May is National Community Action Month

National Community Action Month in May was created by the national office of the Community Action Partnership to highlight Community Action Agencies’ role helping low-income families achieve economic security. Each year, Community Action agencies serve 20 million people in rural, suburban, and urban communities across the country through a variety of targeted programs, such as Head Start, weatherization, job training and placement, financial education, housing, energy assistance, transportation, economic development, and many others. National Community Action Month is also used to call attention to poverty-related problems. As Community Action agencies are showcasing their programs, they are also giving local residents—many who are unaware of the poverty in their communities—a first-hand look at the struggles low-income families face and how much worse it would be without the presence of Community Action Agencies. National Community Action Month strives to bring together people from all walks of life to celebrate Community Action Agencies’ efforts to make America a better place to live and to encourage support for these vital agencies.

KI BOIS Community Action will participate in several activities in our service area to promote awareness. During the month of May Public Relations Director Kay Box and Community Liaison Royce Alverson will be traveling throughout the five county service area promoting KI BOIS Community Action and their programs.

KI BOIS Community Action and other Community Action agencies across the United States are making a difference….one family at a time. Below is one of those stories…….

Samantha’s Story..................How do you change directions when someone has been fighting all of their life just to survive? Samantha, 35, is one of those individuals. She has bartered, battled and fought her way through life since birth, but at some point, life becomes so difficult you need help. We will pick up Samantha’s story in 2011 when she was living in a house with no water, floors falling through, windows broken out and the list continues. Her children, which were her life, were removed from the home. Her health would only allow her to work no more than a few hours a week, which soon meant no job at all. Even though Samantha had a roof over her head, her situation was that of a homeless person. Samantha was referred to the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) and met the guidelines to receive financial assistance for a more stable home and comprehensive case management.

Most of the time when life “happens” an individual is unable to find a program such as HPRP. “Samantha is one of the lucky ones,” according to HPRP Director Lavon Coyle, she has a home, water when you turn a tap and she is warm and comfortable.” Samantha has also started classes at the Kiamichi Technology Center where she hopes to complete her courses and become an administrative assistant.

Are Samantha’s struggles over……No! But her road is now paved with hope! Hope…… not only to finish school and find a good job, but to get her children home.

Even though it may be a bill……….Samantha still smiles.
From the Desk of the Executive Director / CEO

May 1, 2012

We are following closely both the federal and state legislation that will determine the funding of our Community Action programs for the coming year. At this time it appears that our federal funding will remain uncertain until congress and the President can agree on a budget which will probably be after the Presidential election. We remain hopeful that our programs will receive only minor cuts. ARRA funding will be ending for weatherization program at the end of August. Due to revenue increases in the State of Oklahoma we are expecting a flat budget for next year in our State Appropriated Funds.

Most of our KI BOIS Community Action Head Start Classrooms will be closing for the summer in the next couple of weeks. Our Head Start employees are now employed on a year around contract except for vacation time. Due to Head Start classes being closed some of our KATS drivers will be off for the summer.

Terry Williams of KATS will be competing in the National Bus Roadeo in Baltimore, MD (Continued on page 3)

Calendar of Events
May 2012

- Homebuyer Education Workshop Saturday, May 12th, KI BOIS Administrative office.
- OKACCA Meeting Tuesday, May 15th through Friday, May 18th. Reed Center in Oklahoma City.
- KI BOIS Community Action Board Meeting, Thursday, May 24th, 6:30 p.m., KI BOIS Administrative Building.

LATE NEWS….
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program assisted 1,502 clients. The total refund amount was $1,888,604.00!
Great job more to come in the June Issues of KI BOIS News

2012 Activist Hall of Fame
The Oklahoma Democratic Party Proudly Inducts

Kenny Monroe

For his work and dedication in improving the quality of life for all Oklahomans by tirelessly laboring to elect democrats throughout our great state.

