



Every year, at Head Start, we provide:

- ✦ preschool education and family support for up to 40 children
- ✦ the best preschool academic program available
- ✦ preventive health care for each child
- ✦ free dental exams and treatment
- ✦ family goal planning and other social services
- ✦ emergency assistance via referrals to local resources
- ✦ well supervised staff with degrees or CDA credentials
- ✦ nutritional services
- ✦ hearing, vision, speech and language screenings
- ✦ special education services for children with disabilities



### RAM Clinic

In April, Head Start organized the first RAM (Rural Area Medical) Clinic in Spencer which provided free eye care including glasses, dental cleanings, fillings and extractions to 712 people!! These services are performed by volunteers who donate their time, and RAM who provides materials. The total value of services was \$134,220!! You can learn more about RAM, based in Knoxville, Tn., by visiting their website at:

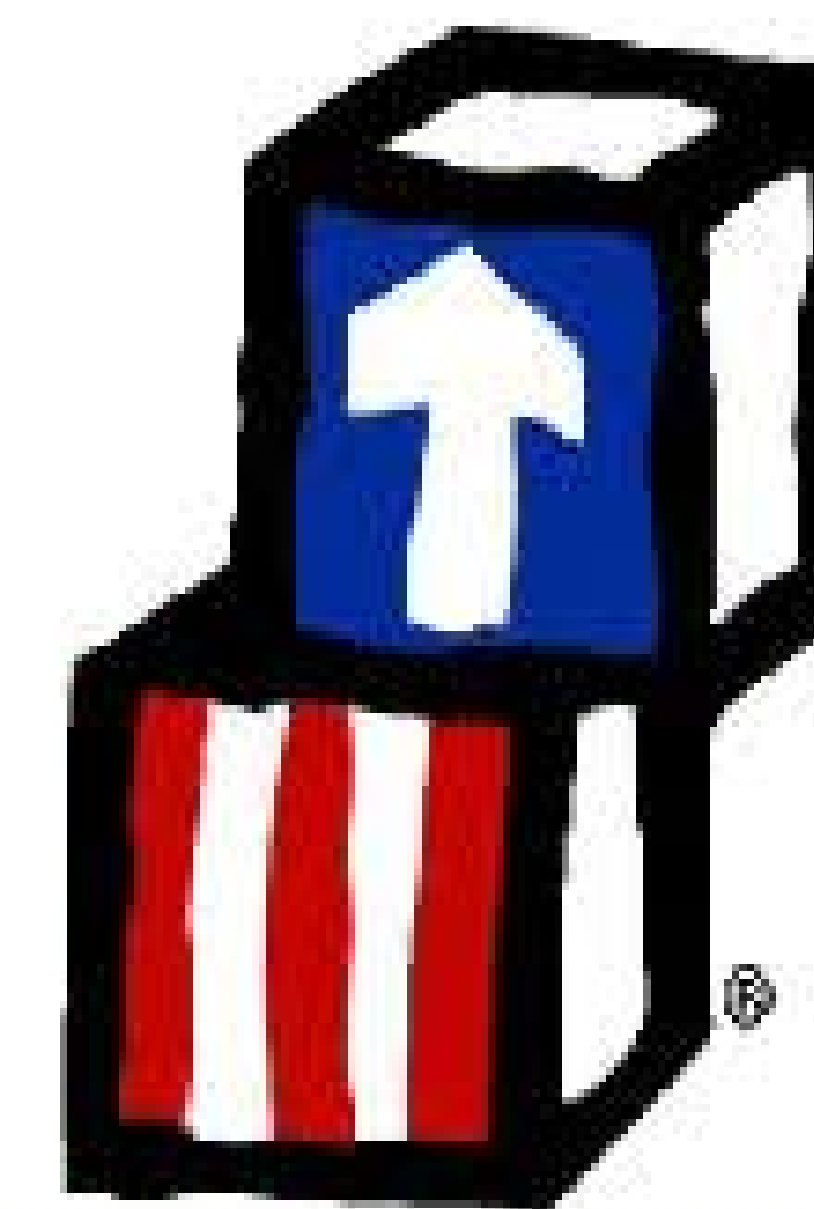
[www.ram-usa.org](http://www.ram-usa.org)

