



## From Jane's Desk...

Greetings HACAP Team Members,

I hope that everyone has had the opportunity to take advantage of some of the enjoyable activities that summer offers to us. I have to say that I have enjoyed going to baseball games, gardening, swimming, bike riding and just sitting outside enjoying a great book!!!

We continue to navigate through the information and proposed changes coming out of our Nation's Capital. As information is received, we wait for guidance to come from our funding agencies on implementation.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming All Staff Meeting on August 18th. The planning committee has been busy putting the finishing touches on the fun and information filled day that we will be spending together.

Please take time to read about some of the wonderful things that are happening at HACAP featured in this month's newsletter and as always, if you have questions or want to share your thoughts please send them to me.

Thank you for being a committed and loyal HACAP Team Member!!

Jane

### MISSION

Helping people develop skills to become successful and build strong communities.

### VISION

A thriving community where all people have the same opportunities

### THE PROMISE OF COMMUNITY ACTION

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live.

We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

### OUR PARTNERS





## HACAP Staff Join Statewide Leaders at 2025 Spark: A Summit for Good

HACAP staff recently participated in the 2025 Spark: A Summit for Good, powered by the Iowa Community Action Association (ICAA), held at Prairie Meadows in Altoona, Iowa. This annual summit brought together community-based organizations and advocates from across the state, all working toward a shared mission: creating pathways for economic mobility and strengthening Iowa's communities, families, and individuals.

HACAP was proud to be well-represented throughout the summit. A special highlight was the recognition of **Rick Randall**, who was honored by ICAA as the longest tenured employee—a well-deserved tribute to his decades of service and dedication to the mission of community action.

Additionally, HACAP staff took the floor with an impactful presentation by **Katie Kascel**, **David Hagen**, **Aron Brecht**, and **Chris Ackman**, who each shared insights and innovations from their areas of work. Another summit highlight was the Innovation Forum led by **Whitney Sanger**, which encouraged creative thinking and collaboration among attendees. Behind the scenes, the success of SPARK was made possible in part by HACAP's own Whitney Sanger and **Keri Burian**, who served on the planning committee. Their hard work helped ensure an enriching and inspiring experience for all.

The summit also gave HACAP staff the chance to connect with peers from across Iowa, share ideas, and return home with fresh inspiration to continue making a difference in the communities we serve. As Spark reminded us, when we come together with purpose, we ignite the power of people and possibility.





## Sweet Summertime at Head Start

Is there anything better than an ice-cold glass of lemonade on a warm summer day? At HACAP Head Start, we're turning those sunny moments into learning opportunities!

As part of our hands-on approach, kids recently learned how to make their own lemonade—squeezing, mixing, and tasting every step of the way. Teaching children how to prepare their own food and drinks builds confidence, independence, and lifelong skills.

So next time you see a Head Start lemonade stand, be sure to stop by. Those lemons were definitely freshly squeezed—by kids who know how it's done!

**An early  
start  
leads to  
a bright  
future.**

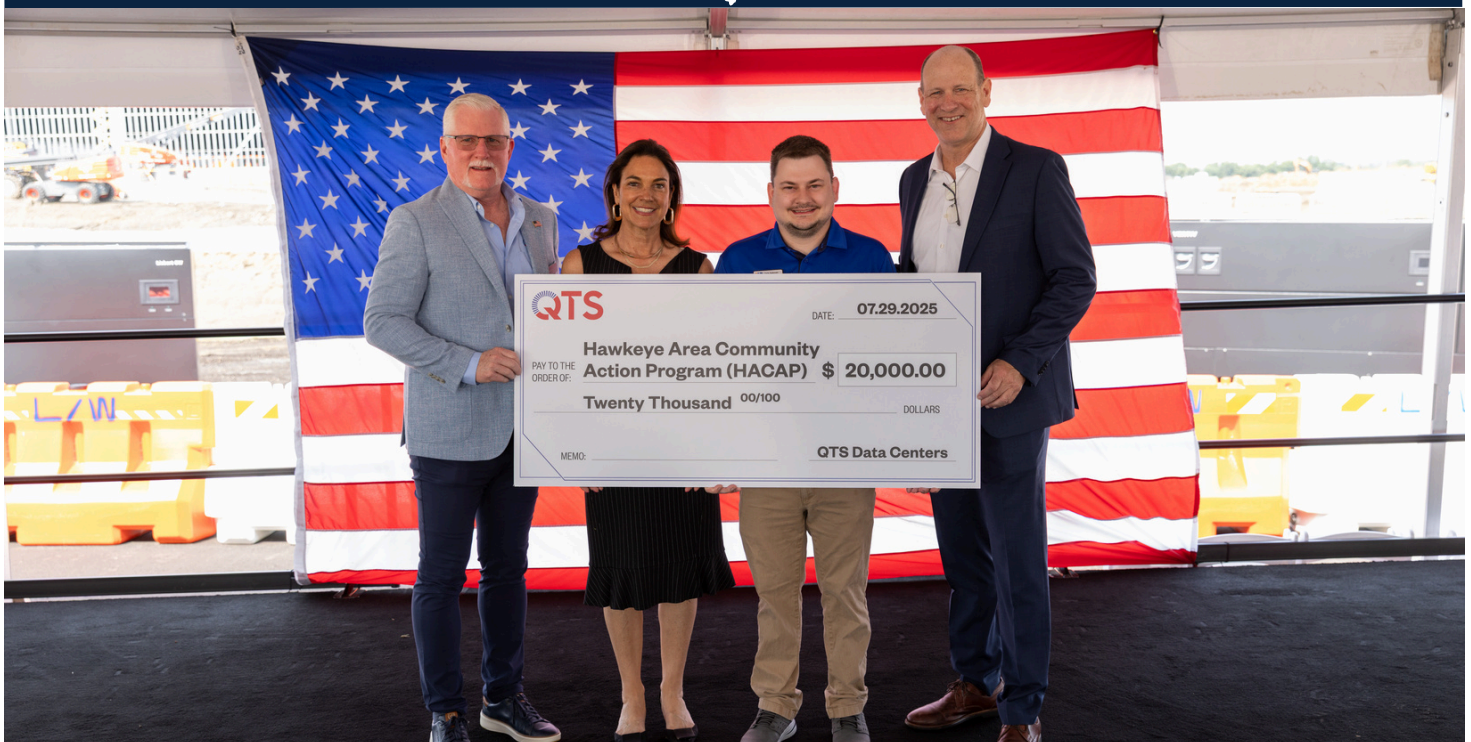
Register for  
Head Start today at  
[hacap.org/headstart](https://hacap.org/headstart)



