

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

KI BOIS NEWS



Event provides resources for McAlester area homeless

McAlester News-Capital
Adrian O-Hanlon III, Editor
Staff Photos

A woman broke down in tears as she thanked volunteers handing her socks during an event working to connect homeless people with resources. Volunteers Jeanie McCabe, Karen Askew and Lee Rogers handed out socks, winter hats, and backpacks with various items Thursday at All Saints Episcopal Church in McAlester during a Day of Caring. Several organizations at the event offered services and resources to about 66 people in the McAlester area who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless at the event organized by HOME — Homelessness Outreach of McAlester Area Effort.

Askew said the woman's reaction epitomized what the community is capable of doing to help homeless people in the area. "A lot of people in our community don't realize the level of desperation," Askew said. "When you participate in something like this, it becomes very real to you that we're all in this together," she added. "We're all at different times in our lives and can be that close to needing help. And for people to come to a place that they can sit down and they can receive things with dignity, they can be treated with kindness and love and they can hold their heads up and get what they need, that's great."

Tammy Randazzo, a HOME organizer and Supportive Services for Veteran Families program director at KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, asked attendees questions to pair them with pro-



Continued on page 10

Senator James Lankford visited several classrooms at the Marietta Grade School where the Foster Grandparent Program has volunteers. Senator Lankford is shown above reading to some of the children.

(Story and photos on page 7)

From the Desk of the Executive Director / CEO

February 2020 is here and our annual agency audit is complete. The CPA audit team reported to us that it is a clean audit with no questionable costs. Our compliments to our financial staff for their hard work throughout the year.

Several members of the KI BOIS Community Action staff have been trained by the IRS to do free Income Tax Preparation for our low-income clients under the VITA program.

Weatherization, CSBG, SSVF, Transit, RSVP, and Foster Grandparent programs are funded through September 30, 2020. State funded programs are funded until June 30, 2020.

Our agency continues to grow and prosper due to the hard work and dedication of our board, staff, and volunteers. We look forward to the challenges of 2020. February 14th is also St. Valentine's Day so don't forget your sweetheart or you may be in trouble.



Carroll Huggins, CCAP Executive Director

In the March Edition of KI BOIS News....

- *KATS Driver rescues*
- *DD's Night to Shine*



PRESIDENTS DAY

will be observed by KI BOIS Community Action on Monday February 17th, 2020.

February is

Black History Month

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When Do We “Spring Forward”?

According to the Farmers’ Almanac Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 8th at 2 a.m. If it seems to you like this day used to come later in the year, you’re right. Prior to 2007 when the Energy Act of 2005 took effect, we used to “spring forward” during the first week of April and “fall Back” during the final weekend of October.

Is there a benefit to DST? The idea behind moving the clocks twice a year is to take better advantage of the sun’s natural electricity (or light). Most of us get out of bed after the sun has risen and to bed after it has set but later sunsets cause people to get out and do more in the evenings. Some argue that this results in an increase in our gasoline consumption as we drive around more during the lighter evenings.

Upon further research and dialogue with KI BOIS Community Action staff, Accounts Payable Clerk Shelli Bass states, “I don’t know the effects good or bad...but longer evenings mean I am happy because baseball season is here!”



Shelli Bass

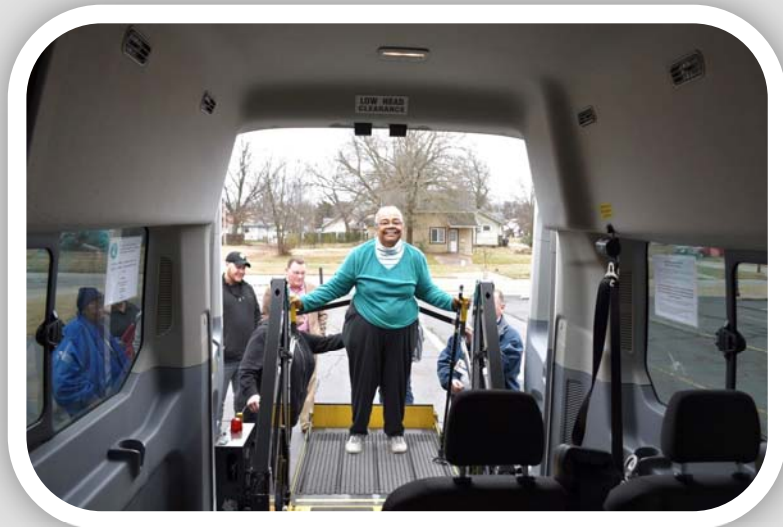


Bringing home the honors...



