several months at his employment that NFIJ staff had helped him to attain. He was supplied with work clothes, shoes and transportation needs (bike) to assist with his reintegration into the community and the workforce. Patrick landed a job working for the Maui Coffee Company.

He initially earned \$15 an hour and he later was given a raise and was making \$16.50 an hour. After working several weeks there, he was then offered a part time job as a retail supplier in the coffee business and was able to juggle two jobs. Currently, Patrick is now working 70 hours a week and is able to support his family financially. February 2015 marked a year that Patrick has been exited from the NFIJ program.

Community Services

- BEST Reintegration
- Employment Services & Job Placement
- Energy Education & Assistance (IHEAP)
- Enlace Hispano Program
- Services for the Hispanic Community
- Farmworker Services
- National Farmworker Jobs Program
- Outreach & Assessment Services
- Pre-employment & Career Training
- Rental Assistance
- Senior Employment Services
- Senior Legal Services - 60+
- Senior "Red Discount" Card - 60+
- Senior Scoop Newsletter
- Community Services Statistics
- 62 Senior Service Clients
- 2,692 Clients provided with immigrant services
- 1,448 Households given energy assistance
- 102 individuals served with employment services
- 1,789 clients provided with rental assistance
- 282 clients provided reintegration services
- 35 seniors received legal services

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HELP PEOPLE IN NEED



Patrick Aniban



EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

Success Story

"This story captures the essence of why Head Start exists—the true foundation of how the program impacts children and families."

Debbi Amaral, Early Childhood Services Director

During the MEO Head Start Lahaina Team Conference, the lead teacher expressed concern regarding a child that was observed to urinate often and had an increased thirst for water. Staff shared that the child's guardian reported the child was having bed-wetting accidents that were ongoing for a couple weeks. The Health Manager contacted the child's guardian and confirmed that they knew there was a problem. The guardian stated that child had not been to the doctor due to the lack of health insurance.

The child had insurance, however the doctor did not accept it. The Health Manager called Malama I Ke Ola Health Center and spoke to the nurse of child's Pediatrician. After looking up child's records, the nurse confirmed that child had insurance and it was active. An appointment was scheduled for the next day at 8 am. The family took the child to the doctor on the following day and the child was sent to Oahu. The child was diagnosed with Diabetes Insipidus - a rare condition disorder of salt and water metabolism marked by intense thirst and heavy urination.

The family is awaiting results from a MRI to see if it is central (brain) or nephrogenic (kidneys). Central is treatable; while the nephrogenic type may require a kidney transplant in time. The sharing of information between family to staff, and the immediate actions taken by the Health Manager made a difference for this child's life. As a result, treatment has begun and the diagnosis allows professionals to plan accordingly in the best interest of the child's health and wellbeing.



Early Childhood Statistics

- Head Start for preschoolers
 - Kahl Kamali'i Infant Toddler Center
 - Early Childhood Education
 - Parent Training
 - Special needs
 - Transition
 - Oral health
 - Nutrition
 - Mental health
 - Advocacy
 - Ohana Strengthening
- 309 children served in Head Start
 - 298 of volunteers assisting in Head Start
 - 43 of Head Start children with disabilities
 - 60 Parents and children served by Ohana strengthening
 - 24 Kamali'i Infant/Toddler enrollees
 - 131 Working families served with full-day options
 - 36% Percentage of employees who were/are Head Start Parents

REACH THEIR POTENTIAL

EXECUTIVE STAFF

"MEO thrives because of the people who have chosen to work in an organization that is dedicated to fighting the effects of poverty in our community and on our families. Poverty is persistent but so are we and the members of the MEO Executive Staff consistently fill their positions with creativity, passion and good humor. It is an honor to walk with them in this great journey."

Lyn McNeiff, CEO, MEO



Lyn McNeiff
Chief Executive Officer



Debbie Cabebe
Chief Programs Officer



Debbie Lorenzo
Chief Fiscal Officer



Craig Swift
Business Development Center Director



Debbi Amaral
Early Childhood Services Director



Gerry Lum
Community Services Director



Harry Johnson
Transportation Director



Cassi Yamashita
Youth Services Director

REACH THEIR POTENTIAL

YOUTH SERVICES

Success Story

Emery Jade Meyer-Wallett is an 8th grader attending Kalamia Intermediate School. She has displayed leadership skills beyond her years and has been proven a reliable and trustworthy individual. In the 6th grade, she was the winner of the Underage Drinking Prevention poster contest, so a breakfast party was held in her honor. Emery regularly participates in both the after school leadership training and the community service learning projects.

Over the past year, she has contributed in countless activities dealing with the prevention of underage drinking among her peers. This program is designed to provide an Evidence Based curriculum to youth at Kalamia Intermediate School in the 8th grade. The program is peer led providing a comprehensive educational and age appropriate curriculum for middle and high school students in their classrooms during school hours.

She is always promoting healthy alternatives and telling youth that they don't have to drink alcohol to have a good time. She is a dedicated advocate during our service learning projects but knows how to incorporate fun while doing it. Emery continues to demonstrate strong leadership skills that will inspire other youth in the community.

Emery is a talented artist and has displayed her art on Instagram for friends and family to view. Much of her art has been an inspiration for the design of this year's Camp Hope t-shirts, which were a big hit. In the future, Emery says she would like to draw for Disney movies or work as a school counselor. MEO Youth Services staff feels that whatever she decides to do in life she will be a huge success.

