

# Rantoul Head Start center expands

Program adds 56 enrollments, upgrades building

By DAVE HINTON  
Rantoul Press editor

Champaign County Head Start/Early Head Start's facility in Rantoul has grown.

The program added 56 new enrollments of infants and toddlers throughout the county from funds received from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (stimulus program). Twenty-four of those are at the Rantoul facility at 104 Nightingale Court on the former Chanute Air Force Base. Seven staff members have also been added.

The Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, which administers the program, spent \$140,000 at the Rantoul site, according to CEO Cameron Moore.

"It's been great for the kids, for their families and the village," Moore said.

"As we look at the county, this is one that outshines the others."

The Regional Planning



Two children play at the Head Start center.

Photo provided

Commission leases the site from the village of Rantoul.

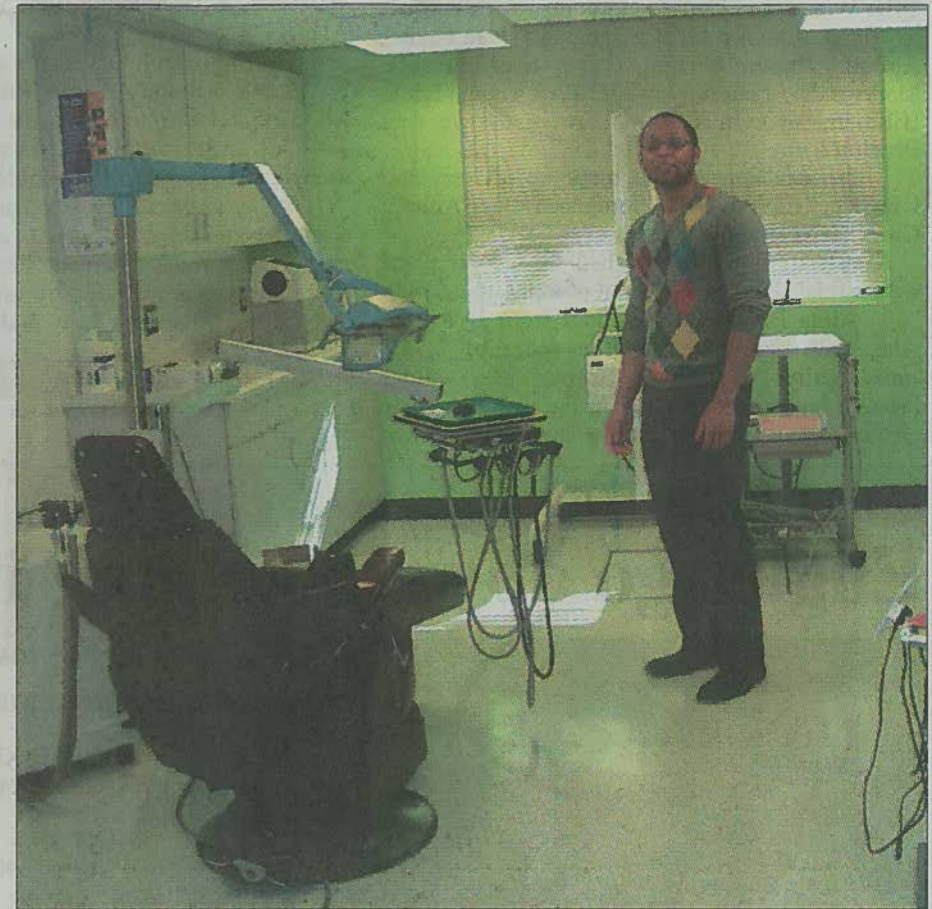
Four Head Start independent centers are operated in the county. Another eight sites are operated in conjunction with other facilities.

Moore said Head Start serves 585 children countywide. The Rantoul center serves 105 of them.

The center is equipped with dental facilities that have been

moved to a larger room. The facilities serve Head Start students and families.

A dedication ceremony and open house were held recently for the Rantoul center.



Steve Bevil, communication director for Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, shows the new dental facilities at the Rantoul Head Start building.

Dave

Among those present were county board Chairman C. Pius Weibel, Rantoul Village Administrator Bruce Sandahl and Kathleen Liffick, Early Childhood Division director.

Moore said the Rantoul center opened in 2003 in the building that at one time was a dental clinic. It is located near the former base hospital.

[dhinton@rantoulpress.com](mailto:dhinton@rantoulpress.com)