



August 14, 2014

Dear County Commissioners,

I am writing this letter to request funding in the amount of \$15,000 for Seeds of Learning operating budget. We serve primarily low income or at-risk families (approximately 80%) and they pay only \$28.50 of the actual cost of \$50.00 per day per child. That leaves approximately \$148,000 needed in additional revenue to balance our budget annually. Grants, fundraisers, individual donations are additional sources of revenue but are not enough.

As you know I served on the Rural Philanthropy Days Leadership Committee for two years and on the RPD planning committee for two years. I learned a lot about how to leverage funding needed to balance an operating budget. Funders from the Front Range are very generous and support many non-profits in our community. Because early care and education was one of the top two critical issues identified from RPD in June, the funders are even more diligent in trying to help us with this issue. As they look at the Seeds of Learning budget they always ask why local governmental agencies aren't supporting us on an annual basis. Their question is always this, "Why aren't the local "powers that be" supporting you financially and seem to be expecting us to do that?" El Pomar and Temple Hoyne Buell are consistent and faithful contributors to Seeds and since RPD are asking that question even more. They want to see a *complete* collaboration in funding that will include tuition, grants, fundraising, individual donors AND governmental support in our budget annually. They feel the local community has a vested interest in providing early care and education and it's one of the biggest economic drivers. Without it communities will not grow.

I will be in touch with funders frequently in the next few months trying to figure out what next steps might be for our community as well as our region in regard to lack of early care and education. I would appreciate your consideration of my financial request. This is a critical time to leverage all the funding we can. I need your support.

I thank you in advance for your consideration. Please don't hesitate to contact me at 970-264-5513 if you have any further questions.

With warm regards,

Lynne L. Bridges
Executive Director