Youth Services Statistics

- COM Youth Services
- 490 Youth served
- AmeriCorps
- 24 Members served
- Underage Drinking Prevention Program
- 99 Youth served
- State of Hawaii Substance Abuse Prevention
- 189 served



Emery has demonstrated a positive outlook on life, a cheerful personality, and a friendly attitude while in the program. She is always smiling and tries to make friends with any new participants.



Youth Services

- COM Youth Services
- AmeriCorps
- Underage Drinking Prevention Program
- State of Hawaii Substance Abuse Prevention

RETONE THEIR HOPE

LANA'I BRANCH

Success Story

Frank Hashii was born and raised in California and moved to Hawaii over 30 years ago to become a firefighter. He first lived on the island of Kauai, and heard there was a job opening on the island of Lanai.

With a population of maybe 2,000 or so, no stoplights, or shopping malls and being a single man he thought this would be a great opportunity for him to learn about Hawaiian culture and plantation life.

When Frank retired three years ago, life for him was hunting, fishing and being with friends, until the day he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. Changes were needed to be made and one of the biggest changes was when the doctor told him that he could no longer drive his truck. The Office on Aging evaluated Frank and soon after they contacted MEO.

Frank has been a client since February of this year and says he couldn't have been more happy, content, and pleased with our services.

He can now attend his physical therapy, get to his doctor's appointments, shop for groceries once a week, and even visits the library at least once a month. MEO became Frank's hope and answered prayers for a better living.



Frank Hashii

Lanai Services

- Transportation
- Rental assistance
- LIHEAP (Low Income Energy Assistance)
- Senior Red Card
- Microloans and business planning classes
- Preschool education
- TEFAP (Food Surplus Distribution)

Lanai Statistics

- 6,988 Transportation trips provided
- 399 TEFAP distributions
- 58 Senior Discount Red Cards issued
- 50 receiving LIHEAP assistance



STRENGTHEN THE COMMUNITY

MOLOKA'I BRANCH

Success Story

Isabella Undeberg is a 70-year old senior who lives on a fixed income receiving SSA and SNAP benefits. She lived in a place where she did not feel safe. She moved and was able to find shelter with a friend; she lived with her friend for a few months but did not get along with her friend's spouse; therefore she felt the best thing to do was move out.

Isabella was homeless, out of options and desperately searching for an affordable rental unit. She was able to find a one-bedroom unit to rent that was located close to Kaunakakai town.

Isabella came to MEO looking for help with security deposit and first month's rent. MEO worked closely with Isabella. After completion of Isabella's intake, it was determined that Isabella qualified for a security deposit, first month's rent, and subsidized rental assistance.

With the help of MEO's County Rental Assistance Program, Isabella is no longer homeless and has a place of her own. Isabella was extremely grateful for MEO's assistance and cried tears of joy and relief when her rental unit was secure. Isabella is doing well, managing her monthly budget and living within her means.



Isabella Undeberg is no longer homeless and has a place of her own and is extremely grateful for MEO's assistance.



- Moloka'i Statistics**
- 19,461 hours of services provided by Moloka'i transportation
 - 998 people served by Moloka'i transportation
 - 25 clients received rental assistance
 - 3,340 recipients of TEFAP (Food surplus Distribution)
 - 6 individuals served with Moloka'i Emergency Food Fund

TRANSPORTATION

Success Story

"Come on in," said an elated Jennifer Llanes as she opened the door to her new cozy little studio apartment. After moving all of her belongings last weekend from her group home in Paia to her very first private space in Wailuku, she shared that the process of moving is very "hard!" Jennifer had been on the waiting list for housing for over 5 years and with the perseverance of her mother Celeste and the guidance of Aloha Independent Living, she has made this big step.

MEO first met Jennifer in August of 2011 when she made the trip from her mother's home in Kula to Kalima O Maui in Wailuku. It was the beginning of a long and exciting journey that has taken Jennifer from Kalima to less than a year later beginning her employment with La'auka Farms in Paia. We have had the pleasure of being along for the ride over 1,113 times.

In addition to working full-time, Jennifer also sits on the advisory board of SAAC Hawaii (Self Advocacy Advisory Council) and is currently the Co-Chair of the Maui County Chapter. She returned recently from the SAAC meeting on Oahu where over 60 delegates from all the Islands attended a Leadership Retreat. It was quite an experience and Jennifer stated that after the retreat she realized that Maui County is doing a pretty good job in response to the need of disabled citizens.

The next step for Jennifer is to find employment closer to home. She so appreciates the experience she is having at La'auka Farms and the friendships she has made during her time there. When asked what would be her ideal place to work she shared that she would "love to work with children."

We at MEO are proud of Jennifer for all that she has accomplished and feel grateful for the opportunity to have played a small part in her success.



"I wouldn't be where I am without MEO, I owe them so much. They really do help people and change lives." — Jennifer Llanes.



- Transportation Services**
- For the Elderly
 - Nutrition and leisure
 - Rural shopping
 - For Children and Youth
 - To/from school activities
 - Youth centers
 - For the Disabled
 - Medical appointments
 - Employment
 - Rural Shopping
 - Enrichment trips

- Transportation Statistics**
- 4,871 Unduplicated clients
 - 386,323 Transportation trips provided
 - 18,226 Employment trips
 - 15,210 Ala Hou