The 2019 OKACAA Annual Conference was a big day for KI BOIS Community Action. Kay Box started off the excitement with the Fred Tucker Service Award...Tireless, Thoughtful and Compassionate, Kay Box is a great example of what Community Action stand for.....followed by Linda Love receiving the Guy Davis Service Award.....Linda Love makes a positive change not only in Community Action but the communities we serve. She has earned the respect of her peers and has become a role model in her field! Also honored, left to right, Regina Bratton, 35 Years of Service, Box, Kenny Barnhart 30 Years of Service, Doyleene Knowlton 30 Years of Service, Tom Marlatt, 40 Years of Service, Love and KI BOIS Community Action Executive Director Carroll Huggins.

KI BOIS Area Transit Holds Public Meeting Across Their Service Area.....



KI BOIS Area Transit Director (KATS) Charla Sloan has been traveling to public meetings across the KI BOIS Area Transit service area. Sloan has been meeting with KATS riders, elected officials and other interested individuals answering questions and addressing community needs in Poteau, Wagoner, Tahlequah, Sallisaw, McAlester and Okmulgee.

The public meetings were also an educational tool to emphasize the impact of KATS on the public. KATS not only takes individuals where they need to go but share a compassionate side between drivers and their riders. Most drivers run the same route or have the same clientele each day so they know when something is not right and act upon it. It is not uncommon for a driver to step off their bus and make a wellness check. Sometime finding the person unaware of the time or in need of emergency assistance.

The group also rode on trips around town, picking up or taking home whatever the need may be. They also learned about safety...how a wheelchair lift works and the time it takes to secure a wheelchair.

As Representative Logan Phillips finished his ride he commented, "KATS travels over one million miles in the areas I represent...Thank You for providing a service to help those in need and providing them a safe journey. If there is anything I can do for this program, you let me know."



Top to bottom...checking out how the wheelchair lift works. Sloan and participants taking a ride. Sloan sharing and answering questions regarding KATS and above McAlester Dispatcher Danna McWilliams is shown taking one of hundreds of phone calls received per day.

Teen Dating Violence

The KI BOIS Domestic Violence Program spent the first week of February providing students in Mrs. Johnson's Family and Consumer Science class the SAFE DATES curriculum. During the class times Erin Jenkins, Advocate at the Stigler Women's Shelter, discussed with the students warning signs of an abusive relationship, different types of abuse, characteristics of a healthy relationship, and how to help friends who may be experiencing abuse. At the end of the class, the students participated in a poster contest using the information they learned for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month and the posters are displayed in the high school.

"We believe that prevention is key in keeping people safe in relationships. Students learn valuable information in the class that will prepare them for success and happiness in their relationships. It is especially important if they don't see those behaviors modeled in the home, that we teach them what is healthy and what isn't," states Jenkins.

The DV Program polled 83 Stigler High School students anonymously and the results were:

- 40% have or have had a controlling boyfriend/girlfriend.
- 29% say they have been physically, verbally, and/or emotionally abused by someone they were dating.
- 47% said someone in their household has been abused.
- 82% said they feel like they would benefit from learning more about healthy/unhealthy/abusive relationships.

The results tell us that our teenagers are experiencing and witnessing abuse in their relationships and at home - and they want to learn how to break the cycle. If you need more information about how to educate and safety plan with your child, please contact the program at 918-967-2512.



Huge thanks to Stigler High School Drama Team for their participation in Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month! These teens did a fantastic job tonight and we are so appreciative. Thank you to Stigler Public Schools, Drama Coach Kasey Parsons, and many more for allowing us to collaborate to raise awareness.

