

HAWAII RESOURCES *for* SCHOOL SUCCESS

The mission of HRSS is
to increase success in
school and life for
North Hawaii
students, especially
diverse learners.

A program of North Hawaii Women and Children's Services—501(c)(3) Summer 2007

PARTNERING TO SUPPORT SUCCESS IN SCHOOL AND LIFE

HRSS RECEIVES TWO GRANTS

In January 2007, HRSS received significant grant funding from two major sources. \$100K came from the **Helen and Charles Schwab Charitable Trust** and \$20K from the **Atherton Family Foundation**. Both generous grants will help North Hawaii students to be more successful in school through teacher professional development using the **All Kinds of Minds or AKOM model**. (see www.allkindsofminds.org)

The **Atherton Family Foundation** money was used to:

- ▶ Coordinate and put on a teacher and community awareness meeting in Waimea.
- ▶ Train teachers from two North Hawaii Schools using the AKOM teacher training known as **Schools Attuned** on Maui in June 2007.



The **Helen and Charles Schwab Charitable Trust** funds are being used to:

- ▶ Develop a North Hawaii Model School using the All Kinds of Minds model which will allow teachers and parents to attune to the needs of diverse learners.
- ▶ Train and support the model school teachers and administrators using **Schools Attuned**.

HRSS SPONSORS LOCAL TEACHERS

HRSS provided financial support for a total of six teachers and two HRSS staff members to attend the **Schools Attuned** training at Maui Preparatory Academy, June 12-16, 2007. Attending were four teachers from Kohala Elementary (Elizabeth Bauer, 4th grade; Rebecca Swan, Sp. Ed., Kindergarten and 1st grade; Karla Park, Kindergarten; and Susan O'Malley, 1st grade), two teachers from a Waimea private school, Beth Custer, HRSS Model School Program Coordinator, and Judy Stevenson, Learning Specialist.

Topics included both evaluating class lessons to assure that opportunities for success are provided for all students, as well as a focus on "attuning" an individual student based on different learning strengths and challenges.

This year's training differed from previous years in that it was more user friendly and put more emphasis on general classroom strategies for all students.

Several teachers in attendance spent their own time, after the daily sessions, outlining their plans for implementing the program in their classrooms. Many of them approached Beth, Model School Program Coordinator, with questions about how and when this training could be made available for the entire teaching staff at their school. (See teacher quotes on side bar.)

Collaboration meetings have begun and will continue to support teachers with understanding and implementation of what they learned at the Maui training.

Teachers Value Training

"This will help me identify and target how to help large and small group settings."

-Karla Park,
Kohala Elementary School
Kindergarten teacher

"We will have a common language/vehicle to help kids we teach."

-Susan O'Malley,
Kohala Elementary School
1st Grade teacher

"It will help me to better meet the needs of the diverse learners in my classroom."

-Elizabeth Bauer,
Kohala Elementary School
4th Grade teacher



HRSS Learning Specialists Linda Paisley and Judy Stevenson in the new HRSS office.

We're on the web: www.hawaiischoolsuccess.org

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER Nets \$ 250,000 to Support North Hawaii Student Success

HRSS's 2007 fundraiser, a live auction and dinner event, raised \$250,000 in unrestricted funds for:

- ▶ Hiring a full time Project Coordinator for the **three year Model School Program**.
- ▶ Continued financial assistance for student assessments.
- ▶ The new Hawaii Resources for School Success office which accommodates the growing team and allows HRSS to host teacher and parent meetings.
- ▶ Development of a library of resources for teachers, parents and students.



Bradda Smitty entertaining at the fundraiser event.

These funds, along with the grant funds allowed significant progress in the first half of 2007. The \$380,000 raised in 2006/2007 puts HRSS at 25% of its five year, \$1.5 million campaign, *Supporting Learning to Learn*.

Co-chairs Lynn White and Sharon Vitousek extend special thanks to all attendees and to the very generous table sponsors. HRSS also extends a big mahalo to all the generous in-kind donors including: Paradise Gourmet Catering, Dale and Marla Bleecher of Jericho Canyon Vineyards, Jim Gianoulis of Levendi Wines, Ski and Darlene Kwiatkowski, MTD Event Lighting, Tiffany & Co., Kendall Pearlman, Ann Lowerre, Yvonne Cheng, Braddah Smitty & Friends, and Neil & Pegi Young.

COMMUNITY MEETING RAISES AWARENESS OF ALL KINDS OF MINDS

On May 29, HRSS sponsored a presentation in the community to increase awareness of the **All Kinds of Minds Model** and the benefits of the **Schools Attuned** professional development program. The event was held at Keck headquarters in Waimea and Tim Cox, Senior Facilitator and Site Director for the **Schools Attuned** Professional Development Site in New York State, was the guest speaker. Tim Cox engaged the audience with his candor and repeated reference to his invisible student example named "Lester."

Approximately 30 people were in attendance. These attendees included parents, teachers and administrators from Honokaa, Waimea, and Waikoloa public schools and HPA and Parker private schools. Mahalo to Model School Project Coordinator, Beth Custer, for organizing the event, as well as to Joan Campbell of Keck for her assistance. Thanks also to Moon and Back Catering for the terrific food.



