

Helping People. Changing Lives. Serving Eastern Oklahoma Since 1968



KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc.

KI BOIS NEWS

What is the

Foster Grandparent Program?

When you peek into a classroom you expect to see a teacher teaching, children doing school work, but as you scan the room you notice something different.....tucked into a corner you notice a desk, a child and someone with enough wisdom and love to make the world go around....a special “granny.” These special “grannies” fill the classrooms all over southeastern Oklahoma sharing their love, time and wisdom to make life a little better for children through the Foster Grandparent Program.

The Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) began on August 28th, 1965 as a national demonstration effort to show how low-income persons age 60 and older have the maturity and experience to establish a personal relationship with children having either special or exceptional needs. By 1968 a total of 68 FGP projects had been developed and funded in 40 states and in Puerto Rico. Today, The Foster Grandparent Program has grown to over 28,700 volunteers providing 24.3 million hours assisting over 250,600 children. The KI BOIS Foster Grandparent program contributes to that total by engaging 101 volunteers with approximately 10,000 hours of service per month in Haskell, Latimer, Pittsburg, McIntosh, Adair, Cherokee, Delaware, LeFlore, Mayes, Muskogee, Okmulgee, Ottawa, Sequoyah and Wagoner.

A reason to get up in the mornings!

Geraldine Magreevy



Geraldine Magreevy

Geraldine Magreevy is one of our volunteers. She lives around Eufaula...loves to sew....married over 50 years and now at the age of 89 continues to get up every weekday, six hours a day to make a difference. At one time, Granny Magreevy owned a craft store in Eufaula, but as things change so did Magreevy. Her daughter-in-law picked up an application in the Foster Grandparent Program and the next thing she knew she was “one.” She started out at the Indian School in Eufaula and remembers during her first interview with the principal he asked her how she felt about Indian kids.....she stated, “They are just kids....I was hired and worked there for over ten years.” Magreevy is now at the new Dixie Elementary where she works with children K through the third grade. Magreevy was involved in a car accident several years ago and from that accident is now confined to a wheelchair and according to Magreevy, “Hasn’t stopped me!”

Norma Denny started her career with the Foster Grandparent Program over 15 years ago. Denny stated, “Her grandson started kindergarten at Brushy and came home and told his grandma they needed a granny... and I have been there ever since.

Denny shares she has always worked since the age of 13 and she doesn’t have time to quit now. She loves working with her second graders and sometimes is broken hearted by their lives.

“I have some children who want me to take them home to live with me. I just tell them, “I can’t, but I will never forget you and I will always be your granny!”



Norma Denny



Margaret Floyd

Margaret Floyd has been a granny for 21 years. Her husband had died when she was only 59 and since she had a degree in social work and psychology she had decided to return to that field. But, her plans changed one day at church when she and the principal of the local school started talking and he encouraged her to become a volunteer with Foster Grandparents. She said she spoke to then Director Dee Ann Johnson and the next thing she knew her life was filled with “new grandchildren.”

Editor’s Note: As I spoke to each of these grannies, you could tell their life was fulfilling. Their stories were endless of children and their needs. One touching story was by Denny. She

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From the Desk of the Executive Director / CEO

Last year at this time we were experiencing one of Oklahoma's worst winter storms in history. This year is almost like springtime. Only in Oklahoma!

February is the month when our annual agency audit starts. The audit team started early this year and should be here through the month of February.

Several members of the KI BOIS Community Action staff and our Board Chairman, Mr. Gene Bass, have been in training by the IRS to do free Income Tax Preparation for our low-income clients under the VITA program.

Head Start, Transit, and CSBG have secure funding levels for this year. The Weatherization program received a significant decrease in funding with the ARRA program expiring. We do not expect great changes until after the Presidential elections in November.

The current CSBG funding is uncertain at this time and we may operate for several months under a continuing resolution until the federal budget is passed.

We are expecting no increases from the State of Oklahoma on our state funded programs due to the current economic situation in our state. We are also in the process of waiting for the announcement on the status of our grant application to HHS for the Head Start Program that was formerly operated by Cookson Hills CAA.

Our agency continues to grow and prosper due to the hard work and dedication of our board, staff, and volunteers. We look forward to the challenges of 2012. February is also sweetheart month so don't forget your sweetheart on February 14th or you will be in trouble.

*R. Carroll Huggins, CCAP
Executive Director*

KI BOIS Community Action has a new board member, James Lockhart. Mr. Lockhart knows the meaning of community service as he was recently elected as State Representative by the citizens of LeFlore County. Pictured is Representative Lockhart as he accepts the position of board member as Board 1st Vice President John Cook looks on.