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE: KNOW THE WARNING SIGNS

- Seems afraid to disagree with his or her boyfriend or girlfriend; always does what partner wants.
- Excessive text messaging, phone calling, emailing or visiting with boyfriend or girlfriend.
- Stops hanging out with friends or participating in family activities.
- Starts having declining grades or missing school.
- Has injuries he/she tries to cover up or can't explain.

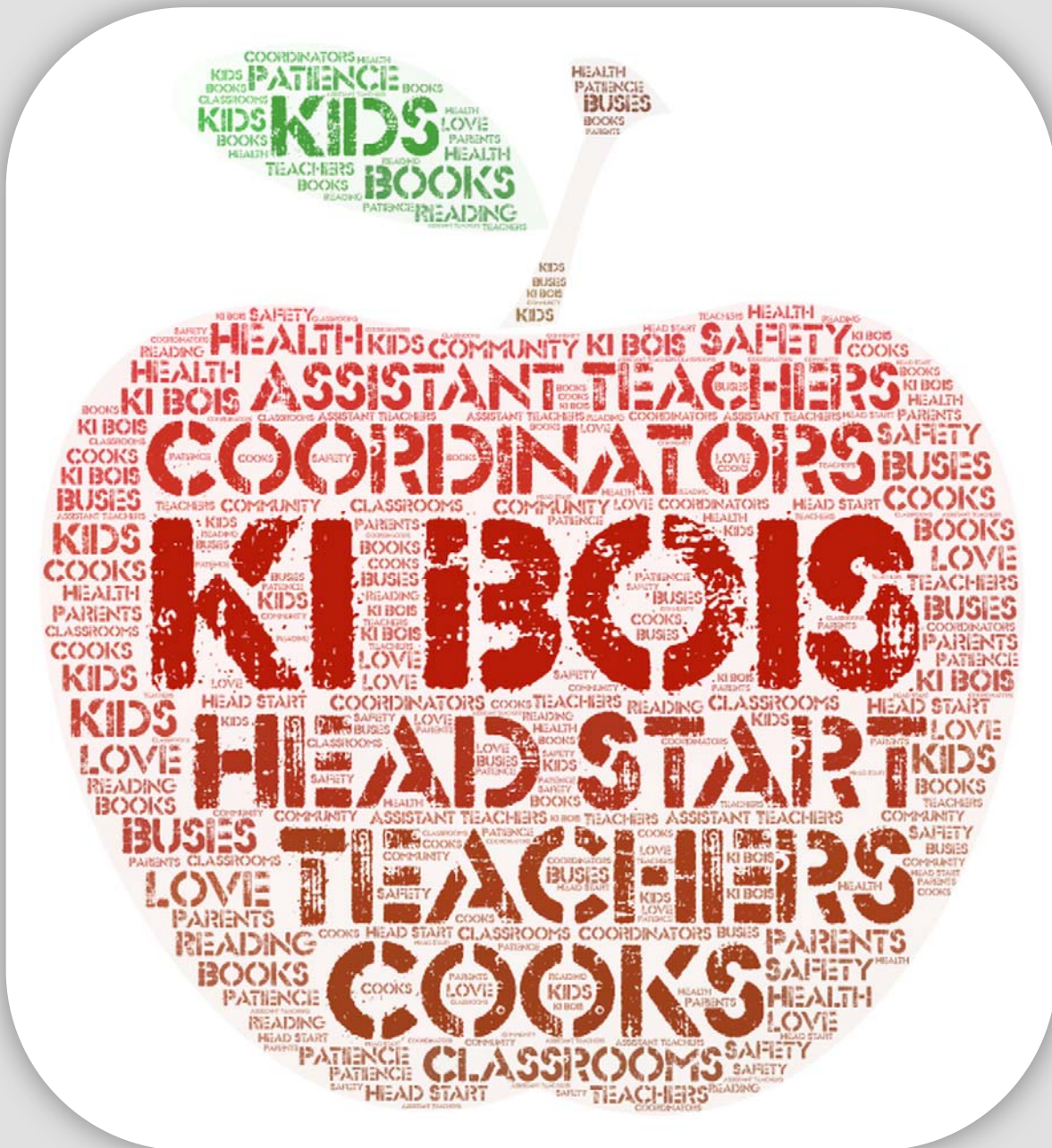
FUTURES WITHOUT VIOLENCE
www.futureswithoutviolence.org

IMPORTANT STAND UP AND BE COUNTED!

