



### A Hero's Welcome

If you were lucky enough to watch *A Hero's Welcome* on Veteran's Day, you know that long-time resource caregiver, Staff Sergeant Tony Wood and his lovely wife, Joedi, were chosen for a complete home makeover in honor of the sacrifices Tony made while in the Army. Tony suffered life-threatening injuries in Iraq when his convoy hit an IED. All of Tony's organs, except for his heart, were damaged when a huge piece of shrapnel went through him.



**Joedi & Tony Wood**

Tony was taken to the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. A soldier who served with Tony in Iraq, Bryan Anderson, soon joined him there after a separate blast made Bryan a triple amputee. A long recovery ensued for both. During that time, Bryan learned that Tony and Joedi started fostering children in the early '90s and have since cared for over 60 foster children.

Bryan also learned about the problems that Tony and Joedi were having with their house. Almost immediately after they purchased their house, things began to break. Bryan wanted to help. He reached out to his friend, actor Gary Sinise. Gary brought in his friend, Chef Robert Irvine, who brought in the Food Network and its sister networks, telling producers, "This is our chance to do something great. They are the ultimate in paying it forward. You just meet both of them, and then the kids, and you know right away: There is something special about these people."



Tony and Joedi are indeed very special people. They have two biological children, have adopted three of their foster kids and have taken guardianship of two others. They recognize that the children that come to them have lost everything they know so they do the best they can to make the children and youth feel like they are part of a family as soon as they come into their home. "Your last name might be different, but as soon as you come through the door, you're my family and I'm going to treat you just like my family," is how Tony explains their philosophy.

Joedi always lets the biological family of their foster children know that she and Tony do not want to take their children; they are here to help them. The families often don't trust this at first because of things that happened to them in the past. Joedi tells them, "It's like we are your new in-laws. We are here to support you." The Woods say that most of the bio families demonstrate a willingness and desire to do right by the children.

When asked if she had any tips for other resource caregivers, Joedi shared the following:

- ❖ Take a break from fostering between placements when you can. Part of the reasoning behind this is due to the effect that fostering has on biological children. Once a foster child/youth goes back home, you and your bio kids may need time to heal from the loss.
- ❖ Trust the process. Joedi always tells her biological children that things happen for a reason. If the foster children have gone home, point out the improvements that the bio mom and dad have made as they rebuild their family.
- ❖ Stay connected when you can. It is very rewarding when you see the bio families succeed over the years.
- ❖ Be open. Each child who comes into your home brings a new lesson.

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**HUI HO'OMALU  
STATEWIDE RESOURCE  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

*The Hui Ho'omalua Statewide Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) provides support to the resource family community through identifying ongoing needs, facilitating communication and by sharing resources.*

The Building Connections Newsletter is published four times a year to provide information regarding foster and adoptive care to resource families, service providers, and to the public.

This newsletter may be viewed on the following websites:

[www.hawaii.gov/dhs/protection/social\\_services/child\\_welfare/foster](http://www.hawaii.gov/dhs/protection/social_services/child_welfare/foster)

[www.pidfoundation.org](http://www.pidfoundation.org)

Partners in Development  
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2040 Bachelor St.  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-2433

If you would like to receive this newsletter, please call:

441-1125 (O'ahu),

888-879-8970 (Toll Free) or

E-mail: [RAC@pidfoundation.org](mailto:RAC@pidfoundation.org)

**GO GREEN!**

Want to help our environment? Contact us today and request an electronic copy!



