



REGION 9 HEAD START ASSOCIATION



2022 Winner

Paula Gonzalez
Marina Luque
from
Oxnard, CA
Child Development Resources
of Ventura County

Gabriela Guerrero
Jessica Suarez
from
Los Angeles, CA
Children's Institute Inc. Head
Start/Early Head Start

Cynthia Rodriguez
Monique McWilliams
from
Bakersfield, CA
Community Action Partnership
of Kern

Jissel Rodriguez
from
Madera, CA
Community Action Partnership
of Madera County

Amber Crenshaw
Magdalena Gonzalez
from
Kelseyville, CA
Lake Family Resource Center

Sandra Rogel
Maritza Calvillo Garcia
Lucie Alonso
from
Salinas, CA
Monterey County Office of
Education

Staci Schultz
from
San Diego, CA
Neighborhood House
Association

Lourdes "Monique" Sawyer
from
Ukiah, CA
North Coast Opportunities, Inc.

Veronica Pimentel-Hernandez
Sedik Ayvazian
from
Pasadena, CA
Pacific Clinics Head Start

Nicolette Swain
from
Quincy, CA
Sierra Cascade Family
Opportunities

Ana Quezada
from
Visalia, CA
Tulare County Office of
Education Child Care

Cristina Serrano
Mission Hills, CA
from
Vista Del Mar Child and Family
Services/Home Safe

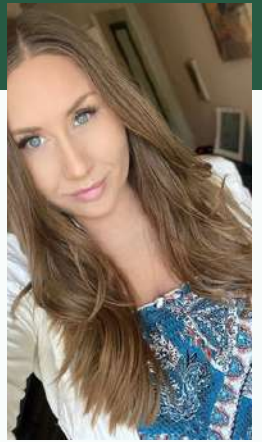
Keishanne Whitworth
from
Eureka, CA
Yurok Tribe Head Start Program

Judith Ortega
from
Henderson, NV
Acelero Learning

Wendy Garcia Mata
from
Las Vegas, NV
Acelero Learning of Clark
County

Roxanne Amerigian
Katie Ward
Brandi Thompson
Tracie Grant
from
Elko, NV
Head Start/Early Head Start of
Northeastern Nevada

Carroll Tarkong
Saipan
Pajie Anne Padiernos
from
Saipan, MP
Commonwealth of Northern
Mariana Islands - OP



Thank you
Donors!





VERONICA PIMENTE- HERNANDEZ

Family Community Partnership
Coordinator, California, Pacific Clinics
Head Start

"I am a proud Head Start baby. I attended a Head Start in the city of Norwalk, CA. I have been committed to serving my community as I see the importance of civic engagement... Head Start played a huge role for my parents, where it meant I would be cared for by quality staff. I now would like to have that same impact in the life of another child while taking a proactive approach. As I now lead a team of hosts for Parent Cafes, I value the opportunity to connect with other parents who might be needing to share their own hearts and/or struggles. As a Head Start baby and a Head Start employee, I've committed to treat every family with a heart of empathy, while seeing every family with urgency for quality care and quality education as I understand not every child or family has that available to them."



Awards Ceremony 2022



KATIE WARD

Development Coordinator, Nevada
Head Start/Early Head Start of
Northeastern Nevada

Attending college as a working adult and mother, for Kate, like for many others, is incredibly challenging. "But one of the chief concerns I had was financial. The generous Region 9 Head Start Legacy Scholarship has alleviated some of that worry....It covered a large portion of my tuition costs. For me, I no longer need a second part-time job in order to pay for school and pursue my early education degree. I am able to focus 100 percent on my classes without worrying about how much they cost or trying to fit in studying in every spare minute."

2021 Winners



Patricia Miranda

Education Specialist, Arizona
Chicanos Por La Causa

"I invested in myself to grow," she said, and recognizes how she is a role model for her own children who see, "If mom did, I can do it."

Of course, when it comes to her career and her education that all circles back to the Head Start's mission: "We are working with the children to have a better future—to help children understand there are no barriers you cannot conquer."

2020 Winner

GABRIELA GUERRERO

**Home Visitor, California
Children's Institute Inc. Head Start/Early
Head Start**

Gabriela Guerrero is in the second of a three-year program to earn a master's of social work at California State University, Los Angeles. She is employed as a home visitor with the Children's Institute, Inc. of Los Angeles, which serves some 25,000 children and their families across Los Angeles. Its focus is the healing and growth for children and families communities affected by underinvestment and racist policies that have led to trauma and diminished opportunities.

Required by the university's master's program are mandatory, unpaid internships, so Gabriela had to step back from full-time work to part-time, as a result. The Region 9 Head Start Legacy Scholarship helped fill the gap in her income.



"With the scholarship's assistance, I was able to cover living expenses," Gabriela explained, adding she was "surprised, grateful and appreciative" of the award.

But the Legacy Scholarship has further value to Gabriela. "Receiving it help me feel that I have what it takes to succeed," she said. "It provides motivation and determination" in her mission to better serve underprivileged communities.

Gabriela will be the first member of her family to receive a master's degree. "My educational pursuits would not have been possible with the generous scholarship. Thank you for assisting me to reach my fullest personal and professional potential."

2019 Winner

JOANNE LEE-YUEN

Preschool Lead Teacher, Wu Yee
Children's Services

"The Region 9 Head Start Legacy Scholarship helped me pay for a portion of my Master degree in Early Childhood Education. I've always wanted to go back to school to dive deeper into education and topics that interest me. But, being in education, higher education was always a debate due to low pay and high cost of education. This scholarship helped lessen the cost and motivated me to keep going...and offered me an opportunity to dive deeper into analyzing my everyday work as a teacher and understanding how I can better support the children and families I serve. I got to meet up with other educators to collect data from my classroom, analyze different strategies, and alter approaches to fit the needs of my students. The degree also gave me more knowledge in providing reflective training to teachers in my field."





Our Donors

At the heart of the scholarship fund are the almost 70 fund recipients since 2017. Each bring a unique story and passion for Head Start. In addition, Region 9 Head Start Association has had the great blessing of the engagement and counsel of Financial Advisor George Fraser. When a few years ago, he was introduced to Head Start, he immediately understood its core value of caring for children and families—which is a lot of what drives his work—and the ability to change lives.

George was compelled to make a commitment, volunteering his services to Head Start, which he says will be very important in his life going forward.

He is encouraging the companies he works with to provide financial literacy courses to underserved families, and most recently was able to encourage them to make the contributions to the Region 9 HSA Legacy Scholarships. George is joined by Mitch Haber of OneAmerica and numerous other

institutions to elevate this fund each year. Thanks to George, Mitch and so many others





SCHOLARSHIP
& Award



2035 Hurley Way, Suite 250
Sacramento, CA 95825

<https://www.region9hsa.org/member-resources/scholarship-and-awards/>