

A young child in a red shirt is stacking colorful blocks. The child's hands are visible, placing a red block on top of a grey one. The background is blurred, showing a wooden railing and other blocks. The entire image is framed by a thick orange border.

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

Tri-County Head Start

Letter from Our Executive Director



Dear Friends & Supporters,

As I write this letter, our organization, community, and world has been altered due to COVID-19. This pandemic has brought heartache and pain to many and struggle and inconveniences to others. Fortunately, our communities have rallied together to support vulnerable families and one another. Although our doors are closed, our hearts are open, as we continue to provide remote services to children and families.

Tri-County Head Start is a special place for children and families. Thousands of families have benefited from our local programs since the early 70s. I am pleased to share a few program highlights based on our five overarching program goals:

Financially-Sound Management Systems - For the third year in a row, TCHS received the highest audit rating possible, exceeded budget performance, and increased teacher salaries. We offered full-time healthcare coverage, upgraded technology, and updated facilities.

Support and Resources for Families with Highest Needs - We launched the Family Hardship Fund to provide assistance with transportation, health, nutrition and tuition assistance to families in all three counties. Our program exceeded both the state and nation in the percentage of preschool children receiving medical and dental exams.

Preparing Children for School and Life - Over 100 children transitioned to Kindergarten. Our continued focus on social-emotional development helped children in gaining confidence and self-esteem, and fostering a love of learning and excitement for school.

Qualified and Nurturing Educators Make All the Difference - Early Childhood Teachers play an important role in building a child's success in their first years of school. This is why we continue to increase teacher salaries and encourage professional development. This year, we increased teacher salaries an average of 7.7%. Nearly 100% of teaching staff participated in learning more about Creative Curriculum, Expanding Quality in Infant/Toddler Care, Early Learning Outcomes Framework, Fort Lewis Early Childhood Institute, Child Plus, and Teaching Strategies. Some staff took advantage of training to obtain a Child Development Associate or a degree in early education.

Together Everyone Achieves More - Community Partnerships are instrumental in providing services and engaging families. Our community partners provide emergency/crisis assistance, parent education, housing, mental health service, and adult education. We work with the Department of Human Services (DHS) to connect families with additional services such as SNAP, Colorado Works (TANF), and Medicaid.

Because of our caring communities, we remain optimistic for the future and for our children. We continue to rely on your support and guidance to fulfill our mission and support vulnerable young children and their families.

Best to you and your family,

Lisa Stone-Muntz
Executive Director

About Us

Head Start is a federally funded program developed to help low-income children prepare for school success. While enrolled in Tri-County Head Start (TCHS), children of all abilities are provided activities that help them grow mentally, emotionally, socially, and physically. Quality educational experiences are offered in safe, well-equipped environments that promote literacy and school readiness.

Mission

The mission of TCHS is to develop and provide quality, integrated, comprehensive early childhood development programs which offer a broad range of services and respond to the needs of eligible young children and their families for the purpose of preparing them for success in school and in life.

Goals

TCHS developed 5 overarching program goals and incorporated objectives that recognized possible challenges, outlined activities to focus on, and identified expected outcomes and what tools will be used to measure the outcomes. Through ongoing data analysis and monitoring, staff assess the progress made in reaching the goals and objectives throughout the program year.

Financial

TCHS will maintain structured, financially-sound management systems to support safe, high-quality, early learning programs.

Family Engagement

TCHS will recruit, enroll and serve families who are among the highest need, thus providing support, resources and services that will help families achieve their goals.

School Readiness

TCHS will develop school readiness goals that are appropriate for the ages and development of all enrolled children to ensure optimal academic and social progress for culturally diverse children and their families.