We know—thinking about back-to-school during summer break isn't at the top of anyone's list. The sun is shining, the shades are on, and the summer vibes are strong.

But while you're soaking up the season, now's the perfect time to plan ahead.

HACAP Head Start and Early Head Start are now enrolling for the upcoming school year! Our programs support children's learning and development while giving families the tools they need to thrive.



## QTS Supports Local Impact with Generous \$20,000 Donation to HACAP at Fairfax Groundbreaking

QTS, a leading provider of data center solutions, reaffirmed its commitment to community impact by donating \$20,000 to HACAP during its recent groundbreaking ceremony in Fairfax. This is the second time QTS has shown its support for HACAP this year, having previously donated \$20,000 at the official announcement of the new data center in January.

The Fairfax groundbreaking event not only marked an exciting milestone for QTS but also served as a celebration of community partnerships. In addition to HACAP, several other local nonprofits received generous contributions from QTS, including Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Junior Achievement, Habitat for Humanity, and the Monarch Research Project. HACAP is proud to partner with organizations like QTS that understand the importance of giving back to the community they now call home. Their support will help further HACAP's mission to build stronger communities by addressing essential needs and empowering families across Eastern Iowa.

As Fairfax welcomes this new development, QTS is helping ensure that the benefits of growth and investment extend to the people who need it most.





## Muffins for Meals: A Sweet Success for Local Families

HACAP Food Reservoir teamed up with local bakery Feedwell for a special campaign that was as heartwarming as it was delicious—Muffins for Meals! Thanks to the incredible community support, we raised enough to help provide 2,955 meals for families facing food insecurity in Eastern Iowa.

The event was a huge success—so much so that we completely sold out with an hour left! It's clear that when good food meets a good cause, people show up.

A big thank you to our friends at Feedwell for partnering with us, and to everyone who stopped by to support the cause. Manning the stand with smiles and energy were **Craig and Cari Stiefel**, along with our Marketing Intern **Colton Chism**, who helped make the day run smoothly.

Because of your support, more families will have access to the nutritious food they need. Now that's a win worth celebrating—with muffins, of course!





## Say hello and Please Welcome Matt Majeski, our new Chief Operating Officer!

With more than 25 years dedicated to supporting families and strengthening communities, Matt brings a wealth of experience and genuine passion to HACAP. From his early work developing intervention programs in Minnesota to nearly two decades leading services across eastern Iowa, he's built a career on making a real difference.

Matt earned his BA from Cornell College and his MA from UNI in psychology, and he's worked alongside nonprofits and public health agencies throughout his journey. He lives in Urbana with his wife Paige and their two lively dogs. He is also a proud dad of two. A retired Lieutenant Colonel in the Army National Guard, Matt has served overseas—and fun fact: he somehow managed to avoid getting any tattoos!

***“We are excited to welcome Matt to HACAP,” said Jane Drapeaux, CEO of HACAP. “His broad experience, collaborative leadership style, and deep understanding of the region make him an outstanding fit for our organization. Matt has a strong ability to bring people together to solve complex challenges, and his insight will be instrumental as we continue to grow and adapt to meet the needs of our communities.”***

We're beyond excited to have Matt's leadership, energy, and heart driving our work forward. Find our full story welcoming Matt on our website at [hacap.org/news](https://hacap.org/news).

## Spread the Word! Upcoming Family Learning Connection Events



### Kid Connect

Series Dates: Wednesdays, 9/10 - 10/29 (8 weeks)

Session Times: 9:30-11:00 AM

Location: Hiawatha Public Library, 150 W Willman St, Hiawatha

For: Linn County families with children up to age 5

Cost: No Cost - FREE

Description: A family playgroup with a purpose! Parents and caregivers will learn how young children learn best and ways to extend learning at home. Children will learn concepts through meaningful play and build skills that can help with school success.

[Register Online Here](#)

[Download Flyer](#)



### Parenting Young Children: Kids-n-Canvas

Series Dates: Tuesdays, 4/8 - 5/13 (6 weeks)

Session Times: 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Location: College Community ECC, 401 76th Ave SW, Cedar Rapids

For: Linn County families with children up to age 5

Cost: No Cost - FREE

Description: A 6-week group tailored to the families' parenting questions and topics of interest. Each week, the facilitator will provide parent/caregiver content and family ART activities. All the fun of doing different art projects each week & none of the mess at home!

[Register Online Here](#)

[Download Flyer](#)