

2021

*KI BOIS Community Care*

## *New Year Hopes.....*

**Jodi Pollard** - I hope 2021 brings happiness, success, good health, togetherness, courage, and faith.

**Jenny Marshall** - My hope for 2021 is that life will go back to normal.

**Patricia Marshall** - My hope for 2021 is to improve my physical well-being.

**Nichole Wallace** - I hope to assure our members that we are continually working to ensure their health and safety even as our world and way of life are changing.

**Melissa Caldwell** - I hope 2021 brings healing, happiness and success and more time with my family.

**Kathleen Jobe** - I hope to get my patio finished!!! I hope the world gets control of COVID and I hope our political parties start caring about our country and not their own agendas.

**Teri Westmoreland** - My hope for 2021 is to be able to see my members in person. I have truly missed seeing their smiling faces.

**Janine Stevenson** - I hope that 2021 brings hope, health and happiness to everyone! I would like to see it bring peace of mind about health to everyone, so that they can enjoy their lives and those around them without fear and worry.

**Christina Ripley** - I hope 2021 holds health, happiness, and prosperity for our family.

**Susan Roberts** - My hope for 2021 is for happiness, success, and a strong faith. I also hope that we can start seeing our members in their homes again.

**Hannah Cates** - To never have to wear a mask again and to grow in my faith.

**Janee Lewis** - I hope you and those you love stay safe and healthy. I hope everyone wears their mask, and washes their hands long enough to sing You are my Sunshine, and stay 6 feet away from each other. We also need to have more self compassion.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## *From the Desk of the Executive Director / CEO*

*January 2, 2021*

I am very pleased at the accomplishments that this agency achieved in 2020 in spite of the COVID Epidemic. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all board members, employees, and volunteers for their efforts to improve the quality of lives for our low-income clients in this strained environment.

In addition to our normal activities our auditors have completed our annual agency audit. As usual it is a great audit with no questioned costs.

### **STARTING THE NEW YEAR RIGHT IN 2021:**

Supervisors and staff; Questions to ask yourself:

What can I do to improve my performance?

Am I a team player?

Do I use the terms I, me, and my when referring to the things we accomplish?

Am I a gossip, whiner, griper, or complainer? How can I change my attitude?



**Carroll Huggins**

We are looking forward to new opportunities and challenges that 2021 will bring. Happy New Year!

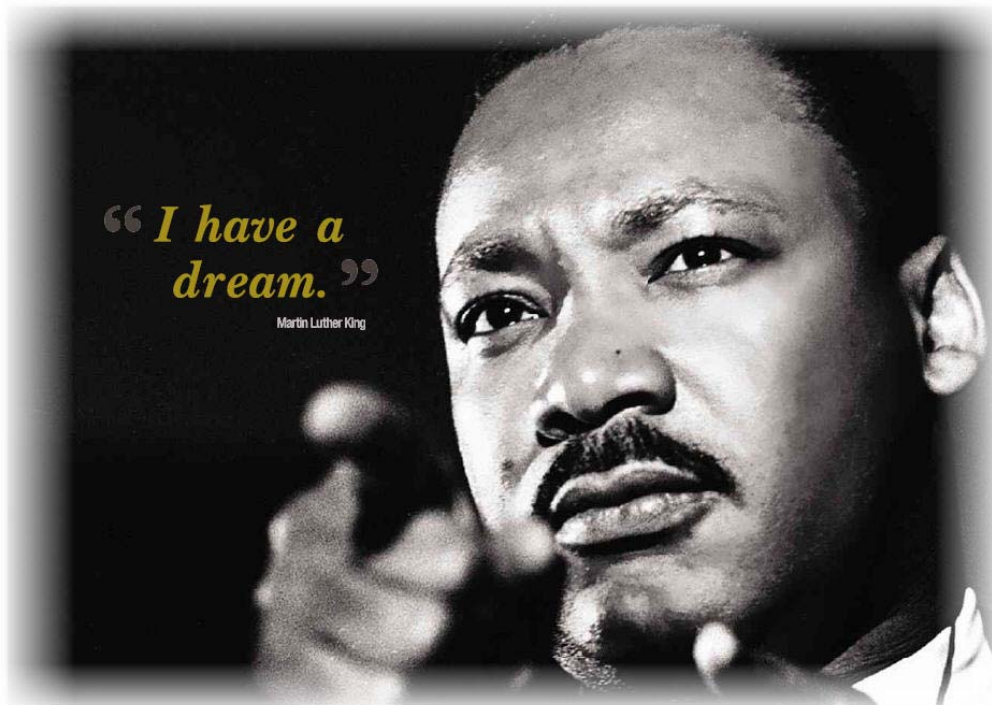
*Carroll Huggins, CCAP  
Executive Director / CEO*



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***“I have  
a  
dream.”***

Martin Luther King

All KI BOIS Community Action Offices will be closed on Monday, January 18th, 2021 in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday. The DD and KATS programs will continue to operate on a 24/7 basis as needed.

