

Zonia Torres Shining Star Daycare

San Francisco, CA

A childcare center that supports not just the children, but the parents too!



"I really love to help the community, especially low-income parents. And since I got my loan, I've expanded!"

Zonia was working as an assistant at a daycare center when she realized that she could start one of her own with a better philosophy and approach to families. She now serves some of her community's most vulnerable residents: families experiencing homelessness. While some providers think these children and families are too difficult to work with, Zonia embraces the opportunity to work with families going through a difficult time.

Business By The Numbers

2007 Loan Amount: \$10,000

2009 Loan Amount: \$10,000

Industry: Childcare

Business Start Date: 2007

Full-Time Employees: 3

Challenge

With a \$10,000 loan and business advice from Opportunity Fund in 2007, Zonia was able to open her daycare. She now has an associate teacher's permit and her business has created three full-time jobs. However, she needed additional financing to make repairs to her home and ensure it complied city codes and standards required to hold a childcare provider license.

Opportunity

To be successful in business, Zonia says, "You need discipline, hard work, and passion for what you are doing." Opportunity Fund knew that Zonia had those qualities, and the childcare and business expertise to continue to make her daycare a success. With a \$10,000 loan, her second from Opportunity Fund, Zonia was given the financing she needed keep her business open.

Community Network

Zonia loves working with her diverse clientele- the 23 children in her care range from children experiencing homelessness to the children of international embassy staff. By caring for children with such a wide range of backgrounds, Zonia is able to show them from an early age what valuable diversity the Bay Area holds. People see her as a resource in the community and she has a waiting list for her center.