

# Helping People. Changing Lives. Serving Eastern Oklahoma Since 1968



KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc.

KI BOIS NEWS



## VITA Training Held

This is the ninth year KI BOIS Community Action has participated in the VITA program. "People helping People" is what KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc. accomplished with their free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. KI BOIS Community Action staff provides tax preparation services AT NO COST to low-income individuals, elderly and families that are served by the Head Start Program in completing their basic tax return. The only requirement is that your income is \$50,000.00 or below.

Taxpayers must have valid photo identification and Social Security Cards (or Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers) for themselves, spouses and dependents. They should also bring wage and earnings statements (W-2 Forms) interest and dividends statements (Forms 1099) and any other information concerning their income and expenses for 2011.

As a VITA sanctioned tax program provider, KI BOIS Community Action is given strict parameters by the IRS on what types of returns we are allowed to prepare and if a return is encountered outside of the scope guidelines, the client is referred to an outside tax preparation source. Some of those guidelines include:

- Rental Property - Employee Business Expenses - Farms - Moving Expenses - Minor's Investment Income - Installments Sales Contracts - Trusts and Partnerships - Business use of Home - Adoption Credits.

Another strict rule is tax volunteers and employees may not accept gifts or offers of payment.

In 2010, the VITA Program saw a 3.85 % increase from 2009 and assisted 1,323 clients with tax preparation with a refund amount of \$1,832,133.

With filing sites at KI BOIS Community Action Offices in Poteau, Stigler, Wilburton, and McAlester each location is able to prepare and e-file tax returns at no cost for eligible families from

*(Continued on page 7)*

Every head down...no one looking around appears to be VITA Coordinator Amy Fair's philosophy as she instructs on the latest rules from IRS during VITA training held Thursday and Friday, January 5th and 6th. Top photo, KI BOIS Community Action Board Chair Gene Bass, Lois Jasko and Redonna Perry, center photo, Debbie Smothers, Volunteer from Spiro, and Rosalind Newby appears to be following instructions, but in the bottom photo Megan Duff and Tabatha Duff pose for the camera.

## From the Desk of the Executive Director / CEO

Friday, January 6th

I am very pleased at the accomplishments that this agency achieved in 2011. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all board members, employees, and volunteers for their efforts to improve the quality of life for our low-income clients.

In addition to our normal activities we are preparing for our annual agency audit. We just completed training for the free VITA Tax Preparation by our staff and volunteers coming up. We are working hard to reduce the economic impact on our budgets and our low-income clients caused by the current federal financial crisis.



Carroll Huggins

### STARTING THE NEW YEAR RIGHT IN 2012:

Supervisors and staff; Questions to ask yourself:

What can I do to improve my performance?

Am I a team player?

Do I use the terms I, me, and my when referring to the things we accomplish?

Am I a gossip, whiner, griper, or complainer? How can I change my attitude?

We are looking forward to new opportunities and challenges that 2012 will bring. Happy New Year!

*R. Carroll Huggins, CCAP  
Executive Director*



Pictured, left to right, is OHFA staff Sandra Worley, KI BOIS Domestic Violence Services Director Anne Peck, OHFA staff Elaine Bulmer and KI BOIS Community Action Associate Director / COO Larry Hall.

### Santa's Helpers Made Their Way To KI BOIS Community Action

We all need a little help sometimes and Santa Claus is no different! Thanks to the generosity of wonderful sponsors and the hard work of volunteers from Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency, (OHFA) each July golfers from across Oklahoma tee off at the Coffee Creek Golf Club in Edmond to raise money for children living in shelters across Oklahoma during the Christmas Season. Proceeds benefit more than 1,200 homeless children across Oklahoma and for the past several years the KI BOIS Community Action Women's Shelter has been on Santa's list.

## Calendar of Events

### January 2012

- **January 13th Don't forget Ted Allen / David Walker Scholarship Deadline. Any questions call housing at 918-967-3325.**
- **Oklahoma Transit Association Winter Conference OKC January 25th - 27th.**
- **KI BOIS Community Action Board Meeting Thursday, January 26th at 7:00 p.m. KI BOIS Community Action Administrative Office.**

**Thursday, January 26th - Statewide Point in Time Count of the Homeless.**

### **KI BOIS News**

is published monthly by  
KI BOIS Community Action  
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John Cook, 1st VP  
Kenneth Monroe, 2nd VP  
Jan Coplen, Sec./Treasurer  
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# KATS.....Keeping the Road Hot

**TAHLEQUAH** — Take a trip through Tahlequah on just about any given day, and you're likely to come across a KI BOIS Area Transit System bus or van, whisking someone off to work, to school, or to an important appointment.