**★ OUTSTANDING DHS WORKER! ★**

**Anne Fitzpatrick  
Maui CWS HSP Permanency Worker**

It Takes An 'Ohana's Advisory Committee (IAC) would like to thank Anne Fitzpatrick for going above and beyond to help bring out positive outcomes for resource families and foster children. Anne, like many caseworkers, is really busy, but resource caregivers report that when they call her with a question, she has everything in place that they need when she gets back to them. Another thing that resource caregivers mentioned about Anne is that she makes them feel very comfortable in expressing their thoughts on what the foster children in their care need. One Maui resource caregiver said that Anne is, "Super knowledgeable in resources and always explains things to us that we don't understand. I remember when my first foster child was scheduled for an IEP and I had no idea what an IEP was. Anne helped me understand the IEP process and connected me with resources where I was able to get even more help." Anne is also known for helping to set up appropriate and effective therapy for the children on her case load. She really advocates for the kids and she is committed to finding what the children need. Anne works at the Maui East Child Welfare Services Unit 1. Mahalo nui loa to Anne for going above and beyond to help children in foster care and those who care for them!



Anne Fitzpatrick

Do you know a DHS-CWS worker(s) that you would like to acknowledge for his/her exceptional work? Share their name(s) with us and what makes them so special so we can let others know how wonderful they are!

441-1125 (O'ahu) ★ 1-888-879-8970 (Toll Free) ★ [RAC@pidfoundation.org](mailto:RAC@pidfoundation.org)

**A Hero's Welcome (cont.)**

- ❖ Invite bio parents to their children's activities such as baseball games, hula performances, science fairs, etc.
- ❖ At the first visitation with bio parents, go over your rules.
- ❖ Help out with supervised visits at public places like the zoo or the park. If they have another child, include them too.
- ❖ Call bio families to help them stay connected.
- ❖ If it is safe, invite the bio family to your home to see your routines and where the child sleeps.
- ❖ Never talk negatively about the bio family to the foster children, for they love their mom and dad, no matter what.

Now, back to the house renovation! The house was gutted and rebuilt in just a few days by a thousand-strong army of contractors, designers and volunteers. It was a very organized operation and the results are astounding! Of course it helped that HGTV's Genevieve Gorder redesigned every room in the house. Both Tony and Joedi have been humbled by the experience and are very, very happy with the results. And, we are happy for them as they have helped our community in so many ways over the decades. Congratulations, Tony, Joedi and 'Ohana!

Read more at <http://soldiers.dodlive.mil/2014/11/a-heros-welcome/>

**Help! Looking For Stories!**

Would you like to share some helpful tips? Got an inspirational story to tell? Know of some useful resources in your community?

These are just some of the many possibilities that you can contribute to this newsletter. Please send them over so we can all benefit from each other's wisdom!

We would also appreciate any feedback, comments and suggestions on ways that we can improve this newsletter so that it is useful to you. What would you like to see in it? Topics of interest?

We look forward to hearing from you!



## Who Ya Gonna Call?

There may be times when you, as a resource caregiver, have a question or concern and are not sure where to go for help. The ITAO Advisory Committee, in collaboration with the Department of Human Services, recently updated the following "Who to Call" list.

If you have questions or problems regarding any of the following, here's who to call:	Child's Social Worker	Social Service Assistant	Licensing Social Worker	Other Source
Behavior problems of child	X		X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Therapist</li> <li>• School counselor</li> <li>• DOH CAMHD</li> </ul>
Certificate of Approval			X	
Check: late, lost, stolen, or overpayment		X		
Clothing needs of child		X		
Death of child	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call 911 (Police)</li> <li>• If after hours call <i>DHS Hotline</i> at 832-5300 or 1-800-494-3991 (toll free)</li> </ul>
Difficulty with birth parents	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Therapist</li> <li>• GAL</li> <li>• Judge</li> <li>• Request an 'Ohana Conference</li> </ul>
Emergency medical care (after hours)	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 911, Emergency Room, Nearest emergency medical facility,</li> <li>• <i>DHS Hotline</i> at 832-5300 or (toll free) 1-800-494-3991</li> </ul>
Illness or injury of child	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular Doctor as needed</li> <li>• 911 or Emergency Room if needed</li> </ul>
Illness of resource caregiver or other family member	X		X	
MedQuest/Medicaid card		X		
Moving	X		X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASAP</li> </ul>
Payment for emergency shelter homes			X	
People moving in or out of your home, including long term visitors			X	
Psychiatric help needed for child	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Therapist</li> </ul>
Request removal of child from your home	X		X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>DHS Hotline</i> at 808-832-5300 or (toll free) 1-800-494-3991</li> <li>• If safety concern, dial 911 (Police)</li> </ul>
Reporting changes in placement			X	
Resources	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warm Line at 545-1130 or (toll free) 1-866-545-0882</li> </ul>
Respite care	X		X	
Runaway child	X		X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call 911 (Police)</li> </ul>
School problems	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher</li> <li>• Therapist</li> <li>• Surrogate Parent</li> <li>• GAL</li> </ul>
Structural changes in your home			X	
Time off needed before accepting another child			X	
Vacations	X		X	
Visits between child and birth family	X			
Worker not available in emergency that does not require 911 during DHS work hours				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the DHS Chain of Command: Supervisor/Administrator/Section</li> </ul>

