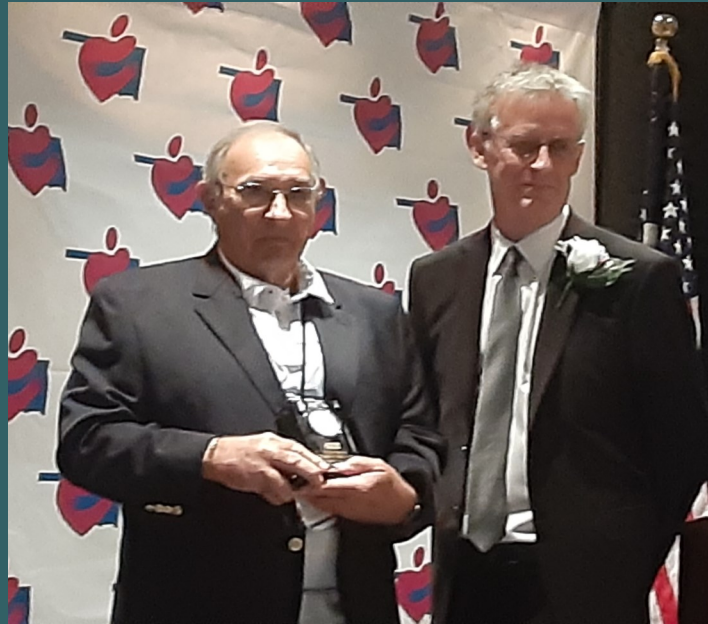




## *2024 Annual Report*



UCAP Executive Director Johnny Bryant was honored for 56 years of service to Community Action. The award was presented by Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies' President , Kent Watson, in September.



# Champion

United Community Action Program, Inc. honors JoBeth Spears as the agency's 2024 Champion. Spears has a long-standing commitment to community service, particularly through the Head Start Program, spanning more than two decades. Beginning as a young volunteer during Head Start's first summers in Pawnee led to a consulting role and eventually an appointment to the board.



With expertise in child development, nursing, and family relations, Spears dedicated her professional and volunteer efforts to supporting the needs of impoverished women and children.

Pictured left: Spears and husband, Bruce, on their farm.

"I personally want to thank you, Jo Beth, for your years of dedication to this agency," said Johnny Bryant, Executive Director. "You fill a vital role on our board and

your expertise on children and the Head Start Program is greatly appreciated and needed."

"JoBeth is an invaluable person, volunteer, community member and UCAP Board member," said, Kim Rice, Head Start Director. "She has expertise in the service areas provided by Head Start, ensuring children get the services and education needed to be their best selves." JoBeth was also a part of a group that started Pawnee Baby Boot Camp, providing instruction, resources and supplies to new mothers annually for seven years. Today, JoBeth continues to support the program through donations of money and home-made receiving blankets."

"Serving on the UCAP board has allowed me to learn more about the business side of running a multi-county, multi-benefit agency. The board has individuals with various talents and experience, as does the agency staff and administration," shared Spears.

Spears remains an active member of Blackburn OK Baptist Church and the New Horizons OHCE Club. Spears enjoys personal time with family, reading, crafting and farming.

## CHILD CARE FOOD PROGRAM

74 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 226,402 meals to an average of 448 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.*

# CASA

## PAWNEE AND OSAGE COUNTIES

### Accomplishments

- 17 Advocates served abused and neglected children in cases
- Volunteers donated 939 hours and traveled 10,318 miles advocating for children.
- 13 children adopted
- 15 children reunited with parents
- 2 children awarded guardianships
- 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*

**Kristin Donnelly and Stacy Blackburn attended the National Indian Child Welfare Association Conference in Seattle, Washington.**







Pawnee/Osage CASA partnered with the Osage Nation Indian Child Welfare to host a free bingo event in Hominy.



Above: CASA staff and volunteers attended the CASA Conference in April, in Oklahoma City.



