



November 16, 2017

For many decades, Head Start has been a part of thousands of families' lives here in Southwest Colorado.

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

My name is Vanessa Martinez. My family's story exemplifies the multi-generational approach which is a cornerstone of our local Head Start program. My parents were some of the first students served at the Mancos Head Start at the Mt. Lookout Grange in the 1960's. Head Start was there for my parents again when all three of their children, including myself, attended the same program in Mancos. With the help of the Head Start program, my mom became a nurse and my dad a paramedic all while their children went to preschool. Years later, Head Start was there for me when my son turned three and enrolled in the Mancos Head Start program.

While my son was attending preschool, Head Start supported and encouraged me. Teachers gave me the tools I needed to reach my potential as a mother and a professional working parent. Staff helped me to prioritize and track my goals while I was juggling a job and completing my bachelor's degree. The Head Start connection continued when I began working for Tri-County Head Start in Cortez. My job with Head Start helped me pursue my masters in Mental Health Counseling. In 2017, I was asked to join the Tri-County Head Start Board of Directors. I am honored to give back to the organization that gave me and my family so much.

During this season of giving, please consider a gift to Tri-County Head Start so future generations will benefit from this local program. Head Start provides educational child care and services to families at no charge so parents may maintain employment or pursue an education. While federal grant money supports 80% of the program's operation, each year the agency raises the remaining 20% through donations by community members like yourself. Under the direction of our new Executive Director, Lisa Stone-Muntz, the agency is focused on quality program enhancements.

Please see below for three easy ways to donate and support Head Start families in Montezuma, La Plata and Archuleta counties:

- Donate by check and return the enclosed form to Tri-County Head Start, PO Box 259, Durango CO 81302
- Donate online at www.tchs4c.org, you will also see more information about the National Day of Giving
- Donate via our Tri-County Head Start Facebook page

Thank you for supporting local children and families during this season of giving. Your gift will continue to help us prepare children and families for success in school and life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vanessa Martinez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tri-County Head Start Board Member