## November ~ National Adoption Month

By Teresa Berg, LSW



The ice rink echoed with the laughter and voices of parents and children enjoying a chilly evening of skating at Ice Palace. In celebration of National Adoption Month, over 350 people touched by adoption attended the free evening of ice skating and family fun. As one adoptive parent commented, "For us, this is the start of the Christmas season. Every year we are blessed to be able to gather with other adoptive families in November and have a great time skating. We love coming even though we celebrate adoption EVERY DAY in our house!"

From grandparents who are providing a permanent home to their grandchildren to adoptive parents of children born in foreign countries, the skating event highlights the positive impact that Forever Families have in providing love, stability and connection to children who are in need of permanency. Regardless of the circumstances, families who are formed through adoption acknowledge that their journey is unique; for both adoptive parents and the children they adopt, it is powerful to be in a setting where everyone else has similar experiences. For children,

who may often be the only adopted child in their classroom or on their soccer squad, this gathering reassures them that they belong to a proud and rich community of persons touched by adoption.

The National Adoption Month Family Skate Night is sponsored by the Hawai'i Adoption and Permanency Alliance (HAPA), a collaboration of service providers and members of the adoption triad who work to promote adoption awareness and education on O'ahu. Additional support for the adoption celebration was provided by the Glue Committee, the Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center, LDS Family Services, and Wendy's Wonderful Kids Program of Family Programs Hawai'i.



## Family Programs Hawai'i's 16th Annual Holiday Party

By Paulette Bethel, FPH President and CEO

Santa came early this year for Hawai'i's resource and adoptive families. Many of our keiki kicked off the holiday season as they crowded around Santa and Mrs. Claus at Family Programs Hawai'i's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Party held at the Neil Blasdell Center Exhibition Hall, some for the first time.

Each year, our community comes together to put on a fun-filled holiday event that provides our foster and adoptive keiki with over 20 different activity booths with games, crafts, hair styling, face painting, balloon animals, presents from Santa and much, much more. I am convinced that most of the 1272 children and their families that attended will never forget this day.

As President and CEO of Family Programs Hawai'i, this was my first opportunity to participate in this event. I had the chance to meet and spend time with many of our families. I loved observing our keiki enjoying themselves as they: visited multiple activity booths, listened to Christmas carols being sung by the Rotary Club of Honolulu Sunrise Singers, met cartoon characters, were entertained by emcee OHA Trustee Peter Apo, the Iolani Dance Groups, and many others, and enjoyed a holiday meal. I had the wonderful opportunity to talk story with many of our families, volunteers and sponsors. Over and over, I heard expressions of joy, excitement and gratitude from families, volunteers, and sponsors. Words alone cannot express my feelings throughout the day.

This event isn't just a Family Programs Hawai'i event. In addition to our partner, the Department of Human Services, our sponsors, donors, other community agencies, 500+ volunteers, various local businesses and individuals all joined forces with us to put this holiday event together. We could not do this without their generosity and support.