CASA DHS Christmas Party benefited 16 children and 20 foster families.



81 individuals attended the Annual CASA Bingo Fundraiser held in July at the Pawnee Women's Building. More than \$3,450 was raised. Funds support general operation expenses.



Pictured left: Chance Tatum (with his daughter) and Troy Wilson (with his daughter) participated in the Annual CASA Golf Fund Raiser, which was held in September.

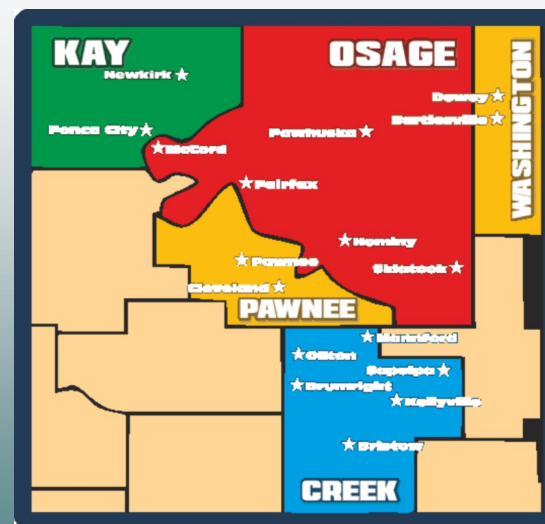


## 2024 Transit Data

- Replaced 3 ADA vehicles
- Traveled 1,079,111 miles
- Provided 116,585 trips
- Operated 85,001 hours
- 49% service to seniors and individuals with disabilities
- 54% of trips sponsored



*Laura Corff, Transit Director*





**Pictured above: Drivers pose at an iconic mural in Sapulpa.**



**Pictured above: Cimarron Transit provided transportation for Ponca City 8th graders to participate in Girl Power Camp.**



**Above left, a Pawnee driver in front of Dick Tracy mural in Pawnee.**



**Right: A 2023 Braun Wagon joined the fleet, serving Ponca City.**





Perry Early Head Start Fall activity



Blackwell Public Power visited Head Start in November.



Perry Head Start Fall Festival



Pawnee Head Start Thanksgiving with family



Sensory activities at Perry Head Start



Newborn to 36 months & Pregnant Women

- 516 children served
- 39 pregnant women



3 & 4 year olds

- 621 Head Start children served
- 11.8% of preschool children received disability services
- 90.5% of 1,013 EHS & HS received family services



*Kim Rice*

*Early Head Start and Head Start Director*

# Teacher & Staff Credentials

## 35 Head Start Teachers

43% hold Bachelor Degrees

34% hold Associate Degrees

## 72 Early Head Start Teachers

1.39% hold Bachelor Degrees

4.17% hold Associate Degrees

68% hold CDA

24.6% working toward CDA



Head Start teachers were able to build connections during the Sunbeam Conscious Discipline Training.

## 23 Family Support Advocates

91.3% hold a Bachelor or Associate Degree or a Family Development Credential (FDC)

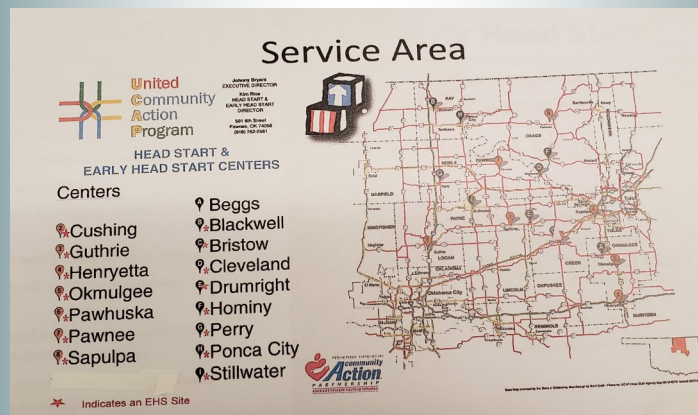
8.7% working on FDC

## Health Services

91.3% of enrollees received medical services

10% were diagnosed for treatment

98.7% received treatment needed, during the year



## Technology Updates

- Leak detection sensors were placed in Head Start and Early Head start buildings to provide alerts in the event of water leaks or temperature variances.

