



Helping People. Changing Lives.
Serving Eastern Oklahoma Since

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

KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc.

KI BOIS NEWS



KI BOIS AREA TRANSIT SYSTEM (KATS) kicked off of the new rural, curb-to-curb, on-demand transportation option (PICK) on June 3rd at the Tahlequah KATS Office. This option is available to riders who need transportation after hours.

KATS joined other transit systems throughout the state to connect riders to many destinations, including shopping, social events, restaurants, doctor appointments, hospitals, schools, jobs, and home and provides riders services after hours.

Riders within the service area can book on-demand public transit trips through smartphones or web portal via the Uber app, or by calling 855-735-4826.

Charla Sloan, KATS Director stated, "This will be great for people working after 5 pm, patients how have late dialysis, or those going out to dinner or need something at Wal-Mart. It is \$3.00 per trip."

Currently, KATS offers PICK to residents in Poteau, Sallisaw, Tahlequah and Eufaula. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 5pm to 10pm, and Saturdays from 10am to 2pm.



Oklahoma Secretary of Transportation Tim Gatz spoke at the launch of PICK in Owasso, OK on June 2nd. Mr. Gatz did the honor of booking the first trip via Uber.



On June 3rd, Mayor Sue Catron of Tahlequah booked the first trip KATS PICK ride via Uber. Charla Sloan, KATS Director was on-hand to congratulate Ms. Catron.

PICK provides accessibility options for those with visual, audible, and developmental disabilities.

For more information, visit <http://okpicktransportation.com/>, or visit the KATS page on our website, www.kibois.org.



From the Desk of the Executive Director / CEO

Effective leadership is the key to success of any agency. KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Incorporated has been fortunate over the years to have good leadership at both the board of director level and staff level. This is no accident. Leadership is something that has to be continually improved on. I encourage you to continue to develop your leadership skills and continue with your lifelong learning. The following are some facts on leadership that may be helpful to you:

Leadership is the art of **influencing others to create positive change** (transformation) in the **community**.

Leaders believe in.....

- * service to others
- * hard work
- * life-long learning
- * their ability to succeed

Effective leaders.....

- * Lead from the future
- * Communicate a clear vision & purpose
- * Act with courage and integrity
- * Empower followers
- * Persevere with strong passion
- * Engage conflict and controversy
- * Hold themselves accountable
- * Seek to understand before being understood
- * Respect the dignity of others
- * Keep commitments

Our KI BOIS Community Action leadership teams in each county work to improve training and inner agency communication for our mid-management staff. KI BOIS Community Action Associate Director/COO Larry Hall, CCAP works with our six KI BOIS Community Action County Office Managers to implement this effort. KI BOIS Project Directors also conduct staff training on their respective programs as needed. KI BOIS Community Action County Office Managers are: Haskell County, Linda Love, CCAP; Latimer County, Claudia Jeffrey; LeFlore County, Kenny Barnhart, CCAP; Pittsburg County, Megan Reames, Sequoyah County, Melissa Lowe, and Muskogee County, John Ford. We have a weekly Zoom Program Director's Meeting to share information and exchange ideas. Our goal is to improve customer service to our low-income Community Action clients.

There is a big difference in being a **boss** and being an **effective leader!** Which are you?

Let's work together to help people and change lives!

Have a Safe Summer!

*Carroll Huggins, CCAP
Executive Director / CEO*



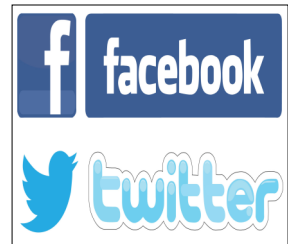
Carroll Huggins



4th of July Holiday (Offices Closed) - July 5, 2021.

KI BOIS Executive Board Meeting - June 28, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

KI BOIS Board Meeting - July 29, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.



KI BOIS News

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Passing The Baton



For the past 20 years, your KI BOIS NEWS has been gathered, compiled, edited and published by KI BOIS Public Relations Director Kay Box. Kay is retiring at the end of August and Royce Alverson has taken over as Editor of KI BOIS News.

Kay has done a fantastic job of keeping everyone informed. Back in 2001, social media was unheard of and a printed newsletter was our way of informing our staff, clients, community leaders and legislators of how our wonderful programs are making a difference in Eastern Oklahoma.

Congratulations Kay, and bravo on a job well done!

IN *Action*



Haskell County

KI BOIS Community Action celebrated **Community Action Month** throughout the month of May. Each office in our Service Area was recognized and presented a certificate by Executive Director/CEO Carroll Huggins for going above and beyond for the agency during the pandemic.

Staff, Board Members and guests were treated to either donuts & coffee, or ice-cream sundaes. It was a great time to connect with everyone who has kept our doors open and services continuing throughout COVID-19. Congratulations to all KI BOIS staff.