"I believe it's important to do this because it gives our families a chance to spend time together and the chance for the kids to enjoy family time, just having fun and enjoying themselves," said Mona Maehara, Department of Human Services - Social Services Division Administrator.

We thank everyone in the community who supported the priceless work of this event and are very grateful for the difference YOU make in the lives of Hawai'i's keiki.





# Welcome to FPH's Resource Family Support Services Corner

By April Lum, RFSS Family Resource Specialist

Resource Family Support Services (RFSS) is funded by the Department of Human Services



FAMILY PROGRAMS HAWAII

## Ask the Warm Line



April Lum

Aloha, my name is April Lum and I am the new Family Resource Specialist at Family Programs Hawai'i where I have the honor and privilege to assist you on the Warm Line. I have been a resource caregiver for the last five years and it was while going through the licensing process that I first heard about the Warm Line. The trainer passed out a magnet with a phone number to call and explained what it was for. However, as you all know, during this process you can easily become overwhelmed with the amount of information that is discussed and, I must admit, I didn't fully understand what the Warm Line was and why I should call it. I remember going home that evening after the training and placing the Warm Line magnet on my refrigerator, careful to make note that if anything came up, the Warm Line was the number I needed to call for help. I thought it was only to be used in case of a real emergency. For years the Warm Line magnet sat on my refrigerator, useful in holding up pictures but not much else, and I was left to navigate this whole new world by myself simply because I wasn't aware of what the Warm Line was there for. So, whether you have been a resource caregiver for years or you've just completed the licensing process, you may wonder: **Why should I call the**

### Warm Line?

**Information:** We can supply you with information on upcoming support groups, trainings and events like the Holiday Party, HAPA Conference and Resource Family Appreciation day. We can also clarify if you have questions about your role, policies/procedures, resources available, etc.

**Referrals:** We can assist with providing referrals for a wide variety of needs, such as child care subsidies, enhancement funds, counseling services, and other resources. Also, via the Warm Line, our Care to Share program connects resource families with needed items such as cribs, dressers, and clothes that are donated by the community.

**Support:** Whether it is just a listening ear you need, someone to talk to who understands what you are going through or you need a place to vent your frustrations, we are here to support you. It's not easy being a caregiver, but it helps knowing that you are not alone. We're here to help!

## Book Club Allows You to Satisfy Ongoing Training Requirements

It Takes An 'Ohana (ITAO) virtual Book Club is up and running and you can join in anytime! We are working our way through the first book, *The Boy Who Was Raised as a Dog*, by Dr. Bruce Perry and Maia Szalavitz. We know this book has brought great insights to our resource, adoptive, guardianship, permanency and kinship families by the comments and responses they have shared.

All books we read will be from the *HI DHS Approved Ongoing Training List*, allowing resource caregivers who read the books *and* complete the *DHS Training Verification Form*, to receive training hour credits. (Resource caregivers who wish to obtain the credit hours for the books read must complete the DHS Training Verification Form and give that to their licensing worker.)

The book club is a closed Facebook Group. To join, search for "ITAO Book Club" while in Facebook and click on the green "+Join Group" button. We will then send you a personal message to verify that you are part of a resource family.

One of the great things about this group is that you are able to participate at your convenience, logging in anytime, day or night, to join us.

For those who choose to purchase a book at Amazon.com, please do so by going through an Amazon link on [www.ittakesanohana.org](http://www.ittakesanohana.org). We ask this because every purchase you make during a shopping session started through a link at [www.ittakesanohana.org](http://www.ittakesanohana.org) will benefit ITAO's program without costing you a dime!

We believe that when caregivers and parents have the tools they need plus the hope that they will make a difference, they will! ITAO sends a big MAHALO to the Victoria S. and Bradley L. Geist Foundation and the Hawai'i Model Court Program for their continued support and to the North American Council on Adoptable Children for the technical assistance it provided to create this Facebook Group.