(Kenny Monroe has served on the KI BOIS Community Action Board of Directors since its beginning. He currently serves as 2nd Vice President. Pictured with Mr. Monroe is KI BOIS Community Action Executive Director / CEO Carroll Huggins.)
Drug Court is committed to rehabilitating the offender and keeping families together by encouraging excellence in the community through rehabilitative services.

National Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day 2012

The Office of Head Start is one of many federal partners supporting the celebration of National Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day on Wednesday, May 9th, 2012. This year’s theme, “Heroes of Hope,” focuses on families, friends, caregivers and others who help children maintain resilience when dealing with trauma.
Head Start is always busy

Week of the Young Child was filled with Parades and Activities

Future Hero's

Hartshorne Head Start

Jefferson Head Start

Stigler Head Start

Poteau Head Start

Kiowa Head Start
and busy and busy!

Talihina Head Start feeding the baby goats.

Kiowa Head Start paints Seussville.

Kiowa Head Start visits greenhouse.

Stigler Fit 4 FUN

The students at the Bokoshe Head Start/Pre-K enjoyed the Fit 4 FUN day at McCurtain.
April is “Fair Housing Month”

On April 11, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1968, which was meant as a follow-up to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The 1968 act expanded on previous acts and prohibited discrimination concerning the sale, rental, and financing of housing based on race, religion, national origin, sex, (and as amended) handicap and family status. Title VIII of the Act is also known as the Fair Housing Act (of 1968).

The enactment of the federal Fair Housing Act on April 11, 1968 came only after a long and difficult journey. From 1966-1967, Congress regularly considered the fair housing bill, but failed to garner a strong enough majority for its passage. However, when the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated on April 4, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson utilized this national tragedy to urge for the bill's speedy Congressional approval. Since the 1966 open housing marches in Chicago, Dr. King's name had been closely associated with the fair housing legislation. President Johnson viewed the Act as a fitting memorial to the man's life work, and wished to have the Act passed prior to Dr. King's funeral in Atlanta.

Another significant issue during this time period was the growing casualty list from Vietnam. The deaths in Vietnam fell heaviest upon young, poor African-American and Hispanic infantrymen. However, on the home front, these men's families could not purchase or rent homes in certain residential developments on account of their race or national origin. Senators Edward Brooke and Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts argued deeply for the passage of this legislation. In particular, Senator Brooke, the first African-American ever to be elected to the Senate by popular vote, spoke personally of his return from World War II and inability to provide a home of his choice for his new family because of his race.

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Left to right, KI BOIS Community Action Sequoyah County Administrative Assistant Brandi Henry along with District 2 Sequoyah County Commissioner Steve Carter, District 1 Commissioner Ray Watts, KI BOIS Community Action Sequoyah County Director Melissa Stubblefield and District 3 Commissioner Jim Rogers with the signed proclamation.

Pittsburg County Commissioners Ronnie Young, Kevin Smith and Gene Rogers are busy signing a proclamation declaring April as “Fair Housing Month.”

Claudia Jeffrey, Latimer County Director, is shown with Chairman Roy Alford, Latimer County Commissioner as he signs a declaration declaring April as Fair Housing Month.

Left to right, KI BOIS Community Action Sequoyah County Administrative Assistant Brandi Henry along with District 2 Sequoyah County Commissioner Steve Carter, District 1 Commissioner Ray Watts, KI BOIS Community Action Sequoyah County Director Melissa Stubblefield and District 3 Commissioner Jim Rogers with the signed proclamation.

Sheree Powell and Mildred McClain

KI BOIS Community Action Retired Senior Volunteer (RSVP) Mildred McClain is shown with Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS) Communications Coordinator Sheree Powell. McClain had received the Oklahoma State Volunteer Award from Representative Donnie Condit in Oklahoma City earlier. RSVP Volunteer Jean Peck was also awarded the Donna Nigh award with an award plaque and a citation from Representative Ed Canaday.