The U.S. Constitution mandates that a census of the population be conducted every decade. Census statistics are used to determine the number of seats each state holds in the U.S. House of Representatives and how billions of dollars in federal funds are distributed annually for critical public services like hospitals, schools, roads, bridges and emergency response.



February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month



KI BOIS Community Action has had the honor and privilege of administering the Head Start program in Haskell, Latimer, LeFlore and Pittsburg Counties since 1968. In 2011, KI BOIS Community Action acquired the Head Start programs in Adair, Cherokee, McIntosh and Sequoyah Counties.

Throughout the years, Head Start, under the direction of Donna Carolan and her staff, have impacted the lives of countless children, parents and communities. Their dedication for the cause of Head Start has been felt, and will continue to be felt, for generations to come.

As of January 1, 2020, KI BOIS Community Action is no longer the grantee of the Head Start program. According to Carroll Huggins, Executive Director/CEO, "It has been our pleasure to serve the children and parents of this great program. We believe in the benefits of Head Start and wish everyone the best."

Congratulations Tom Marlatt, Linda Love and Carroll Huggins on your Certified Community Action Professionals (CCAP) recertification. The three along with several other KI BOIS Community staff and board traveled to Chicago, IL for the national Community Action Conference. The three also received their initial CCAP certification in Chicago at the 1999 national convention. Great job Tom, Linda and Carroll!



INCOME TAX FREE PREPARATION

If your income is less than \$56,000 and you have a **BASIC** Income Tax return, KI BOIS Community Action will prepare and e-file your Income Taxes for **FREE!**

KI BOIS has IRS-certified preparers to assist you in e-filing your Federal AND Oklahoma state taxes. The following Income Tax preparation sites will be available February 3rd – April 15th, 2020, for your 2019 Income Taxes.

ATTENTION 2020 Requirements

It is **REQUIRED** for anyone taking advantage of this service to provide the following, or we will be unable to process your return.

- ✓ Photo identification of Taxpayer or Spouse
- ✓ Social Security card for **EACH** family member named on the return
- ✓ Proof of Health Insurance Coverage (Form 1095) or Exemption Form (Form 8965)
- ✓ A voided check or deposit slip for direct deposit
- ✓ All W-2's, 1099's and 1098's (Bank Interest & Royalties) received in 2019

KI BOIS **WILL NOT** prepare the following returns:

- Civil Service Retirement (CSA-1099's)
- Stocks
- Capital Gains/Losses
- Cancellation of Debt
- Health Savings Accounts (HSA)
- Farms
- Clergy
- Any other return that is deemed out of scope by each county office.



Wilburton: 918-465-3381
 McAlester: 918-423-3525
 Poteau: 918-647-3267
 Stigler: 918-967-3325

It was Quite a Day.....

It was quite a day and honor for the Foster Grandparent Program as Senator James Lankford paid each classroom a visit. Foster Grandparent Director Shaunda Noah explained the Foster Grandparent Program to Senator Lankford as he toured and spoke not only to the volunteers, but to the children. Noah shared how the Foster Grandparent Program had helped and continues to help thousands of children throughout the years. Noah also explained how important a granny or granddad could be in the life of a child.



Pictured are Foster Grandparent Program Director Shaunda Noah, Senator James Lankford, Superintendent Lori Means, Principial Chad Hart, Federal Programs Coordinator Carlene Yell, Foster Grandparent Program Assistant Yukari Garcia. Also shown are Foster Grandparents Cherokee Lowrey, Delores Carter, Emma Holmes, Mary Tomlinson, Rojeana Farmer, Robert Farmer, Karen Martinez, Maryetta Brannon, Laura Workman, Patsy Watkins, Rebecca Patton. Not shown are Lillie Duncan and Mary Collins.

KI BOIS Hearts and Hands Project...



KI BOIS Central office was busy during the Christmas Season putting together Christmas bags for local home health and nursing home patients. There were a total of 165 bags filled with lotion, body wash, shampoo, chap stick, word search book and cozy warm lap blanket.

