

Merry Christmas
and a happy new year

December, 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 Community Action offices in Haskell, Latimer and Pittsburg Counties are the designated Salvation Army Service Units for their respective county. They have kicked off their annual Red Kettle Campaigns and are ready to accept your “change for a change.”

Enthusiastic bell ringers will be stationed at Walmart in Stigler and McAlester, and at Roys Cardinal Foods and Choctaw Travel Plaza in Wilburton. Counter kettles can be found in businesses across the three counties for your convenience. Funds collected during the campaign will be used to lift up the needy in our area.

Shoppers are encouraged to drop whatever amount they can spare into the Red Kettle, but cash or check contributions are welcome from individuals, organizations or businesses. These may be placed in the Kettles, mailed or dropped off at your local KI BOIS Office. Those location addresses are:

- Haskell County:** 200 S.E. A, Stigler, OK 74462 | 918-967-3325 | Christi Jones, Coordinator
- Latimer County:** 309 W. Main, Wilburton, OK 74578 | 918-465-3381 | Claudia Jeffrey, Coordinator
- Pittsburg County:** 609 E. Peoria, McAlester, OK 74501 | 918-423-3525 | Megan Reams, Coordinator

If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact your local KI BOIS Office at the address or number above.



Left, students and their advisor, Shyann McWhirter from EOSC Aggie Club, volunteered at Roys in Wilburton on December 1st.

Groups, organizations, families, and individuals are encouraged to volunteer. It's a great way to show support for the community.

These funds are invested back into our community through assistance to those in need.



**MAKE
CHANGE
HAPPEN.**

KI BOIS NEWS

From the Desk of Executive Director / CEO

R. Carroll Huggins

In addition to normal Holiday activities, December is always a busy month at KI BOIS Community Action. Our annual audit is being completed this month.

COVID-19 has greatly impacted the low-income community. We have been fortunate to receive extra funding to help them with COVID related expenses. We have been operating our offices under CDC Guidelines to protect our staff and clients.

At this time we have no plans for major cutbacks or layoffs at KI BOIS Community Action. We do feel that is it only prudent for us to be planning and preparing for increased client needs with the current economy. We are experiencing increases in food, rent, and utilities costs for our needy families. The uncertainty of the upcoming changes in the Health Care situation is also having an effect on all of our clients

I encourage you to keep up the wonderful work that each of you do each day to improve the lives of the families that we serve. We are making a big difference – One Family at a time. We are also making a big difference in the lives of our Homeless Veterans.

On behalf of the KI BOIS Community Action Board of Directors and Senior Staff, I want to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Carroll Huggins, CCAP
Executive Director / CEO*



KI BOIS COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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10 YEARS



There are no words.....

OSU 44 - OU 10

Could it be a case of Deju Vu? This piece of history was included in the December, 2011 KI BOIS NEWS on page 2. Most of them are still celebrating!



- December 24 Christmas Eve Holiday
- December 27 Christmas Day Holiday
- December 31 New Years' Eve Holiday
- January 3 New Year's Day Holiday





PICK Transportation has expanded into two new cities in Eastern Oklahoma. Beginning November 29, 2021, riders in Coweta and Wagoner now has the convenience of Uber at lower prices to help them get around in the city limits.

For \$3 a ride, PICK Transportation connects riders with many destinations, including shopping, social events, restaurants, doctor appointments, hospitals, schools, jobs, and home.

KATS Director Charla Sloan said, "I'm excited to bring this great service to the folks in Coweta and Wagoner. This is just another way that KI BOIS Area Transit System is making rural transportation easier to obtain."

FOSTER GRANDPARENT HONORED

MARGARET FLOYD



Muscogee Nation

A beloved fixture in her local community and church, Margaret Floyd is of the Wind Clan and has touched hundreds of lives throughout her 93 years. Mrs. Floyd lost her father at a very young age and stayed home to help her three younger siblings. After Mrs. Floyd raised her nine children and her husband passed, she completed her high school degree. Mrs. Floyd attended Bacone College, where she joined the choir, made the Dean's

Honor Roll and was a dorm housemother. Her love for learning multiplied as she volunteered 35,000 hours at Stidham and Hanna schools. Known affectionately as "Granny Margaret," Mrs. Floyd has volunteered as a foster grandparent in McIntosh County for more than three decades.

