

11th National Fatherhood and Families Conference, Los Angeles, CA - Parent Interview: Jose Zambrano

(links for viewing and download at end of transcript)

Jose Zambrano: It's an honor to be here. My name is Jose Zambrano. My daughter's in the Head Start program for the past two years. She attends Hope Memorial from Pace; that's our agency. And I'm the -- I've been the chairperson for the past two years. This is my second year, and I also got involved in the -- in LACA, which -- that's a grantee. I'm their chairperson for their finance committee and I'm the treasurer there, as well. It is funny how I got started, how I got involved.

I remember the first parent meeting that we had. I told my wife I couldn't be there, so I -- I told her whatever they ask us -- for us to volunteer or to be involved in the program -- just let them know that I will be involved. So when they started choosing for president, secretary, nobody would raise their hand. So my wife raised her hand and she said, "Oh, my husband will be like -- will -- will be involved in the program." So here I am, and I'm happy what I have done.

I -- I accomplished so many things that I didn't think I was able to do. Head Start opened my mind to be more open about the program. It's a very well program that I didn't know about. I'm blessed to be involved and I wouldn't change anything. It has mean a lot to my -- my life, and also to my daughter and to my wife. It has helped me a lot. I've been more -- more talkful. I talk a lot now. I'm not afraid to talk to people about my experience. I'm open-minded. I like the challenge, and that's the way my personality is.

I would recommend that it's never too late to be involved in your child's education. We are the first teachers. It's like I read in the Banner... I heard it from -- early from a father, he -- he read in the Banner, "The school is my second home, home is my first school." So I think we are the teachers, we are our priority. So don't be afraid to be involved in your kid's education. It is a nice experience and I would recommend it to every -- every father.

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-- Premalink for viewing (requires Flash and javascript)

<http://videos.sorensonmedia.com/HEAD+START/000146-Jose+Zambrano+Parent+Interview-2009-SD360p/21bdb5cfD3266j4920B9dcb2f5df28a46d19>