

HAPPY
thanksgiving

November, 2021

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 NEWS

The End of An Era! John Jones Retires



John Jones! A lot can be said about the man; the myth; the legend! He has been a fixture at KI BOIS Community Action since October of 1981. His first job was as a weatherization supervisor.

In 1994, John was named Housing Director. In 1998, he was the first individual at KI BOIS to receive his Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) certification. Jones has served as President and Vice-President of the Oklahoma Weatherization and Housing Advisory Council (OWHAC). He has been an integral part in coordinating the annual OWHAC conferences over the years. John was also a member of the Oklahoma Training Committee that

provides training and technical assistance for Community Action Weatherization programs and staff statewide.

Give John an idea and he runs with it. He's been the go-to man when anything needed fixing up. He put his heart and soul into making the KI BOIS Housing & Weatherization a success, and he succeeded. Let John know about someone that had a housing need and he helped. Not because it was his job, but because it is who he is.

As Jones represented housing throughout the state of Oklahoma by providing safe, decent and affordable housing, his heart represented the Promise of Community Action by improving people's lives and making America a better place to live. He was awarded the prestigious Guy Davis Leadership award in 2011 by the Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies, as well as a host of other awards and accolades throughout the years.

In 2019, John stepped way from Housing and Weatherization to take on a new role at KI BOIS. He became the Maintenance & Facilities Director for the agency. Since that time, he's overseen the add-on and remodel of the Board & Administration Office in Stigler, the newly constructed LeFlore County Office in Poteau and the remodeling of the Stigler Women's Shelter, Sequoyah County office and Latimer County office.

Now that John is officially retired, you will find him at the golf course or hunting, two of his favorite things to do. There's no doubt that John will be missed by his coworker and peers. His 40 plus years of service to KI BOIS and its' service area is to be commended and celebrated. Congratulations John!



One of John's favorite things to do is hunt. Here is one of his latest trophies.

80's * 90's * 2000's



From the Desk of Executive Director / CEO

R. Carroll Huggins

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. On November 11th our great nation honors all Veterans.

We ask for special prayers for those dealing with Covid-19. We pray for our Medical Staff who are providing medical care for them. We pray for an end to this terrible virus!

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 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 Safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

Carroll Huggins, CCAP
Executive Director / CEO



KI BOIS COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Board

John Cook
Board Chairperson

Cecil Williams
1st Vice Chair

Steve Carter
2nd Vice Chair

Jan Coplen
Secretary/Treasurer

Frank Phillips
Parliamentarian

Joy Walker
Executive Board Member

Members of the Board

Joyce Cleveland

Janice Williams

De'Anne Booth

Jeremy Bullard

Rosalind Didlott

Henry Burriss

Roy Gordon, Jr.

Kodey Toney

Charles Regan

Ross Selman

Mike Mouzakis

Bud Smithson

Executive Leadership

R. Carroll Huggins, CCAP
Executive Director/CEO

Tom Marlatt
Associate Director/CFO

Larry Hall
Associate Director/COO

KI BOIS NEWS

is published quarterly by
KI BOIS Community Action
Foundation, Inc.

Royce Alverson, Editor
918-967-3325, Ext. 134
Royce.Alverson@kibois.org



Congratulations to Paula Goforth, Program Coordinator in LeFlore county, on her recent retirement. She has worked for KI BOIS since July of 2001, starting as HTS. She then took positions as Job Coach, HCC and eventually the Program Coordinator position.

When asked what her retirement plans are, Paula stated, "I plan to work more in my yard and butterfly garden and raise more Monarchs and Swallowtail butterflies. I also hope to travel more and attend more Bluegrass festivals."

"This job has been very exciting at times to say the least! Lots of great memories with all the different clients and staff and being able to take them on trips or special events.



**VOLUNTEER
BELL RINGERS
NEEDED!**

Ring a bell...help change a life

Haskell, Latimer & Pittsburg Counties

Calendar of Events



KI BOIS Board Meeting - November 18, 2021 - 6:30 p.m.

Sequoyah County Community Thanksgiving Dinner - November 24, 2021 - 11am - 2pm

Poteau Community Thanksgiving Dinner - November 25, 2021 - 11am - 2pm

Thanksgiving Holiday - November 25 & 26, 2021

Happy Retirement John Jones



KI BOIS Community Action Housing Director John Jones won the 2011 Guy Davis Leadership Award and KI BOIS Community Action Board member Jan Coplen 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 Coplen!



KI BOIS Community Action Domestic Violence Services Director Amanda Prewett recently accepted a new position with the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. We wish her the very best in her new position.

McKinlee Crase has promoted to the Director's position. She's been an employee at the Stigler Women's Shelter since 2020. Congratulations McKinlee.



McKinlee Crase

10 YEARS

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.

Board Member Spotlight



JAN COPLEN

Tell us a little about yourself:

I grew up in Ft. Worth, TX and graduated from Paschal High School in 1968. I am the second of four children. I married my husband C.B in 1969 and moved to Oklahoma in 1974. We are blessed with 4 children and 14 grandchildren. I was employed by KI BOIS Community Action for 7 years before becoming a stay-at-home mom. I worked in Self-Help Housing for 25 years and then worked for Stigler Public Schools for 7 years.

What is your role on the Board?

I am currently the Board Secretary/Treasurer. I attend the Executive Committee Meetings. I am always anxious to know what is going on with our KI BOIS, CAF. It is my duty to sign documents for varied reasons for the agency, attend board meetings, read and study reports, and make decisions for maintaining a viable agency to meet goals and objectives.

What do you like most about KI BOIS, CAF?