Judy Stevenson, Sherron Rosenberger and Beth Custer

HRSS HAS A NEW HOME

In April, we moved from our Hale Ola Pono Office into our new office **located at 65-1229A Opelo Road, Suite 6** (behind Merriman's). The new three-room facility will house our growing staff and will also accommodate meetings and provide resources such as a library of books, research articles, and DVD's for students, parents and teachers, which focus on learning strategies for diverse learners.

PARENT'S AND TEACHERS VALUE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

"The report and feedback we received enabled us to be much more compassionate with what we used to perceive as our child's lack of trying or unwillingness to do his best. We now understand how his brain works and we have so much more patience with him."

- Parent



Parent, Toni Leopoldino, and son Scottie on assessment day.

"We are extremely grateful for everyone at HRSS and the assistance they have provided to our family."

- Parent

"Thank you for all your hard work with our students. You are a valuable resource to me."

-Cobey Doi, 4th grade teacher at HPA

"As a family, coupled with our educational team at our son's school, we worked with HRSS for well over three years. HRSS gave our son the tools, confidence and strategies that he needed to feel successful in who he is as a human being, as well as, a student. HRSS fostered an inner strength that gave our son the command he needed in the classroom when he didn't always meet the classroom standard. He knew he was a great guy with a different style of learning.

From math tools to communication tools with educators and doctors, HRSS gave our family a foundation that will last a lifetime. We have since moved away from The Big Island yet we continue to pull from the HRSS experience to guide us from grade to grade. Judy Stevenson is an angel. We would recommend the program to anyone who felt they needed more to help make sense of their child's learning style and educational needs."

-Laurien and Timark Hamilton, Parents



Parent, Traci Wong, and son Kehamaulani on assessment day.

"It has been very challenging for us to understand, much less provide for Eli's unique educational needs. We've gone to many experts who gave us their view of Eli, none of which put the pieces together in a way that helped us with a concrete understanding or plan for learning. The neurodevelopmental assessment that we received through HRSS helped tremendously to see clearly why he struggles with a typical classroom environment even though he's bright, creative and has many positive strengths and skills. We've been able to help turnaround a discouraged and frustrated boy that started saying he hated school, to one that knows what he has to do to succeed. Awareness of Eli's unique Learning Profile provided by HRSS has been the key!"

-Mother of 10 year-old Eli Sichter, student

INTRODUCING OUR NEW STAFF

HRSS's previous Project Coordinator, Pat Ruzicka, resigned in January and HRSS wishes her much success in her future endeavors. The search committee is actively looking for a highly qualified Executive Director. Meanwhile, two experienced board members are donating their time to oversee both financial and program operations. The daily work to support student success is being done by a collaborative and growing team. HRSS is grateful to **Linda Paisley**, one of HRSS's Learning Specialists, who jumped in for the first half of the year as Interim Assessment Coordinator.

Our newest staff member, **Katie Callender**, has now assumed the role of Interim Assessment Coordinator.



Katie holds her Masters degree in Education from Stanford University and has worked in and consulted for local private schools over the last few years. Prior to that, she worked as a Center Director for Score at Kaplan an after school learning company. She also helped design and implement Score's

individualized tutoring program. She has a special interest in children's learning differences and is thrilled to be a part of the HRSS team. Katie lives in Waimea with her husband and two children.

Beth Custer was recently hired as the Model School Program Coordinator for HRSS. Beth holds her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Kent State University, and has been in education for 17 years. Most recently, she taught 5th grade at Waikoloa Elementary School, and previously was a Head Start pre-school teacher. She was the director of various federally funded youth programs, and



was the developer, coordinator and instructor for a pilot program for at risk 7th and /or 8th graders. She has continued her studies in graduate education through the University of Toledo and holds teaching certifications in both Ohio and Hawaii. She attended the AKOM teacher training on Maui this summer. Beth has three grown children and resides in Waikoloa with her husband Keith.

"Providing teachers with the professional development to address student needs and listen with greater understanding will result in a happier, healthier life for us all."

Beth Custer,
Model School Program Coordinator

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Carol Momsen became interested in HRSS through conversations with her friend, Learning Specialist, Judy Stevenson. Carol feels a kinship and empathy toward those who think differently and is frustrated "to see our whole country only appreciate such a narrow scope of ability that doesn't much include the visual arts." Carol spent years as a manufacturer's representative working with architects and designers on commercial design projects. Now she and her husband, Bob, are both retired and enjoying life on the Big Island. Carol is an accomplished watercolorist who enjoys putting her creative energy into her paintings. HRSS remains grateful to Carol's 2006 donation of a portion of proceeds from one of her art shows.



Sherron Rosenberger became aware of HRSS through conversations with Sharon Vitousek. The mission and focus of HRSS touched her core as she has personally faced challenges within the school system in trying to understand and meet the needs of her son. Sherron had the opportunity to send her son through the All Kinds of Minds Student Success Center's Assessment in New York City, which has helped ensure her son's



educational success and helped him develop the necessary skills needed to succeed in college. She understands the need for programs like this one in every school environment. Sherron has worked many years for Tiffany & Co. and recently transferred to the Big Island with her husband Steve and son Ira.