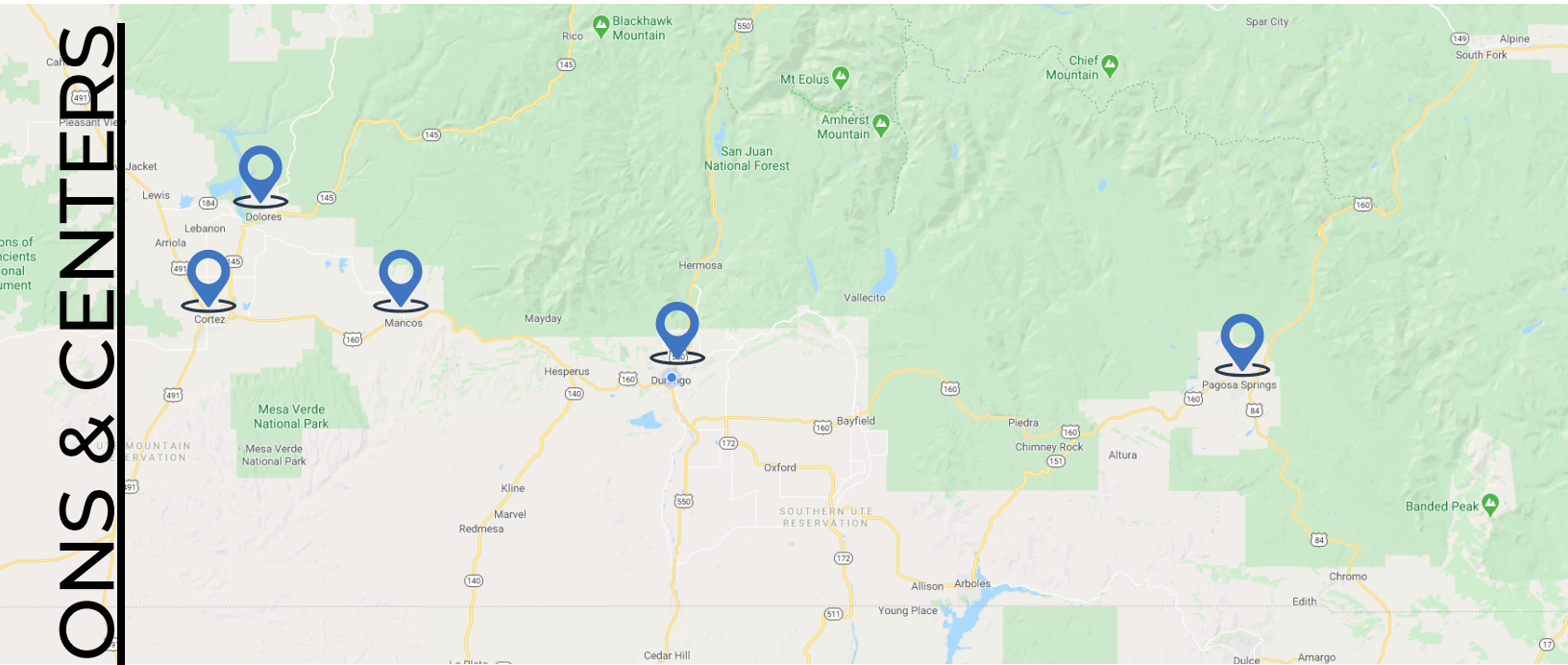
Professional Development

TCHS will effectively administer Head Start and Early Head Start programs with qualified and nurturing educators.

Community Partners

TCHS will develop collaborative relationships with local agencies to provide services and resources to engage and support families in their pursuit of health and well-being.

LOCATIONS & CENTERS



Archuleta County:

Mardel Gallegos Center - Pagosa Springs

La Plata County:

Campbell Child and Family Center - Durango

Florida Mesa Head Start - Durango

Needham Head Start - Durango

Park Head Start - Durango

Roberta Shirley Center - Durango

Montezuma County:

Mesa View Head Start - Cortez

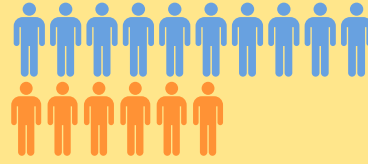
Mancos Early Learning Center - Mancos

Teddy Bear Preschool - Dolores

313

CHILDREN SERVED

223 Head Start
90 Early Head Start



95%

AVERAGE-MONTHLY ENROLLMENT



Percentage of eligible children served:
55% for Head Start
15% for Early Head Start

In our service area, there are an estimated 405 Head Start eligible children and 597 Early Head Start eligible children. During the program year we served 223 Head Start children and 90 Early Head Start children. Major impacts to enrollment included the closing of the Southern Ute Head Start program in December 2018, eliminating Head Start services for 129 children and their families.

OVER 50% OF FAMILIES RECEIVED AT LEAST ONE RESOURCE. HERE WERE THE TOP 5 REQUESTS:

- Emergency/Crisis Assistance: 40.4%
- Housing Assistance: 17.7%
- Parent Education: 19.2%
- Mental Health Services: 10.3%
- Adult Education: 7.9%

13

NUMBER OF FAMILY HARDSHIP FUNDS GRANTED

In its first year, the Family Hardship Fund has helped numerous families by awarding assistance with transportation, health, nutrition, and tuition assistance.