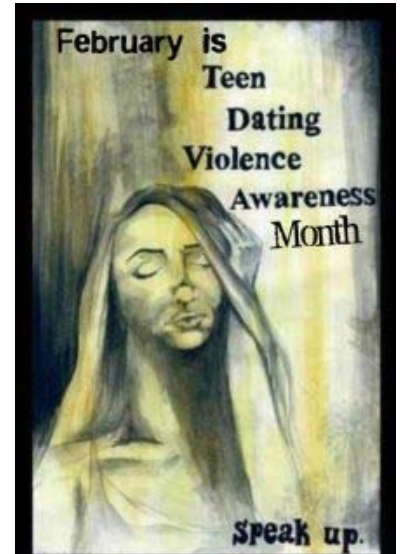
Calendar of Events

January 2012

- **Monday, February 21st, Executive Board Meeting**
KI BOIS Administrative Office , 9:00 a.m.
- **Monday, February 20th**
KI BOIS Community Action will be closed for Presidents Day.



Carroll Huggins



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Congratulations to Sydni Duff, daughter of KI BOIS Community Action Pittsburg County Director Tabbatha Duff, as she and her family celebrate her milestone of FIVE YEARS of being CANCER FREE !

Head Start Celebrates Being Healthy and Happy

KI BOIS Head Start program started off the new year with celebrations of health and happiness. Although each center had their own agenda they all focused on staying healthy and happy in 2012. Each child's parents and family members were invited to the events along with the community.

Right top photo, Sue Taylor Dunn from the LeFlore County Health Department is shown giving health and immunization information to Poteau Head Start parent Amanda Scott, Head Start student Drew and his brother, Ryan during the event which was held on January 12th.

Other individuals that presented information at the celebration were Carrie Emberton, LeFlore County Health Department, who presented nutritional and WIC and information; Joe'L Farrar, LeFlore County Health Department, who presented information on speech and language services. Also, Benjamin Barnes, with Tobacco-free LeFlore County had fliers to hand out with information on tobacco use.

The Happy Healthy New Year Celebration was also held at KI BOIS Head Start/Jefferson Early Childhood Center on January 19th.

Right lower photo, Approximately 100 parents and students attended the event along with ten local area organizations providing information.



Think About It?

Toss your smart-phone....constantly checking your email disrupts focus and saps productivity.



Sleep a lot...Harvard research has shown your brain continues to process memories even after you've gone to sleep, so you can recall them better later.

Join a knitting circle...Refining motor ability can bolster cognitive skills.

Write by hand... Brain scans show that handwriting engages more sections of the brain than typing...[and] it's easier to remember something once you've written it down on paper.



The Stella Linney House, Wilburton, is taking shape as the walls are up and the roof is almost on.. Completion of the house should be by early summer. Photo courtesy of KI BOIS Community Action Latimer County Director Claudia Jeffrey.

Submitted by Head Start Director Donna Carolan.

Great News..... New Funds for KATS

KI BOIS Community Action KATS has received New Freedom funding from Federal Transit Authority (FTA). This grant will be administered by INCOG (Indian Nation Council of Governments) in the amount of \$203,000.00. INCOG is a group organized to coordinate the funding for Tulsa's urbanized area. The funding will be used for operations in Coweta and will allow KATS to provide additional transportation in that area. According to KATS Director Charla Sloan, "Since Coweta is not part of KATS and because we cannot blend rural transit dollars with urban dollars. This is complicated and to make a very long story short....it was a blessing to receive this funding."



KI BOIS Community Action KATS is pleased to welcome Mike Jordan to their staff. Jordan will training new and seasoned drivers on the do and don'ts of being a good driver. Jordan will also be investigating any accidents that may occur. Jordan comes from a long history of vehicle safety as he was a highway patrolman for many years. Welcome aboard Mike!

You did it!



Congratulations

**Charla Sloan and the
KATS staff for
winning the
"Ridership and
Expanded Service Award"
at the state transit
conference
in Oklahoma City**



KATS Extends a Helping Hand.....KATS was there to do their part when the community of Okemah came together to support two local women, Deanne Johnson and Wendy Kennedy, who are battling cancer. There were numerous fund raisers throughout the town and KATS pitched in by donating all the demand response money collected during the time of February 2nd, 3rd and 4th. Above, KATS

Need Your Taxes Prepared? Don't Forget to Call KI BOIS Community Action For an Appointment.