Esther Hughes was born and raised on the Big Island. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration & Management from Colorado State University, her teaching certificate from University of Hawaii-Hilo, and her Masters in Education from Heritage College in Toppenish, Washington. Esther brings with her 19 years of service with the Department of Education. She has



taught various grade levels and subjects ranging from 1st grade to high school seniors. Currently, she is the Comprehensive Student Support System (CSSS) Resource Teacher for the Honoka'a Complex in the West Hawaii Complex Area. She assists schools in implementation of support for all students, working with the school personnel, the schools' Student Support Coordinators, and various providers within the school environment. She has been involved with HRSS from the beginning as she and Sharon Vitousek always shared their thoughts about the diverse needs of students, and one "what if" developed into HRSS. Esther has two grown children and lives in Waimea with her husband, Harold.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Donations to HRSS support need-based financial assistance for student assessments. A donation of \$3,000 will sponsor one student for a comprehensive multidisciplinary assessment from intake through classroom implementation and follow-up. *Donations of any amount are deeply appreciated.*

HRSS Office Wish List

Scanner/Printer... approx. \$350
 DVD/Video player... approx. \$150
 Laptop computer for assessment purposes... approx. \$1000
 Desk for student assessments
 Children's toys, books and art supplies

Volunteers are always welcome to help in the office, at events and /or on committees. Call us at 808-885-9318 to learn more about volunteer opportunities!

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Learning assessments are costly due to the comprehensive process, professional expertise and time involved. Need-based financial assistance is available for the **student assessments** to help families defray all or some of the costs of their child's assessment.

Funding is also available for professional development for teaching, reading and literacy. Please visit our website at

www.hawaiischoolsuccess.org

or call us at 808-885-9318 for more information.



WHO WE ARE

HRSS is a project of the non-profit organization, North Hawaii Women and Children's Services. It was developed four years ago in response to a growing need to improve North Hawaii students' success in school and life. A key goal of the program is the early identification and effective support for diverse learners. There is clear evidence that early and effective intervention can help turn struggling students into successful learners.

HRSS is based on the "**All Kinds of Minds**" (**AKOM**), model founded by renowned pediatrician, Mel Levine. AKOM is an organization which translates the latest educational research into programs, products and services that help struggling students. The AKOM and the HRSS philosophy is based on the premise that all students can learn. The model trains teachers and clinicians in strategies to more effectively support all learners.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Assessment Program

AHRSS continues to get referrals from local private and public schools for students who are struggling and may benefit from the AKOM type of in-depth, strengths-based assessment.

- ▶ HRSS has assessed 21 students to date.
- ▶ HRSS has awarded \$14K in financial assistance for assessments this year.

Model School Program

MHRSS has made significant progress with the model school program. Beth Custer was hired as Model School Program Coordinator. With input from the DOE, and the Model School Committee, she has developed the criteria for selecting a model school, met with and assessed potential schools, and is working with two DOE schools to determine which will become the model school. Four teachers from one of the candidate schools attended the AKOM Schools Attuned training on Maui, June 2007.

HELPFUL ONLINE RESOURCES

www.allkindsofminds.org All Kinds of Minds
www.interdys.org International Dyslexia Association (IDA)
www.dyslexia-hawaii.org Hawaii Branch of the IDA
www.schwablearning.org Schwab Learning
www.ldsucces.org Life Success for Children with Learning Disabilities

NEW ONLINE RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS

A new resource, www.SparkTop.org was developed by **Schwab Learning**, a service of the Charles and Helen Schwab Foundation, for 8-12-year-old children who struggle with learning. It is designed to reach kids directly and help them feel better about themselves "by giving them information about how they learn, helping them recognize their unique strengths, showcasing their creativity, and connecting them to other kids."

The site is positive, upbeat and exciting, and is full of games, activities and message boards where kids with learning differences can connect with each other. There is also a wealth of information for parents and teachers. **SparkTop.org** was named a Parent's Choice 2004 and 2005 Recommended Award Winner by **Parents' Choice Foundation**.

Hawaii Resources for School Success, a program of
North Hawaii Women and Children's Services
P.O. Box 1240
Kamuela, Hawaii 96743
www.hawaiischoolsuccess.org

- Yes, I am interested in more information.
- Yes, I would like to make a tax deductible donation.
- Yes, I would like to volunteer.

Please make check payable to:
North Hawaii Women and Children's Services
P.O. Box 1240
Kamuela, Hawaii 96743

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

May we publicly recognize you? Yes
 No, I prefer to be anonymous.

Hawaii Resources for School Success (HRSS) is a project of North Hawaii Women and Children's Services (NHWCS) a 501(c)(3) organization,
EIN #94-3275827

Sum07

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Esther Hughes

Carol Momsen

Sherron Rosenberger

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Our **vision** is:
*North Hawaii families and children
 have the life and learning skills
 which empower them to make
 positive decisions.*