

United Community Action  
Program,  
Head Start/Early Head Start

# United For Families

Volume 1, Issue 1

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## From the Desk of Ronda Brothers...

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the United Community Action Program (UCAP) Head Start/Early Head Start Newsletter, First Edition. The success of our publication depends upon all of us making a commitment to share news-worthy events and topics of common interests.

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While the over arching goal driving our newsletter is to “share UCAP news”, we must be thoughtful in the presentation to define Head Start/Early Head Start experience for those outside our family. In other words, our newsletter should be a window into the world of Head Start and Early Head Start that invites inquiry, inspires community involvement and fosters our vision and mission.

**Vision: A community together can solves its own problems.**

**Mission: To provide a child-focused, family-centered environment that prepares children for life-long learning.**

To that end, we hope you share our excitement in finally launching the newsletter. We invite each of you to share ideas for monthly, as well as special features!

**Quotation: Time Management by Marc Mancini**

**The ABC System (Time Management) in a Nutshell:**

**To summarize, here are the tasks the letters represent:**

**A tasks: Critical and time-sensitive.**

**B tasks: Important, but slightly less time-sensitive than A tasks.**

**C tasks: Not time-sensitive-yet.**

**D tasks: Optional-nice, but neither important, nor time sensitive.**

**“Lining Up Your Ducks: Prioritize!**

**AND, be sure to take time to enjoy your day!**

*Ronda Brothers*



## SPOTLIGHT on Henryetta's New Early Head Start Program

On September 3, 2008, Henryetta Early Head Start welcomed 8 more children through its doors. While UCAP's Henryetta Head Start has been serving 3 to 5 year-olds in the community since 1995, there has been a growing need for a program that would serve the younger children, from birth to 3 years-old. UCAP management and Henryetta staff responded to that need by dedicating their efforts to converting an unused classroom into a welcoming, cheerful environment for 0 to 3 year-olds. On September 2, 2008, Henryetta Early Head Start opened its doors to the community for an Open House. The building overflowed with parents and other community members, including public officials and leaders from the private sector. During a day that



**Henryetta EHS Staff:**  
Tracy Sunka, Ginger Hendershot  
and Christy Smith

included a Meet and Greet with staff, a tour of the new classroom and new playground, and some welcoming refreshments, Keith Estes from the 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank of Henryetta, called the new program "great for the community" and "a much needed service." Ruby

Weston, from the Henryetta Public Library, commented on both the "very good" staff and "very cheerful" surroundings. After having dedicated more than 25 years to Head Start, Ada Jones, Center Site Manager, calls the Early Head Start program "a lot of fun and an adventure for children and staff." The smiles and laughter that greet you when you walk in the door are not new, after all Head Start has been providing this positive environment for years now. But, the genuine joy that flows from this building is somehow deeper and more infectious now. How happy the addition of these 8 children and families has made us!

**Congratulations Henryetta on your new "adventure"!**

## Staff Achievements for 2008-2009 School Year

The 2008-2009 School Year has been an excellent year for the Head Start/Early Head Start Staff, who have been working hard to further their education. This year, we had 21 staff people who have completed their CDA's, all from various centers, as well as 2 who have received their Associate's Degrees, and 2 who have received their Bachelor's Degrees!

Congratulations Everyone!

### CDA'S

Jennifer Bellis  
Sheila Northern  
Crystal Major  
Valerie Hughes  
Ebony Bruton  
Misty Bruner  
Jackie Gardener  
Regina Williams  
Sheryl Martin  
Lisa Stinnett  
Amie Plum

Janet Jones  
Donneshia Hickman  
Donna Hemphill  
Griffin Hemphill  
Brenda Demry  
Angela Phillips  
Tammy Kemp  
Charlene Stage  
Marsha Coon  
Melissa Hood  
Andrea Robinson

### A.A. Degrees

Christine Jones  
Kathryn Scott

### B.A. Degrees

Judith King  
Marnae Johnson

## DISABILITIES:

Submitted by Paula Brown, Head Start 0-5 Disabilities Manager

"RESPITE CARE VOUCHERS AVAILABLE"

Families of children with disabilities can apply for respite care vouchers through OASIS while they are on the DDS Waiting List. For many families respite can be the one service of greatest need and the hardest to find. Families can use the vouchers to go away for the weekend, go out to dinner or for whatever they wish to do to recharge their battery! To apply, families may call (888)770-4550 and ask for Melissa or Carolyn. They will be happy to send out an application.

## Weatherization Department Now Accepting Applications for Weatherization Services

United Community Action Program, Inc. Head Start/Early Head Start has fantastic news for all parents and staff!!!