The KI BOIS team stated, "We had lots of fun filling those bags and hope they brought joy and love to those who received."



Event provides resources continued from page 1

grams and services that would address their needs. Numbers from the Continuums of Care to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) showed 3,871 Oklahomans experienced homelessness in 2018. The U.S. Department of Education reported 26,268 public school students in Oklahoma experienced homelessness during the 2016-2017 academic year.

Randazzo said the turnout at the inaugural event gave her hope for addressing homelessness in the area. "I'm overwhelmed at the number of volunteers, service providers and programs that showed up today and I'm pleased with the amount of participants that came out," Randazzo said. Attendees, after receiving resources at the event, told Randazzo they got what they needed and would be in touch for anything else. Several people thanked the volunteers at the booths, some prayed together, others got haircuts for themselves and food for their pets. "I think people have been shocked when they come in that all of these services are in one place at one time," Randazzo said.

Attendees then spoke with professionals at booths for various organizations — Shared Blessings offered clothing in a big trailer in the parking lot; the Pittsburg County Clerk's Office provided information and forms for records, and the McAlester Public Library supplied free books for anyone at the event. The Department of Human Services offered assistance and guidance; representatives from the McAlester and Krebs housing authorities attended, and several churches and nonprofits offered their services. KI BOIS Shelter Manager Breanna Sharp and Group Advocate Emilee Rogers said their organizations help victims of domestic violence. Sharp said her department helps victims file protective orders, contact law enforcement and other assistance. "We try to give them safety and be a safe person for them," Sharp said, adding the program works with law enforcement to provide immediate assistance. Rogers said she speaks to victims on how domestic violence can impact their lives, early warning signs of an unhealthy relationship and how to keep themselves safe. She said recognizing warning signs is key to avoiding a potentially violent relationship and her department can help anyone in danger. Anyone who feels in danger can call the KI BOIS crisis line at 918-426-4448. "I want people to know they are worth having a respectful relationship and they deserve better," Rogers said. "They do have people that care and they can get out of those situations."

Highlights from the "Day of Caring"

-66 in attendance

-45-50 of those were either homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in next 30 days

-The other 15-20 who were not struggling with housing stability but came because they were struggling with food insecurity

-Just over 10 follow ups provided to those who were homeless or at risk to get them signed up with a program to work on housing

-2 off the streets and in shelter

-2 homeless enrolled in housing program today with housing search starting next week

-50 boxes of food given out

-Almost 100 men and women's blessing bags provided plus several children's

-50 backpacks provided

-Numerous coats and clothing items provided

-Approximately 20 flu shots

-24 haircuts

-Domestic Violence services provided to 2 families

-Numerous health and dental checks

-Numerous counseling and prayer sessions

-15 free spay or neuters, rabies vaccine and medical assistance to dog at men's shelter

-1 person gained employment and many more are working towards it

The event also provide many lunches, rides after to those without transportation, linkages to future resources to meet needs, utility assistance, program enrollment, free books,

---Over 46 agencies and 136 volunteers participated! This does not include agencies and individuals that donated or supported in other ways.---

Feedback from participants:

We had approximately 20 of the 66 provide feedback after the event.

-All but 1 stated their needs were met and the 1 whose needs were not met is in the follow up process with KI BOIS programs.

-Most, about 75%, who reported back had heard about the event through flyers, the other 25% were through Facebook, the radio, newspaper and community agencies.