PH: (808) 540-2543

Email: [jwilhoite@familyprogramshi.org](mailto:jwilhoite@familyprogramshi.org)

[www.ittakesanohana.org](http://www.ittakesanohana.org)



## Adoptive Families Needed Through Wendy's Wonderful Kids

Kaimana is a 14-year-old Hawaiian youth who wants the stability and love that a Forever Family can offer to him. His current caregivers always know when Kaimana is around because he loves to sing out loud. He also enjoys drawing, coloring and video games. Kaimana loves swimming in the ocean and playing at the beach. His favorite times are when he is outdoors, in nature and busy with his hands. Kaimana has siblings that reside on a neighbor island, and it is his hope to remain in contact with them.

Kaimana is an eighth-grader, enrolled in special education classes for behavioral and cognitive support. Kaimana has made good progress in controlling his behaviors in his current school setting, which includes a male lead teacher who provides him with positive support and role modeling. Kaimana has had a lot of crisis disruptions from previous resource homes so he does not automatically trust adults who promise to care for him. Kaimana will need reassurance that when he makes a mistake, he can have the opportunity to learn from it while remaining in the home.

Kaimana is a highly active, high-needs teenager who requires patience and predictability in his environment in order to succeed. He needs a family that is able to give him 1:1 attention and who will support him in enhancing his coping skills. Kaimana functions best in a home environment with low stimulation. Transitioning can be challenging for him; a family will need to respect his pace and offer a home where there is structure, consistency and anticipatory coaching when transitions are coming up. A male single parent or family with older children that can provide patience, structure, consistency, predictability, calm mannerisms and role modeling would best meet his needs.

Kaimana is currently placed in a Therapeutic Foster Home with the Department of Health. While he has responded well to the structure and stability provided to him in this home, it is a temporary placement. Wendy's Wonderful Kids and the Department of Human Services is seeking a parent or parents who are willing to provide Kaimana with the permanency he needs in order for him to maintain his therapeutic and behavioral gains while in Therapeutic Foster Care. A family that is interested in being a Forever Family to Kaimana can receive specialized training and mentoring from the current Therapeutic Resource Caregivers to work effectively with Kaimana.

If you are interested in learning more about Kaimana, please contact Teresa Berg at Family Programs Hawai'i at 808-540-2552.



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!

How long have you been a resource caregiver? We would like to honor you by printing your name and current years of service in our newsletter. We know you are out there but we need your help. Please send your name and years of service to:

RAC@pidfoundation.org ★ (O'ahu) 441-1125  
(Toll Free) 1-888-879-8970

*Mahalo for your dedication and heart for  
Hawai'i's keiki and families!*

## 'OHANA REWARDS

Want to know how you could receive a  
**\$200.00 gift card?**

Would you like your name to appear in a future RAC newsletter?  
**All you need to do is help us find more homes for  
Hawai'i's keiki in foster care!**

Vanessa Ghantous

Desiree Kaleohano

If you can refer, help, cheer, and see your referral  
to the finish line to become licensed,  
you could earn a **\$200 gift card** of your choice  
and be listed here as an 'Ohana Rewards recipient!

*Advertise in the Newsletter—Promote Your Business*

*100% of the proceeds will be used towards supporting our resource families*

**Display advertisements with borders:** business card size = \$30; 1/4 page = \$50; 1/2 page = \$75; full page = \$115.

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Phone: 441-1125 (O'ahu) ★ 888-879-8970 (Toll Free) ★ Fax: 441-1122 ★ E-mail: RAC@pidfoundation.org

RAC reserves the right to accept, reject or edit advertisements, articles and notices of events based on publication schedule, space limitations, and appropriateness.