Pictured right:

Randy Heisler, UCAP Procurement Officer, (right) and Jason Gahring, MS, GSP, Sr. Risk Services Consultant for Philadelphia Insurance Companies, examine one of the new leak detection sensors at a Head Start site.



Left: Ponca City Head Start celebrated Dr. Seuss Day.



Above left: In March, crews prepared the site for a new Head Start and Early Head Start facility in Cushing. Pictured from left, James Adams, Board Treasurer, Johnny Bryant, Executive Director, and Randy Heisler, Procurement Officer. Above right, from left: Adams, Jerri Harris, Cushing Head Start Director, Bryant, Monica Sewell, Executive Assistant, and Heisler walked through the new facility in the fall, as it nears completion.



# HOUSING

## Single-Family Rentals

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



A new HVAC unit was installed in Ms. Sentel's rental home. Ms. Sentel has been a loyal tenant, since 1996.

In July, three (3) UCAP rentals in Newkirk received new roofs. Regular maintenance is a priority to support safe and affordable housing. Agency single-family rentals are typically 3 bed/2 bath homes. United CAP partners with the Oklahoma Housing and Finance Agency.



Pictured left: Ms. Davis became a new tenant in a UCAP single-family rental.

# 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

*Gary Vance, Housing Director*



The Pawnee Townhomes are multi-family apartments in Pawnee. One to three bedroom units are available; rent is subject to federal income guidelines. Pictured above is new tenant, Darlene, with Gary Vance, Housing Director.

# UCAP Makes A Difference

*Low income lives were advanced throughout the year as a result of UCAP 's priorities to address the following community needs in 2024.*

## Housing

- 49 families received safe and affordable housing.
- 50 households avoided eviction and subsequent homelessness, receiving rental/mortgage assistance.

## Education

- 11.8% of 4 year-olds received disability services.
- 24 low-income, single-parent families and 26 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. Public transit provided more than 7,235 free trips.

## Tax Preparation

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

## **Other outcomes:**

- **Cimarron Transit provided free or reduced fare public transit for 376 older, vulnerable Americans, allowing them to remain in their homes and live independently.**
  - 212 seniors in Creek County received 12,877 trips
  - 95 seniors in Ponca City received 6,868 trips
  - 55 seniors in Osage County received 2,256 trips
  - 14 seniors in Pawnee County received 110 trips
- **1,355 Medicaid and 54 Medicare Advantage members received 25,669 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.**
- **324 low-income individuals received 24,964 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 295 free trips to medical appointments for improved health outcomes.**
- **266 households received assistance with utility bills to maintain adequate living conditions.**

## ***Family & Community Services Move Individuals Forward***

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

- 3,661 received emergency food assistance
- 266 received utility assistance
- 50 received emergency mortgage assistance or help with rent
- 2 received assistance with prescription purchase
- 169 individuals received Volunteer Income Tax Preparation Services
- Partnerships with local food banks facilitated the distribution of 14,644 bags of food
- Local collaborations assisted 6,230 individuals with 18,690 units of clothing
- 225 youth in Pawnee County received Christmas gifts through an 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



Above left: First Bank and Trust in Pawnee, presented a \$500 check to The Salvation Army of Pawnee County, during its 12 Days of Christmas Giving. Pictured from left: Carolyn Fisher, FB & T, Monica Sewell and Crystal Kirkham, both from UCAP. Above right: FB & T also presented \$500 to United CAP during 12 Days of Christmas Giving. From Left: Fisher, Johnny Bryant, Kirkham, Janet Thrasher, Sewell, Holly Evans and Randy Heisler accept the donation.