Wilburton: 918-465-3381

McAlester: 918-423-3525

Poteau: 918-647-3267

Stigler: 918-967-3325

The Oklahoma Mission of Mercy (OKMOM) was held Friday and Saturday, February 3rd and 4th at the Southeast Expo Center, McAlester. KI BOIS Community Action Pittsburg County staff, Sarah Tucker, Megan Duff, Dianna Sorrells and Tabbatha Duff volunteered / represented KI BOIS at the event. The free dental clinic was open to all ages, backgrounds and was specifically designed for people that are uninsured, underinsured or would otherwise not be able to seek dental care. The doors opened at 5 a.m. each day and after 1,000 individuals crossed the threshold the doors were closed. Restorations (fillings), extractions, cleansing and root canals were available and all prescriptions were filled on site. A total of 2,000 individuals took part in the two day event.

Right, Tucker, Duff, Sorrells and Duff, pose for a photo during the event. KI BOIS Community Action sends a big THANK YOU ladies for all of your dedication to help those in need.



Senior Day at the Capitol

Monday, February 27, 2012

9:30 - 11:30

Program House Chamber

11:30 a.m. — 2 p.m.

Resource Fair, 2nd floor

**For more information call, the Senior Info-Line
at 1-800-211-2116**

**or the OKDHS Aging Services Division
at 405-521-2281**

This free event will help you...

- learn about legislation and issues affecting older Oklahomans
- Share your ideas, needs and concerns with your state legislators
- Visit with nonprofit agencies to learn about their services



Foster Grandparent Program.....continued from from page 1

spoke of a child that had been coming to school in very dirty socks and shoes. The principal left the school and went and purchased shoes and socks for the lad. They then took him into the janitor's closet and washed his feet and put those clean socks and shoes on his feet. This reminded me of the passage in the Bible where Jesus washed the disciples' feet....it is a humbling feeling but more than that a kindness that this child will never forget. The grannies also spoke about how they loved the Foster Grandparents Program and how it allowed them to travel to national meetings....seeing new sites and meeting other individuals who shared their same love.....the love for children!

KI BOIS Community Action Employment Postings

JOB TITLE: EVENING SUPERVISOR FT (McAlester Care Center)

JOB REQUIREMENTS: Ability to listen effectively and assist with problem solving; training and/or experience in crisis intervention both face-to-face and telephone; must be self-motivated with excellent communication skills. Participation in staff meetings, consultations and in-service training is required. HS Diploma/GED

JOB TITLE: LIAISON/MOBILITY COORDINATOR - FT (Okmulgee)

JOB REQUIREMENTS: Applicant must have knowledge of transit system operations or related field, along with knowledge of area resources, Muscogee Creek Nation History and Culture. Excellent people skills, as well as good written and oral communication skills are required. Management experience is desired. Applicant should also have a valid OK driver's license with good driving record. Computer skills required. Position will require flexibility and some week-end hours.

JOB TITLE: ROUTE SUPERVISOR - FT (Wilburton Transit)

JOB REQUIREMENTS: Applicant must have a knowledge of transit operations and the ability to work with minimum supervision. Excellent communication skills, both oral and written are required, along with computer skills. Position will require flexibility and supervisory experience is preferred. Must maintain a valid driver's license and good driving record. Must be willing to drive transit vehicles if needed.

JOB TITLE: TRANSIT DRIVERS (Contact local Transit Office to verify opening)

LOCATION: Contact local Transit Office to verify opening

JOB REQUIREMENTS: Maintain a valid driver's license. Good driving record. Must be physically able to assist passengers and their belongings while entering and exiting the vehicles. Must be able to lift a minimum of 50 lbs and provide wheel chair assistance. Should have knowledge of area resources and live within convenient distance of city where job opening is available.

JOB TITLE: HABILITATION TRAINING SPECIALIST (Poteau and McAlester)

JOB REQUIREMENTS: Will serve as direct support staff for consumers. Ability to handle sensitive issues while protecting others' welfare. Able to exercise patience, understanding, creativity and flexibility. HS Diploma/GED, valid DL and auto insurance. Must complete Foundation, CPR and First Aid Training (and any other training as required/requested.) Must be able to lift a minimum of 50 lbs.

JOB TITLE: TEACHER'S AIDES AND SUBS - PT (Inquire at your local Head Start Center)

JOB REQUIREMENTS: HS Diploma/GED

These positions are open to KI BOIS Community Action Foundation Staff as well as to the public. (ALL POSITIONS SUBJECT TO CONTINUED PROJECT FUNDING.) **Deadline for all openings: Until Filled.** Current employees – please submit a letter of interest to Human Resources. Applications may be picked up at any KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc. office or printed from the website, www.kibois.org. Applications should be returned to KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc. P. O. Box 727 Stigler, OK 74462, Attention: Human Resources Phone: 800.299.4479 Fax: 918.967.9100

**KI BOIS COMMUNITY ACTION FOUNDATION, INC.
IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**