

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- It Takes a Village
- Becoming involved in the Hi'i Na Kupuna Coalition
- Grandparent Support Groups
- Upcoming Events

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It Takes a Village

Isn't it great when research confirms what we already know to be true? Professionals who work with families have identified 5 factors or characteristics of strong, healthy families. Each of these factors relate in some way to the saying "it takes a village to help (grand)parents raise a (grand)child." Many of the cultures that make up Maui are very familiar with the importance of the village, so let's explore the connection.

This issue will introduce each factor. Upcoming issues will focus on each factor in more detail. So what are these 5 factors?

1. Caregiver resilience. Resilience is the ability to recover from difficult situations. Maintaining a positive attitude, solving problems creatively, and facing and conquering challenges all contribute to a caregiver's level of resilience. In a healthy "village," children are exposed to many caregivers who are resilient and teach through their example.

2. Social connections. 'Ohana, friends, neighbors, and community members that help one another are important social connections. In a village, social connections are the foundation of support. Families with more social connections have a solid

foundation of emotional, physical and financial support.

3. Knowledge of (grand) parenting and child development. Understanding normal child development help parents and grandparents nurture a child's healthy development. In the village, elders pass their parenting wisdom to the younger generations. Today's grandparents agree that because life is different than when their children were growing up, they need help. Some of the best resources are found in agencies that promote child health, family strengthening, and education.

4. Concrete support in times of need. Support includes financial resources to cover regular expenses, access to health care, mental health resources, and others. When support is available during crisis, families and children are better protected from secondary dangers such as abuse and neglect. In the village, the community rallies around those experiencing crisis.

5. Social and emotional development. Children who interact positively with others and can effectively communicate their needs and are better able to access the resources they need to overcome challenges. In the

It Takes a Village (cont)

village, keiki are raised as part of the community and are taught and trained by many who nurture their social and emotional development.

Can you think of other aspects of the “village” that provide safety and protection for child, youth, and families? Watch for upcoming newsletters which will go into depth on each of the factors.

The Hi'i Na Kupuna Newsletter is developed by the University of Hawaii Cooperative Extension Service, Intergenerational and Aging Programs, in conjunction with Hi'i Na Kupuna Community Coalition. To learn more about the Coalition or other Intergenerational and Aging Programs, contact Heather Greenwood at 244-3242 ext 226 heather.greenwood@hawaii.edu.

Kupuna Resources

Hi'i Na Kupuna Coalition

The Hi'i Na Kupuna Coalition needs grandparents like you to join and be the voice of others on Maui. We meet the 3rd Thursday of each month at 8:30am at the Central Maui Boys & Girls Clubhouse (100 Kanaloa Ave, Kahului—next to the Skate Park). Contact Heather Greenwood at 244-3242 ext 226 for more information.

We Need Your Help!!!

The Hi'i Na Kupuna Coalition is conducting a grandparent needs assessment and we need your input. We are seeking grandparents who care for grandchildren **PART AND FULL TIME**. If you are a grandparent, please contact us to complete a 10-15 minute survey.

Grandparent Support Groups

Join a support group today. Times may change, so call the hosting organization for more information!

- Raising Our Keiki's Keiki (ROKK), 1st Thursdays and 3rd Wednesdays of every month, 9-12:30am, Maui Family Support Services, 242-0900
- Queen Liliu'okalani Children's Center, last Thurs of Each Month, 5:30—7:30, 242-8888

Upcoming Events

- Disabilities Alliance Legislative Forum – Velma McWayne Santos Community Center (Wailuku), August 19, 4:30-7:00
- Mentally Healthy, Physically Fit, 2010 Consumer, Family & Youth Alliance Mental Health Conference, August 26, registration required, suking421@aol.com.
- Prevent Child Abuse Hawai'i's Mini Conference: Focusing on Family Engagement, Sept 15, Maui Beach, registration required, dolly@npwailuku.org, 986-0700.
- Maui Domestic Violence Conference, Oct 1, Maui Beach, registration required, tominmaui@aol.com
- Voices of Micronesia Conference, Oct 13, UH Maui College Pilina Bldg, registration required, 270-7117, precy.baysa@mauicounty.gov