

## 2022 Annual Report

### United Community Action Program, Inc.



#### **Mission:**

*To improve people's lives, embody the spirit of hope, improve communities and make the State of Oklahoma a better place to live.*

*To help people lift themselves out of poverty by creating opportunities for increased self-sufficiency and greater participation in their community.*

# LOCAL HERO



*"No beauty shines brighter than that of a good heart."*

*Margie Janzen has been a familiar face at UCAP board meetings for, as she says, "a very long time." It has actually been twenty plus years; Margie attributes her UCAP involvement to her desire to channel her time and efforts into something very special within her community. Margie's kind hearted demeanor shines bright as she reflects on her years on the UCAP board, and her dedication has led her to serve on countless United CAP committees. Currently, she serves as UCAP's Secretary of the Board.*

*Margie makes her home in Perry with her husband George where they raised three sons and many grandchildren, many of which are UCAP Head Start alumni!*

*On behalf of all of the UCAP family, we want to say a heartfelt THANK YOU to Margie for her many years of dedication and leadership to our organization.*

*Written by Gary Vance, Jr.*

# Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Projects

- Assisted 81 households with utility or rental assistance to help combat homelessness.
- Provided equipment and food items to various food pantries to ensure proper nutrition was available for individuals and families throughout UCAP communities.
- Purchased Personal Protection Equipment, which was shared throughout communities.
- Provided funding to local schools to aid in fighting the spread of COVID.
- Increased outreach for health clinic services.
- Funded materials to build a ramp needed for a disabled individual in Ponca City. Local resident volunteers provided free labor.



Pictured from left: Monica Sewell, Executive Assistant, Roy Fleshman, Morrison Senior Center, and Johnny Bryant, Executive Director. CARES funds provided two new freezer/refrigerators to support services at the facility.

*Gary Vance, Jr., CARES Coordinator*



# CASA

## PAWNEE AND OSAGE COUNTIES

### Accomplishments

- 17 Advocates served abused and neglected children in cases
- Volunteers donated 1,010 hours and traveled 8,142 miles advocating for children.
- 4 children were adopted
- 15 children were reunited with families
- 3 children appointed a guardian
- Director holds a seat on National CASA Tribal Leadership Council



The program celebrated 25 years In Pawnee District Court System. Pictured from left: Kristin Donnelly, Director, and Stacy Blackburn, Pawnee/Osage CASA Advocate Coordinator.



Left: Volunteers assist with Crawfish Bowl fundraiser held in Cleveland, April 2022. Wild Country Meat Market sponsored the event. Pictured from left: Vicki Vokey, Trudy Brannan, Leon Brannan, Rachele Burgess & Beverly Wellington.

Jurisdiction: Pawnee District Court, Pawnee Nation Court, Osage District Court and Osage Nation Court.

*Kristin Donnelly, Director*

## CHILD CARE FOOD PROGRAM



66 DHS-licensed home child care providers were reimbursed for serving nutritious meals, which met U.S. Department of Agriculture requirements. The Federally-funded program sponsored 192,583 meals to an average of 438 children per month, playing a vital role in improving the children's health and the quality of their care. In addition, the assistance of the program made child care more affordable for low-income families.

Program staff received local in-house training, as well as virtual training at State and National levels. Child care providers also received training in healthy meal preparation and management, as well as training on Federal and State program regulations.

Serving providers in Alfalfa, Creek, Garfield, Grant, Kay, Kingfisher, Lincoln, Logan, Major, Noble, Oklahoma, Osage, Pawnee, Payne, Tulsa and Washington counties.

