



Pacific Clinics  
ADVANCING BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE

## **HEAD START**

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*Year in Review 2019*



# IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



**James J. Balla, MBA**  
President & CEO



**Wassy Tesfa, MA**  
Executive Director  
Head Start/Early Head Start

## Head Start Policy Council

**Chair:** Nusheek Dilanyan

**Vice Chair:** Jonathan Angeles

**Treasurer:** Karen Preciado

**Secretary:** Daisy Almario

### Representatives:

Lilit Grigoryan, Vanuhi Gasparyan, Araceli Ruiz, Carolina Galvez, Talin Abram, Vartoush Khachoomian, Yesenia Lopez, Naira Mkhitarian, Tanya Arat, Linda Lutzeier, Sarineh Petrosi, Nancy Lopez, Sevana Dehnashian, Fe Palomique, Susan Mandel, Jason Schlatter, Francisco Guerrero, Rosa Singh-Perez

## Helping Children and Families to Succeed

We are pleased to share our 2019 Head Start report with families, supporters, and friends. Pacific Clinics remains a leader in behavioral healthcare and early education, offering critical and often life-changing support to over 22,300 people across Southern California. Being able to reach so many people is essential to having a positive and lasting impact on the communities we serve. However, the stories of the individuals we serve truly demonstrate how Pacific Clinics meets the many different needs of children and families.

This document is a supplement to our agency's 2019 Community Impact Report, Community Champions, and focuses solely on the accomplishments of our early childhood education program through Head Start / Early Head Start.

Thanks to our dedicated educators and staff, we served more than 750 children and families from birth to 5 years of age this past year. We also expanded services into the city of Whittier through home-based centers referred to as Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships.

We believe that every child has an opportunity to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. Through Head Start, children and families receive teaching and other personalized services to meet the educational, social-emotional, health, nutritional and parent involvement needs, along with essential services, such as meals and diapers.

In reading this report, you will see how this program can positively change the trajectory of not only a child, but an entire family. We are inspired by women like Armineh and Lissette. It is truly a motivation for us to witness the hard-earned achievements from the families with whom we are partnered.

We want to thank you for your continued support in ensuring that everyone can reach their potential and lead healthy, fulfilling lives.

## Financials

### Funding Sources

Federal Funds	\$9,298,560
CA State Preschool Program	\$472,593
Child & Adult Care Food Program	\$289,966
<b>TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES</b>	<b>\$10,061,119</b>

### Expenditures

	Budget	Actual
Operations	\$9,619,986	\$9,583,272
Training & Technical Assistance	\$151,167	\$145,035
Food Services	\$289,966	\$289,966
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS</b>	<b>\$10,061,119</b>	<b>\$10,018,272</b>

## Audit Statement

An independent third-party external audit for Pacific Clinics' fiscal year ending June 30, 2019 found no deficiencies in our expenditures, or program operations compliance requirements as described in the Uniform Guidance.

**753**

Children Served

**672**

Families Served

**85%**

Average Daily Attendance

**1,235**

Hours of Service Provided

**280**

Children Received Dental Exams

**691**

Children Received Hearing Screenings

**697**

Children Received Vision Screenings

**148k**

Meals Served

# Armineh Ghoghasian

## Overcoming Adversity and Prospering

When Armineh Ghoghasian immigrated to the U.S. from Iran in 2010 with her husband, Saro, and their four-year-old son, Tinio, the family was leaving behind hard times—a legacy of financial hardship, a lack of opportunity and difficult memories of eight years of war during the Iranian Revolution, including the devastating loss of relatives and friends.

While arriving in Southern California fulfilled a lifelong dream for her family, the transition was difficult. “I missed my family, we didn’t have relatives here to help us and couldn’t afford childcare,” she recalls. “We spoke some English but needed to take [English as a Second Languages] classes. It took me months to find a job and three years for my husband to be hired by a printing company. It was a culture shock and it was hard ... but it was still a dream come true.”

Having held many jobs in Iran, the work she most enjoyed was as a dental assistant, but that required a better command of English. She would have to attend community college, pass the general education courses required, and then apply to a two-year dental hygienist program to be licensed in the U.S.

Armineh was working part time, attending night classes and spending time with her son, assisting with his English-language homework the best she could, when in 2013, daughter Tiena was born.

“When I got approved for the dental program at Pasadena City College ... it was long hours and I didn’t know if I could do it.” A friend told her about the Head Start program and she turned to Pacific Clinics for help.