105

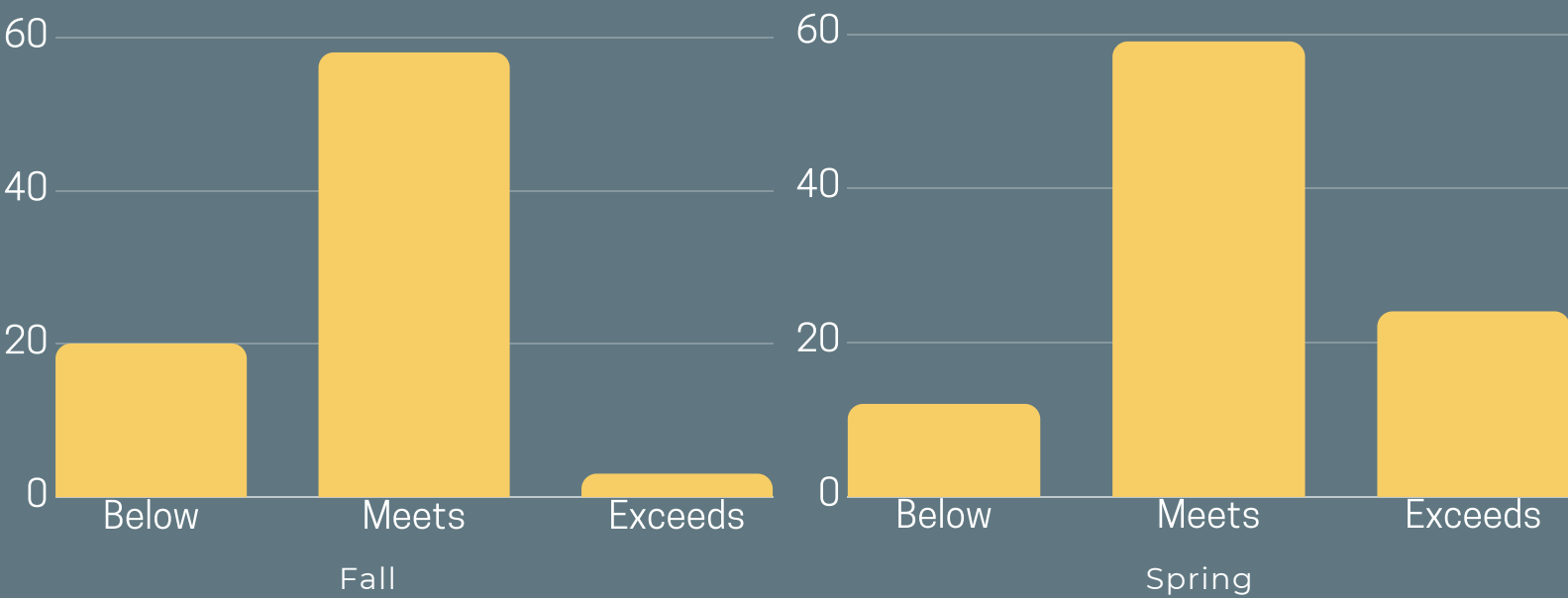
Children transitioned to kindergarten.

TCHS supported the transition of 105 preschoolers and their families into Kindergarten at the end of 2019.