*Rozanne Worden, Child & Adult Care Food Program Director*

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*





# Cimarron Transit

- Replaced 2 vehicles
- Operated 84,144 hours
- Traveled 1,053,016 miles
- Provided 94,120 trips
- 48% of trips for seniors and individuals with disabilities

*Laura Corff, Transit Director*

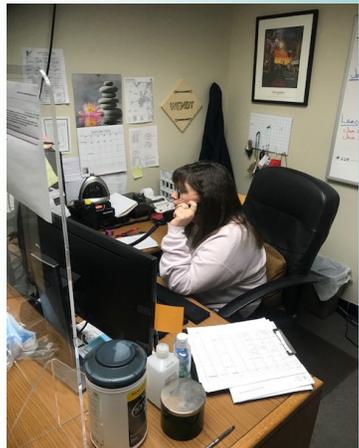


**Mr. Klarich, a long time patron, uses CPTS to travel from Skiatook to Tulsa for work.**





**Operations Manager Randy Heisler, and Senior Operations Specialist, Shelby Jewell, inspect a new Voyager added to the transit fleet.**



**Pictured above: Wendy Reynolds, CPTS Dispatcher, schedules trips in Sapulpa. The job requires many phone calls and continuous two-way radio communication with drivers.**



**Pictured above from left: Sheila Shibley and Rick Jones, of Sapulpa. Throughout the year, drivers receive refresher mobility device securement and other training.**



**Pictured above: CPTS staff in Ponca City partnered with City of Ponca City for Walktober, to increase awareness for getting extra steps throughout the day. Pictured from left: Tana McKinley and Iris Jorgenson with City of Ponca City, Laura Corff, Transit Director, and Shelly Regnier, Operations Specialist.**



# 2022 Service Awards

Each year, in partnership with the Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies, employees are honored for service. The following UCAP staff received recognition:

Charmaine Benedict, Housing Director, 15 years

Crystal Kirkham, Family and Emergency Services, 20 years

Kim Rice, Head Start & Early Head Start Director, 35 years

Janet Thrasher, Human Resources Manager, 40 years



**Pictured from left: Johnny Bryant, Janet Thrasher, Crystal Kirkham, Kim Rice and Charmaine Benedict.**



INCOG Tri County Council on Aging.



Corff, pictured middle, served on the Review Board of National Rural Transit Assistance Program.



Executive Director Johnny Bryant pictured with Pawnee Head Start Director Adrian Hennessey after new carpets and other flooring were installed at the site.



Above, center to right: Johnny Bryant, Monica Sewell, Billie Ponca, Teresa Rutherford, Beverly Brownfield, Rhonda Wallace and Harold Harris met with WIPFLI representatives during a feedback session at WIPFLI.



Laura Corff, Transit Director, participated in the Ponca City Citizens Police Academy.



Johnny Bryant, pictured in back with Janet Thrasher, facing forward, pictured with Crystal Kirkham, Gary Vance, Jr. and Adam Wheeler at a board of director's meeting.



**Pumpkins with Pops—Perry Head Start**



**Red Ribbon Day at Beggs Head Start.**



**Pictured right: Ponca City Head Start participated in the annual St. Jude Trike-a-Thon event. This service learning program teaches trike riding safety while raising awareness and funds to end childhood cancer.**



# Early Head Start

Newborn to 36 months & Pregnant Women

- 417 children served
- 45 pregnant women



# Head Start

3 & 4 year olds

- 653 Head Start children served
- 12.4% of 4 year-olds received disability services
- 87.2% of families received additional services

Counties served: Creek, Kay, Logan, Noble, Okmulgee,  
Osage, Pawnee, Payne and west Tulsa.

*Kim Rice, Early Head Start and Head Start Director*

# Teacher & Staff Credentials

## 31 Head Start Teachers

48.3% hold Bachelor Degrees

51.6% hold Associate Degrees

## 78 Early Head Start Teachers

5.1% hold Bachelor Degrees

2.6% hold Associate Degrees

57.6% hold CDA

41% working toward CDA

## 26 Family Support Advocates

96.2% hold a Bachelor or Associate Degree or a  
Family Development Credential (FDC)

3.8% working on FDC

## Health Services

95% of enrollees received medical services

3.8% were diagnosed for treatment

77% received treatment needed

## Technology Updates

- Phone system upgrades connect most centers and office staff to management via an extension number throughout the eight (8) county service area.
- New technology supports uploading documents into Child Outcomes Planning and Assessment program for appropriate staff to view as well as assist with monitoring and compliance.