Buses are wheelchair accessible, and for people who don't have their own vehicle, or who may not be physically able to drive themselves around, KATS is a life-saver.

The public transportation system stays busy with its task of escorting local folks around Oklahoma. Drivers, through the service, offer demand response, which includes curb-to-curb service to doctors appointments, stores or other venues; rides for health care patients, such as those who need a ride to dialysis treatments, or members of SoonerCare who need non-emergency transportation; intercity routes to other bus depots; and routes for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families state program.

"I think we're the busiest we've ever been," said Terri Squyres, route supervisor for Tahlequah KATS.

Officials with the service have said Cherokee County is the program's busiest hub out of its 11-county jurisdiction, garnering hundreds of calls on the busiest of days. The state and national economic climate is a big factor in the increased use of KATS, Squyres believes.



"We have 16 buses and 15 employees here in Tahlequah," said Squyres.

KATS provides out-of-town services for various needs, and is frequently used for dialysis patients to get to and from their appointments. The dialysis routes are even offered on Saturdays and holidays due to the nature of the service, Squyres said.

Riders can take a trip on a KATS bus within Tahlequah's city limits for \$1 per stop, and children aged 4 years and younger ride for free. Other children up to age 9 ride for 50 cents each when accom-

panied by an adult, and children aged 10 or more ride for \$1 per stop.

"In August or September, we opened up a Claremore jobs route," said Squyres.

Each morning, the Claremore route begins at the Cherokee Nation complex, and picks up riders at a convenience store north of town on State Highway 82; at a Peggs church; and at Locust Grove Schools' football field, eventually ending the route at Claremore Indian Hospital, she said. In the evening, a bus heads back to Claremore to return its riders to those areas.

Out-of-town rates vary by location, but most one-way trips within the county will cost riders \$3-\$8, with a few destinations costing upwards of \$15. Other offerings, according to the KATS website, include a round-trip ride to Muskogee for \$40; to Tulsa for \$80; and to Oklahoma City for \$200. Other trips vary by mileage, time and availability of vehicles.

"We frequently go to Tulsa, Muskogee, Fort Smith, Fayetteville, all of those areas," said Squyres. "We have Sallisaw KI BOIS coming in here every morning and every evening, and Stilwell KI BOIS comes every morning and evening, so if someone works in one of those towns and needs a ride, they can just hop on that bus here in Tahlequah. If someone needs to get around, I'll put them on a route. I just have to see what bus they need to go on."

KATS is part of the KI BOIS Community Action Foundation. Its name, "KI BOIS," was chosen in honor of the two "mountain ranges" in the area: the Kiamichi's and the Sans Bois Mountains.

Tahlequah's office started with three buses. The program receives some funding from the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and the city of Tahlequah, and Cherokee Nation has sponsored work trips to Stilwell and Sallisaw.

Editor's Note: This article ran in the *Tahlequah Daily Press* although it focused on KATS in Cherokee County it is applicable to every county KATS serves...just different names. Great job guys.....Helping People. Changing

## Muscogee Creek Nation and KATS Join Forces

Muscogee (Creek) Nation in partnership with KATS Transit, will use funds to provide transit services where none existed and increase current limited service to disadvantaged tribal members and the general public. Tribal members will be able to access necessary services, include healthcare, social services, employment, training and specific tribal programs in the Muskogee Creek Nation, which consist of Hughes, McIntosh, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Wagoner Counties, and limited areas in Muskogee, Tulsa and Creek Counties.

