



MOUNTAIN PROJECTS

Summer Newsletter 2024

Affordable Housing & Childcare Among Top Issues

Dear Friends of Mountain Projects,



Patsy Davis

First, **thank you** for supporting the work of our agency. I can't say it enough for all the blessings you make possible.

Second, it's important to us that we keep our supporters informed about the latest

developments in our programs and the issues impacting the community we serve.

We know you care about what's coming, what we've accomplished and how you can help. Catch up on our news inside.

Every three years, Mountain Projects conducts a **Community Needs Assessment** that helps refine our program strategy and fine-tunes our efforts **to meet the most pressing needs** of our community.

As you know, our programs provide a coordinated effort to **address the root effects of poverty** and, ultimately, move families and individuals to **self-sufficiency**. Poverty is a systemic problem and our agency uses a systems approach to resolving these issues.

Currently, two pressing issues stand out in our results: affordable housing for low-income workers and affordable childcare for both single and double parent households.

Wages aren't keeping up and many aren't making enough at work to make ends meet. Mountain Projects is working to overcome these challenges by **making Head Start accessible** to more families and we are in the ongoing process of **building affordable housing** with increased staffing, new land and pre-qualified homeowners.

As always, handouts aren't the focus of what we do, instead **we empower individuals** to stabilize and improve their lives. Your support helps us do this **and strengthens the social and economic fabric** of western North Carolina.

Thanks again for all of your investments.

Warm regards,

Executive Director
pdavis@mountainprojects.org



Students at our Kneedler Head Start Center on the campus of Western Carolina University in Cullowhee.

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Si Simmons

Contact Si at
ssimmons@mountainprojects.org

Meet Si Simmons, Deputy Director

Si Simmons, a 5-year employee of Mountain Projects, assumed the role of **Deputy Director** on April 29. Simmons served as Manager of Haywood Transit for the past five years and was a WIOA Youth Case Manager before then. **He is well-known in the community for his experience and enthusiasm for the Mountain Projects mission.**

"Si's compassion combined with years of experience makes a great fit for the position," said Patsy Davis, Executive Director. "He is well respected among our staff and will **help lead Mountain Projects into its next 60 years.**"

Says Simmons: "My time with Mountain Projects has made such an impact on me. **I'm in a great place in my life;** I feel like what I do is valued and what I do is worthwhile and helps others."