

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

Helping People. Changing Lives.  
**KI BOIS** community **Action**  
PARTNERSHIP  
AMERICA'S POVERTY FIGHTING NETWORK

**KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc.**

**KI BOIS News**

## A Time For Giving Thanks

by Valerie Lalli

There are moments in life that change us. Moments like falling in love or having a baby that show us what is great in the world; while other moments such as “Your child has cancer” make us question the fairness of circumstances we are handed in life. For a little girl at just the age of five, being diagnosed with a type of cancer known as Alveolar Rhabdomyosarcoma, was a moment that changed not only her life, but all those around that love her, forever.

It was August 26th, 2001 when Eric Quinton and Tabbatha Duff gave birth and fell in love with a beautiful and healthy little girl they named Sydni Lynn Quinton. She was one of a kind from day one. With bright eyes, friendly personality, and a loving heart, Sydni

grew into a little girl who genuinely cared about others. She spent her time singing, cheer-leading at football games, riding her four-wheeler and attending church. All the things other kids her age were doing because on the surface there were no reasons to be concerned and no signs of sickness to cause alarm. That all changed in one day.

It was just a week shy of

Thanksgiving in 2005 when Sydni’s mom, Tabbatha, noticed a lump on Sydni’s right thigh. Tests were run which revealed a soft tissue mass. In January of 2006, surgery was performed to remove the mass and when the results came back it was a complete shock to the family. Tabbatha describes that day as “the day that turned their world upside-down.” She never expected to hear the word “cancer” in relation to her little girl and had never even heard of Alveolar Rhabdomyosarcoma until that day.

Alveolar Rhabdomyosarcoma is a very aggressive form of can-

*(Continued on page 3)*



**Tabbatha and Sydni**



**Lots of Head Start photos on page 6.**

## Williams Takes

He did it again! Terry Williams, LeFlore County KATS driver, has placed first at the Oklahoma Transit Bus Rodeo held in Oklahoma City on October 19th - 21st. Williams competed along side 16 other transit drivers from across the state of Oklahoma in a written exam, performing a pre-trip inspection, securing a wheel chair / passenger and driving an obstacle course. After all the dust had settled and scores tallied Williams’ name was at the top of the score card.

“This is great not only for Williams, but an accomplishment for KATS. I am very proud of Terry and I know he will do his best at nationals,” according to KATS Director

Charla Sloan.

This is the fifth time Williams has



**Terry Williams**

competed on the state level winning three of those times in 2007, 2009 and 2011 and with those wins, Williams has also

*(Continued on page 5)*

## From the Desk of the Executive Director / CEO

This time of the year makes me thankful to live in our beautiful southeastern Oklahoma. The wonderful fall weather and the beautiful fall foliage add to the natural beauty of the lakes and woodlands. It seems so peaceful here compared to the events in other parts of the world that we see on television each day. When giving our daily devotions we need to remember the leaders of our state and country and especially our men and women in uniform who preserve our freedom on a daily basis, sometimes at a great cost to themselves and their families.

Congratulations are in order to KATS Driver Terry Williams who was the winner of the Oklahoma Transit Association Bus Rodeo in Oklahoma City, OK. Terry will now compete at the Nationals in Baltimore, MD the last week in May. Terry drives in the Poteau - Spiro area of LeFlore County.

As we start to think about Thanksgiving and the many wonderful things that we have to be thankful for I encourage you to be especially mindful of those in your local community who are in need. Many of them we serve on a daily basis and many who are too proud to ask for help. Please take time to volunteer with your local community groups and churches that prepare annual Thanksgiving meals for the needy or deliver food baskets to the hungry.



I wish you and yours a Happy Thanksgiving!

**R. Carroll Huggins, CCAP**  
*Executive Director/CEO*



**Carroll Huggins**

## Calendar of Events November 2011

- KI BOIS Community Action offices closed, Friday, November 11th for Veterans Day 
- KI BOIS Community Action offices closed Thursday and Friday, November 24th and 25th for Thanksgiving. 



**Great American Smoke Out**  
**Thursday, November 17th.**



**KI BOIS Community Action** staff attended the Sequoyah County Women's Expo, Sallisaw on Oct. 19th hosted by the Sequoyah County Times and the Sequoyah County Women in Business. The event hosted 75 vendor booths and approximately 450 attendees. The expo was highlighted by guest speaker Donna Bragg of Sparks Health Systems, a fashion show and lunch.

**Top photo, KI BOIS Community Care** Case Manager Robert "Bob" Hutsell, Sequoyah County Outreach Worker Brandi Henry and Sequoyah County Coordinator Melissa Stubblefield man a booth sponsored by KI BOIS Community Action.