**In Service training activities included Squad Day. Cushing Head Start staff pictured at top. Blackwell Head Start staff pictured above.**



**“REUNITED”** was the theme for the Head Start and Early Head Start employee picnic held at the Pawnee Rodeo Grounds in July.



**Pictured above: Sapulpa's new Early Head Start facility provides four classrooms to serve 32 children 0 to 3 years of age.**

**Family Support Advocates, along with the Policy Council Chair and Parent/Family Engagement Coordinator spent the week in Dallas at the National Head Start Association Parent and Family Engagement Conference.**



**Cables between the Ponca City Head Start and Early Head Start buildings were secured by trenching to place underground to assist with day-to-day operations. Pictured left: Rodney White, Maintenance. Adam Wheeler, IT Manager is pictured right.**

# ***Moving Individuals and Families Forward***

## ***Family & Community Services***

Low-income people achieved potential, and families were strengthened as a result of the following supportive services:

- 4,355 received emergency food assistance
- 2 received assistance purchasing fuel
- 485 received utility assistance
- 96 received emergency mortgage assistance or help with rent
- 1 received assistance for emergency medical care
- 140 individuals received Volunteer Income Tax Preparation Services
- Partnerships with local food banks facilitated the distribution of 20,777 bags of food
- Local collaborations assisted 4,716 individuals with 14,148 units of clothing
- 203 youth in Pawnee County received Christmas gifts through alliance with the Salvation Army for the Angel Tree project

# Outreach Locations

Associated Charities, 212 E. Bridge Ave., Blackwell

580-363-1290

Operation Blessing, 803 Market Street, Perry

580-336-3313

UCAP Headquarters, 501 Sixth Street, Pawnee

918-762-3041



Volunteer Bob Brand, pictured left, hand-painted the front door of Operation Blessing in Perry, with UCAP name and logo. Pictured right, Outreach Worker Lou Ann Hunt manages the location. The site assists families with clothing, food, utility assistance as well as other emergency needs.

# HOUSING

## Single-Family Rentals

Billings—2    Blackwell—1  
Fairfax—3    Newkirk—4  
Pawnee—6    Perkins—2  
Perry—2      Tonkawa—4



**Pictured above: Gary Vance, Jr. Housing Coordinator, power washes a rental unit in Pawnee.**

**Pictured above right: Rodney White, Maintenance, adds finishing touches to the Perkins rental.**



**Photo Top Right is a newly renovated 3 bed/2 bath home, 221 NE Sixth Street, Perkins, featuring storm shelter, high energy efficient central HVAC unit and tankless hot water heater. Energy saving, low-flow faucets are installed throughout the home.**

# Multi-Family Housing

370 Units are located throughout the following properties:

Cambridge, Sapulpa;

Copper Ridge, Ponca City;

Edgewood, Sand Springs;  
Glenshire, Glenpool;

Willow Creek, Ponca City,  
and Pawnee Townhomes



**Pictured above, Copper Ridge is a multi-family apartment complex in Ponca City. One to three bedroom units are available; rent is subject to federal income guidelines.**



**Pictured left is the kitchen area in one of the Pawnee Townhomes.**



**Maintenance is provided by UCAP staff Gary Vance, Jr. & Rodney White. Pictured left, White shovels sidewalks at Pawnee Townhomes, to assist with safer pathways for residents during winter weather.**

*Charmaine Benedict, Housing Director, HCCP, and Compliance Manager designee for HUD*

# UCAP Makes A Difference

*Low income lives were advanced throughout the year as a result of UCAP 's framework to address the following community needs in 2022.*

## Housing

- 41 families received safe and affordable housing.
- 97 households avoided eviction and subsequent homelessness due to receiving rental/mortgage assistance.

