

SCOTTISH RITE FOUNDATION 2020 ANNUAL REPORT
Treasure Chest Program-The Piñon Project-Cortez
January 29th, 2021

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

During this reporting period, The Scottish Rite Foundation (SRF) helped 110 families access The Treasure Chest Program through The Piñon Project. The SRF contributed \$53,520 for this program resulting in an average program cost of \$371.67 per child served.

Age Range	Number Served
Children 0-3	29
Children 3+	115
Total Children Served	144

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

With support from The Scottish Rite Foundation, The Treasure Chest Program provides early literacy theme tubs of books and related materials at no cost to families with young children, serving five early childhood education sites and in partnership with community programs. Piñon offers services to all families throughout Montezuma and Dolores Counties and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Community. Piñon staff checked out a total of 253 chests to families this past year. Amidst the challenges of the pandemic, program staff looked for ways to continue to serve families in safe and meaningful ways. With contacts in early learning centers being limited, Piñon reached out to families directly using social media and inter-program referrals. Piñon also incorporated Treasure Chest Outreach into virtual group connections. In December, it offered an online Family Literacy Pajama Party to present on the Treasure Chest program and how to use the VROOM app and Bright by Text to increase their child's early learning and literacy.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Based on various developmental assessments (ASQ3, Teaching Strategies Gold, Bracken School Readiness Assessment), children who participated in the Treasure Chest Program experienced gains in language and literacy skills. In addition to the developmental screening results, parent surveys and teacher responses were again very positive. According to our surveys, checking out a treasure chest increased the number of times parents and children spent reading, talking, playing together, and increased parental confidence in helping their child learn. One parent wrote, "The moment we left with our chest, our daughter was so excited to see what was inside. We went through every book and puzzle over & over again until it seemed she had memorized the pages. We love this great program!"

LEADERSHIP

Kellie Willis, Executive Director of The Piñon Project, and Kelli Unrein, Assistant Director, oversee Piñon operations, with Maggie Tevault serving as Early Childhood & Parenting Programs Coordinator. Multiple staff assist in the creation, maintenance, and distribution of Treasure Chests. Staff collaborate extensively with local agencies and serve on several advisory councils and coalitions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

For the upcoming year, we plan to explore even more ways to connect with families who are primarily learning from home right now and may not be connected with early education centers as they would have been in the past. We will further embed Treasure Chest into those programs that directly contact families, so children who need early screening, intervention, and supportive services do not fall through the cracks and get left behind. We are most grateful for The Scottish Rite Foundation's continued generous support of The Treasure Chest Program that enables us to serve our community's children and families. The guidance

of Kristin Uhler, PhD and additional program staff at Children's Hospital Colorado, is instrumental in helping The Piñon Project Family Resource Center continue this successful collaboration.

Respectfully submitted by,

Maggie Tevault, Early Childhood Programs Coordinator.