**Bottom Photo, Sequoyah County Coordinator** Melissa Stubblefield also is busy manning a booth at the Redbird Health Fair, which was held Oct. 4th in Sallisaw. The event was hosted by Cherokee Nation for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



## **KI BOIS News**

is published monthly by  
KI BOIS Community Action  
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## In Loving Memory



### Lowell C. Nolen

August 16th, 1930 - October 11, 2011  
 Grandfather of KI BOIS Community Care  
 Case Manager Jamie McSlarrow and uncle to  
 Public Relations Director Kay Box.

### Curmon Casey

March 20th, 1938 - October 24th, 2011  
 Dad to McIntosh County KATS Supervisor  
 Cheryl Burns.

### Terry Casey

Died October 3rd, 2011  
 Brother to McIntosh County KATS  
 Supervisor Cheryl Burns.

### Patricia Ann Cremeens

Sept. 13th, 1956 - Sept. 17th, 2011  
 Mother of Supported Living Program Coor-  
 dinator Taffi Hardwick

### Melvin Hairrell

Nov. 28th, 1952 - Sept. 12, 2011  
 Brother of Pittsburg County  
 KATS Supervisor Diana Sorrells

## Getting to Know Our Staff

Kerisa Spears began working for KI BOIS Women's Shelter in August of 2011 as a Case Manager in the Supportive Housing Program covering LeFlore, Haskell and Pittsburg Counties.



Kerisa Spears

Spears graduated cum laude from North-eastern State University with a Bachelors degree in Science in Human and Family Science.

According to Spears, "I truly love working with people and helping individuals to improve their lives. When I began college at NSU I wanted to impact lives in a positive way and working with KI BOIS I am able to do that in an area I feel passionate about."

Spears and her husband, Tyrone, of 21 years, live in Stigler with their three children.

## A Time For Giving Thanks.....cont. from page 1

cer that attaches itself to the muscle and has to be treated very aggressively. And according to the American Cancer Society it accounts for 5-8% of childhood cancers. The doctors at Saint Francis Medical Center decided the best treatment for Sydni, after the removal of the mass, would be four weeks of radiation and forty-eight weeks of the strongest chemo treatments, thus starting Sydni's battle against cancer.

She experienced many ups and downs along the way. She lost all of her hair right after her first treatment. She had rough patches where she had unexplained temperature spikes, infections, and loss of appetite. She had to stay away from anyone who could risk her recovery so she and her mom kept people informed of her progress through an online journal. Sydni loved to read all of the encouraging messages from friends and family. Sydni would also give her mom messages to post on her journal for her loved ones to read.

After a very hard-fought year in February of 2007 Sydni received her final chemo treatment. She was cancer free. This fearless little girl never lost faith, fought through all of her pain and sickness to win the battle. Today Sydni is five years cancer free and loving her life. It is amazing to see how much courage can fit inside such a small package.

If you meet Sydni today you would never know the size of the mountain she climbed to get here. She enjoys all the things other 4th grade kids her age should and appreciates them just a little bit more, because she understands how precious life can be. She says the thing she is most looking forward to when she becomes a teenager is "driving!" I asked what her favorite things were now and she was quick to reply with "Dancing, riding my Moped, and playing with my Weenie dog Boomer. I also like to be creative by painting, drawing, or making my own hair bows." We talked about her favorite school subjects, which of course is "recess!" When Sydni isn't busy with dancing or spending time with friends, she is busy being a big sister to her brother Jaxen and sister McKinley. She is making every moment count and radiating with life. It doesn't take much to fall in love with Sydni. When a smile crosses her face, that appears as though her heart is shining through it, you know you have met someone truly special.

This past year Sydni joined a Relay For Life team in her home town that raises money for the American Cancer Society. With her help they raised over \$21,500 dollars to aid in the fight against cancer. She plans to stay involved in Relay for Life and will be a part of their team again this year. If you ask Sydni what Relay for Life does, she will tell you "they help raise money to find a cure for cancer like I had."

When our conversation was coming to a close I had just two more questions I wanted to ask Sydni. I asked if she could tell me, in her own words, what a survivor is. Sydni didn't hesitate before responding, "Someone who has to do what I did." I had to smile away my tears because hearing her say those words was one of those life-changing moments for me. She never gave up and fought as though her life depended on it, because it did.

My last question was one asking her advice for other kids her age that might be facing the same journey. Her advice was spoken like an adult, way ahead of her time. "Know that God is always with you and don't be scared. You can do it."

*Editor's Note....This article ran in the October issue of OKIE Magazine. Thank you to Sydni and her mom for sharing this story and their courage with us. Kay*



Sydni is all smiles as she participated in the American Cancer Society Relay For Life.

## Hall and Jones Attend Conference

KI BOIS Community Action Associate Director / COO Larry Hall and Housing Director John Jones were busy attending panels, workshops and seminars regarding Changing Communities, Energy-Sector Enterprises as CAA Social Enterprises and more during the National Community Action Foundation (NCAF) Energy and Community Economic Development Partnership Conference, October 23rd through 27th, St. Petersburg, FL.



