



Initiatives in Action: Adult Self Sufficiency Initiative



We can do more together.

A Heartfelt Thank You

Savannah Valdez is well on her way to fulfilling her dream of becoming an early childhood educator. But, at 24-years-old and the mother of two small children, Savannah has her work cut out for her as she strives to complete her college education.

Thanks to Mile High United Way, she's getting a little help that she says is going a long way. Savannah is a Mile High United Way L:earn Scholarship recipient. The L:earn program provides money for tuition, books and materials to eligible individuals working toward their certification, licensure, associates or bachelor's degrees in order to build their job skills and increase their earning potential.

L:earn is part of Mile High United Way's Adult Self Sufficiency initiative which is designed to ensure that low income individuals and families are afforded the opportunity to move toward economic self-sufficiency.

Valdez hopes to become a public school teacher in an inner city school. She says that's where she grew up and that's where she believes she can make the most difference in children's lives.

Check out the thank you letter she recently sent to Mile High United Way. It means so much to us and we know it will to you, too.



To Whom It may Concern:

This letter is in regards to the financial assistance that United Way has provided for Savannah Valdez with the Partnering for Quality Education in Early Childhood Education Scholarship. Just yesterday I obtained books for two classes I am taking this spring 2010 semester. The grand total was near \$500 and I realized how lucky I was to be a recipient of scholarship money. As a mother of one with another on the way I could not spend money on myself and return to school at the expense of my children. You have made it possible for me to continue my education and not only succeed for myself but to set an example for my children as well. I am currently a Preschool Director at a small private school and it is a job I love but I had set a goal of teaching preschool in the public school system. Continuing my educational career will allow me to pursue my career goal of becoming a teacher. This is all in thanks to your kindness and generosity. If it were not for the assistance you have provided towards my educational progress I would not currently be attending classes at Metro State College. I am ever grateful for the life-long opportunity you have given me and my family through financial assistance. May you be blessed with all the greatness you have shown to me.

Sincerely,

Savannah Valdez
Savannah Valdez

ABOVE: Savannah Valdez teaches her daughter to use a calculator.

BELOW: Letter from Savannah to Mile High United Way.

For more information about our Adult Self Sufficiency Initiative,
please visit our website at www.unitedwaydenver.org.

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Mile High United Way