



Cimarron Public Transit System (CPTS) is a shared ride, rural public transit program providing safe and reliable service covering 5,238 square miles of north central Oklahoma. CPTS has a fleet of 65 vehicles and a staff of 70.

The program began operation in November of 1999 with federal funding through FTA Section 5311. Matching funds from municipalities, tribes, state and local partners support the program.



Pictured above, Ron and Winnie Covill with their favorite driver, Mark Graham.

Ron and Winnie Covill: A Journey with Cimarron Transit

For over 25 years, Ron and Winnie Covill relied on Cimarron Transit to participate in life. Their journey with the CPTS began in November of 1999, in Ponca City. The active couple regularly scheduled outings to community meetings, events as well as trips to medical appointments, senior center and stores.

In 2024, Ron and Winnie moved to Cleveland, Oklahoma—but their commitment to Cimarron Transit never wavered. Today, The Covills continue to use CPTS, staying connected to their community, appreciating the friendly drivers, dependable rides, and the peace of mind that comes from years of reliable service.

“Winnie and I have been riding with Cimarron Transit over the past 25 years, said Ron Covill. ”I am totally blind and my wife, Winnie, has impaired vision, as well. Cimarron Transit has been life-changing for us. The staff and drivers are all very courteous and willing to help anytime needed. We are very appreciative of the service Cimarron Transit offers and we would be lost without their services.”





From the Desk of Executive Director Johnny Bryant

May is Community Action Month! This month and year Community Action is acknowledging the importance of its 61st year and all that we do to support others in work through transportation, housing, child care, child education, nutrition, and family services. United Community Action Program (UCAP) today has 16 Head Start/Early Head Start childhood centers, with 1 new building finishing completion. The UCAP Housing program has 44 single family and other units to house over 100 people in neighboring communities, and we've partnered with developers for 370 units of other housing across Oklahoma. We continue celebrating our transportation program Cimarron Public Transit's 25th anniversary, and Cimarron Public Transit has a fleet of 66 vehicles that provide open to all public transportation, ADA accessibility, and rides to employment, medical, and many other destinations. The recent uncertainty of continued funding for United CAP programs is a concern for all of us, as programs provide jobs and resources. It is as important as ever to support Community Actions at the state and national level because we want to continue making peoples' lives better!



Meet Susie Case: Vice Chair of UCAP Board of Directors

Susie Case has served on the UCAP Board for over 12 years, originally joining as an elected official while serving as the Town Clerk/Treasurer of Depew.

"I appreciate that Susie is a dedicated board member and has been for many years, using her accumulated knowledge to better the agency and the communities we serve," stated Johnny Bryant, Executive Director.

"I'm proud to be a part of UCAP and the incredible work we do to support communities—large and small," said Case. "It's always meaningful when someone turns to us for help, and even more so when we can truly make a difference. Seeing a new Head Start facility open—there's nothing better. I'm deeply grateful for our committed team and board. There's no feeling like it."

Susie has also served on the Finance Committee for 10 years, working with the Chief Financial Officer

25 Years of CPTS

1999

Nov. 1 - First day of Operation in Bristow, Cleveland, Pawhuska, Pawnee and Sapulpa.

2000

Pioneer Transit, in Kay County, merged with CPTS expanding service area and providing a Transit site in Ponca City.

2003

City of Bartlesville contracted for CPTS to operate public transit. In 2005, CPTS incorporated Washington County into service area.

2008

Expanded to serve the rural parts of Creek County.

2009

Expanded service in Osage County, opened transit site in Skiatook.

2013

Partnered with Cherokee Nation for reduced fare for tribal citizens requesting service in Nation service area.

2016

Partnered with public transits to form Veterans' Ride Connect.

2020

Opened physical transit site in Sapulpa with dispatcher.

2022

Evening and Saturday service PICK - on demand, evening and Saturday service in Bartlesville, Ponca City, Sapulpa and Skiatook.

**CIMARRON TRANSIT
IS A DIVISION OF UNITED COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM, INC. OF
PAWNEE**

Randy Heisler - In His Own Words

I began my career with UCAP in July of 1999. At that time I never imagined that would be my career. It was a job at first. Having a paid holiday is awesome as fulltime farming & ranching has no holidays nor sick days built in. This job quickly grew into something heartfelt as you see yourself a part of something that helps others succeed. Going on 26 years ago, I never imagined I would be here that long. LOL. The favorite part of my job is the variety of things that come my way daily. I had the opportunity to be involved in just about every program and aspect of UCAP. The travels and visits to the Capitol have been very educational for me. I have had many roles here at UCAP such as Operation Manager, Energy Educator in the WX program, Procurement Officer and whatever else needs done over the years. The family oriented culture here is valued highly and appreciated.