Sequoyah County



LeFlore County



Latimer County



Pittsburg County



KI BOIS SSVF



Muskogee County

IN *Action*



John Cook, Board Chairman



Cecil Williams, 1st Vice Chair



Jan Coplen, Secretary/Treasurer



Frank Phillips, Parliamentarian



Joy Walker, Executive Board Member

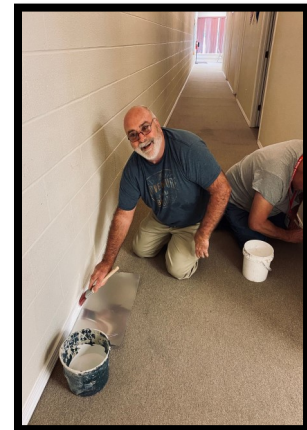
The KI BOIS Executive Board took time from their meeting on June 28th to take a picture and proclaim "Proud Board Member of My Community Action Agency."

We are certainly proud and honored to have these outstanding community leaders on our Board of Directors.

Not pictured, but certainly a proud Board Member, is Steve Carter, 2nd Vice Chair.



Latimer County "Beautify"



KI BOIS master carpenters Jim Knight, left and Mike Davis, right, were recently nominated by Claudia Jeffrey, Latimer County Director for a FriYay. Claudia's nomination read, "I want to acknowledge these men for going above and beyond to "beautify" the Kibois Wilburton office. Their hard work will make our office more enjoyable for the employees as well as our clients."

Way to go guys! Not pictured but certainly helping out was Kolby Bryant.



RETIREMENT

On The Horizon

Three longtime KI BOIS Community Action employees are calling it a career as they plan their retirement at the end of August. Sandra Few, Kay Box and Joyce Honeycutt have a total of 75 years of service at the KI BOIS Board & Administration office in Stigler. They are each valued employees and have represented the agency with honor, respect and loyalty.

Larry Hall, Associate Director/CEO commented, “Kay Box, Joyce Honeycutt and Sandra Few have touched many: coworkers, employees, customers, and vendors with professionalism, empathy, and caring. It will be bittersweet for KI BOIS upon their retirement, but we want to say thank you to them for their dedication, quality work, fellowship and friendship. We wish them nothing but happiness and freedom to do what their hearts lead them to do. They will always have a KI BOIS family to call their own and share memories forever.

Each lady recently reflected on their careers and gave insight as to what’s in their retirement future.



Sandra Few
Accounts Payable
Supervisor

What year did you start to work at KI BOIS and what positions have you held? I started to work at KI BOIS in 1986. I have worked with many different programs within the agency, mostly in payroll & accounts payable.

What was your occupations prior to coming to KI BOIS? Deputy Clerk for Haskell County Treasurer and then County Clerk; Abstractor at Guaranty Abstract Company; Office manager for a Doctor in Quinton; Bookkeeper for a Construction Company in Wilburton.

Do you have any epic moments during your tenure, or something that stands out? I have many precious memories at KI BOIS. I’ve seen many changes in the past 35 years. I don’t have any one thing that stands out to me. My fellow workers have been by my side through many tough times in my life and many happy times too.

Was it a tough decision to retire? Yes & No. I have always said that I wanted to retire at 62 years old, if possible, so that I could enjoy some time at home.

What will you miss the most? I will miss the people that I work with. I’ve made some life-time friends while I’ve been at KI BOIS. Friends I will never forget.

What are you future plans? I plan to spend some time doing things around the house that I’ve needed to do for a long time. I want to take some trips with my husband Donnie that we have wanted to take and see some things that we’ve never seen before. I also want to go to our Church’s Women’s Bible Study and do more work in the Church.

What year did you start to work at KI BOIS and what positions have you held? 2000.....I started off as administrative assistant to the infamous grant writer, Roger Bartlett. That in itself was a truly an eye opener in more ways than one. Not only did I learn about the mission of Community Action and the ins and outs of KI BOIS Community Action, I was also enlightened on various other topics. We traveled a lot together and I must say he became very near and dear to my heart and a great friend. After a few months of employment, I was asked to start an agency newsletter, thus KI BOIS News. Having worked at the Stigler News Sentinel for several years, I knew the ins and outs of publishing a newspaper so a newsletter should be an easy task. After 20 years as editor, I can truly say I am ready to pass the “pen” to Royce. Somewhere down the road I also received the title of Public Relations Director and started several projects such as the Annual Report and KI BOIS Community Action Resource Guide. But my real love was working in Emergency Services. I truly felt that I, along with KI BOIS Community Action, have made a difference in so many lives.

What was your occupations prior to coming to KI BOIS? I had worked in the home health field as an office manager for Medical Arts Home Health. Later I went to work for the Haskell County Hospital Home Health Program, Mid Lakes.



Kay Box
Public Relations
Director /
Emergency
Services

Continued on Page 6 -



RETIREMENT

On The Horizon, Continued

Kay Box, continued....

There I worked scheduling both nurses and home health aides. There is nothing like getting a call from a nurse at 6:00 a.m. letting you know she can't make her 7:00 a.m. visit with a diabetic patient. I also filled in on the weekends as a home health aide when no one wanted to work that weekend or if I needed a little extra cash.