“They took care of my baby and her education, health and nutrition, even though I couldn’t afford to pay ... I had peace of mind that my daughter was in good hands in a safe and healthy place.”

“Head Start did eye screenings and let me know that she needed glasses. She learned how to communicate, share and [learned] how to get along with others. She can write her name and simple words and do addition ... they learned about recycling ... So many different things that I didn’t have time to teach her. But she learned it in Head Start.”

Now as a registered dental hygienist, Armineh is able to support her family financially and attributes her success to those who supported her.

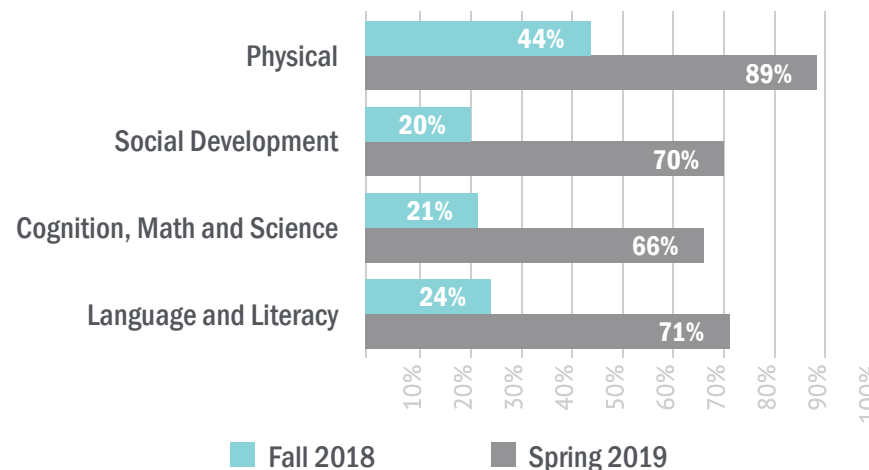
“Without help, I wouldn’t be where I am now. I wouldn’t have anything; it would have been impossible,” says the mom whose daughter began kindergarten this year.



*“Without help, I wouldn’t be where I am now. I wouldn’t have anything; it would have been impossible.”*  
— Armineh

## Ready for School Success

School Readiness for Children Entering Kindergarten in Fall 2019  
Comparison of Start of School Year (Fall 2018) vs. End of School Year (Spring 2019)



*The data reported in Pacific Clinics’ Head Start and Early Head Start report is required by the Head Start Act section 644(a)(2).*

# Lisette Ayerdis-Hernandez

## Creating a Head Start Legacy

Lisette Ayerdis-Hernandez was just 17 when she arrived in Southern California, fleeing her native country of Nicaragua with her mother and older brother to escape the civil war.

Lisette was motivated to succeed. She began taking English as a Second Language classes, earned her GED and then enrolled at Los Angeles Community College to take general education courses, though she was not certain of her career path.

To make ends meet, Lisette worked as a child caregiver while attending night classes. When her son, René Jr., turned 3, she enrolled him in the Head Start program, where he thrived.

“At a very early age,” she recalls, “they helped him become interested in learning. The art instruction started him down a road that led to a career path,” she says. “All three of my children attended the Head Start program and they’re all very artistic.”

Today, René attends Woodbury University studying game design/programming. His siblings, Albert, 19, and Kryztyna, 18, both attend Santa Monica Community College.

Lisette recalls that the teachers were supportive of her entire family. As a result, she began volunteering

several hours a week. “When I saw my son excelling and learning so many things,” says Lisette, “I developed a passion for teaching and realized that was the path I wanted to follow. I wanted to work with children.”

“My son’s teacher encouraged me and told me I had skills and was good with children. I don’t think I would be where I am without her encouragement.” Lisette began taking child development classes.

When she had enough credits, another of René’s teachers encouraged her to apply as a substitute teacher for Head Start.

Today, Lisette works as a home educator for Pacific Clinics and believes in the vision of Head Start. She attributes her success, along with having three children in college, to the program. Her goal is to continue to help other families so they too can succeed.



*“I developed a passion for teaching when I began seeing my son excelling.”*  
— Lisette

## Family Engagement and Well-Being

A comparison of the 2018 and 2019 Family Outcomes Survey results reveal growth in the “Very Helpful” rating category. An increase was observed in housing (9%), safety (9%), financial planning (6%), dental care (5%) and health care (4%).

