



2023 Annual Report



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.



Shelly Regnier, Operations Specialist, stands outside the Ponca City Chamber office with Tiffany Hermann. UCAP is represented monthly at the Ponca City Chamber Community Development and Ponca Politics committees.



UCAP Accounting staff provided training to the Head Start Center Directors and Management team in June.



A special event related to the Killers of the Flower Moon movie was held at E.W. Marland's Grand Home in Ponca City. Billie Ponca, UCAP board member, pictured second from left, shared insight of the historical events surrounding the tragic Osage Murders, the basis for the movie.

Pictured from left: Janice, Bryant, Billie Ponca, Johnny Bryant, Gary Vance, Monica Sewell and Adam Wheeler.





For more than 30 years, Ginny Dvorak has tended to accounts payables in the Finance Department.



Laura Corff, Transit Director, joined the Oklahoma Transit Delegation to 'talk transit' with OK Congressmen and staff. Corff, pictured above, with partner and colleague Kendra McGeady of Pelivan Transit (right).



Head Start and Early Head Start In-Service training hosted "Family Vacation" theme day. Photo above: Management Team representing Safari Vacation.

CASA

PAWNEE AND OSAGE COUNTIES

Accomplishments

- 17 Advocates served abused and neglected children in cases
- Volunteers donated 1,047 hours and traveled 8,000 miles advocating for children.
- 10 children adopted (3 of these children had Volunteers advocating for more than 6 years)
- 13 children reunited with families
- Director holds a seat on National CASA Leadership Council & National CASA Leadership Board

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

Kristin Donnelly, Director



Members of the National Leadership Board pictured from left include Suzanne Hughes, CASA for Children, Tara Perry, National CASA Board President, and Kristin Donnelly, Pawnee/Osage CASA director.



Above: Annual Pawnee/Osage CASA Golf Scramble was held in September at Pawnee Municipal Golf Course. From left: J.D. Goad, Dawna Bowman, Eric Smith and Tim Shadlow. Proceeds from fundraisers support the recruitment and training for more volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in the foster care system.



Photo above: CASA supporters attended the first annual CASA Bingo Night Fundraiser held at the Pawnee Women's Building, in June. Pictured right, Mike Godberson and Kristin Donnelly.



CHILD CARE FOOD PROGRAM

72 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 222,332 meals to an average of 459 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 and in-person 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.

For more than 23 years, Rozanne Worden, Child Care Food Program Director, has served licensed home child care providers by assisting with reimbursement for the cost of serving nutritious meals.





Pictured above/left, Randy Heisler, Operations Manager, demonstrates the proper use of the ADA ramp for individuals using mobility devices.

Pictured above/right, Heisler and Senior Operations Specialist, Shelby Jewell receive one of two new ADA Dodge Voyagers added to the public transit fleet. An improved feature is the 'push-button' sliding door.



Pictured above: The last two multi-purpose buses were auctioned off and headed north. The buses helped support demand response and head start transportation for almost 18 years.





Early Head Start

Newborn to 36 months & Pregnant Women

- 509 children served
- 47 pregnant women

Head Start

3 & 4 year olds

- 680 Head Start children served
- 10.9% of preschool children received disability services
- 93% of 1,010 families received specific services

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

Kim Rice, Early Head Start and Head Start Director



Chris Jones, Center Director at Sapulpa Head Start/Early Head Start is pictured standing outside the new building.

Teacher & Staff Credentials

39 Head Start Teachers

48.7% hold Bachelor Degrees

33.3% hold Associate Degrees

72 Early Head Start Teachers

1.39% hold Bachelor Degrees

9.72% hold Associate Degrees

58.33% hold CDA

30.56% working toward CDA

26 Family Support Advocates

90.91% hold a Bachelor or Associate Degree or a
Family Development Credential (FDC)

9.09% working on FDC

Health Services

80% of enrollees received medical services

9.1% were diagnosed for treatment

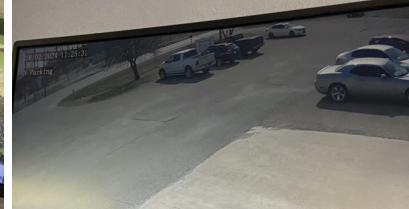
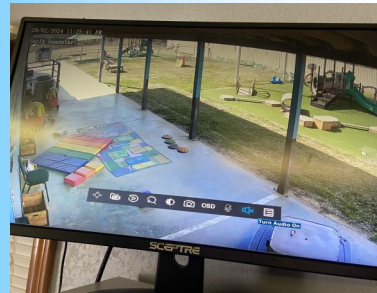
91.2% received treatment needed, during the year



Head Start Directors and Management Meeting.

Technology Updates

- Audio and video camera systems were installed in each center for the health and safety of children and staff. Staff can also utilize video as a training tool.
- Expanded usage of Google Forms and Surveys to gather information from centers, staff and parents. Data can be analyzed to assist with program planning.



Sample of camera video display at Pawnee Center. The site director has access to live feed for enhanced safety and monitoring throughout and outside each center.



