



Fall 2025

The Unsung Hero of Connectivity: Keeping Our Systems – and Teams – Running

Adam Wheeler joined UCAP in April of 2017 as the IT Manager, with a background in network engineering and management information systems. Adam designed as well as maintains the agency website in addition to setting up and supporting every agency computer. As IT manager, Adam receives the first call when the internet goes down, phones stop working or a computer just “dies.”



Under Adam’s leadership, new technology like VOIP and Virtual Private Network enhance agency systems, improve access, flexibility, support file safety and save money. Currently, Adam is exploring and investigating a shift to virtual servers. According to Adam, maintaining the servers occurs in the wee hours of the morning so staff can work during the day without interruptions—proof of his dedication.

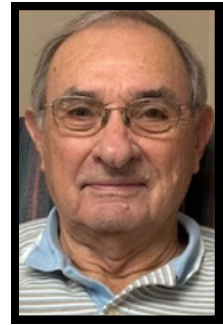
But Adam isn’t all tech cables and servers. During the school year, he drives a school bus, keeping his CDL active. Before coming to UCAP, he drove the Big Orange Bus (Tulsa Shuttle), paratransit, and fixed routes for The Bus, the public transit system in Stillwater.

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“IT support keeps our operations running smoothly,” said Laura Corff, Transit Director. “From updating systems to tackling unexpected outages, Adam responds promptly and professionally—his efforts make a difference.”

From the Desk of Executive Director Johnny Bryant

Community Actions continue to reach milestones this year! As I described last newsletter, Community Actions across the country are in our 61st year and our own Cimarron Public Transit Program begins its 26th! Along with these important dates, the Head Start Program is also celebrating 60 years this year! UCAP has 20 Head Start/Early Head Starts and is finishing completion on a new building. United CAP does so many important things, and reaching children is a great place to start in achieving early childhood learning, literacy, nutrition, health standards, and more for children. But we don't stop there. UCAP promotes stable living for all ages through its Housing, CASA, CACFP, Family and Community Services, CPTS Transportation, and Head Start Programs. We are grateful to play an important part in the lives of so many!



From left: Donna Graves (Head Start Teacher Perry), Monica Sewell, Exec. Dir. Johnny Bryant, Lou Ann Hunt, Crystal Kirkham, and Brittany Harmon (FSA HS/EHS Perry) provided information on UCAP Programs during the "Back to School" Shopping Day at Operation Blessing, Perry, OK, an outreach center in collaboration with UCAP, on August 6, 2025.



OKACAA State Association Executive Director, Amanda Ewing, presented Open Meeting Act training for UCAP Board of Directors during May meeting. Pictured from left: Board members James Adams, Chris Burnett, and Harold Harris, with Ewing and UCAP Exec. Director Johnny Bryant.



Photo left: Community members Suzanne Grooms and Don Speicher presented Executive Director Johnny Bryant with a Pendleton blanket in gratitude for his leadership and UCAP's contributions to the community.

Beverly Brownfield, pictured right, was reelected as UCAP board member representing low-income individuals in Osage County. The election was held for the board seat at McCord Senior Center, in McCord, OK on June 12, 2025.



Cushing Head Start Playground



Ponca City Head Start Disney Theme Day - In-Service Summer 2025.



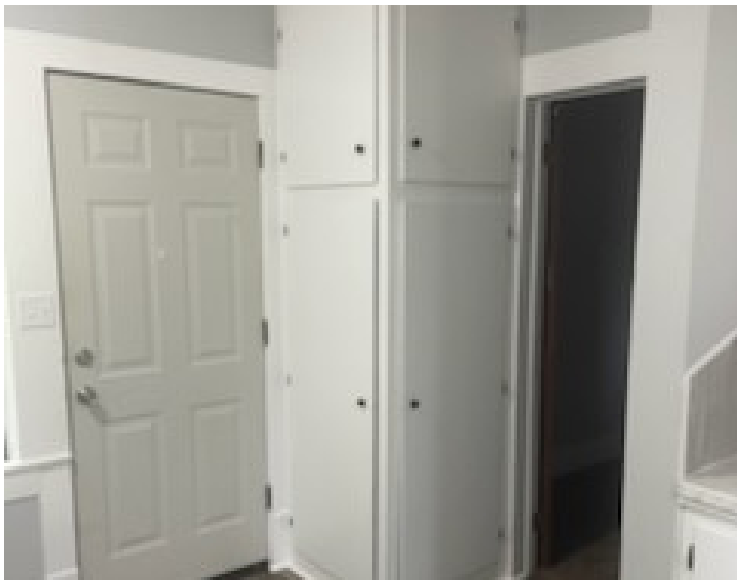
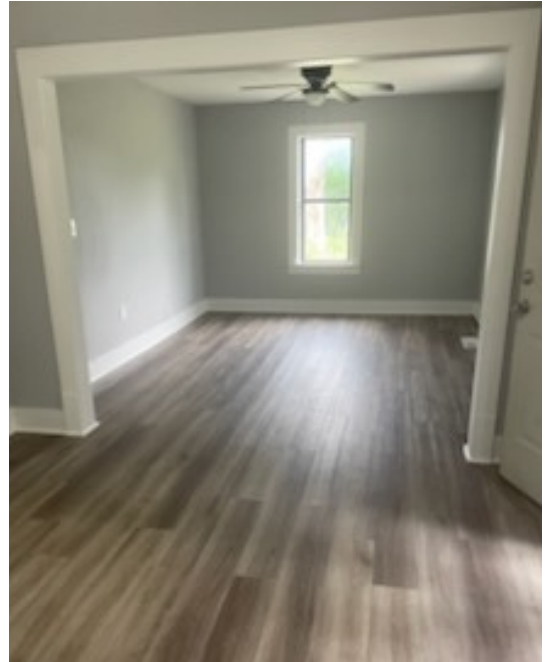
Stillwater Head Start end of school foam party May 2025.



