

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



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

## I'm Proud to be an American

By Elaine Boyd, Head Start Bookkeeper

Trip the light fantastic; it's off to the land of opportunity! Everything, lights and cars, ice cream and convertibles, cities and bridges, will be bigger and better in the land of the "Yanks." That's what we were told and believed every word as we boarded

the plane in Glasgow, Scotland and headed for JFK in New York City. We left behind all that we knew, loving grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins and a plot of land that was given to my Great-grandfather for his service in Kitchener's Army during WWI.

Bagpipes and castles, golf courses, steak pie, pork pies and a personal favorite, fish and chips



KI BOIS Community Action Housing Director John Jones won the 2011 Guy Davis Leadership Award and KI BOIS Community Action Board member Jan Copen won the 2011 Volunteer of the Year Award. The awards were presented at the 2011 OKACAA Annual Conference held September 21 - 23 in Norman. Congratulations to Jones and Copen!

### Breaking News .....

KI BOIS Community Action has been selected to administer the Foster Grandparents Program effective October 1st. The Foster Grandparent Program is a part of Senior Corps and is administered by  
*(Continued on page 7)*

### Inside Edition.....

Photos of the 2nd Annual Bus Roadeo and KI BOIS Community Action Sequoyah County Grand Opening / Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.



*Boyd proudly displays her certificate of Citizenship along with Magistrate Judge Kimberly E. West who administered the oath.*

smothered in vinegar and wrapped in old newspaper. We left all we knew. What we had was a hope and a prayer and lots and lots of opportunities. Which, I am very proud to say, that my family and myself have capitalized on.

Our six have become twenty five. My oldest brother lives in Maine with his wife and their adult children. They own and operate Boyd Auctions. Look them up and you may find a treasure at one of their monthly auctions! My sister Lesley, is right here in Haskell county and works for KIBOIS Head Start. She and her husband also own their own busi-

*(Continued on page 3)*

# From the Desk of the Executive Director / CEO

October, 2011

KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Incorporated is privileged to have such a committed group of board members, staff, and volunteers that use their talents and resources to help those who are less fortunate. Their expertise and commitment to helping people and changing lives is commendable.

Our Community Action Agency helps people and changes lives every day in cities, towns, and rural communities all across our service area. As the Community Action Partnership promise indicates, "Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities and makes our communities a better place to live. We care about the entire community and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other."

Several of our staff were recognized at the Annual Oklahoma Community Action Association Conference awards luncheon on September 23, 2011 in Norman, OK for their many years of committed service. Among those being recognized were:



**Carroll Huggins**

**10 Years:** Sharon Arnett, Donna Atkins, Kay Box, Cheryl Burns, Sun Butner, Tammy Duncan, Paula Goforth, Gene Gray, Marianna Herron, Joyce Honeycutt, Virginia Honeycutt, Loretta Jones, Jimmy Knight, Devin Montgomery, Rita Neal, Shaunda Noah, Jerrie Patton, Adelaide Pruet, Twalla Robinson, Jeremy Rogers, Cindy Simmons, Stella Thornburg, Ronita Trager, Sheila Twyman, JoAnn Walden, Julie Walls and April Wind.

**15 Years:** Christy Dickson, Carolyn Hutchins, Teresa Lindsey and Betty McCool.

**20 Years:** Ronald Davis, Matt Gentry, Bobbie Gilreath, Rosalind Newby, Kristie Reasnor, Tommy Taylor, Sarah Tucker and Wanda Whitfield.

**25 Years:** Deanne Booth, Debra Restine, Diana Sorrels and Dorothy Young.

**30 Years:** Joanna Bunch and Lynn Johnson.

**35 Years:** Donna Carolan.

On behalf of our Board and Staff I congratulate each of you for your many years of dedicated work to the Community Action effort in our service area.

Also Mr. John Jones received the coveted Guy Davis Leadership Award and Ms. Jan Coplen received the 2011 Volunteer of the Year award. Congratulations to both of them for their hard work and dedication to low-income clients.

KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Incorporated received notice of selection as the grantee for the Foster Grandparent Program. The program will operate in a fourteen county area in Eastern Oklahoma. Ms. Shaunda Noah has been selected to be the program director starting on October 1, 2011.