**A. F. T.  
A Fostering Thought**

## LIVING IN THE BIG PICTURE . . . AND NOT JUST MY SELFIE

*By Dr. Paul Brennan*

In our generation we never had it, nor would we have done it. The idea would have been too vain, too self-glorious. But today it's become all the rage. I'm talking, of course, about the taking of self-portraits (usually with a self-held digital camera at arm's length), then posting them on a social network, like Facebook, Instagram or Twitter. In 2012, Time magazine included "selfie" in its list of the "top 10 buzzwords", and in 2013 Scrabble accepted it as an acceptable word for competition. So, like it or not, "selfie" is part of our vocabulary and part of our behavior.

Self-expression is a virtue that our society rightly encourages, in fact, promotes. We encourage our children to "develop their gifts," to "find their strengths," to "discover their uniqueness." In the competitive world in which they will be expected to succeed, we want them to "stand on their own," to "voice their opinions," to "lead" rather than to follow. Achievers is what all of us parents hope our children will become. Where did this value come from and at what price must it be purchased?

When my biological offspring were growing up in the jungle of New Guinea, they observed their Enga playmates as having tremendous freedoms, but always within the confines of their clan rules. Boys and girls could climb trees, make fires, discover nature all around them, and follow trails... but only within the boundaries of their clan territory. At nighttime they could sleep in any number of houses, as long as the clan elders knew they were safely accounted for, within the land that the clan possessed together. Children had many "mothers" and "fathers", "brothers" and "sisters", who all were descended from ancestors still important to the clan. They had no nuclear family, no single house to return to, no individual parents...like our own sons had. Both sets of children had families, but one was extended and the other was nuclear. Both had strong ties to those who had given them birth, but in very different and prescribed ways.

Learning who our family is, how it operates, and our relation to it, is a very important part of our youth development. My relationship to those who have given me birth, sacrificed for my enrichment, and encouraged my growing is a vital part of my enculturation. Likewise, understanding the expectations that one generation places upon the next is central to healthy, wholesome aging processes.

What might this mean to a child placed in foster care? How might that new home be able to assist in encouraging self-expression? Here are a few brief suggestions, based on many years of experience.

First, to feel a part of something bigger than myself must be the most natural, most universal, most timeless feeling of any human being. Aloneness is not natural. Yet, for many children—the victims of adults' decisions or unkind circumstances—aloneness may be the most dominant perception. We all need to belong, participate in, and feel connected to something bigger than ourselves.

Secondly, our home has always had many dimensions of being both multi-generational and multi-faceted. Although our biological families live thousands of miles away, we have invited into our relationships many others—old and young, like-minded and different—who have injected in their own natural ways their mature opinions, their wise observations, and their healthy perceptions on life. Our children quickly perceived them to be trustful friends and good role models. Some were neighbors who invited them (and us) to their celebrations of life, even taking them on vacations and special outings. Others had children who were good friends of ours and could relate well to them (and us). All were positive role models.

Thirdly, our memberships in groups and clubs have always included all of our children. Whether at church, civic clubs, or on teams, we have aimed to be inclusive of our children's participation, desiring to show them who our friends are, what we do together that gives us meaning, and how we adults treat other people. All these interactions were natural and positive in a family kind of way.

That, in a nutshell, has been our "big picture". We may have taken--to use the above metaphor-- a few individual "selfies", but the norm was a snapshot of where we were as a family. Individualism was not generally in the picture; isolation and aloneness were excluded.

In conclusion, the Golden Gate Bridge, built in the 1930s, still stands as a proud accomplishment of daring engineering, allowing each day thousands of vehicles to pass from one bank to the other. What makes it succeed are the two towers that hold the cables flexible enough to bend up to 27 feet laterally, when the mighty winds are blowing across the Bay. Tiny threads of wire, some 80,000 miles of steel woven together, allow the cables to work. So much for individualism! Now there's a selfie worth taking!



## What Effect Does Adoption or Foster Care Have on the Birth Children in the Home?

by Jayne Schooler

The answer might surprise you.

