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July 6, 2009

Dear Funding Partner:

*The Garfield County Department of Human Services Childcare Program has partnered with the "Raising A Reader" Program for five years now. This program complements the work of our consultants in licensed family childcare homes and centers throughout Garfield County. Twenty childcare centers and family childcare homes Glenwood Springs, Silt, Rifle, Carbondale, New Castle, and Parachute participate. "Raising A Reader" has supported over 1500 children since their inception, 72% of those children reside in Garfield County.*

*We live in an area of diverse cultural and socio-economic population. Many parents of young children in our area may not have the skills necessary to provide their children the learning experiences, specifically literacy, which are crucial to later school success, nor do they have the resources to purchase books. The "Raising A Reader" program allows us to reach those at risk families, and to share the excitement of reading. Each child receives his own red book bag to take home and books to read with his family. This will positively impact the lives of our youngest children, their families and the community.*

*I definitely support this worthwhile effort and I thank you for your consideration to funding the "Raising A Reader" program.*

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Dana L. Damm'.

*Dana L. Damm, Garfield County DHS Program Manager/Licensing Specialist*

*970-945-9191 Extension 3066*