The job opportunities KI BOIS, CAF brings to every county in which they operate. We live in some of the most economically served counties in Oklahoma. KI BOIS' influence is felt in so many areas.

What has compelled you to serve on the KI BOIS, CAF Board?:

I believe we should be the hands and feet of Jesus and KI BOIS embodies this. Lives are being changed and people are being served by the efforts of this agency. I'm so blessed to serve alongside others to make a difference in the lives of lower-income/less fortunate families.

What kind of hobbies and interests do you have?

I love serving in my church. I knit, sew, quilt and cook. I'm very busy with my large family. We enjoy big get-togethers with family and friends. This always includes FOOD!

Quote/Motto:

Keep on keeping on!

Random Fun Fact:

We purchased me a long-arm quilting machine in January, 2020. I have had over 200 pieces to quilt: table runners, pot holders, seasonal panels and quilts of all sizes.



KI BOIS Gets New Van

KI BOIS Community Action recently purchased a cargo van for agency use. The vinyl graphics were funded by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce Weatherization Assistance Program / DHS LIHEAP and was designed and placed on the van by Stigler Printing in Stigler, Oklahoma.

According to Michael Knapp, Weatherization Director, "This type of marketing works 24/7 and requires zero contact. The van will be used for all programs associated with the agency."





Community Thanksgiving Dinner



TO GO LUNCHES WILL BE SERVED AT THE POTEAU 7TH-8TH GRADE CENTER CAFETERIA ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25 FROM 11-1 -DELIVERY IS AVAILABLE-

Donations can be made to: Poteau True Value, Poteau Chamber of Commerce, or Melissa Holcomb For more info call 918-649-4163

DINE IN ONLY | NO TAKE-OUTS



FREE Thanksgiving Dinner

TURKEY, DRESSING & FIXINGS

NOVEMBER 24, 2021 SALLISAW MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA 11 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC KATS WILL PROVIDE FREE TRANSPORTATION WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF SALLISAW



about these things

This month is the beginning of the holiday season, with Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations coming soon. However, we shouldn't overlook a very special holiday, Veterans Day, November 11th.

For all of those who served, we want to say thank you for your service and appreciate the sacrifices you and your families have made and are making for our country. We could not have the freedoms we enjoy without your willingness to stand in harm's way for us. God Bless you!

Speaking of Thanksgiving, even though everyone is different, we have a lot to be thankful for, living in this great country, a wonderful company to work for and the ability to come together and share this celebration with family, loved ones and friends. Keep those who have obstacles in their lives in our thoughts and prayers and don't forget to reach out if you can. Sometimes just knowing others care makes things brighter. We are all on family, a KI BOIS family! Happy Thanksgiving!

Larry Hall

Associate Director/COO



MAINTENANCE



Our facilities need repair or maintenance from time to time. In an effort to make all of the KI BOIS facilities the best they can be, an e-mail address has been established to ensure the specific assistance needed is resolved in a timely, efficient manner.

If your facility has a repair or maintenance need, please e-mail:

maintenance@kibois.org

IN *Action*



KI BOIS Central Office dressed up and celebrated Halloween on Thursday, October 28th.

Kiddo's trick-or-treated throughout the day and a good time was had by all.

What fun!



The annual Tri-County Hike for Whole Health was held at Robbers Cave State Park on November 6, 2021. Approximately 50 hikers and volunteers were present. According to Denise Daniels, TSET Healthy Living Program Coordinator and organizer of the event, "Everyone seemed to enjoy the hike and I heard lots of good things about the kids area!" Prize winners were Robert Wade and Beth Rice. This event addresses the 8 dimensions of wellness, which include spiritual, emotional, intellectual, physical, social, environmental, financial, and occupational.

IN *Action*

Kudos to Wagoner KATS

Dear Sonya / Joddy and all employees at KATS,

I truly thank you all, especially Sonya / Joddy / all drivers, at KATS for always helping myself and son in the past 2-3 weeks. You all are all awesome human beings! KATS and all employees are such true Blessings to us and the entire Wagoner Area!

Our car is totally broken down and KATS have all really helped myself and son!! I just wanted to say truly thank you guys again to Sonya / Joddy and all at KATS! you guys are wonderful!! Always see blessed, safe and stay cool with families / friends!!

Love and prayers

7/30/21 (Friday) melanie johnson (and her son, Josh)



Beauty & Braun. These ladies can use tools with the best of them. There's been some switching of offices at KI BOIS Central Office; Sandie Rutherford, RSVP Director & Pam Harless, Housing Director have moved furniture, unscrewed screws and did it with a smile. The KI BOIS spirit is alive and well as we help our coworkers day in and day out.



Carroll Huggins, KI BOIS Executive Director/CEO received his 50 year Cap, Pin, and Certificate last month from the McAlester Scottish Rite. He is a 32nd Degree KCCH Mason. He was pinned by his wife, Lana.



A few pictures from the Haskell County Fishing Clinic that is sponsored by the Haskell County Conservation District.



KI BOIS is a proud contributor to this project.

WE ARE HIRING!

A career with KI BOIS is a career with a future! ✓



KI BOIS Community Action is the largest non-profit employer in S.E. Oklahoma. We provide growth opportunities and a great place to work! www.kibois.org



All employment opportunities are posted on our website, www.kibois.org. *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**



The Promise of Community Action

Community Action *changes* people's lives, *embodies* the *spirit of hope*, *improves* communities, and makes America *a better place to live*. We care about the *entire community*, and we are dedicated to *helping* people *help themselves and each other*.



KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc. Mission Statement

KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc. is a community-based organization dedicated to eliminating the causes of poverty and bettering the economic, mental, physical and social well-being of all people - most importantly the disadvantaged - by utilizing effective coordination and administration of available resources and information.