We are still awaiting announcement on our Head Start Application for the former Cookson Hills Head Start Program.

We have a new 2011 Champion KATS Bus Driver. Chris Houglund from Tahlequah, OK won the driving competition at the KATS Bus Rodeo in Stigler last Saturday. We had great training, great food, great fellowship, great weather, and a great driver competition. Congratulations Chris!

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

**KI BOIS Community Action office will be closed Monday, October 10th for Columbus Day!**



**The October Issue marks the beginning of 10 years in publication!**



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Jan Coplen, Sec./Treasurer  
Cecil Williams, Parliamentarian

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## Proud....continued from page 1

ness and their girls are in school here as well. My youngest brother, Steven, was part of this community for many years however he has moved his business to Abilene, KS. Four of my children, Elizabeth, Emily, Eric and Kajelyn live at home with me in Keota along with my amazing grandson, Aiden. My parents, many of you know as Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus. They really talk funny and really have white hair. My mum and dad, John and Betty have been going around to local schools each Christmas bringing joy and candy canes for many years and just retired last year.

On September 9, 2011, I became a citizen of the United States. My son Keith is SPC Beardsley, Keith A, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Infantry and is stationed in Iraq. He is part of Operation New Dawn. I asked myself, what could I possibly do to even come close to this kind of sacrifice. The answer, "If Keith is willing to give his life for America then darn tooting, I'm going to be able to vote!" Voting is one of the privileges given to American citizens. So I became a citizen on Friday at the oldest and most beautiful court house here in Oklahoma and on Monday morning I registered to vote. If you are reading this and can vote, please do. I swore an oath to help defend this country if called upon and I pledged allegiance to the United States. It was a very moving ceremony and one that I have and continue to share with all of you. Maybe my story will renew a sense of Patriotism in some of you that has gone dormant. This is the greatest country in the world. I am proud to be an American now. May God continue to bless America, now and in the days to come.

(Editor's Note...Elaine did not include in her story her first memory of the United States. She was only six years old when her family moved to America. Her dad, who had moved to the United States six months prior, had rented a convertible to pick them up at the air port. It was the biggest car she had ever seen and it had no top! The first place he took them was to get ice cream, whipped dairy ice cream, in a cone. The biggest ice cream cone she had ever seen! He then drove them across the George Washington Bridge with ice cream dripping to their new home in Rahway, N.J.

Congratulations to Elaine on her new title, American Citizen, and for sharing her journey with us. We wish her and her family much happiness and pray for a safe return for Keith.

## Great Day for 2nd Annual Bus Rodeo

**123 Drivers.....26 supervisors and mechanics.....**six KI BOIS staff and 112 volunteers and family equals 267 people attending the 2nd Annual KATS Bus Rodeo. The rodeo was held at the KATS facility, Stigler, Saturday, September 24th.



**Aaron Goodman walks the drivers through the course before they drive.**

The day started at KI BOIS Community Action administrative office with greetings from KATS Director Charla Sloan. Sloan was followed by Eddie Kroutter, Tulsa Operation Lifesaver on rail road safety. The drivers were then loaded on numerous buses to be taken to different locations in Stigler. At these locations the drivers were instructed on pre-trip, how to secure a wheel chair, evacuation and received hands-on training even to the point where the drivers were put in wheelchairs, loaded on the vehicles and driven around the block to see what it feels like to be a rider. The drivers also rotated through a session on Distracted Driving given by State Trooper Danny Upton.