Sandy Martin, Family Support Advocate, represented Early Head Start at the Wonderland Event, in Sapulpa, an opportunity to foster community and families with a night of festive joy.

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:

- 4,357 received emergency food assistance
- 1 received assistance purchasing fuel
- 335 received utility assistance
- 42 received emergency mortgage assistance or help with rent
- 3 received assistance with prescription purchase
- 140 individuals received Volunteer Income Tax Preparation Services
- Partnerships with local food banks facilitated the distribution of 20,477 bags of food
- Local collaborations assisted 4,062 individuals with 12,186 units of clothing
- 225 youth in Pawnee County received Christmas gifts through alliance with the Salvation Army for the Angel Tree project

Outreach



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



Lou Ann Hunt, outreach worker in Perry, is pictured left in the youth section at Operation Blessing.

Pictured above is the food pantry. All items at Operation Blessing are given free to those who need.

HOUSING

Single-Family Rentals

Billings—2 Blackwell—1

Fairfax—3 Newkirk—4

Pawnee—6 Perkins—2

Perry—2 Tonkawa—4



Pictured above: Agency staff re-sided 3 rental units in Pawnee during March.



Photo on right are of kitchens of 3 bedroom/2 bath rental units in Perkins. Three units are available, one is designated as ADA with veteran preference.



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 below:

The Pawnee Townhomes are multi-family apartments in Pawnee. One to three bedroom units are available; rent is subject to federal income guidelines.



Gary Vance, Housing Director

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 2023.

Housing

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

Education

- 10.9% of 4 year-olds received disability services.
- 21 low-income, single-parent families and 25 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 free public transit for 439 older, vulnerable Americans., allowing them to remain in their homes and live independently.
 - 236 seniors in Creek County received 11,055 trips
 - 104 seniors in Ponca City received 7,790 trips
 - 60 seniors in Osage County received 1,538 trips
 - 39 seniors in Pawnee County received 666 trips

- 1,708 Medicaid members received 27,642 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.
- 270 low-income individuals received 24,628 reduced fare rides to work and education. By removing a barrier, public transit provided a supportive community service to improve financial outcomes.
- 29 veterans received 394 free trips to medical appointments for improved health outcomes.
- 335 households received assistance with utility bills to maintain adequate living conditions.



In June, Head Start staff volunteered time cleaning yards to give back and support communities where they live and work.

2023 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:

20 Years of Service – Since September 1, 2003

Danea Courtright

Barbara Tharp

15 Years of Service – Since Sept. 1 2008

Starlet Herring

Teresa Olvera

Michal Ramirez

Dahrenda Shaw

Sheila Tucker

10 Years of Service – Since Sept. 1, 2013

Cassie Hansen

Martha Hernandez

Rickie Jones

Julie Pearson

Darlene Phillips

Agency Partners



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Johnny Bryant, Executive Director

Michelle Turner, Chief Financial Officer

Harold Harris, Chair Susan Case, Vice Chair

Margie Janzen, Secretary

James Adams, Treasurer

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



Bronson Grimes, UCAP board member for more than 20 years, left, pictured with Johnny Bryant, UCAP Executive Director.



Capacity Building

- **UCAP Volunteers donated 13,660 hours to increase community engagement.**
- **Board Member Development: 256 hours**
- **Transit staff completed 1,207 hours of elearning, hands on, industry and association training**



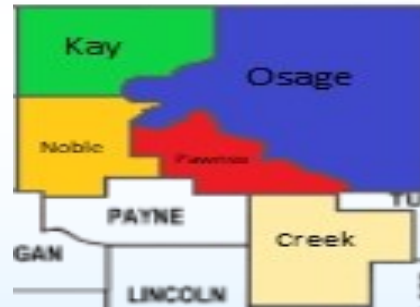
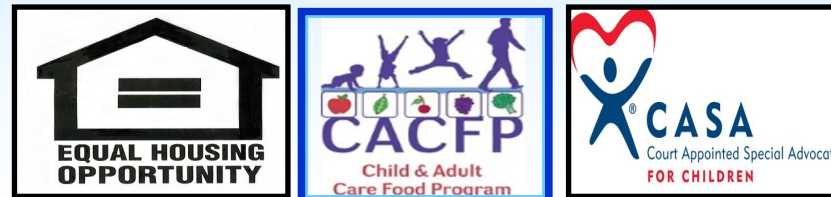
Above from left: James Adams, UCAP Board Treasurer, and Johnny Bryant, UCAP Executive Director, inspect newly renovated rental units, located in Perkins.



UCAP Board Member Billie Ponca, is pictured above. Ponca is standing beside a painting of her grand-aunt Lilly Burkhart, who was married to Bryan Burkhart, nephew of Bill Hale, of the movie and book, Killers of the Flower Moon.



**Cimarron
Public Transit**



United Community Action Program, Inc.

501 Sixth Street, Pawnee, OK 74058

918-762-3041

Visit us at www.ucapinc.org