Photo on left: During 12 Days of Christmas Giving, First Bank and Trust of Perry, donated \$500 to support Operation Blessing. Pictured from left: Nicole Reeves, First Bank and Trust, Lou Ann Hunt, Operation Blessing, and Stacy Whited, First Bank and Trust.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



*Johnny Bryant, Executive Director*

*Michelle Turner, Chief Financial Officer*

*Harold Harris, Chair     Susan Case, Vice Chair*

*Teresa Bates Rutherford, Secretary*

*James Adams, Treasurer*

## *Members:*

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



The UCAP Board meets bi-monthly at the agency's headquarters in Pawnee.



# Capacity Building

- **United CAP Volunteers donated 23,203 hours to increase community engagement.**
- **Board Member Development: 190.5 hours**
- **Transit staff completed 987 hours of on-line elearning, industry and association training.**



Pictured above from left: Board member Chris Burnett and Board Chair Harold Harris visit with Housing staff member Walter Weide.



UCAP board members attended the Region VI Conference in Santa Fe, NM.



Community Actions from Region VI (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas) gathered in Santa Fe, New Mexico in April 2024. Shown above are those who attended from across Oklahoma. Community Actions celebrated their 60th year!



Advocating for community action, a UCAP delegation visited with legislators at the Capitol in March. Pictured from left: Adam Wheeler, Gary Vance, Monica Sewell, Crystal Kirkham and Randy Heisler.



Pictured left to right: Janet Thrasher, Human Resource Manager, Adam Wheeler, IT Manager, and new board member, Roy Fleshman.



Gary Vance, pictured left, visits with board member Mike Waters.



Executive Director, Johnny Bryant, left, and Board Treasurer, James Adams, visit the Cushing Head Start Center.



Left: Randy Heisler, Operations Manager, and Laura Corff, Transit Director, attend the South West Transit Association Conference.

Right: Corff and Kristen Joyner pick up training material at the National Rural Transit Assistance booth during the URSTA Conference, in Logan, UT.



# Partners



# 2024 Service Awards

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

## **35 Years of Service – Since September 1, 1989**

*Virginia Dvorak – Finance*

## **25 Years of Service – Since Sept. 1999**

*Donna Graves – Head Start*

*Randy Heisler – CSBG/Cimarron Transit*

*Beverly Johnson – Head Start/Early Head Start*

*Chris Jones – Early Head Start*

*Walter Weide – Housing*

*Rozanne Worden – Child Care Food Program*

## **20 Years of Service – Since Sept. 2004**

*Susan Anderson – Early Head Start*

*Sandra Dailey – Head Start/Early Head Start*

*Joni Gibson – Head Start*

*Kathryn Griffith – Head Start/Early Head Start*

*Lori Harbour – Cimarron Transit*

*Sherry Howry – Head Start/Early Head Start*

*Christine Jones – Head Start/Early Head Start*

*Leanne Knight – Head Start/Early Head Start*

*Sara Quinton – Head Start/Early Head Start*

*Charlene Stage – Head Start*

*Melissa Ward – Head Start/Early Head Start*

## 2024 Service Awards Continued

### 15 years of Service – Since September 2009

*Lynn Farmer – Early Head Start*

*Tiffani Gaches – Head Start/Early Head Start*

*Michelle Hedge – Head Start/Early Head Start*

*Angela Williams – Head Start/Early Head Start*

### 10 Years of Service – Since September 2014

*Vivian Brown – Head Start/Early Head Start*

*Elizabeth Gutierrez – Head Start*

*Brittany Harmon – Head Start/Early Head Start*

*Nathan Heintz – Cimarron Transit*

*Tammy Madden – Head Start/Early Head Start*

*Yris Mondragon – Head Start*

*Vickie Self-Scruggs – Cimarron Transit*

*Heather Tennial – Head Start/Early Head Start*







**Cimarron  
Public Transit**



## United Community Action Program, Inc.

501 Sixth Street, Pawnee, OK 74058

918-762-3041

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