Tara Jaramillo, raised by a family of educators in Socorro, New Mexico, learned at an early age that education “is the best gift you can give yourself.” Then, she met Judy Farmer, a recruiter from the NMSU Department of Communication Disorders, who claimed Jaramillo had a gift for the trade. Yet, financially it didn’t seem possible for her - her parents had little means as educators to afford all of their children’s educations, and at the same time, she was a single mother to a young son.

Despite the odds, Jaramillo persevered and later graduated with a bachelor’s degree in 1993 and a master’s degree in speech language pathology in 1995. Four years later, Jaramillo and her friend, Cheryl Murphy, sat together at a table where the duo dreamed of an organization committed to building independence for their children, two of whom had disabilities.

By 1999, Jaramillo and Murphy founded Positive Outcomes, Inc. in Socorro, which provides a range of outpatient and home-based therapy services. In 2006, POI opened the Alberta House, a daycare center and hub of the Alberta House Early Intervention program; a physical therapy rehab facility; and the Alberta Academy, an early pre-K program that educates three and four-year-old children free of charge to all families.

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Jaramillo’s organization also serves its 515 employees by guaranteeing scholarships to all employees’ graduating high school children and granting full tuition loan forgiveness to any community member who pursues a degree in speech, occupational or physical therapy and returns to Socorro to work.

Jaramillo is the daughter of Frank and Nancy Jaramillo and is the mother of Frank and his wife Carmen, as well as Anjuli, Michaela and Lila. She has three grandchildren – Landon, Jayden and Ysabella.