After the training the group was treated to lunch provided by National Bus Sales of Dallas, TX. Lunch served...it was time to start the competition. 26 drivers lined up hoping to make it through the maze in record breaking time and no cones lying on

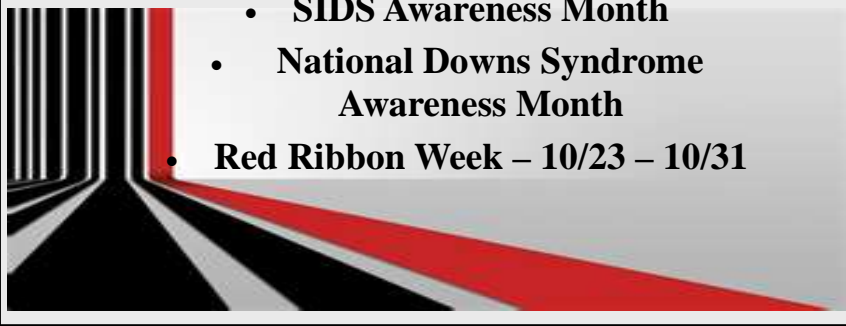
their side. The course consisted of a serpentine maneuver, right tire clearance, passenger stop, left and right hand turns, right and left hand reverse, backing and judgment stop. Each driver was also judged on smoothness as they maneuvered the course. After all scores were tallied Chris Houghland, Tahlequah was in first place with Raymond Shelton, McAlester, second and Terry Williams, Poteau, third. Although Williams placed third he will be traveling on to compete at the state level in October and the national level in the future.

Congratulations to all the winners and to the KATS staff for making this an eventful and fun day. (See additional photos on page 4.)

## Let's Get Involved! October Is...

### National Weatherization Day – Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>

- Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- Head Start Awareness Month
  - Health Literacy Month
  - Healthy Lung Month
  - SIDS Awareness Month
- National Downs Syndrome Awareness Month
- Red Ribbon Week – 10/23 – 10/31



# 2nd Annual Bus Rodeo

Saturday, September 24th

*Lots of Training.....*



**1st**

**Chris Houghland  
Tahlequah**



*Lots of food.....*



**2nd**

**Raymond Shelton  
McAlester**

*Lots of competing.....*



**3rd**

**Terry Williams  
Poteau**



*Lots of prizes....* Doris Bingham, Sallisaw, above, winner of the big screen TV and Helen Gann, Sallisaw, left, was the winner of \$200.00. Many other prizes such as digital cameras, DVD players, I Pod touch were given.



## Fair Selected as Director

“Amy Fair, Wilburton, has been selected as the new Region IV Rx-Oklahoma Director, effective October 1st,” according to KI BOIS Community Action Executive Director Carroll Huggins. Ms. Fair will be replacing Shaunda Noah, who will be directing the new Foster Grandparent program for KI BOIS Community Action.

Fair has been with KI BOIS Community Action since 2007, coordinating the VITA program for the agency along with managing the data reporting of agency activities in the CAPilot system. Over the course of her 4 years with KI BOIS Community Action, Fair has grown the VITA program by at least 10% every year with 2010 tax season growing 19% with returns of over \$1.8 million dollars to clients within our service area.

Fair attended Oklahoma State University where she obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1995. She is also a candidate in 2012 for National Certification as a Certified Community Action Professional.

Fair will be located at the KI BOIS Community Action Latimer County office located at 309 W. Main, Wilburton or by calling 918-465-3381, cell phone 918-470-2760 or by her email address at [amy.fair@kibois.org](mailto:amy.fair@kibois.org).

## You can help Stuff the Bus

KI BOIS Area Transit, KATS, joins other Oklahoma Transit Association members across the state collecting items for Operation Homefront Oklahoma, OHOK. OHOK assists homefront families of soldiers stationed overseas, as well as wounded warriors transitioning from active duty to VA care. These items would consist of beef jerky, chap stick, razors, stamps etc.

KATS will be collecting until October 17th and all donations will be presented to OHOK on October 19th at a special event. If you have any questions, call KATS at 918-967-3325.



## OPTION PERIOD 2012 IS OPEN

***Failure to take action this Option Period will result in an increase to your deductible and out-of-pocket limit.***

All employees currently participating in benefit coverage through Oklahoma State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board (health, dental, vision or life), should be receiving an Option Period Packet mailed directly to your home address from OSEEGIB. (Standard letter size window envelope with the words “IMPORTANT OPTION PERIOD MATERIALS ENCLOSED”). This is your annual opportunity to make changes to existing coverage. All changes will be effective January 1, 2012. It is also the opportunity for eligible employees not currently participating to enroll.

