

**For Immediate Release: 2.16.2021**

**Contact: Carolyn Hardin 970.379.8321**

## **Maria Tarajano Rodman Named Executive Director of Valley Settlement**

**CARDONDALE, CO** – After an exhaustive national search, Valley Settlement’s Board of Directors is excited to announce that Maria Tarajano Rodman will take the helm as Valley Settlement’s new Executive Director, effective February 22.

Rodman comes to the valley from the community of Farmington, New Mexico, where she has spent the past five years leading Boys and Girls Club of Farmington. Under Rodman’s leadership, the organization doubled its number of participants, expanded service sites and built new facilities. The organization was recognized as the National Boys and Girls Clubs of America’s *New Mexico Program of the Year*, and earned the New Mexico School Board Association’s *Excellence in Student Achievement* award. Her prior work includes leadership roles at Berkshire Children and Families in Massachusetts advocating for women’s health, and Montague Catholic Social Ministries, a community-based servant leadership organization serving children, youth and families.

“My life’s work has centered around creating conditions that support and promote a family’s dream for their children’s education, opportunities to thrive in a new environment, and ability to access vital and timely community resources,” says Rodman. “I know what it means to have people in one’s life who believe in them and support their dreams. As a young refugee girl emigrating from Cuba with my family, I would not be where I am today without those people and organizations who supported my growth and connected me with opportunities in education.”

“We are thrilled to welcome Ms. Rodman as Valley Settlement’s Executive Director,” says Paula Losada Nickell, former Board Chair. “Maria’s ability to build trusting and respectful relationships and develop internal leadership will strengthen the organization’s capacity to serve our community. She brings a wealth of experience in leading and growing a diverse set of nonprofit organizations, and shares in our vision of creating a more equitable valley for children and families.”

Coinciding with Ms. Rodman’s arrival, Valley Settlement will also be moving to a new location on February 22. The new address is 1901 Grand Ave, Suite 206, Glenwood Springs, Colorado 81601. The new office, located on the second floor of the U.S. Bank Building, is larger and designed better to suit Valley Settlement’s operations. It is on the main transportation corridor with bus stops nearby.

Founded in 2011, Valley Settlement offers a network of Latinx-led, two-generation programs to bring families out of isolation, improve economic stability, and promote community and school engagement. Programs include mobile preschool, adult education, peer mentoring, parent education, in-home childcare training, and leadership development. Valley Settlement’s programs are designed by and for the communities served.

For more information, visit [www.valleysettlement.org](http://www.valleysettlement.org).

###