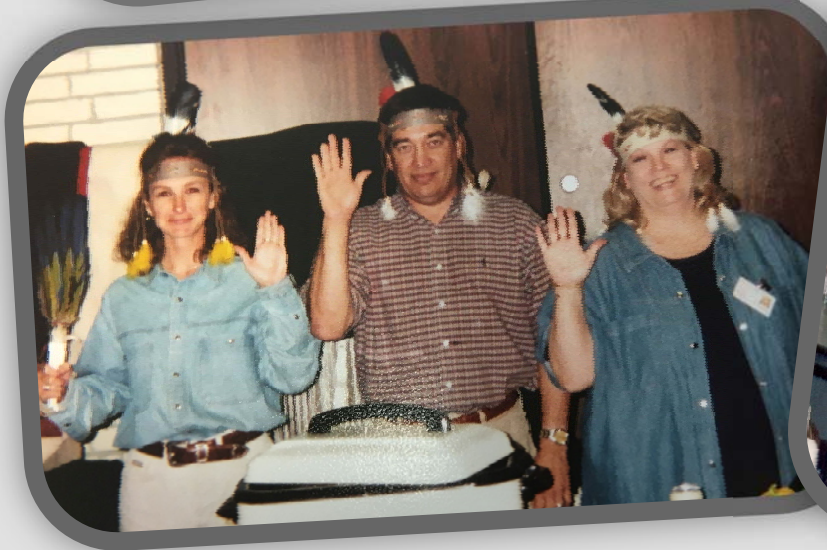
-Some additional items they wanted to see at such an event were; shoes, plus size clothing, more food boxes per family, rental house opportunities, and a free million dollars.

Overall with less than 3 months to plan by a brand new group, this event was a success and the overall feelings for the day were caring, kindness, gratitude, love, and a sense of community...from both participants and volunteers!



Bowls of chili await those in need....

A Blast from the Past.....



KI BOIS Community Action Notice of Job Posting February 5, 2020



KIBOIS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER

JOB TITLE: STAFF AID – PT Schedule: M-F, 4PM-8PM (Stigler)

JOB REQUIREMENTS: HS Diploma/GED, valid driver’s license required. Applicant should have interest or experience in crisis intervention, ability to listen effectively and assist with problem solving, self-motivated, good communication skills (written and verbal), ability to be supportive of persons in crisis and sensitive to confidential issues. Ability to assist with household up-keep, organization of donations, and children’s activities. On-site training provided.

KI BOIS Community Action
Notice of Job Posting - Continued from page
February 5th, 2020



KI BOIS AREA TRANSIT PROGRAM

JOB TITLE: TRANSIT DRIVERS (Please verify current openings with local transit office.)

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.

KI BOIS COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM

JOB TITLE: CASE MANAGER – 2 FT 1(Pontotoc and Atoka) 2(Tulsa County)

JOB REQUIREMENTS: Will provide case management for the Advantage Program. Requires BS in social work or related field with two years of experience in human services. An equivalent combination of education and experience may be substituted. Must be willing/available to complete other program training as required.

KI BOIS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

JOB TITLE: HABILITATION TRAINING SPECIALIST –2 FT (Stigler Group Homes)
HOURS for Position 1: Sunday 8am – 12am, Thursday 12 am – 8 am and Saturday 8am – 12 am
HOURS for Position 2: Sunday, Monday, Friday and Saturday – 12am – 8am, Wednesday 4pm – 12am

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.) Able to lift a minimum of 5

JOB TITLE: HABILITATION TRAINING SPECIALIST - PT/FT (Stigler, Poteau, McAlester, Ada, Ardmore, Pauls Valley and Sulphur)

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.) Able to lift a minimum of 50 lbs.

ALL POSITIONS SUBJECT TO CONTINUED PROJECT FUNDING. All positions are open to KI BOIS Community Action Foundation Staff as well as to the public - unless otherwise noted. Deadline for all openings: Until Filled. CURRENT AGENCY EMPLOYEES – please submit a letter of interest, and updated resume (if applicable) to Human Resources. Applications for new hires are available online at www.kibois.org, or may be picked up at any KI BOIS Community Action office. Applications should be returned to KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc. P. O. Box 727 Stigler, OK 74462, Attention: Human Resources or e-mailed to doylene.knowlton@kibois.org. Fax: 918.967.9100.

Applicant will be subject to a criminal history records search, as well as drug testing. KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc. is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. It is the policy of the KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc. to not discriminate against or deny equal employment opportunity to any applicant or employee on the grounds of race, sex, color, age, national origin, genetic information, religion, or disability, so long as the disability does not render the person unable to do the work for which employed. All employees of KI BOS Community Action Foundation, Inc. are "at will" employees.

**KIBOIS COMMUNITY ACTION FOUNDATION, INC.
 IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER!**