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Kris Kristofferson & The Strangers

Gather your friends and come to a *GREAT* concert!

Oct. 19th: Kris Kristofferson and The Strangers are performing as a benefit for NKOE and the MACC!

[CLICK HERE for Tickets and Information!](#)



Message from the Executive Director



A range of emotion arises as I write this message, my last in the role of Executive Director, as I am resigning from this position—by design!—at the end of 2019. I will continue to serve NKOE as trainer, facilitator, speaker, and helper with special events and am excited about new leadership taking NKOE to the next level!

I grew my vision to where NKOE will benefit now with a new and experienced director with a different skill set from mine. Letting go is bittersweet: sadness arises with the letting go, as does happiness because of how much NKOE has grown, and excitement because I know the next executive director will lead NKOE further along its creative and dynamic trajectory!

Last year NKOE ran 8 groups in 5 schools, several of them yearlong, as well as an evening group. Those schools want this program you made possible again this year, and the evening group has split into two groups: one for Littles (ages 3-7) and one for older keiki/teens and their adults.

Grace surrounds NKOE and continues to astound me—you amazing people volunteer in varying capacities, expertise appears when needed, and more and more people hear about us. The challenge of educating the public as to the critical importance of addressing children's grief continues, however. Children *are* resilient—BUT **not** in a vacuum, and **thanks to you**, NKOE provides the *safe space where keiki and teens can heal*.

YOU are amazing, helpful, and generous, and responsible for growing NKOE to where it is now! Mahalo!

with great aloha,



Past, Present, & Future

Big thanks to all of you who supported NKOE's annual signature fundraiser, **Emalia's Table**! Thanks to *generous* vendors, NKOE offered a delicious range of dining pleasures, as well as vacation stays on Maui and Molokai and ranging to Lake Tahoe, Aspen, and lakeside in upstate New York. And, *your* bids made Emalia's Table 2019 a great success!

NKOE now has a **memorial page** (<https://nkoemaui.org/memorials>), featuring photos of loved ones who have been honored by gifts made in their memory. (Postings only with permission from the families.)

Spring was a happy time for NKOE which received **generous grants from the Nuestro Futuro Foundation, the Cooke Foundation, and Friends of Hawaii Charities** for which we are most grateful.

NKOE has a **NEW OFFICE**! Still happily in the J. Walter Cameron Center, we outgrew our starter space and moved into a larger office! Come check us out anytime—but call first to be sure someone is in the office!

Longtime historian at Honolulu's Bishop Museum, **DeSoto Brown** gifted Maui and NKOE with a great slide show and lecture—"Maui Nostalgia"—in August. DeSoto will return in the future with more slides in the future on behalf of NKOE, perhaps as a dinner event!

NKOE is conducting a facilitator training at the Cameron Center on Oct. 25/26th to replenish its roster! If you are interested, please call 808.214.9832 or email brooke@nkoemaui.org for information. NO previous experience necessary: only a big heart, good listening skills, and availability for Monday evenings or an hour during some school days.

Nov. 21st is **Children's Grief Awareness Day**, a day observed nationwide to call attention to the needs of grieving children. NKOE will mark this annual day by conducting **Meeting the Social/Emotional and Academic Needs of Grieving Students Workshop** on Nov. 22nd for school counselors, teachers, coaches, and administrators to attend.

For reservations or information, call 808.214.9832.



Volunteer Superstar!

Co-program director Susan G. Brown has been an integral part of Na Keiki O Emalia's development from its inception. Her career in understanding grief began in 1985 when she was a founding board member of Hospice Maui and later employed for 10 years as the patient care coordinator.



Once again, Susan has been active at the foundational level of an organization centered around helping grieving individuals and families and benefits NKOE with her experience.

In 2016 Donna Schuurman, then the director and senior trainer at The Dougy Center in Portland, Oregon, trained Susan, Wendy Milovina, and Brooke Brown so they could train NKOE volunteers to facilitate the peer support groups. Since then, Susan has been active in shaping and conducting the trainings and has facilitated many of the school groups.



Originally, from Oahu, Susan moved to Maui 50 years ago. She has three adult children and is now a semi-retired counselor. When she is not busy helping her 98-year-old mother, she enjoys mahjong and travelling with her husband to third-world countries where she explores neighborhoods.

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- 1 in 14 children in the U.S. will experience the death of a parent or sibling by age 18.
 - *17,000 children* in HI are bereaved
 - Approximately **2,200** of these keiki live in Maui County.
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Nā Keiki O Emalia
(808) 214-9832
contact@nkoemaui.org
PO Box 1137
Wailuku, HI 96793

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