



August 2022 Newsletter

News and Updates

Dear Carole,

On Maui, the relaxed pace of summer life has given way to the busy back-to-school frenzy across the entire island! Families are absorbed in preparing for school, comparing schedules, and buying new clothes, books and school supplies. Sometimes in this shuffle of happy activity, the needs of children and families who are grieving can get lost.

Nā Keiki O Emalia is ready to help grieving kids whether in schools or in the community. We just launched a grief support group series after school on Wednesdays in August -- we could use everyone's help finding keiki who would benefit from bereavement support. If

In celebration of Emalia's Birthday, our distribution of care packages took place on Father's Day weekend, and we gave out 23 care packages! Several families who participated in the gift basket distribution also joined our kids' grief support program at the end of July, and we hope they will continue in August. The participants who attended didn't know what they would encounter, but were smiling and laughing when they left. Special thanks to the facilitators who volunteered to run these fun and educational support groups.

In July, Birgitte and I participated in two big outreach events -- the Boys & Girls Club of Maui Health Fair and the Big Brothers Big Sisters Back-To-School Fair -- that together drew hundreds of keiki. After the isolation of recent years, sharing information about grief with families and service providers in person felt very precious and important. Thanks to Birgitte for doing all the heavy lifting to get us set up for the fairs (as you may know, I'm a talker not a lifter! ☐).

Please reach out to us if you'd like to learn more about our programs, volunteer, facilitate groups or [donate](#). It takes a village to support grieving children on Maui, and we are glad to have you as part of our village!

With our keiki in mind,

Carole Zoom
Interim Executive Director



Birgitte Golden and Carole Zoom at The Boys & Girls Clubs of Maui Health Fair in Kahului

Children's support groups Wednesdays in August

Space still available for our August groups

Peer support groups offer grieving children a safe space to open up, share, and support one another through their grief. Through activities and conversation, children learn about their feelings in a comfortable and supportive setting.

These groups are free.

Register at
contact@nkoemaui.org
808-214-9832

Do you know a grieving child?

AUGUST GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS FOR CHILDREN

free & in-person

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10TH 2:45-4:15 PM
 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17TH 2:45-4:15 PM
 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24TH 2:45-4:15 PM
 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31ST 2:45-4:15 PM

Register:
 call 808-214-9832
 contact@nkoemaui.org

Join us for activities and conversation.



Mother and daughter smiling after their first Nā Keiki O Emalia peer support group.



Mother and sons greet us with a photo of their beloved family members who died.

Help us spread the word

WE NEED FACILITATORS!

Nā Keiki O Emalia supports grieving children and their families through in-school and community peer support programs. With an estimated 2200 children under the age of 18 grieving on Maui, we need more facilitators to reach more children and teens all over the county, through the schools and in community settings.

Whether you are interested in helping with in-person or virtual groups, if you can offer two or more hours a month, please call or email to sign up for a refresher or facilitator training in September.

Can you help our grieving keiki?

You can make a difference in only 2 hours a month!

call 808-214-9832 or email contact@nkoemaui.org

Five Essential Steps to Supporting Bereaved School Children

There are five essential steps teachers and staff can take to support a grieving student.

Why Schools Matter

Nine in 10 children will experience the death of a family member or close friend during their time in school.

After a death, families often speak to school staff

1. Acknowledge the loss and listen
2. Understand family dynamics change
3. Recognize you are a resource
4. Ensure school is a safe, supportive environment
5. Prepare and strengthen responses now

Loss can be extremely difficult for anyone to understand, especially children.

[Read the full story here](#)

before they've been in touch with other professionals such as counselors or pediatricians.

One survey reports 93 percent of teachers provide insufficient support to grieving students.

Students are often more open with teachers. They don't feel the same intense obligation to protect their teachers the way they try to protect their parents. Students can ask questions in school and make the kind of comments they often hold back from their families.

Grief is not a brief event. Schools provide continuity and represent a natural center of gravity for a community and policy change.

(Reprinted with permission from [Evermore.](#))

Teachers and parents may also find this article by Alan D. Wolfelt, PhD interesting: [Helping Grieving Children at School.](#)

Nā Keiki O Emalia | 808-214-9832 | contact@nkoemaui.org | nkoemaui.org

[Donate Today](#)

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