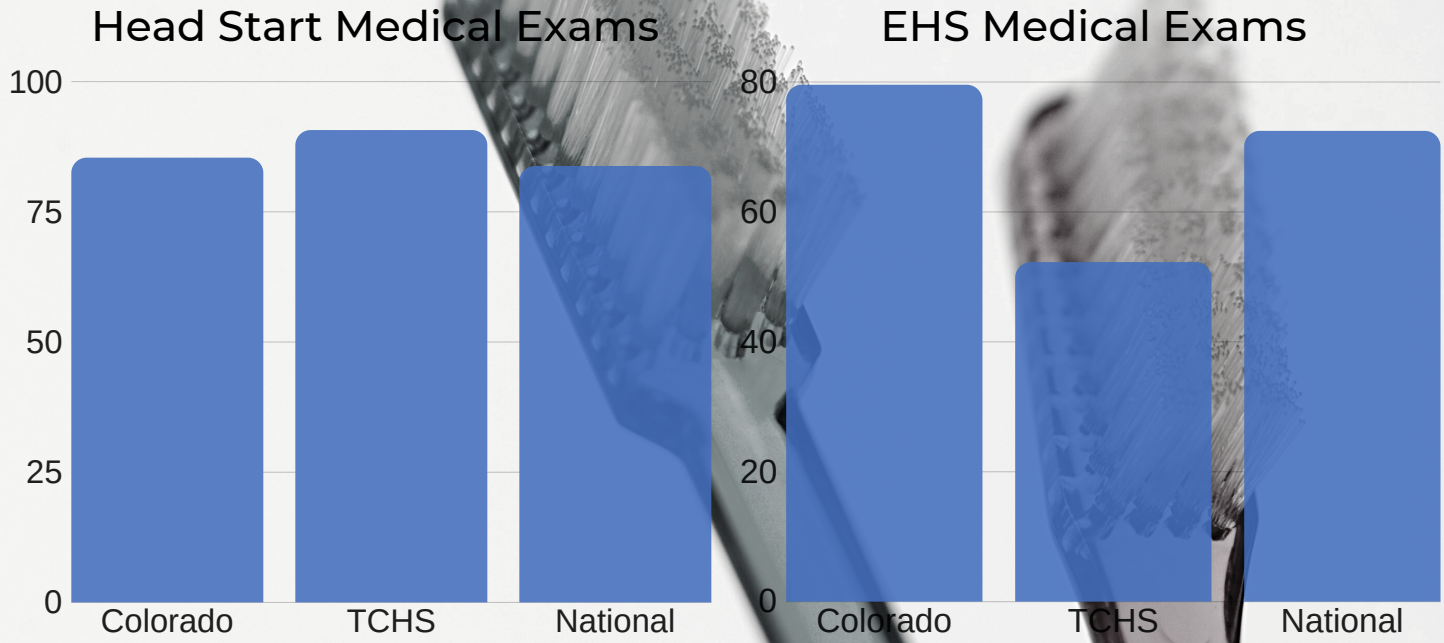
To help prepare each child for future success in school, TCHS begins each year with a strong focus on social-emotional development. Lessons are integrated throughout daily activities and teachers use the researched-based curricula to build a strong foundation. This priority helps to prevent challenging behaviors, promote positive social skills, foster emotional literacy, and improve positive self-esteem. With these skills, children are then equipped to become lifelong learners.

Evidence of the success of implementing a social-emotional focus can be found in our child assessment data. When comparing preschool child development from fall to spring, clear growth can be seen in child outcomes.

COMPARING PRESCHOOL CHILDREN'S SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL EXPECTATIONS



Health Care

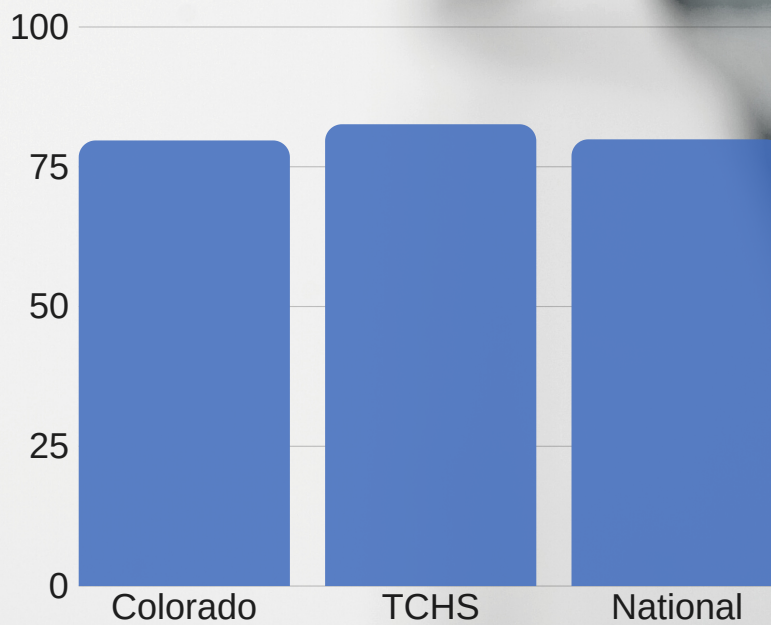


PERCENTAGE OF HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START CHILDREN UP-TO-DATE FOR PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE.

To address the low percentage of EHS children up-to-date with their medical exams, TCHS has instituted proactive tracking for staff and outreach to families.

