



# Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation

*Carl Rosenkranz, Executive Director*

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Matthew Evans, Resource Development Director; 417.864.3448 or [mevans@oacac-cao.org](mailto:mevans@oacac-cao.org).

Do you recall curling up with a good book as a child? Can you remember the excitement of picking out a new book to read? Imagine, for a moment, not having those memories...not having a book. Sadly, this is a very real situation for many children and low-income families in the Ozarks. Fortunately, there is a program currently working to give the opportunity for our area's children to create their own memories for the future.

OACAC (Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation) Head Start provides a comprehensive learning experience for children from birth to six years of age from low-income families. Head Start teaches the children to have positive attitudes about themselves and learning. The children receive healthy meals, medical and dental care, counseling and services for children with special needs; all at no charge to the family.

At Head Start, we find it is important to also provide support to parents. Our parents are encouraged to participate in the child's health care, day-to-day classroom activities and many difference child-parent programs.

One of the programs that Head Start is presently working with is "Reading is Fundamental" (RIF): A program designed to promote literacy in low-income families. Books are purchased and distributed to almost 1600 children. Our current goal is to distribute three books for children in the school-year program and five books to children in the full-year program. The RIF program provides Head Start with funding to assist in buying these books. However, we must match this federal money with local contributions.

Our goal for 2009 is to reach \$3000 in contributions by July 1. To reach this goal, we need your support and would like you consider our community program by contributing as a partner with the OACAC Head Start's "Reading is Fundamental" Program.

If you are able to assist us with our goal, or a portion thereof, our program and its families will be very grateful. Please feel free to contact our organization for any further information that you may need.

### **OACAC PROGRAMS:**

*Neighborhood Centers, 417-873-3340; Weatherization, 417-865-7797  
Housing, 417-864-3444; LIHEAP, 417- 873-3460; Family Planning, 417-864-3410;  
Foster Grandparents, 417-864-3420; Head Start, 417-864-3430;*

### **SERVING THESE COUNTIES:**

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