"I grew up in a foster home." That was the response of one workshop participant when asked to introduce herself and tell the group something about herself that one couldn't tell by looking at her. I was a bit stunned, because that young social worker was my daughter, a fact that I had not yet disclosed to the group.

My surprised response was, "could you tell us more about that."

"My parents were foster parents most of my childhood and they adopted my brother," she told the group. "I did grow up in a foster home, and, by the way, the trainer is my mom."

That event was a number of years ago and set me on an investigative search. I know how our daughter, Kristy fared. I wondered about other birth or permanent children and what impact did fostering or adoption have on their lives?

### The Challenges...

In looking at the challenges for birth children as their parents journey into foster care or adoption, there are six significant issues to which parents should pay attention.

1. Birth children may expect an unending "slumber party" and not have realistic expectations for the new child and their relationships.
2. A child's birth order in the family may change.
3. Birth children are troubled by the grief and sadness, even anger, that they see their parents experience when the family struggles.
4. Birth children may have difficulty explaining to friends and schoolmates who this new child is and have difficulty warding off intrusive questions.
5. Birth children may be caught off-guard by the depth of their negative feelings and responses to the child.
6. Birth children may feel they have become invisible as the family's energies are focused on the newest addition.

### The Great News!

What is exciting is to learn that the lives of birth children in foster and adopted homes were impacted in extremely positive ways as their parents navigated through the challenges discussed above. What did that look like?

1. It is not uncommon for siblings to become ardent protectors and supporters of their brother or sister with special needs or to experience feelings of great joy in watching him or her achieve even the smallest gain in learning or development.
2. Many birth children growing up in a foster/adoptive home seek altruism, humanitarian concerns and social service careers as young adults. They desire to serve their generation.
3. Siblings may look for the positive abilities/strengths in others rather than focusing on limitations.
4. Overall, birth children may be more accepting of people's differences i.e., cultural diversity. Their level of empathy and understanding is higher. They are able to understand and accept that not everyone is born with the same brain or body.
5. Birth children may be more sensitive to the feelings of others and have a heightened sense of justice i.e., regardless of what your abilities are, every one deserves the same opportunities. This philosophy seems to be a result of their parent's teachings and attitudes.

Of course, some of these significant, positive impacts may not be seen in younger birth children, but take root and grow as they mature into young adulthood.

Just recently I had the incredible opportunity to meet Jedd Medefind at the NCFA conference. He shared with me a very significant thought – "love for orphans transforms." And this love certainly has had a positive and major impact on the children, called as their parents, to care for them when in need of a permanent, loving family.

For more information about this topic:

- ❖ E. S. Mullin and L. Johnson, "The Role of Birth/Previously Adopted Children in Families Choosing to Adopt Children with Special Needs" *Child Welfare Journal* 78, no. 5 (September/October 1999).
- ❖ *The Whole Life Adoption Book*
- ❖ *Wounded Children, Healing Homes: How Traumatized Children Impact the Adoptive and Foster Family*

*Please note that although this article mentions "foster family" and "foster parents", in Hawai'i they are referred to as "resource family" and "resource caregivers."*



# Calendar of Events

## O'AHU

**Feb 13 (Fri): Windward Resource Families Support Group:** 6pm-8:30pm. QLCC Ko'olau Poko Unit. RSVP to FPH at 521-9531 ext. 245 by 2/6/15.

**Feb 19 (Thurs): Creating a Healing Environment in Your Home Supporting a Child who has been Abused by Sex Assault:** 5:30pm-8:30pm. QLCC Ko'olau Poko Unit. RSVP to the Warm Line at 545-1130 by 2/12/15.

**Feb 26 (Thurs): Central O'ahu Resource Families Support Group:** 5:30pm-8pm. O'ahu Veterans Center. RSVP to FPH at 521-9531 ext. 245 by 2/19/15.