Your Option Period Packet includes a personalized *Option Period Enrollment/Change Form*, Plan Changes for 2012, a Monthly Premium Chart, and Plan Contact Information. There are also instructions on how to request a printed copy of the *Employee Benefit Options Guide*. The deadline for returning the *Option Period Enrollment/Change Form* will be October 31, 2011 (close of business). Please send your form(s) to KI BOIS Community Action at P. O. Box 727, Stigler, OK 74462 or you may fax them to 918.967.9100. If you do not make changes, there is no need to return the change form. KI BOIS Community Action will continue to offer HealthChoice High/High Alternative, HealthChoice Dental or any of the Delta Dental Products, Humana/CompBenefits Vision Care Plan or Primary Vision Care Services.

*The 2012 PLAN CHANGES portion of the packet discusses the HealthChoice High Alternative Plan. This plan has been introduced for tobacco users. The deductible and out-of-pocket limits are higher than the HealthChoice High Plan we are currently enrolled in. To remain enrolled in the existing HealthChoice High Plan, you must attest that you and your covered dependents are tobacco-free by completing a Tobacco-Free Attestation for Plan Year 2012. Detailed instructions are included in the 2012 PLAN CHANGES. Failure to complete and submit an Attestation Form (or follow other options) will result in an automatic switch from HealthChoice High to the Alternative Plan, regardless of tobacco use.*

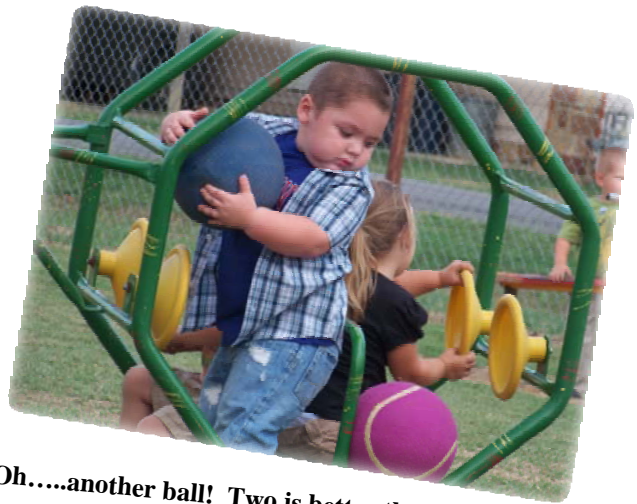
KI BOIS Community Action will continue to subsidize employee only (single) health plan coverage based on available funding. Any changes in the 2012 premium rates for dependent coverage will be passed on to the employee. Employees are responsible for 100% of dental, vision and life premiums for members, as well as any dependents.

Eligible employees wishing to enroll in coverage for the first time will need to notify KI BOIS - Human Resources immediately and request an enrollment package. All forms must be received in our administrative office by October 31, 2011 (close of business). If you have any questions, please call Addie Pruet at 918.967.3325.

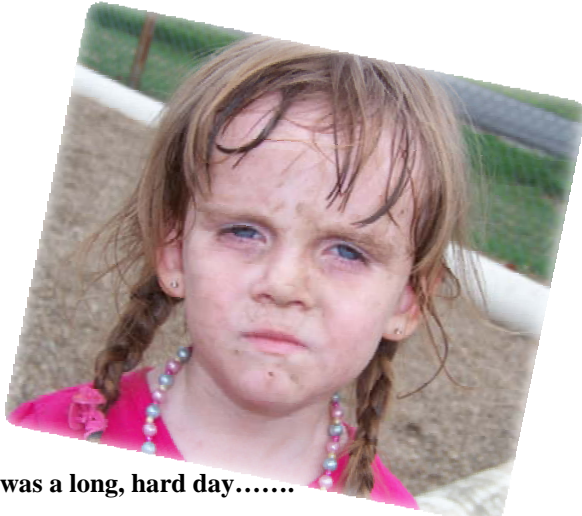
# It's Fun at the Quinton Head Start



Taking a drive



Oh.....another ball! Two is better than one.



It was a long, hard day.....



Swimming in a sea of pea gravel.