Blackwell Head Start Graduation May 2025

United CAP Housing Program

A UCAP rental home in Pawnee underwent a complete facelift and rehabilitation this summer, according to Housing Director Gary Vance. The updated property now offers safe, affordable housing for a family of three.



Adam Wheeler -Continued from Front Page



Adam Wheeler, IT Manager, is pictured left, in front of his 1928 Rumely Oil Pull Model X tractor. Wheeler has owned the tractor for 4 years, getting it running within a few months of purchase. James Adams, UCAP board member, is pictured right.

Adam's tech journey began in 1999 when he received his very first computer. Instead of just playing games, he took it apart, rebuilt it, and soon had wires running across the living room as he experimented with networking. That curiosity never went away. During his high school senior year, Adam competed in Microsoft Network Administration through Meridian Technology Center—winning state and finishing top 10 nationally. By 2010 he had an associate's degree in Network Engineering from Northern Oklahoma College, followed by a bachelor's in Management Information Systems from OSU in 2014.

Adam has a lifelong love of tractors sparked by his grandfather. Currently, Adam is a member of the Oklahoma Steam & Gas Engine Association and volunteers at the Steam Engine Show in Pawnee each year. With a sizeable collection, Adam travels across Oklahoma and surrounding states showing smaller tractors and swapping knowledge with fellow collectors at every opportunity. Another community investment includes Adam's service on the Board of Pawnee Bill's Friends Association, helping keep the Wild West Show alive.

What Adam enjoys most is helping UCAP's front-line workers—the people who deal with the community every day. He knows his behind-the-scenes work makes their jobs easier. The toughest part? Staying ahead of cyber threats in a world where technology never stops changing. Still, Adam thrives on learning, researching, and connecting with IT peers across the country.

Having an in-house IT expert like Adam not only saves UCAP money but ensures that every decision is made with the agency's best interests in mind. He may not be in the spotlight, but Adam is the reason UCAP's technology runs smoothly day in and day out.

ALL IN FOR OKLAHOMA

Randy Heisler and Monica Sewell of UCAP with Marshall Vogts (center) of the OK Department of Commerce at the "All in for Oklahoma" Regional Collaborative Meeting. Sponsored by the OK Dept. of Commerce, the day highlighted economic development resources available to communities in the North Central Area of OK, which includes UCAP.



Cimarron Transit Summer Photos



CPTS held In-Service in July receiving refresher training in EEO, Fraud Waste and Abuse, Title VI, Risk Management, Older Americans Act, Safety Data and the importance of reporting.



CPTS participated in Bristow's Touch a Truck event in July.



Training Coordinators check out lift operation for new Ford Transits. Pictured from left, Jack Park and Nate Heintz.

2025-2026 Closings

Nov. 11 - Veterans' Day
Thanksgiving & Friday after
Dec. 25 - Christmas Day
Jan. 1 - New Year's Day
Jan. 19 - Dr. Martin King, Jr.
Feb. 16 - President's Day
April 3 - Good Friday
May 25 - Memorial Day



Monica Sewell, Exec. Assistant, Randy Heisler, Procurement Officer, Johnny Bryant, Exec. Director, and Adam Wheeler, IT Manager, attend a WIPFLI Grant Management meeting regarding Community Action work, in July.

Pawnee/Osage CASA held their Bingo Fundraiser in June at the Women's Building. 42 participants raised \$1,108.50 to benefit the program.

We Want to Hear From You!

Have you used a United CAP program since July 1, 2025?

Please take a few minutes to complete our Customer Satisfaction Survey at the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZJ9DCQR>

Your feedback is valuable—it helps our team evaluate current programs and plan for the future needs of the individuals, families, and communities we serve. Need the survey in another format or have questions? Call us at 918-762-3041, Ext. 116.

United CAP Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Johnny Bryant, Executive Director
Michelle Turner, Chief Financial Officer
Harold Harris, Chair
Susan Case, Vice Chair
Teresa Bates Rutherford, Secretary
James Adams, Treasurer

Members of the Board

Beverly Brownfield
Chris Burnett
Roy Fleshman
Bronson Grimes
Billie Ponca
Jo Beth Spears
Rhonda Wallace
Mike Waters

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.