

4-4-05



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To <jackie.henderson@ci.alexandria.va.us>

cc

bcc

Subject The Campagna Center and Head Start budget increase

History:

✉ This message has been forwarded.

Attention: Mayor William D. Euille,

I am writing this e-mail to bring to your attention the importance of funding for institutions that better our communities. Campagna Kids and Head Start are worthwhile programs that deserve the attention, respect and funding that any life altering program should receive. The future is based on the molding of the younger generations, and to successfully achieve this, programs such as Head Start must be supported so that they can effectively grow and nurture these younger generations. As a member of the City Council, I am sure that you will want what is best for the whole of the community. Head Start is in desperate need of The Campagna Center's request for \$170,469 and the \$133,146 for Campagna Kids in addition to the \$50,000 increase proposed by the City Manager's budget.

All this funding is going toward much needed quality programming at Alexandria's largest preschool program, Head Start. As a former Campagna Kids and Head Start kid, I can vouch on the effectiveness of early childhood education, for if I had not gone through Head Start, I do not think I would be as successful as I am now. I am Veronica Vivas a junior in high school. I am involved in several sports, I hold office in the National Honor Society, Vice President of Major Volunteers, voting member of the school Honor Court, a peer mediator, honor roll student, Girls State participant and as a member of other clubs, I feel that I can attribute my educational growth to my beginnings at Head Start. Without Head Start I think my parents would have not been aware to be so involved in my education, because if it were not for my parents caring and taking it as personal initiative to be involved in my learning process, then I would probably never have been able to list some of my achievements.

Head Start's family service helped my family to become economically stable through its resources and goal orientated programs. Head Start is able to give new and better beginnings to families that want to succeed and become productive members of society and our community. If we do not give them the resources to help themselves then the vicious cycle of poverty will continue. We cannot keep ignoring the fact that many families living in poverty want to better their lives, and ways to achieve this is through early education, family services and maintaining the quality and affordability of such programs. If the needed funding is allocated to Head Start and other similar programs sponsored by The Campagna Center, then many families' lives will have greater opportunities to improve their life situation. This in turn, will enrich our communities.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Veronica Vivas