

HACAP UPDATES

From the month of **November 2025**



From Jane's Desk

Greetings HACAP Team,

As we enter the Thanksgiving holiday season, I pause and think of the many things I have to be thankful for. One of the first things that comes to mind for me are the committed members in our HACAP family, the team members, donors, and volunteers.

We are so fortunate to have friends and neighbors who give their resources, both in time and money, to help us further our mission. Our agency is most fortunate, however, to have our committed team members who work every day to provide opportunities for children and families to succeed. We have you to thank for making a difference in their lives!!!

I feel so blessed to have been a part of this organization for over twenty five years!!!

I hope you enjoy reading about some of the great things that are going on at HACAP in this newsletter.

Here's to a wonderful Thanksgiving with whomever, wherever, and however you choose to celebrate.

Enjoy!!!!

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.



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Pierce Family Spreads Warmth with Annual Holiday Coat Donation for Head Start Kids

Friday, November 7

A heartfelt thank-you to the Pierce Family for their generous donation of coats for our Head Start program. For the past four years, they've made this an annual tradition, and we're deeply grateful for their continued kindness and support. Each winter, their generosity helps ensure that our children stay warm, comfortable, and ready to learn. Their commitment is a wonderful reminder of how community compassion makes a lasting difference in young lives.

Hands-On Fall Fun: Exploring Pumpkin Seeds at Head Start!

Monday, November 3

Our Early Head Start kids recently got hands-on with a favorite fall activity, exploring pumpkins! The children eagerly dug into the bright orange pumpkins, feeling the slippery seeds and stringy pulp as part of a fun sensory learning experience. This activity encouraged curiosity, fine motor development, and language skills as they described textures and shared their discoveries with teachers and friends. Most importantly, it brought lots of smiles and laughter!



UKG

Keep your timesheet accurate and up to date through the UKG app.
For any assistance or questions, contact timesheet@hacap.org

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Honoring Our Veterans and the Team Helping Them Find Home

Tuesday, November 11 (Veteran's Day) 🇺🇸

As we take time this Veterans Day to honor those who have served our country, we also recognize the incredible work of our Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) team—whose dedication, compassion, and determination are helping to end veteran homelessness in our community, one veteran at a time.

This past year, our SSVF program served 250 veterans, including 143 who were literally homeless and 107 at risk of losing their housing, impacting a total of 377 individuals within those households. Behind each of these numbers is a story of resilience—and a team working tirelessly to help veterans find stability and hope.

- **84%** of veterans experiencing homelessness were successfully housed
- **49%** of those found housing within 30 days
- **230** of the veterans served reported having a disability
- **176** veterans earned less than 30% of the area median income—that's less than \$27,450 annually for a single veteran in Linn County
- **38** (15%) were female veterans
- The average age of a veteran served was **53 years old**

This Veterans Day, we celebrate the courage of those who have served and the unwavering commitment of our SSVF team, who work every day to ensure veterans have a safe place to call home. Their work reminds us that honoring veterans goes beyond words—it's about action, compassion, and community.



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Gratitude in Action: Thank You, Molina Healthcare!

Tuesday, November 18

On November 18th, the Northwest Neighborhood Resource Center was filled with warmth, generosity, and community spirit thanks to Molina Healthcare's Season of Support event. We are incredibly grateful to Molina for their partnership and heartfelt commitment to supporting our neighbors during the colder months.

As part of the event, Molina staff welcomed community members with open arms—distributing winter coats, hats, and gloves to help families stay warm this season. In addition to the winter gear, attendees were treated to free food and drinks, creating a festive and welcoming atmosphere for all who came through.

We were also thrilled to have staff from Head Start and Health Alliance on site, sharing valuable information and connecting families with essential services. Their presence helped ensure that attendees not only received immediate support, but also learned about longer-term resources available through HACAP and its partners.

The event was a beautiful example of what happens when organizations come together with a shared purpose: to uplift and care for our community. Thank you again to Molina Healthcare and all who made this day so impactful.



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Students from Wahlert Catholic Join HACAP for Fall Home Cleanup Project

Friday, November 7

Generosity is happening all around us! The Wahlert Catholic students joined us at one of HACAP's homes for a fall cleanup to get it ready for its new tenants. We love the beautiful landscaping... the cleanup part, not so much — but they certainly made it a lot more fun! Their hard work and positive energy made a huge difference, leaving the home looking welcoming and refreshed for the families who will soon move in.

HACAP Seeks Volunteers for 2026 VITA Tax Program

Monday, November 10

HACAP is recruiting volunteers to support its Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, which provides free tax preparation for individuals and families with incomes of \$67,000 or less. No prior experience is needed, and volunteers receive full training, with flexible in-person and virtual opportunities available from January through April 2026. **Email Whitney Sanger for more information at wsanger@hacap.org.**



Got a great story or photo from your program? We want to hear it!
Send your submissions to communications@hacap.org

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Theisen's Community Grant Helps Nonprofits Like HACAP Food Reservoir Continue Their Mission

Wednesday, November 5

We were honored to be amongst many of our other great nonprofit partners today as the grant recipients of some generous support from our friends at Theisen's. Thank you for investing in our community! Their continued commitment helps organizations like ours make a real impact in the lives of local families. We're grateful for their partnership and the difference they make each and every year.

Cedar Rapids Steps Up to Support HACAP Food Reservoir Amid Federal Shutdown

Monday, November 10

Alongside the City Council, Mayor Tiffany O'Donnell issued an emergency proclamation to provide up to \$25,000 in funding for HACAP's Food Reservoir in response to the ongoing federal government shutdown, with an official vote scheduled for November 18. This critical support will help ensure that families facing food insecurity continue to have access to nutritious meals during this challenging time.



Find local food pantries nearest you!

Find our interactive pantry map on the homepage of hacap.org

Queso FOR A CAUSE

**20% of all proceeds will go to benefit the
HACAP Housing & Homeless Programs**

Wednesday, December 17
5 PM - 8 PM

1st Avenue Cedar Rapids
Pancheros Location Only