Hall attending one of the many sessions.

## Words of Encouragement .....

Steve Jobs was an excellent example of the "abrasive leaders" referred to in *Exchange Every Day*, "[Why Abrasive Leaders Succeed](#)." And clearly from all the glowing tributes after his death, he did succeed. While we do not plan to further extol his accomplishments, nor explore his shortcomings, we do want to share an idea he offered in his commencement address to the 2005 Stanford graduating class on the importance of loving your work:

"I didn't see it then, but it turned out that getting fired from Apple was the best thing that could have ever happened to me... It was awful tasting medicine, but I guess the patient needed it. Sometimes life hits you in the head with a brick. Don't lose faith. I'm convinced that the only thing that kept me going was that I loved what I did. You've got to find what you love. And that is as true for your work as it is for your lovers. Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. As with all matters of the heart, you'll know when you find it. And, like any great relationship, it just gets better and better as the years roll on. So keep looking until you find it. Don't settle."



## New Arrivals



Kelcee Patricia was born on October 11th. Kelcee weighed seven pounds and two ounces and was twenty and 3/4 inches.

Parents are Poteau Head Start Teacher Assistant Karla and Brian Harper.

## KATS Touches Family With Kindness

Approximately two and a half years ago, the Latimer County KATS began transporting Jessica Hood, a young lady who had been diagnosed with Good Pasture's Syndrome resulting in kidney failure to McAlester for dialysis three times per week. On October 6, Jessica received a kidney transplant with the kidney being donated by her grandmother, Shiffon Ivey. Both she and her grandmother are out of the hospital and according to Jessica's doctor she is managing better than expected. Jessica became very special to the Latimer County KATS drivers and upon their winning gift cards at the annual Stigler KATS bus rodeo, drivers Wanda Caldwell and Betty Holbird took their gift cards and bought Jessica a Kindle reader to take to the hospital with her. Jessica's mother, Susan, has expressed how appreciative the family is of the special role that the KATS staff has played during Jessica's illness and with her recovery. The Latimer County Office is extremely happy for Jessica and the opportunity she has been given.

Ireland Reese was born October 19th at Sparks Hospital in Ft. Smith, AR. Ireland weighed six pounds and four ounces.

Parents are Jessica Bailes and Jeremy Owens. Grandmother, (Gammie), is KI BOIS Women's Shelter Director Anne Peck.



New baby at William Gay Early Childhood Center/KI BOIS Head Start in McAlester! Cooper Andres Hochmuth was born on October 15th at 10:20 a.m. to Marcia Bishop and Michael Hochmuth.

Cooper weighed 7 pounds and 10 ounces and was 21 inches long.

Pictured are from left to right Shiffon Ivey, Jessica Hood, Betty Holbird, and Wanda Caldwell.



**Free ENTRY**

**TURKEY TROT**

**5K WALK/RUN**

**November 12, 2011**

**Roye Park – Stigler, OK**

**Registration**  
8:00 a.m.

**Run Begins**  
9:00 a.m.

**For More Information:**  
Denise Daniels  
(918) 967-3325

Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline  
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The HALT Project

# Williams Takes First

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competed at the National Bus Rodeo in New Orleans and Long Beach, CA. The 2011 win will put him in Baltimore, MD in May of 2012 competing once again with a written test, performing a pre trip inspection, securing a wheel-chair / passenger and driving an obstacle course.

Williams commented, “Five times I have represented KATS and three of those times been blessed with a championship. I didn’t think it was possible, but I gave it my best! I was proud to show the judges what I do everyday and it is nice to be rewarded for it.” Williams started working for KI BOIS Community Action as a KATS driver in 2005.

Congratulations Terry and best of luck at the National Bus Rodeo in Baltimore, MD.

## KI BOIS Community Action Employment Postings

**JOB TITLE: EVENING SUPERVISOR FT (McAlester Care Center)**

**JOB REQUIREMENTS:** Training and/or experience in crises intervention; must be self-motivated with good communication and problem-solving skills. Maintain records and complete paper work as needed. HS Diploma or GED

**JOB TITLE: COOK FT (McAlester Oaks)**

**JOB REQUIREMENTS:** Experience in an institutional setting. Flexible work schedule. 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: 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](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**

# Head Start Has Fun During Head Start Awareness Month and Red Ribbon Week



*Jefferson Head Start three year old classroom listens as their teacher Yvette Andrews reads Llama, Llama Red Pajama during Read for the Record campaign.*



*Pocola Head Start students learn about mixing colors!*



*Stigler Head Start parent Nadia Keith, helps some of the shy children meet Smokey & Sparky*



*Pocola Head Start Assistant Teacher Becky Calhoun rides in a fire truck during Head Start Awareness Month.*



**Panama Head Start celebrates Red Ribbon Week and Head Start Awareness Month.**