Heisler pictured checking cattle north of Pawnee.



Shelby Jewell, CPTS Senior Operations Specialist, pictured left with Heisler, CPTS Operations Manager, in February at the SWTA Annual conference in Tucson.

Most challenging is meeting all regulations for different projects and worrying if you are doing it right. I've always been told "just do the best you can do." I am most proud of my family; Carol Ann and I raised two sons, and I am very proud and fond of my two grandchildren Tripp and Scarlett. There is not much that folks don't know about me. If you been around me, I bet I brought a cow into the conversation. I work in town then work in the country. That's all I do. LOL. Most important thing about being part of UCAP is being something way bigger than yourself. Knowing you are a cog on the wheel that lifts someone else up in the whole agency and maybe that's their chance whether it's Headstart, Transportation and all of our other programs over the years. Someday I hope to enjoy a healthy retirement, travel a little and relish in whatever comes my way.

The Power of Support

A Story of Hope and Growth in Early Head Start

Kerissa Phillips joined Early Head Start in Stillwater in July 2007, right out of graduate school, holding a degree in Child Development. She began her career as a specialist focused on developmental delays.

In 2010, Kerissa and her husband, Clint, welcomed their first child, Harper, who was able to attend Early Head Start alongside her mother. Despite Kerissa's training and expertise, it was not apparent that her own daughter might be experiencing a developmental delay. It was Harper's Early Head Start teacher who first approached Kerissa with a concern: although Harper was meeting most developmental milestones, she wasn't babbling—an early sign of communication difficulties.

Thanks to early intervention, Harper began speech therapy at just one year old. By the time she turned three, Harper was still behind in her speech development; an unexpected breakthrough came when Mom, (Kerissa), enrolled Harper in a dance class. Dance, to the family's surprise, helped stimulate Harper's brain development, and the toddler began speaking.

Later, as Harper entered public school, she was diagnosed with dyslexia and provided adaptive equipment. Now in eighth grade, Harper reads at grade level, competes in dance competitions, twice performing with the Tulsa Ballet.

"Harper still receives support services," Kerissa shares, "and due to early intervention, she will be able to go to college. I credit the Early Head Start teachers in Stillwater for being so observant and supportive. They made all the difference."

Kerissa and Clint's two younger children, Asher and Dayton, attended Early Head Start and Head Start. Kerissa believes the efforts from teachers during COVID especially benefited Dayton. "Teachers stayed engaged and provided meaningful activities. Because of their dedication, Dayton didn't experience developmental setbacks other children faced during that time," she said.

When asked what she would share with new mothers, Kerissa reflected:

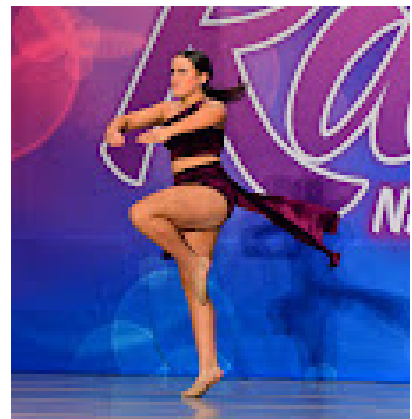
"As a first-time mom, you imagine who your child is going to be. But the most important thing is to love them for who they are instead of what you thought they were going to be. Harper has exceeded every expectation."



Pictured above from left: Harper, Kerissa, Clint, Asher and Dayton Phillips at the OSU Botanical Gardens.



Harper pictured above celebrating her 1st birthday in EHS classroom with teachers Jennifer and Asha.



Above, Harper during a dance performance.

Growth in Early Head Start - Continued



Above, UCAP's Education team, during in-service last year. This group of 'amazing ladies' is led by Kerissa Phillips. From right: Alycia West, Rhonda Mizer, Ginny Godfrey, Phillips, Christy Jones, Barbara Tharp, Heather Tennial and Kathryn Griffith.