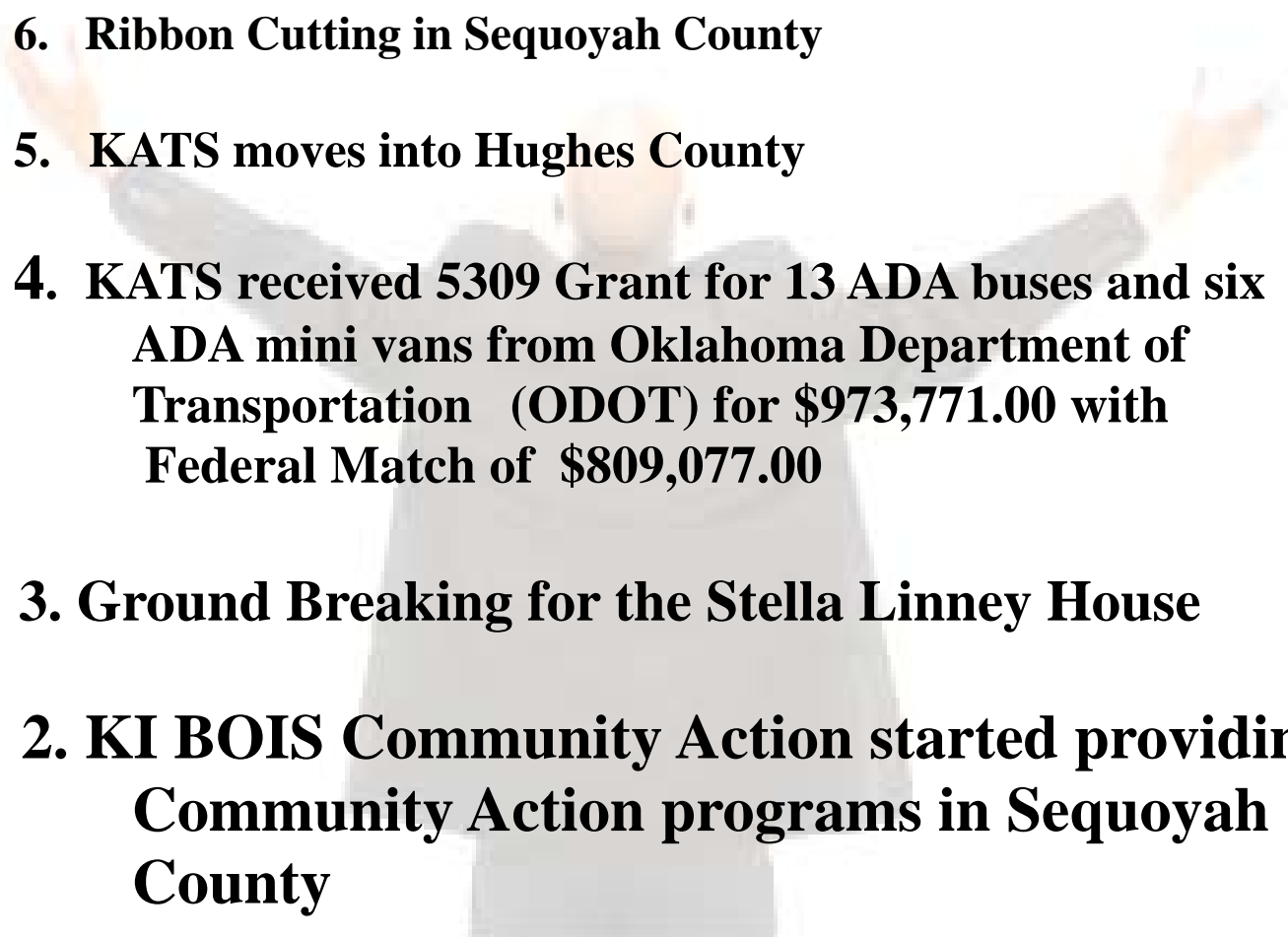
Nationwide the 5311C Tribal funds were in the amount of \$15,075,00 and \$500,000.00 was awarded locally.



KI BOIS Community Action Transit Director Charla Sloan has been selected to Chair the United We Ride Council for 2012.

The Oklahoma United We Ride Council has initiated a strategic planning process that seeks to identify priorities and develop processes that identify needs and potential solutions for increased effectiveness of transportation coordination. Council members have been actively involved in regular meetings and transportation conferences and seminars throughout the state, providing current program status and information to participants.

# 2011 IN REVIEW WITH TOP TEN

10. **KI BOIS Community Action said goodbye to a good friend and co-worker Jerry Barlow.**
  9. **VITA assisted 1,323 clients with tax preparation with a refund amount of \$1,832,133**
  8. **KI BOIS Community Action Board member Jan Coplen won the 2011 Volunteer of the Year Award!**
  7. **KI BOIS Community Action Housing Director John Jones won the 2011 Guy Davis Leadership Award**
  6. **Ribbon Cutting in Sequoyah County**
  5. **KATS moves into Hughes County**
  4. **KATS received 5309 Grant for 13 ADA buses and six ADA mini vans from Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) for \$973,771.00 with Federal Match of \$809,077.00**
  3. **Ground Breaking for the Stella Linney House**
  2. **KI BOIS Community Action started providing Community Action programs in Sequoyah County**
  1. **KI BOIS Community Action receives Foster Grandparent Program.**
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# Happy New Year from the MIS Department

For those of you who still may not know, the IT Department, at least for now, consists of me. Blake resigned to pursue other endeavors about 6 weeks ago and although I miss him in the office, I wish him well and will do my best to keep the KI BOIS computers and servers all healthy. However, due to the shortage of manpower, I need your cooperation in that endeavor.