**Mar 20 (Fri): Wai'anae Resource Families Support Group:** 5:30pm-8pm. 'Ohana Ola O Kahumana. RSVP to FPH at 521-9531 ext. 245 by 3/13/15.

## MAUI COUNTY

**Feb 19 (Thurs): Maui Resource Families Support Group:** 5:30pm-8pm. Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center. RSVP toll free to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 or by 2/12/15.

## EAST HAWAI'I

**Mar 14 (Sat): Hilo Resource Families Support Group:** 12pm-2:30pm. Haili Congregational Church. RSVP to Michele Carvalho at 987-5988 by 2/28/15.

**\*\*If you have access to the internet, please check the calendar for any additional or updated events at [www.familyprogramshawaii.org](http://www.familyprogramshawaii.org).**

Funding for FPH support groups, trainings, and annual conferences is provided by the Department of Human Services

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Co-trainers Needed.** *Resource Caregivers/Former Foster Youth in West Hawai'i, Kaua'i and O'ahu* are needed to co-train new Resource Caregivers in the HANA'I curriculum. Your experience is invaluable to a new family just learning about providing foster care. Come and share what you've learned/experienced over the years with others!!! Trainings are generally held on weekday evenings and Saturdays. Training and compensation provided.

**Child Care Providers needed in East Hawai'i, West Hawai'i, and O'ahu** to provide child care (i.e., during trainings), in the evenings and weekends on an occasional basis. Training and compensation provided.

**Recruitment Assistants needed in West Hawai'i and O'ahu** to staff various recruitment booths and share information with potential applicants about the need for additional Resource Caregivers. Training and compensation provided.

### HUI HO'OMALU

A Program of Partners in Development Foundation

See [www.pidfoundation.org/about/careers](http://www.pidfoundation.org/about/careers)

Email resume & application w/cover letter to:

HR@pidfoundation.org

or fax to 440-6619

PIDF is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer



PATCH publishes a quarterly newsletter -- Training Tracks, to inform the community of our upcoming trainings around town, and provide the latest child care news and information to professionals and the public. PATCH offers over 100 FREE child care workshops open to all caregivers such as family child care, preschool and infant and toddler staff, before and after school care programs, parents, resource caregivers, medical professionals, babysitters and informal child care. Please visit our website for the latest news and training schedule:

[www.PatchHawaii.org](http://www.PatchHawaii.org) or contact your local PATCH office

O'ahu: 808-839-1988 ❖ Maui: 808-242-9232 ❖ Kaua'i: 808-246-0622

Hilo: 808-961-3169 ❖ Kona: 808-322-3500

Lāna'i & Moloka'i: 1-800-498-4145



PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

2040 Bachelot St.

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817-2433

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## Statewide Resource Advisory Committee

2040 Bachelot St.  
Honolulu, HI 96817-2433

441-1125 (O'ahu)  
888-879-8970 (Toll Free)

Fax: 441-1122

E-mail:

RAC@pidfoundation.org

*The concept for the Statewide Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) was created by the Department of Human Services (DHS) as a means to support the resource family community. Hui Ho'omalua facilitates this committee comprised of adoptive parents, resource caregivers and various community agencies, all dedicated to providing services and support to Hawai'i's keiki and the resource families who care for them. The purpose of the RAC is to identify ongoing needs, facilitate communication, share resources, provide information through a statewide calendar of events and a quarterly newsletter and report on local projects and other topics of interest to benefit Hawai'i's resource families.*

*This committee, the newsletter and many of the represented agencies are supported and funded by Department of Human Services contracts.*

RAC Committee Members:

*Catholic Charities Hawai'i—Hui Ho'omalua*

*Department of Human Services*

*EPIC, Inc. 'Ohana Conferencing*

*Family Court*

*Family Programs Hawai'i—Hui Ho'omalua & It Takes An 'Ohana*

*Resource Caregivers*

*Adoptive Parents*

*Hawai'i Foster Youth Coalition*

*Partners in Development Foundation—Hui Ho'omalua*