## UCHRA

Van Buren Co. Head Start  
"Hand in Hand,  
Together We Can"



Federal Review, NAEYC and the Star Program Indicate Excellence! We passed our last Federal review with flying colors! We are also accredited with the prestigious National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). We receive the highest rating of three stars from the State's Three Start program. We are proud to have had this rating since the inception of the state's STAR licensing program! All of our documents are available for public inspection.



Head Start is operated by the Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency (UCHRA) in Cookeville, Tn. In addition to the Federal Grant of \$325,855 for Head Start, UCHRA Van Buren Co. Head Start also receives \$18,878 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture as reimbursement for the cost of food used in Head Start. We also receive \$97,151 in kind as donations from parents, families and community businesses and individuals!

### Annual Report 2009

Information in this brochure is designed to fulfill requirements of the Head Start federal law related to reports to the general public.

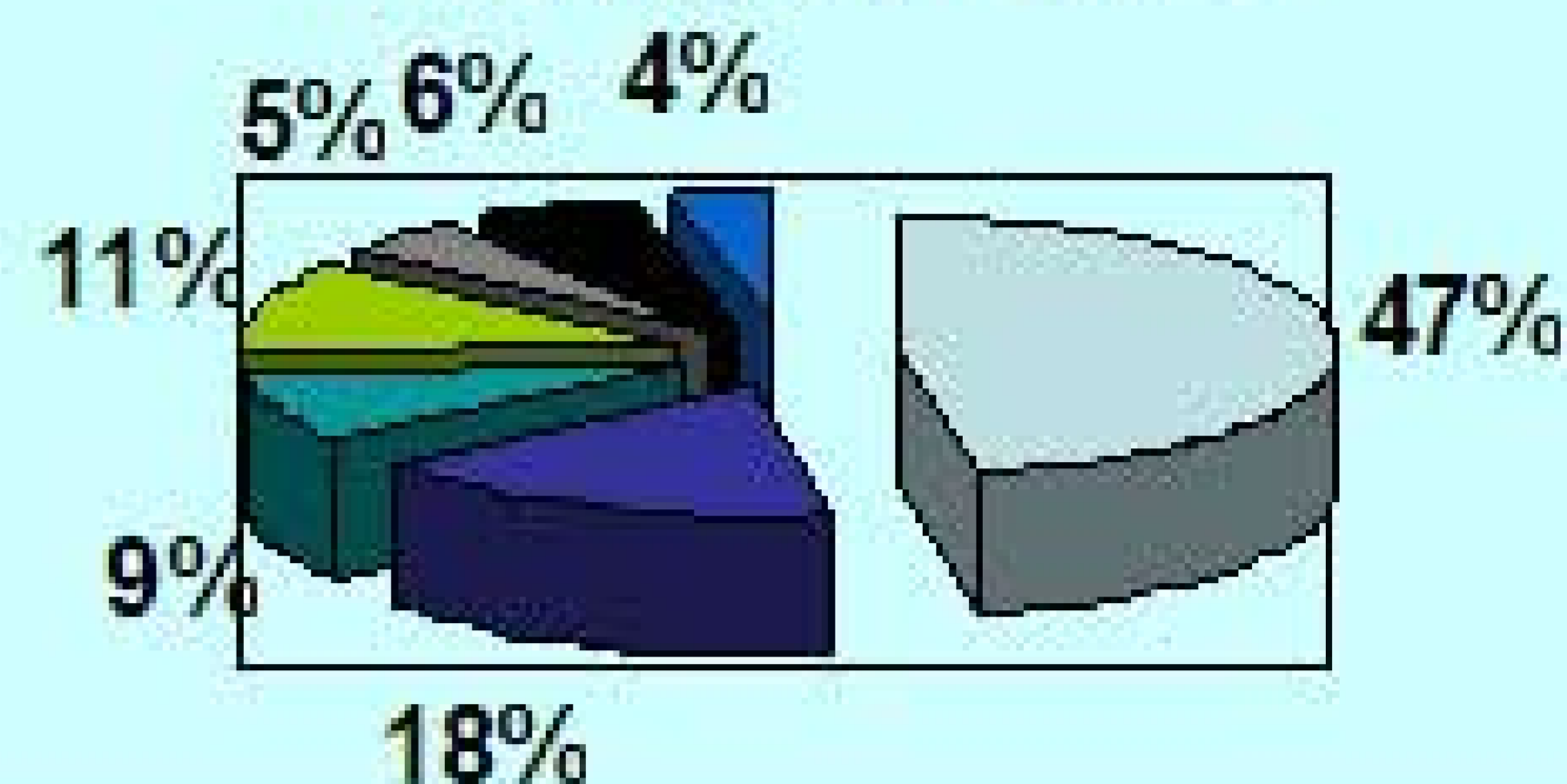
# Van Buren County Head Start....