Over the past several weeks, we have had some serious problems with email. This was due in part to problems with the server which necessitated a reformat of the server and repair of Microsoft Exchange in order for email to work properly. The second part of this was that the KI BOIS server had been blacklisted due to emails going out with Trojans or virus type attachments. This may have been done by several individuals without them even knowing they were doing it. This caused all email to individuals or companies outside the KI BOIS system to be bounced or sent back to our server and were not received by the intended recipient. If you sent any emails outside the system from Tuesday, December 6 through Monday, December 12, you may want to check with the addressee to see if it was received or resend these emails. Also, should your computer exhibit any signs of problems from freezing up or unusual slowness to pop ups on your screens, please turn off the computer, unplug

it and call me. If possible, follow this up with an email from someone else's computer so I have a problem in written format. Bring or send the tower to me as soon as possible. Under no circumstances should you continue to work on the computer or send emails from this computer as this could result in the problem we just had.

Also, the temptation is great to stream music and/or video to your computer, but this really interferes with work flow and uses up our bandwidth as well as opening your computer to potential viruses and malware from the internet and I need to ask you to refrain from doing this. I am in no way talking about the short u-tubes or video of grandchildren or children. What I am referring to is anything that is going to play for more than 5-10 minutes. Please feel free to bring CD's with music and play from your computer as this does not cause the problems I am referring to. To explain this better (I hope) our internet is like a pipe or highway with a limited amount of lanes (bandwidth), when you stream music or video, it is like rush hour in New York City and as a result the same thing happens, our internet speed slows down and freezes. Since so much of our business is internet based, this causes problems with the programs we need to do business. Please help us to keep business flowing and be courteous of others needing the internet as well.

I really appreciate all your patience and support. I will do my best to see that everything continues to run as smoothly as possible. May all of you have a wonderful new year.

**Karen Thompson**

KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc.

MIS Department

Phone 918-967-3325 Ext. 155 - Cell: 918-470-6248

## In 120 minutes you can:

Change your oil four times

See a movie

Watch half a football game

Or make a difference by volunteering

If each of KI BOIS Community Action 900 employees would donate just 120 minutes a year....that's 10,800,000 minutes! Together we can make a difference!

# In Loving Memory

## Anna Marks

June 30, 1921 - December 24, 2011

Marks was the mother of Housing Administrative Assistant Joyce Honeycutt



## Wanda Nixon

April 26, 1932 - January 3, 2012



Nixon was the mother of Bokoshe Head Start Center Director Debra Restine.

# January is National Blood Donor Month



- H** – Help yourself to smaller portions.
- A** – Add some spice (& herbs) and antioxidants to your life!
- P** – Plate it smaller.
- P** – Physical activity.
- Y** – Yes! to becoming healthier this year.
- N** – Not so much sugar.
- E** – Eat healthy fats.
- W** – Watch your calories.
- Y** – Your friends are good for your health.
- E** – Eat whole grains.
- A** – Add fruits and vegetables.
- R** – Remember the importance of sleep.

20 YEARS AGO



500 Calories

CURRENT



1,025 Calories

Oklahoma Mission of Mercy  
**MOM**  
February 3-4, 2012  
McAlester, Oklahoma

**Location:** SE Expo Center - McAlester, Oklahoma

**Dates:** February 3 & 4, 2012

**Start Time:** Doors will open each day at 5 a.m. DRESS APPROPRIATELY.

**End Time:** Doors will close each day when we reach capacity  
(Capacity is estimated at 1,000 patients per day)

**Cost:** This is a COMPLETELY **FREE** event.

**Ages:** All ages will be seen, but those under 18 must have parent or guardian present. The entire family can be seen.

**What to Bring:** List of current medications, one day supply of medications, baby supplies for the day.

**More Info?** [www.OkMOM.org](http://www.OkMOM.org)

**What services will be available?**  
Our team of volunteer dentists will determine your OkMOM treatment plan when you arrive. Your plan may include:

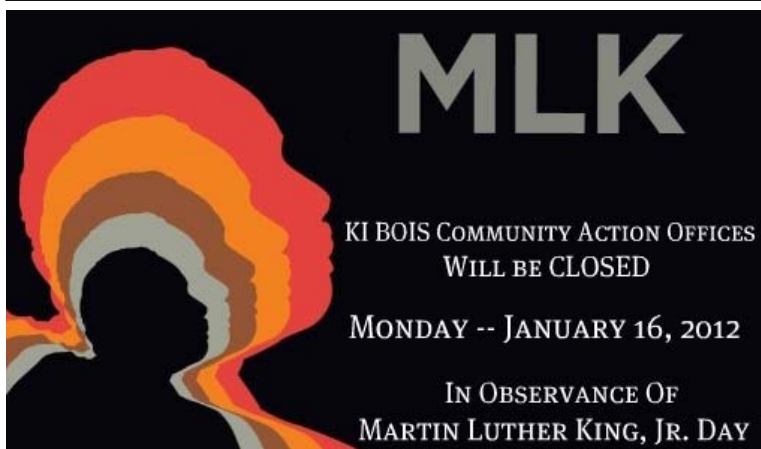
- Restorations (Fillings)
- Extractions
- Cleanings
- Root Canals (Anterior Only)
- Dentures **WILL NOT** be available at OkMOM

**How Do I Qualify/Registration?**  
The first 1,000 people through the doors each day qualify. It's that easy.

- No Pre-registration
- No Prequalification
- No Payments or Insurance Required

Translators (Spanish and Vietnamese) and signers for the hearing impaired will be available

**Breakfast and lunch will be provided to all patients waiting on treatment. Chairs, sleeping bags and blankets are allowed. No TENTS are allowed.**



**VITA Training Held.....cont. from page 1**

from January 17th through April 17th.

Contact your nearest KI BOIS Community Action VITA site to set up an appointment:

**Wilburton: 918-465-3381**

**McAlester: 918-423-3525**

**Poteau: 918-647-3267**

**Stigler: 918-967-3325**

***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: SUBSTANCE ABUSE TECH FT (McAlester Oaks)**

**JOB REQUIREMENTS:** Assists clinical staff by providing logistical and support services to residential clients. HS Diploma/GED

**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: ASSISTANT TEACHER – FT Jefferson (McAlester) Head Start**

**JOB REQUIREMENTS:** AA, 48 college hours or ParaPro

**JOB TITLE: ASSISTANT TEACHER – FT Quinton Head Start**

**JOB REQUIREMENTS:** HS Diploma/GED

**JOB TITLE: COOK – FT Talihina Head Start**

**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](http://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**



KI BOIS Community Action Housing Assistant Director Pam Harless and Great Plains Weatherization Director Bill Havron smile as they attend a luncheon at the 2011 National Weatherization Training Conference December 12th through the 15th, 2011 in New Orleans, LA. The conference was filled with sessions from Water Heating: The Nuts and Bolts of New Technologies to technical demonstrations such as Blower Door Directed Air Sealing.

If you can't accept losing, you can't win.  
Vince Lombardi

**Salvation Army Totals**

Latimer County \$ 14,011.02  
Haskell County \$ 13,895.24



Mary Montgomery, 2nd from left, is shown holding her granddaughter, Elli during the recent fund raiser. Also pictured, left to right is Elli's aunt, Hallie Loomis, Montgomery and Elli's parents, Brad and Andria Montgomery.

***New Additions.....***

Gunner Clay was born January 3rd weighing seven pounds and nine ounces and was 19.5 inches long. Parents are Toni (Ward) & Matt Lott



Gunner is the 7th great-grandchild for Head Start Director Donna Carolan and her husband, Jerry.

Olive Noelle was born December 30th weighing nine pounds and one ounce and was 21 inches long. Parents are John and Ashley Daniels. This is the first grandbaby for Tobacco Control Program Coordinator Denice Daniels and her husband Joe.



**Saving Elli's Sight**

Audree (Elli), daughter of Brad and Andria Montgomery and granddaughter of Mary Montgomery, Poteau KATS Route Supervisor was born on November 6th weighing seven pounds and 13 ounces. Elli was soon diagnosed with Congenital Glaucoma. Elli had her first surgery when she was only 11 days old and is now in need of cornea transplants in both eyes. The doctors from the Dean McGee Eye Center are working with the OU Children's Hospital in Oklahoma City to save Elli's sight. She is scheduled for surgery around the first of February.

A benefit lunch hosted by Maggie K's BBQ Wagon was held at the KI BOIS Community Action LeFlore County office on December 21st to help Elli's family with expenses. There is also an account set up at Arvest Bank, Poteau, for anyone who would like to donate or contact the LeFlore County office at 918-647-3267 .

**NATIONAL WEAR RED DAY<sup>®</sup> FEB. 03. 2012**