A Great Place to Work

Kerissa Phillips has been the Education Manager for Head Start, since 2017. "Originally, I thought Head Start would be a stepping stone in my career, but now it's my last stop," said Kerissa. "Kim Rice, our director, helped me realize my dream. I am much more confident, been trusted to do my job and provided opportunities supporting me as a professional."

Early Head Start and Head Start not only offer early education but comprehensive services to children and families preparing children for success in school as well as for later in life.



Asher and Dayton Phillips while on a break from Head Start home learning packets, during COVID.



Dayton Phillips as an infant in his Early Head Start classroom.



Asher Phillips eating table food at Early Head Start for the first time.

2025 Closings

May 26 - Memorial Day

June 19 - Juneteenth Day

July 4 - Independence Day

July 25 - In Service Training

September 1 - Labor Day

October 13 - Columbus Day

November 11 - Veterans' Day

Thanksgiving & Friday after

December 25 - Christmas Day

January 1 - New Year's Day



Drivers George Noble (pictured left) and Gary Trook (right) relocate a new Ford Transit to Bartlesville. CPTS received 10 ADA (7 passenger) vans in March to maintain the fleet in a state of good repair. Vans were purchased with FTA matching grants from INCOG (Section 5310) and ODOT (Section 5339(a)).

Friday, June 27th
6-8 PM

PAWNEE/OSAGE CASA PRESENTS

BINGO & DESSERT AUCTION

PRIZES | POTATO BAR | DESSERTS

JOIN US FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENING OF EXCITEMENT, DESSERTS, AND THE THRILL OF THE WIN AT PAWNEE/OSAGE CASA'S BINGO & DESSERT AUCTION! DESSERTS DONATED BY LOCAL BAKERS WILL BE AUCTIONED OFF TO SUPPORT PAWNEE/OSAGE CASA. GET YOUR DABBERS READY, WEAR YOUR BEST LUAU ATTIRE AND MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR AN EVENING FILLED WITH ANTICIPATION AND FUN.

Enjoy a delicious potato bar for \$8.

\$5 FOR 4 BINGO GAMES (1 CARD)
\$20 FOR 20 BINGO GAMES (5 CARDS) CARDS CAN BE PURCHASED ON-SITE. WE TYPICALLY HAVE TIME TO HOLD 5 ROUNDS AND EACH WINNER RECEIVES A PRIZE.

Pawnee Women's Building
510 memorial RD
Pawnee OK 74058

Survey Open til June 30

If you have benefited from a UCAP Program since July 1, 2024, please take time to complete the Customer Satisfaction Survey at the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/L8SWWGD>

All feedback provides valuable insight for staff to better assess current programs as well as anticipate future needs for the communities, individuals and families in the UCAP service area. For more information, or if you need the survey in a different format, contact 918-762-3041 Ext. 116.

United CAP Board of Directors

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Family and Community Services

Associated Charities

212 E. Bridge Avenue, Blackwell, OK
580-363-1290

Food bank and general assistance,
when funding available

Days and hours of operation
Tues. 3pm-5pm

Wed. 9am-11:30am and 3pm-5pm

Operation Blessings

803 Market Street, Perry
580-336-3313

General assistance, food pantry and
emergency needs.

Days and hours of operations-
Mon. through Fri. 9am-4pm

Clothing- 1st and 3rd Wed/Thurs of
month from 9am to noon

Donations accepted Monday-
Thursday 9am to noon.

United Community Action Program, Inc.
501 Sixth Street, Pawnee, OK 74058
918-762-3041

Visit us at www.ucapinc.org
www.facebook.com/ucapinc.org



Careers with United CAP

All Employment opportunities are posted on the agency website at www.ucapinc.org. UCAP is an equal opportunity employer (EOE). Positions are open to the public, as well as to United CAP staff. Applications can be completed on the website.

Go to Career Openings, scroll through the list of openings. Click on the 'Apply Now' button located at the top of the web page to download the application.

UCAP is committed to a workplace that acts upon daily responsibility to treat all applicants and employees with dignity and respect, as well as equitably under the guidelines of the EEO Plan. Call 918-762-3041, if you would like an application mailed to you. Applications can be returned to UCAP, 501 Sixth Street, Pawnee OK 74058, Attention: HR



Mission: To improve people's lives, embody the spirit of hope, and in partnership with communities, help low-income people lift themselves out of poverty by providing services and opportunities for increased self sufficiency and greater participation in the community.