Do you have any epic moments during your tenure, or something that stands out? Actually every moment was epic at KI BOIS Community Action. I traveled, helped people, and worked in a nice office with good pay, but the greatest gift of life is friendship and I have made many friends during my chapter at KI BOIS Community Action. Linda Love has been my go to person on the professional level, but also on a personal level. She has been by my side through the death of mother and also my beloved son-in-law, Wally...and I thank her. My friends are too many to mention, but Brandi and Shelli don't tell anyone but you're my favorite....I love you both and I will miss you!

Was it a tough decision to retire? Yes & No. No. The decision was easy....the after thoughts were scary. How will I eat, pay my bills, will I ever have lunch with my friends again?

What will you miss the most? After being off a few days a couple of weeks ago, I ran across a homeless person. I was so happy to be able to help him and I thought "I am going to miss helping people!" But after calling Linda, us trying to figure out how to help, transporting him, securing him in a motelI had another thought "No, I am ready to retire....I don't want to do this anymore!"

What are you future plans? There are a lot of things I want to do to my house and yard. It seems as though I never have enough time to accomplish what I need and want to do. I want to rock babies who are still in need of hospitalization and their parents need to go back to work, I will help more with my grandkids in Tulsa and Stigler. I want to become more active in my church. Sam and I will travel some, but most of all I just want to be healthy, happy and be around those I love. Thank you Mr. Huggins, Board of Directors, Tom Marlatt, Larry Hall and my co-workers for making my KI BOIS Community Action journey a trip of a life time.



Joyce Honeycutt
Benefits/
Insurance
Coordinator

What year did you start to work at KI BOIS and what positions have you held? I started my career at KI BOIS Community Action in 2001. My first position was Administrative Assistant in the Housing Department. Other positions I have held are HR Clerk, then Benefits/Insurance Coordinator in Human Resources.

What was your occupations prior to coming to KI BOIS? I worked at Stigler News-Sentinel for 27 years.

Do you have any epic moments during your tenure, or something that stands out? My "epic" moment would be getting transferred from Housing to Human Resources in 2012 where I got the BEST BOSS EVER, Doylene Knowlton. The Lord truly blessed me with a boss like her. I will miss Doylene!

Was it a tough decision to retire? I had thought about retiring when I reached the age to draw Social Security, but wasn't ready at the time. Once I set a date to retire, I haven't looked back. I started to work when I was 18 and have never stopped. I am ready! I can't say that sometimes I don't let anxiety creep in, but I have to remember that the Lord has watched over me up until this time, and I'm sure he will continue to do so.

What are you future plans? I have been blessed with good health. Hopefully, that will continue so that I can be a better Christian, wife, mother and grandmother. AND...Doug, (my husband of 50 years) and I are building a house in Mountain View, AR and I can't wait to spend more time there. I should then have time for my two favorite hobbies, quilting and reading, not to mention the other ones I have and the new ones I might acquire.

On behalf of Carroll Huggins, Executive Director/CEO, KI BOIS Board of Directors, Executive staff and all employees at KI BOIS Community Action, Foundation, Inc. we want to say.....

We Will Miss You! Congratulations!



Children and Family Community Services Resource Event

Come learn about current or new Community Services in our local area. Interactive learning for parents. Games with giveaways and face painting for children

July 23, 2021, 9 to 11 a.m.

LeFlore County Health Department
1204 Dewey Ave., Poteau, OK 74953

Immunizations will be available for children and adults during this event

LeFlore County Health Department

FREE FOOD GAMES FUN!

BACK TO SCHOOL ROUND UP

2021

August 7, 2021
Sallisaw Rodeo Arena
10 am - 12 noon

Line-up begins at 9am | Gates open at 10am

The first **500** students registered will receive a backpack stuffed with supplies!

Backpacks are for Sequoyah County students only! Student **MUST BE PRESENT** to receive a Backpack.

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

August 9, 2021
Gary Rosebure Park
Wilburton, Oklahoma
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

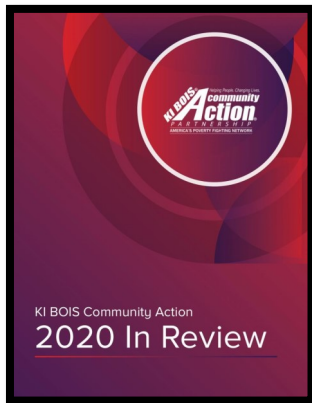
This event is sponsored by the Living in Latimer Community Coalition and it's partners.

Back to School

Have a fun, safe year!



If you witness a fellow employee doing something extraordinary for a client, consumer, another employee, or his/her community, please e-mail Royce Alverson, Community Liaison, so it can be posted on the social media sites. Be specific as to why he/she should be included in a FriYay shout-out. The e-mail address is: Royce.Alverson@kibois.org. This is a fun, interactive way to reinforce to our communities how wonderful our agency and employees are.



The 2020 Annual Report has been published. This Report highlights our major accomplishments and conveys how our programs are helping to fulfil our mission of eliminating poverty.

KI BOIS Community Action is one of over a thousand Community Action agencies in the nation. Our thirteen programs are highlighted with inspiration stories and compelling data.

To get a copy of this latest Report, visit your local KI BOIS Community Action office or you can download a copy on the Resources page of 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.