## Education

- 12% of 4 year-old children received disability services.
- 19 low-income, single-parent families and 12 children had access to education, training and employment to enhance their ability to support their families and be more self-sufficient, as the result of public transit.

## Tax Preparation

- 140 individuals achieved increased financial potential through Volunteer Income Tax Preparation Services.

## Other outcomes:

- Cimarron Transit provided a supportive environment to improve the lives of 372 older, vulnerable Americans. These Oklahomans were able to remain in their homes and live independently as a result of free public transit.
  - 224 seniors in Creek County received 8,860 trips
  - 91 seniors in Ponca City received 6,766 trips
  - 57 seniors in Osage County received 559 trips

- 2,132 Medicaid members received 28,297 free trips to medical services. Dependable access to health care, as well as access to treatment for chronic and other health and wellness services, improved health outcomes for low-income individuals and families.
- 218 low-income individuals received 15,511 reduced fare rides to work and education. By removing a barrier, public transit provided a supportive community service to improve financial outcomes.
- Twelve veterans received 211 free trips for medical appointments to improve health outcomes.
- Six households received assistance with utility bills to maintain adequate living conditions.



## Community In Action

First National Bank & Trust donated \$500 to support activities at the Pawnee County Salvation Army. Pictured from Left: Clark Shouse, Crystal Kirkham and Monica Sewell.



Clark Shouse of First Bank & Trust of Pawnee presented a donation to UCAP representatives. Pictured from left: Randy Heisler, Shouse, Monica Sewell, Gary Vance, Jr., Johnny Bryant and Crystal Kirkham.



UCAP donated a grill toward the CASA golf tournament, a fundraiser held in October. Pictured left: Kristin Donnelly and Stacy Blackburn.

# Agency Partners



MAKE SAFETY STICK EVERYBODY CLICK



OKLAHOMA Commerce



DOING THE MOST GOOD



USDA United States Department of Agriculture



modivcare™ FORMERLY LOGISTICARE



CLEVELAND OK



OKLAHOMA Rehabilitation Services



City of Bristow



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



*Johnny Bryant,  
Executive Director*  
*Michelle Turner, Chief  
Financial Officer*

*Harold Harris, Chair*    *Susan Case, Vice Chair*

*Margie Janzen, Secretary*

*JoBeth Spears, Treasurer*

***Members: James Adams, Beverly Brownfield,  
Chris Burnett, Bronson Grimes, Billie Ponca, Teresa  
Bates Rutherford, Jo Beth Spears, Rhonda Wallace, and  
Mike Waters.***



UCAP Board of Directors, pictured from left: Teresa Rutherford, Beverly Brownfield, Billie Ponca and Rhonda Wallace attended the WIPFLI Stronger to Serve Conference in Las Vegas in July.

# Capacity Building

- UCAP Volunteers donated 13,660 hours to increase community engagement.
- Board Member Development: 174.5 hours
- Transit staff completed 765 hours of elearning, hands on, industry and association training



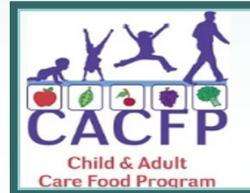
Above: Monica Sewell, Executive Assistant, met with Anna Maria Chaves, former CEO of Girls Scout of USA at the WIPFLI conference.



Above: Management team members from left: Adam Wheeler, Gary Vance, Crystal Kirkham, and Monica Sewell participate in one of the bi-monthly board of director's meetings.



Pictured from left: Rozanne Worden, Randy Heisler, Leanne Knight, Kristin Donnelly and Charmaine Benedict attend a board of director's meeting.



## United Community Action Program, Inc.

501 Sixth Street, Pawnee, OK 74058

918-762-3041

Visit us at [www.ucapinc.org](http://www.ucapinc.org)

UCAP is an equal opportunity employer.