

(links for viewing and download at end of transcript)

Fredy Guerrero: Hello, my name is Fredy Guerrero. I would like to share my experience with Head Start. At the age of 17 I became a single father of two boys. Recently graduated from -- from high school, achieving my high school diploma. Currently now, I'm enrolled in college. The experience with Head Start has made me realize that I want to help people and I enjoy helping people; and for that reason I am pursuing a career to be a social worker. I realize the value of providing a stable income for my family and being a role model for my children.

Head Start has not only made an impact on myself, but also on my kids from activities that I'm able to attend, from field trips. The main focus that I want to give advice to other parents, especially single fathers, that it's important to -- to -- to -- to stay focused on what you believe in. Myself, I want to be a role model to -- to my children, and for that reason I am -- I am thankful for -- for this opportunity with Head Start. Well, I was currently working for the county; I was doing landscaping. I heard of the Head Start program through some friends.

I remember that they -- like if it was yesterday. I came in with my boots; I was really filthy from work, and Yvonne was the first to -- to say hi to me. And I told her I was, you know, interested in -- in my children's education. During that time, Head Start didn't have the funds to have the program in -- in -- in Sinclair Elementary, so I was very, very focused and determined to -- you know, to have my son in Head Start. And I would -- I wouldn't say that I -- you know, I helped Head Start to become a program, but I think I -- I made a big impact.

Well -- well, what made it difficult is that not only did I have to play a role as a dad, also as a mom. I did anything from dressing them, potty trained, and that's basically the most difficult part that I had to live through. But again, the experience of being Mom and Dad at the same time has just made me a stronger person to achieve my goals. Well for myself, I currently have custody of two -- two of my boys. After three long years, I -- I -- I showed why should I prove myself, that it's possible. Anything's possible.

I -- you know, in the long run I see myself being successful, being an achiever. And I was, you know, just standing to my beliefs and that's -- I was having a family. And I believe that's the most important thing, is to always be a father first then be a man, and that's -- that's my belief.

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-- Premalink for viewing (requires Flash and javascript)

<http://videos.sorensonmedia.com/HEAD+START/000114-Fredy+Guerrero+Parent+Interview-2011-SD360p/ab2ebc31P198ee4ffaGb17810064373f8ed0>