

HEAD START LEADS TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE



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- MARLO LOPEZ, TEACHER
GRIZZLY HOLLOW HEAD START



Head Start gives children from at-risk backgrounds the skills they need to be successful in school and life — supporting more kids, families, and communities on their path to success.

Andrea*, a young mother of two, was new to the United States and living with an abusive partner. When she entered our program at Walnut Grove Head Start, she and her children were shy and withdrawn.

With time, she formed friendships with other parents in the program and began to participate in parent activities. Our family service worker helped her enroll in ESL classes and gave her resources for dealing with an abusive partner. Andrea worked as our parent aid, helping to prepare our school meals, which gave her the confidence to later find work in the community. Over the course of four years, two of her children attended our program.

We encouraged Andrea to stand up for herself and to live a life free from the abuse. Andrea went from being a battered woman with little confidence to the strong and independent woman she is today. Now, eight years later, her oldest son is thriving as a high school senior with a 4.0 GPA. Her daughter is a beautiful young girl, no longer shy and timid. I am proud to say our program provided Andrea — with two young children and no family to turn to — a supportive and warm environment that gave her a new head start in life.

*Name changed to protect privacy
Story Submitted by:
Marlo Lopez, Teacher, Grizzly Hollow Head Start

In 2018,

17,158

Fast Fact

Head Start families in California received crisis intervention.

Source: National Head Start Association. 2018 National Head Start Profile. <https://www.nhsa.org/national-head-start-fact-sheets#> Accessed October 14, 2019