The Weatherization Department is now accepting applications for the weatherization of the homes of all staff parents of Head Start/Early Head Start children. Each center has applications readily available and will help parents complete the applications.

For anyone who resides in Payne or Logan County, please see your local Head Start/Early Head Start center, who will refer you to the Central Oklahoma Community Action

Agency. For anyone residing in Okmulgee County, please see your local Head Start/Early Head Start center, who will refer you to the Deep Fork Community Action Agency in Okmulgee.

Anyone with any questions may call the United Community Action Program, Inc. Central Office, at (918) 762-2561, and request to speak to Charmaine Crisp, or Robyn Domeny in the Weatherization Department. Please be sure to get your applications in ASAP, as the Weatherization Department runs on a first come, first served basis.

### Marnae Johnson

My name is Marnae Johnson. I am married to Jeremy and we have three wonderful children. I became a volunteer for UCAP when my oldest son, Robert, was in Head Start in 1994. I continued to volunteer while my daughter, Jennifer, was in Head Start and also while my son, Kiley was in Early Head Start and Head Start. I continued to volunteer until I became employed with UCAP on August 18, 1998. I wanted to further my education and learn more about the development of young children so I enrolled at

I can finally say,  
"I am a college graduate."

Tulsa Community College. It was a tough journey while raising my children and providing kinship foster care for five other children. I wanted to quit college so many times through the years but my family and co-workers were behind me, keeping me encouraged. I received my Associates degree in Education in December 2006. It was the greatest feeling knowing that I would be the second child of 13 other

siblings to go and finish college. This encouraged me to still further my education so I enrolled at Bacone College where I received my Bachelors degree in Early Childhood in December 2008. I am a firm believer that anything is possible. Through all of my struggles and disbeliefs I can finally say, "I am a college graduate." I am thankful for all those who encouraged me to finish college. Thank you to UCAP for all of your help in helping to achieve my dreams and goals.

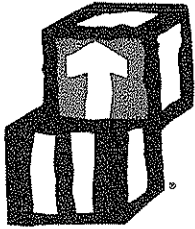
### Judith King

In 1996, I started with Henryetta Head Start as a volunteer, when my second child was just 3. I wished I had known about the program sooner. I had the privilege to work with Elaine Kisse who started a Day Care center in the Henryetta Head Start Program which I ran for a year. When the program closed, I went back to work in the medical field as a Home Health nurse. In July of 2000, a case manager position came open and I applied for

the job and got it. That is where my journey began.....With the continuing support from my husband, Raymond, sons, Spudd and Trae and my daughter Sydne plus a little pushing from Ada Jones (site manager) I obtained my CDA through UCAP and then went on to TCC and obtained my Associates Degree in 2006. In May of 2008, I graduated from Bacone College with a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education. Through this

process, I have had enormous support from my Henryetta Head Start family and support from my families that I have been able to work with while their child/ren was with me in Head Start. There is not enough words or ways to express the appreciation I have for UCAP. They have giving me an opportunity to excel in something I dearly love...working with children and families.

**United Community Action  
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Head Start/Early Head Start**



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## Resource Corner:

The following are helpful websites, provided by Connie Hall.

- <http://www.grandpatucker.com>
- <http://www.teachingheart.net/veryhungrycaterpillar.html>
- <http://free.ed.gov/index.cfm>
- <http://aces.nmsu.edu/ces/nmcyfar/index.html>
- <http://www.makinglearningfun.com/index.html>

**These sites contain valuable information, from rhymes and stories, to fun activities to do with the children. Check them out!! Just remember, you can't use the coloring sheets offered on these sites!**

**We're on the web!  
[www.ucapinc.org](http://www.ucapinc.org)**

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## Rebecca Gutierrez

Rebecca Gutierrez serves as a Case Manager in the Sapulpa Head Start program. An immigrant from Mexico, Rebecca not only serves in her classroom, but helps all the Hispanic families in her center and Sapulpa EHS as well. Mary Gilford, her Area Supervisor stated, "I have witnessed her speaking with families and you can see the comfort in the families of having her speak their language. Rebecca is respectful and professional in how she interacts with families." Rebecca's commitment to assist families and inform them about the program, as well as her dedication to her job, working with children and all families makes her stand out. She is a very hard worker and as a



**Sapulpa Head Start Teacher,  
Rebecca Gutierrez**

teacher, she goes the extra mile to ensure her children have a great learning environment. One day Mary

saw her quietly entering the building with a big sack and asked her, "What you got there?" and she said "Oh, I have been to the library and got some books for the children". Each morning she is organized and has her lesson plan posted and ready for the day when the children arrive. She has overcome the challenges of going several months with no Co-Teacher in her class, but she has never wavered in fulfilling her responsibilities to her children.

Thanks Rebecca for a job well done!!!!

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