### ***KI BOIS News***

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***In Loving Memory***

***Thelma Jean Davis***

*May 5th, 1932 - December 4th, 2020*

Mama T. (as she was affectionately called) always fed the neighborhood. She often had orders and request for her famous cakes and pies. She was very creative as she made dresses for her children and created most of the costumes for the many productions at Dunbar Elementary School.



Ms. Davis was the mother-in-law of KI BOIS Community Action Muskogee County Coordinator John Ford.

***Michel Dawn Porter***

*April 24th, 1977 - December 25th, 2020*

Michel served as pastor's wife at Spiro United Pentecostal Church for the past seven years. She graduated from Northeastern State University with a Bachelors degree and again from Bacone with a second Bachelor's degree. She worked several years at KI BOIS Community Action Head Start Program before becoming a Center Director. Michel loved her friends, church family, her german shepherd, Mini Pin's, and she loved her



hometown of Spiro!

Michel was the wife of KI BOIS Community Action Computer Technician Jeremy Porter.

***Ray L. Davis***

*October 13th, 1930 - January 11th, 2021*

Mr. Davis attended school in Muskogee and graduated from The Historic Manuel Training High School. Ray loved to sing and entertain. At a young age he had the privilege to sing for President Truman. After graduation he joined a band as lead vocalist to charm the lives of Eastern Oklahoma. His melodious voice puts you in mind of the sound of Nat King Cole. This voice was shared in concerts, musicals, dances, weddings and the radio. Ray also had the opportunity to sing with one of his favorite groups "The Ink Spots" fulfilling a life-long childhood dream.

Mr. Davis was the father-in-law of KI BOIS Community Action Muskogee County Coordinator John Ford.

***The bells matter....*** Salvation Army Kettle Drive was a little different this year due to COVID 19. The kettles were un manned and the bells didn't fill the air signaling the spirit of giving. Each county was down in donations, but our volunteers stayed safe and healthy to ring in 2021!

***Totals!***

**Latimer County**

**9,281.00**

**Haskell County**

**\$5,924.98**

**Pittsburg County**

**\$2,244.57**



## ***Mayo Clinic: COVID-19 vaccine myths debunked***

### ***Myth: The COVID-19 vaccine is not safe because it was rapidly developed and tested.***

**Fact:** Many pharmaceutical companies invested significant resources into quickly developing a vaccine for COVID-19 because of the world-wide impact of the pandemic. The emergency situation warranted an emergency response but that does not mean that companies bypassed safety protocols or didn't perform adequate testing.

Mayo Clinic will recommend the use of those vaccines that we are confident are safe. While there are many COVID-19 vaccine candidates in development, early interim data are encouraging for the Pfizer vaccine which likely is to be the first authorized for emergency use by the FDA in the late December/early January timeframe. This vaccine was created using a novel technology based on the molecular structure of the virus. The novel methodology to develop a COVID-19 vaccine allows it to be free from materials of animal origin and synthesized by an efficient, cell-free process without preservatives. This vaccine developed by Pfizer/BioNTech has been studied in approximately 43,000 people.

To receive emergency use authorization, the biopharmaceutical manufacturer must have followed at least half of the study participants for at least two months after completing the vaccination series, and the vaccine must be proven safe and effective in that population. In addition to the safety review by the FDA, the Advisory Committee on Immunization has convened a panel of vaccine safety experts to independently evaluate the safety data from the clinical trial. Mayo Clinic vaccine experts also will review the available data. The safety of COVID-19 vaccine will continue to be closely monitored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the FDA.

### ***Myth: I already had COVID-19 and I have recovered, so I don't need to get a COVID-19 vaccine when it's available.***

**Fact:** There is not enough information currently available to say if or for how long after infection someone is protected from getting COVID-19 again. This is called natural immunity. Early evidence suggests natural immunity from COVID-19 may not last very long, but more studies are needed to better understand this. Mayo Clinic recommends getting the COVID-19 vaccine, even if you've had COVID-19 previously. However, those that had COVID-19 should delay vaccination until about 90 days from diagnosis. People should not get vaccinated if in quarantine after exposure or if they have COVID-19 symptoms./

### ***Myth: There are severe side effects of the COVID-19 vaccines.***

**Fact:** There are short-term mild or moderate vaccine reactions that resolve without complication or injury. The early phase studies of the Pfizer vaccine show that it is safe. About 15% of people developed short lived symptoms at the site of the injection. 50% developed systemic reactions primarily headache, chills, fatigue or muscle pain or fever lasting for a day or two. Keep in mind that these side effects are indicators that your immune system is responding to the vaccine and are common when receiving vaccines.