.....provides the very best preschool experiences children in our area can have.....

We maintain a  
Three Star  
Rating with the  
State's Three Star  
Program!



## Where the Money Comes From and Where It Goes



- Salaries
- Indirect
- Supplies
- Contractual
- Taxes and Benefits
- Other
- Fleet Mgmt.

Uchra Van Buren Co. Head Start operates two classrooms in this isolated community. We are licensed to serve 40 children. Each class has a teacher and a co-teacher. We have a Family/Community Partnership Specialist that works with families providing social services as well as organizing parent involvement activities and and developing community involvement through partnerships. We also have a Health Services Specialist for health and disability services. The Family Service Worker/Transition Specialist coordinates literacy programs and transitions children to kindergarten. Our children have their meals cooked on-site and are served family style until they are ready for kindergarten transition. Meals are then served cafeteria style to introduce children as to what they can expect in public school. Our food is nutritious, designed to appeal to pre-schoolers and is low fat, low sodium and low sugar.

At UCHRA Van Buren Co. Head Start, we carefully assess our students to keep track of where they are scholastically. We are working very hard to help children to continue to improve and are adding more curriculum in Science and Math. One way we are achieving this is by incorporating the computers we recieved from a grant. These Little Tykes computers, made possible through donations from IBM and PACER, are loaded with software that is child friendly, teaching students math and science skills while they have fun!



### MORE THAN EDUCATION.....

At Head Start, we have 17 Literacy programs which many involve the whole family. We also help children to develop socially and emotionally, helping them to acquire a strong sense of self to become confident, learn self control and cooperate with others. Children are taught good practices such as handwashing and good dental hygiene. We have a dental program which educates children to take care of their teeth. We encourage physical exercise and have a great playground with many activities to enjoy.

- Parent Involvement Activities
- Father and Child Birdhouses
- Parent Volunteers in Classrooms
- Adult Education Job Fair
- Domestic Violence Presentations
- Smoking Cessation
- Field Trips MVP Day
- Parent Committee
- Book Fair Mom's Day Out
- Parenting Classes

### Parent Involvement Field Trip

Did you ever try to outrun a cheetah? Students at Head Start tried just that on a recent field trip! Every year, the Parent Committee raises money for a field trip, a low cost option that parents can do with their children. This year, the destination was the Hands-On Science Center in Tullahoma, Tn.! Everyone enjoyed the activities throughout the Center, which is geared towards young children, including meeting some of the animal residents. The Parent Committee raised enough funds to also have a pizza party at the Center and a good time was had by all while learning more about science.