Mrs. Floyd has been recognized through numerous community awards, including the Ki Bois Community Action Foundation Granny of the Year Award, Oklahoma Department of Human Services' volunteer and community partner award and foster grandparent award for her 30 years of service. She was honored at the Eufaula powwow and named "Mrs. Heritage" at Eufaula's Heritage Day.

Mrs. Floyd and her husband, Joe, were founding members and held several officer positions for the Eufaula Indian Community. She was also a member of the National Indian Council on Aging, a representative at district and national Foster Grandparent conferences and a Girl Scout advisor.

Mrs. Floyd's faith and her church family are cherished deeply. She enjoys teaching and helping at funerals and revivals. Her contributions and caring reverberate throughout the community.

Article courtesy of AARP Oklahoma

Mrs. Margaret Floyd, longtime Foster Grandparent from Eufaula, was recently recognized at the 13th Annual AARP Oklahoma Indian Elders Honors. According to AARP Oklahoma State Director Sean W. Voskuhl, "your record of achievement, service and commitment is making a difference and bringing purpose to those around you. You are an extraordinary example of the difference that we all can make in others' lives and in the well-being and vitality of our community."

The AARP Oklahoma Indian Elder Honors awards were established in 2009 to celebrate Native American elders who have positively impacted their community, family, tribal nation and nation. This honor celebrates a lifetime of service by distinguished Native American elders who exhibit a love of family, dedication to culture and respect for all people.

Congratulations!

IN *Action*



Sequoyah County KI BOIS employees served their community on November 24th at the 7th annual Sequoyah County Resource Network Free Thanksgiving Community Dinner in Sallisaw.

This year they were able to serve over 700 people with a traditional Thanksgiving meal prepared by the amazing cooks at Sallisaw Middle School. Melissa Lowe, Sequoyah County Coordinator, leads the project and is joined by various community partners. KATS provided free transportation to those living within Sallisaw city limits.

The Network also sponsors the annual Back To School Roundup in August.

Photo Credits: Lindsie Dyer, People, Inc.



Photos from the November Board Meeting
& Thanksgiving Dinner

Board Member Spotlight



Frank Phillips

Tell us a little about yourself:

I was born in the Army Hospital at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. Lawton was always home, but my Dad was in the Army and his military assignments required relocating our family (including my parents and my two younger siblings) to Germany for three years and Alaska for three years.

God blessed me with a wonderful daughter, Caitlyn, who was a frequent attendee with me for several years at KI BOIS board meetings until she got a driver’s license and a car of her own. ;-) Caitlyn will graduate this month from Southeastern Oklahoma State University with her Bachelor of Science Degree and will continue her career in the classroom, moving from her current position as a paraprofessional to leading her own classroom as an elementary school teacher.

I received my Associate in Science Degree from Cameron University and my Bachelor of Science Degree from Oklahoma Wesleyan University. I have worked for Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO) for almost 41 years.

What is your role on the Board?

My role as a board member is to do all that I can to support and promote the KI BOIS mission of 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.

What do you like most about KI BOIS, CAF?

I am proud that all of the individual programs offered by KI BOIS, through the collective dedication and collaboration of KI BOIS employees, make a positive difference in the lives of people we serve.

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

Carroll Huggins contacted me several years ago when a board position in Pittsburg County was vacated. He asked me to meet with him to discuss the KI BOIS mission and culture. Carroll’s passion for KI BOIS and his pledge of organizational transparency and integrity led me to join the KI BOIS Board. Seeing those qualities exemplified by the entire KI BOIS workforce, and their focus on successful outcomes through the Results-Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) model for mission accomplishment, have kept me appreciative of the honor I have to serve as a board member.

What kind of hobbies and interests do you have?

I love to read, a lifelong avocation that was instilled in me by my parents when they bought a set of the Golden Book Encyclopedias when I was very young. Reading has provided enjoyment, knowledge, and has been an essential factor in my career longevity.

Quote/Motto:

My Mother told me at an early age that four of the most important words to remember are “This, too, shall pass.” Remembering and trusting this phrase, and finding it to be true throughout my lifetime, has comforted me during times of struggle and enabled me to look at situations with less emotion and more objectivity.

Random Fun Fact:

It took me 27 years after I graduated high school to complete my Bachelor’s Degree.



Sandie, Shelly, Kathy, Denice, Blake, Linda & Nikki get in the spirit!



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.