Oral Care

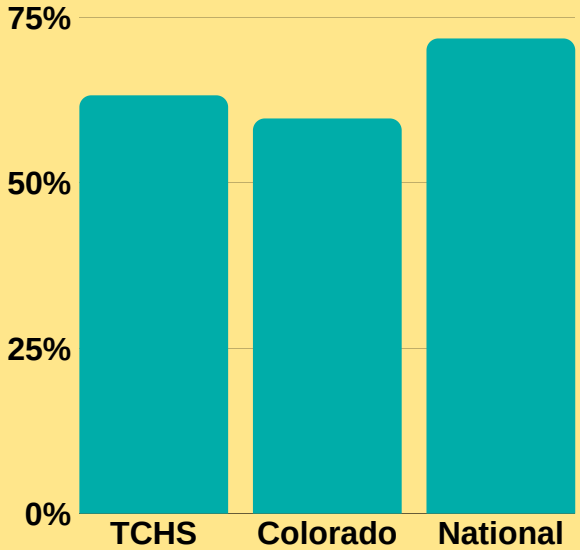
Head Start Dental Exams



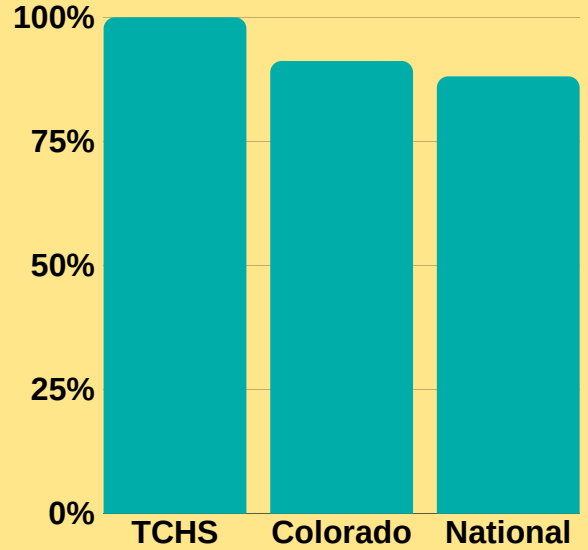
PERCENTAGE OF HEAD START CHILDREN COMPLETING DENTAL EXAMS. 77% of Early Head Start child were up-to-date with oral care.

STAFFING QUALIFICATIONS

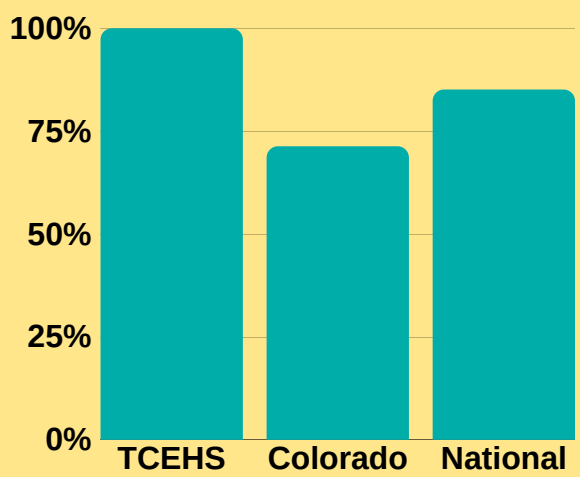
Percentage (%) of preschool teachers that meet the qualification requirements



Percentage (%) of preschool teacher aides that meet the qualification requirements



Percentage (%) of infant and toddler teachers that meet the qualification requirements



52 teaching staff members received a 7.7% average salary increase

Nearly 100% of of teaching staff participating in professional development.



239

NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO VOLUNTEERED WITH TCHS

Of those volunteers, 28% were past or present parents. Encouraging family volunteers connects them to the community as well as involves them in their child's development and education.

FINANCIAL STANDING

2018/2019 PROPOSED BUDGET:

TOTAL REVENUE
\$ 2,999,777

TOTAL EXPENSE
\$ 2,999,208

TOTAL BOTTOM LINE
\$ 569

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INCOME:

HEAD START GRANT - \$2,670,972

*IN-KIND - \$729,073

CPP - \$221,175

UNITED WAY - \$7,028

CACFP - \$115,944

CCAP - \$17,386

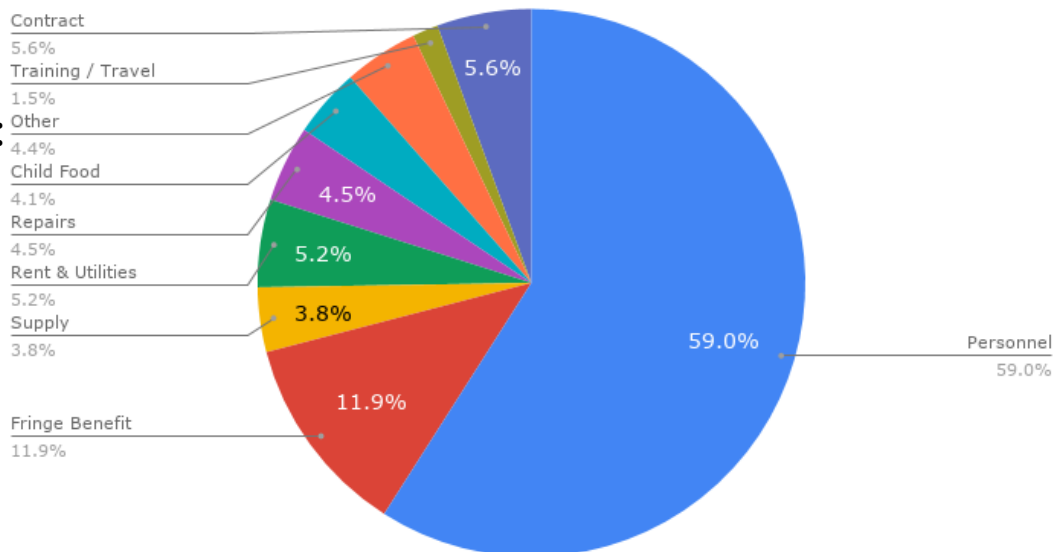
PARENT TUITION - \$21,683

BUELL FOUNDATION - \$50,000

**IN-KIND SOURCES INCLUDE PARENT & COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS, STATE REVENUE, INDIVIDUAL/COMPANY DONATIONS*

EXPENDITURES: PERCENTAGE (%) OF TOTAL EXPENSES

Expense



Federal Review Reports

During PY 2018-2019 TCHS was compliant in all areas during their Focus Area One Monitoring Protocol Review held the week of October 1 - 5, 2018.

Financial Audit Results

TCHS financial records are reviewed annually by McPherson, Breyfogle, Daveline and Goodrich (MBDG), an independent auditor. The September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019 audit report was completed in October 2019. TCHS received an unmodified opinion, the highest rating possible. There was a minor finding for revenue recognition. The finding was easily corrected by creating a journal entry that moved the funds from accounts receivable to a temporary restricted account, as required for non-profits.

Governing Board

The Board of Directors of TCHS is responsible for the overall agency's fiscal and legal functions, as well as development of certain policies and procedures. The Board consists of 6-12 members equally divided between 3 sectors: Agency Representatives, Private Sector, and Parents. Governance of TCHS is achieved through a shared decision-making process described in the Head Start Performance Standards. The Board of Directors functions as the Grantee Board/Governing Body.

Policy Council

The Policy Council is established annually with elected parent representatives from each of the program classrooms or centers. The Policy Council must work in partnership with key management staff and the Board of Directors to develop, review, and approve or disapprove policies and procedures, including how the Governing Body and the Policy Council will implement shared decision-making.

Annual Campaign

TCHS extends their heartfelt gratitude to the following individuals, organizations, and businesses for cash or in-kind contributions to TCHS during the program year:

Amazon Smile	Sara Maloney-Truitt
John Baxter	Rochelle Mann
Loreta and Kenny Beam	Munchkin Kidz Mart
Sandra Beirnem	John and Kathryn Ogler
Choice Building Supply	Robert Ptolemy
Cruzan Construction Co.	Michael Ray
David Deaver	Sara Reese
Joyce Erickson	Diana Reynolds
Jane Fogleman	Roto Rooter
Ronald Goodrich	Share our Strength
Kris and Randy Greer	Dave Smiley
Ame Guilfoil	Sprinkler Pros
H&R Block	Kent Stottlemeyer
Peter Harter	Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation
Bard Heroy	Town of Pagosa Springs
Barbara Johnson	Patrick Tucson
Hildy and Peter Johnson	United Methodist Thrift Shop
Eric Jones	United Way of Southwest Colorado
Kiwanis Club of Durango	Gerald and Karen Zink
John Loftis III	
Karen Lunceford	

Many other individuals who donated asked to remain anonymous. Thank you for your support!

Governing Board Members

Bard Heroy
President

John Baxter
Diana Reynolds
Vice President

Kris Greer
Ame Guilfoil
Secretary

Pete Harter
Loreta Beam
Treasurer

Policy Council

Mark Edwards, Roberta Shirley
President

Victor Alcantar, Mesa View
Vice President

Amber Jackson, Park
Secretary

Lisa Muntz

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