



## DURANGO 4-C COUNCIL/TRI-COUNTY HEAD START

LA PLATA COUNTY • ARCHULETA COUNTY • MONTEZUMA COUNTY

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November 28, 2016

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

*Tri-County Head Start* has been serving children and low income families in southwest Colorado for over 40 years. From our inception in 1973 to our current program year we have provided over 10,000 early childhood educational opportunities across Archuleta, Montezuma, and La Plata counties. You probably know someone who went to Head Start or has a child, family member, or friend who has attended our program. In fact, I am one of those children impacted by the great work that *Tri-County Head Start* does for families in our communities.

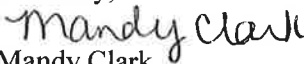
My name is Mandy Clark. I was a graduate from Pagosa Head Start in 1983 after two full years of preschool. Growing up my home life was unstable and my single mom, who did not have a high school diploma, struggled to provide for her family. After enrollment, Head Start quickly became my safe space. The teachers there fostered trust and a love of learning for me that I carried through my entire education. This inspired me to become the first person in my family to graduate with a master's degree. *Tri-County Head Start* gave me so much more than my ABC's. It gave me the emotional and social tools that every child needs to thrive. I was able to build trusting relationships that exist through today. Now, I am currently serving as the interim Executive Director of *Tri-County Head Start*. I can attribute a lot of my success to the foundation that Head Start built for me early on.

Generations of children like myself, along with families, staff, friends, and neighbors across the region have been impacted by the work we do every day here at *Tri-County Head Start*. Providing comprehensive services and programs greatly strengthens our local families which impacts our community at large. When we support parents and guardians like Head Start did for my mom, we are giving them the tools they need to help teach their children how to become active, successful participants in our great community. We don't just serve "Head Start kids", we serve *our communities' children*.

One way in which *Tri-County Head Start* supports families is by providing our services **at no cost** to parents. This is made possible in part through our federal grant. While our federal grant money supports the basic continued operation and services of our centers, it does not allow for the expanded need we currently see in our aging facilities, increased requirements, and resources needed for children and families. *Tri-County Head Start* is required to provide for all of the needs of our children during their day and cannot ask families for donations, fees, or supplies that carry a financial obligation. That is significant when in our growing community the expense and limited options of child care can be a significant hurdle for families to face in the five years before public education is available. Every year, those supports and continued services to children and families are made possible by donations from community members like yourself.

Your donation to *Tri-County Head Start* may qualify you for a 50% Colorado Child Care Contribution tax credit in addition to making a positive difference in your community. You will receive a tax credit certification in the mail following your donation. Please visit our website at [www.tchs4c.org](http://www.tchs4c.org) for additional information about donating or alternative ways to give back to *Tri-County Head Start*. We aim to provide opportunities for families who may not otherwise be able to access quality early childhood education. Thank you for helping us during this season of giving.

Sincerely,

  
Mandy Clark  
Interim Executive Director