Sheree Powell and Mildred McClain

KI BOIS Community Action Housing Director John Jones, left, with Haskell County Commissioners Kenny Short, Paul Storie and seated Mitch Worsham after they signed the proclamation declaring “April as Fair Housing Month.”
**KI BOIS Community Action**

**Employment Postings**

[www.kibois.org](http://www.kibois.org)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>JOB TITLE: FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM COORDINATOR - FT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Based in Cherokee or Adair County - Travel required throughout the NE quadrant of Oklahoma</td>
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<tr>
<td>JOB REQUIREMENTS: Strong oral and written communication skills, must be able to represent program in community through presentations, affiliations, participation in meeting and conferences. HS Diploma/GED required. Will report to Foster Grandparent Program Director and provide program support as needed/required.</td>
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<tr>
<th>JOB TITLE: CENTER DIRECTOR/FAMILY SERVICE WORKER - FT (Spiro HS)</th>
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<td>(Open to KI BOIS employees only!)</td>
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<tr>
<td>JOB REQUIREMENTS: Must have CDA Credential, AA or BA degree and experience in working with children and families.</td>
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<tr>
<th>JOB TITLE: TEACHER'S AIDES AND SUBS – PT (Inquire at your local Head Start Center)</th>
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<tr>
<td>JOB REQUIREMENTS: HS Diploma/GED</td>
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<tr>
<th>JOB TITLE: COUNSELOR - FT (McAlester Oaks)</th>
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<tr>
<td>JOB REQUIREMENTS: A Bachelor level degree in counseling, psychology, social work or related field. A Masters level degree in addiction studies is preferred. Will provide counseling in a residential setting.</td>
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<tr>
<th>JOB TITLE: SUBSTANCE ABUSE TECH - FT (McAlester Oaks)</th>
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<tr>
<td>JOB REQUIREMENTS: Assist Clinical Staff by providing logistical and support services to residential clients. HS Diploma/GED.</td>
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<tr>
<th>JOB TITLE: TRANSIT DRIVERS (Contact local Transit Office to verify opening)</th>
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<tr>
<td>LOCATION: Contact local Transit Office to verify opening</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<th>JOB TITLE: HABILITATION TRAINING SPECIALIST (Poteau, McAlester and Ada)</th>
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<tr>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
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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
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Sunday, April 1st was a big day in the life of Mr. Owen Hendrix as 15 volunteers from KI BOIS Area Transit (KAT) arrived at his home with rake, shovels, etc., but most of all with a lot of energy to help a friend and neighbor in need.

Mr. Hendrix lives alone and rides the KATS bus at least three times a day. KATS takes him to the library (for water, heat and air) and to Market Square (to eat) everyday and sometime he will go to the bank and Wal Mart. Mr. Hendrix has no running water in his home so when the KATS bus takes him home…..he goes straight to bed. Mr. Hendrix has also stated, “On the weekends I go to bed and stay until Monday when KATS comes to pick me up.”

Mr. Hendrix’s yard was overgrown with weeds and limbs needed to be trimmed so the bus could get to his home to pick him up. Mr. Hendrix has difficulty walking and it was impossible for the KATS van to pull up to his house. Since his driveway is now cleared and his yard is mowed, the KATS bus can now pull up to the front of his house.

One volunteer kept a secret until the end of the day….he had killed two snakes during the clean-up operations but didn't tell anyone until the day was over. According to Jeanie Sanders and Velma Maldonado, “It's a good thing nothing was said. I know two volunteers that would have been out of there!”

It took approximately six hours for the clean-up crew to get the job done. Stilwell KATS volunteers were Velma Maldonado, Matthew Bracken, James Sharp, Eli Polina, Jimmy Soap, Jeanie Sanders, Kenneth Sanders, Sandra Applegate, James Applegate, Sanford Bean, Albert Teehee, Darrell Dillard, Donald McReynolds, Donald Fixin, and a friend Beaver Sam. County Commissioner Danny Braden also volunteered trash pick-up.

The project was coordinated by KATS driver Sandy Applegate and Stilwell Route Supervisor Jeanie Sanders. The volunteers plan on making this an annual event to help those who can’t help themselves.


Can you find the KATS bus?

Two volunteers busy with chain saws.

Mr. Owen Hendrix

Home Sweet Home