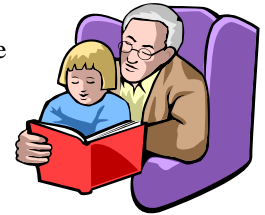
It took a lot of hard work to get the Arkoma playground up to par, but Glenn Kates, Justin Reasnor and David Knowlton got the job done! According to Reasnor and Knowlton, "There is nothing like a cold glass, no pitcher, of water to cool off."



**Breaking News.....cont. from page 1**

the Corporation for National and Community Service. Covering Haskell, Latimer, LeFlore, Pittsburg, Sequoyah, McIntosh, Okmulgee, Cherokee, Adair, Delaware, Ottawa, Muskogee, Mayes and Wagoner Counties, Foster Grandparents is geared to 60 year old and above individuals wanting to share their experience and compassion. As a Foster Grandparent, you're a role model, a mentor and a friend helping children learn to read, provide one-on-one tutoring and guide children at a critical time in their lives.

According to KI BOIS Community Executive Director Carroll Huggins, "Shaunda Noah has been selected as the director of this program. Shaunda has been with KI BOIS Community Action 10 years and the Region IV Director of the Rx-Oklahoma program for the last 3 years. She has grown that program considerably since she took over and has had clean monitoring/compliance reviews every year. She is one of our better communicators and program managers and is really excited about the opportunity. We feel that she will work very well with not only the volunteers but the volunteer station management in growing the program in Eastern Oklahoma."



Noah attended East Central University, Ada and received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in HR Counseling in May of 2001 and a Master of Science Degree in HR in December of 2002. She received her national certification last year as a Certified Community Action Professional. She served as President of Red Oak Board of Education in her home town of Red Oak, Oklahoma from 2001-2006. She is a member of the Society for Human Resource Management.

If you know of anyone wanting to share their knowledge or skills, you can contact Noah at 918-967-3325, 800-299-4479, cell 918-429-7639 or by Email: [shaunda.noah@kibois.org](mailto:shaunda.noah@kibois.org).

Congratulations to KI BOIS Community Action for an exciting new program and Shaunda Noah for being selected as Director of the Foster Grandparents Program.

***KI BOIS Community Action Employment Postings***

**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**

# Mallory Barrett Competes In Triathlons

Sports have always been a part of seven year old Mallory Barrett's life. Mallory is the granddaughter of KI BOIS Fiscal Officer, Jan Garner. She has been playing t-ball since she was 4 years old, and the past two seasons she has played on both t-ball and softball teams. She has played basketball since she was in kindergarten with her "Paw Paw Butch" coaching her basketball team last season, the "Booster Hoopsters". Mallory is also a member of the Glam cheerleading squad of Stigler. When asked about her motivation for sports, Mallory states that, "I wanted to get bigger muscles, be healthy and win trophies of course!"

Mallory ran her first triathlon on August 27th in Ft. Smith AR. Swimming, running and biking along side or in front of 10 other kids in her age group. "Mallory loves sports and any kind of competition," stated Mallory's grandmother, Jan. "When she first started school, we had to explain to her that turning your papers in first wasn't always a win...rather you had to make sure you did your best even if it meant being last to turn your work in". To train for her competitions, Mallory runs, walks and rides her bike at the Porum football and track field. On September 10th in Heyburn Park, Tulsa Mallory put her talents to work once again as she competed in another triathlon. When asked what her favorite part of this triathlon competition was, Mallory stated, "Riding my bike downhill! We had to ride our bike half way up the hill, then turn around and ride downhill. It was scary, but fun!"



*Mallory in transition as she has finished her swim leg and headed to pick up her bike to start the bike leg at the Tulsa Tri.*

# Sequoyah County Has Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

**K**I BOIS Community Action Sequoyah County had their Grand Opening / Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Thursday, September 8th. The events were attended by the City of Sallisaw elected officials, KI BOIS Community Action Board Members and staff. KI BOIS Community Action was also presented a plaque for becoming a member of the Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce.

According to Melissa Stubblefield County Coordinator, "We are very pleased with the response by the City of Sallisaw and Sequoyah County and we look forward to serving individuals in this area." The office is located at 1223 E. Cherokee Suite 1, and our phone number is 918-776-0848."