### ***Myth: I won't need to wear a mask after I get vaccinated for COVID-19.***

**Fact:** It may take time for everyone who wants a COVID-19 vaccination to get one. Also, while the vaccine may prevent you from getting sick, it is unknown at this time if you can still carry and transmit the virus to others. Until more is understood about how well the vaccine works, continuing with precautions such as mask-wearing and physical distancing will be important.

Until more is understood about how well the vaccine works, continuing with precautions, such as wearing a mask and practicing physical distancing, will be important.

### ***Myth: More people will die as a result of a negative side effect to the COVID-19 vaccine than would actually die from the virus.***

**Fact:** Circulating on social media is the claim that COVID-19's mortality rate is 1%-2% and that people should not be vaccinated against a virus with a high survival rate. However, a 1% mortality rate is 10 times more lethal than the seasonal flu. In addition, the

*(Continued on page 5)*

## ***Mayo Clinic: COVID-19 vaccine myths debunked.....continued from page 4***

mortality rate can vary widely and is influenced by age, sex and underlying health condition.

While some people that receive the vaccine may develop symptoms as their immune system responds, remember that this is common when receiving any vaccine and not considered serious or life-threatening. You cannot get COVID-19 infection from the COVID-19 vaccines; they are inactivated vaccines and not live viruses.

It's important to recognize that getting the vaccine is not just about survival from COVID-19. It's about preventing spread of the virus to others and preventing infection that can lead to long-term negative health effects. While no vaccine is 100% effective, they are far better than not getting a vaccine. The benefits certainly outweigh the risks in healthy people.

### ***Myth: The COVID-19 vaccine was developed to control the general population either through microchip tracking or "nanotransducers" in our brains.***

**Fact:** There is no vaccine microchip, and the vaccine will not track people or gather personal information into a database. This myth started after comments made by Bill Gates from The Gates Foundation about a digital certificate of vaccine records. The technology he was referencing is not a microchip, has not been implemented in any manner and is not tied to the development, testing or distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.

### ***Myth: COVID-19 vaccines will alter my DNA.***

**Fact:** The first [COVID-19](#) vaccines to reach the market are likely to be messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines. According to the CDC, mRNA vaccines work by instructing cells in the body how to make a protein that triggers an immune response. Injecting mRNA into your body will not interact or do anything to the DNA of your cells. Human cells break down and get rid of the mRNA soon after they have finished using the instructions.

### ***Myth: COVID-19 vaccines were developed using fetal tissue.***

**Fact:** Neither the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine nor the Moderna COVID-19 vaccines contain fetal cells nor were fetal cells used the development or production of either vaccine.

### ***Myth: COVID-10 vaccines cause infertility or miscarriage.***

**Fact:** No, COVID-19 vaccines have not been linked to infertility or miscarriage.

A sophisticated disinformation campaign has been circulating online, claiming that antibodies to the spike protein of COVID-19 produced from these vaccines will bind to placental proteins and prevent pregnancy. This disinformation is thought to originate from internet postings by a former scientist known to hold anti-vaccine views.

These postings are not scientifically plausible, as COVID-19 infection has not been linked to infertility. Also, no other viral infection or vaccination-inducing immunity by similar mechanisms has been shown to cause infertility. Antibodies to the spike protein have not been linked to infertility after COVID-19 infection. There is no scientific reason to believe this will change after vaccination for COVID-19.

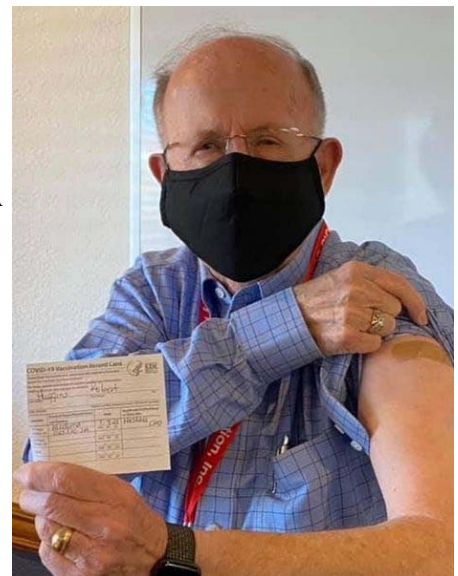
While there are no formal studies, the best evidence comes from women who got sick with COVID-19 while pregnant. While data clearly indicate pregnant women are at higher risk of hospitalization due to COVID-19 infection, there is no evidence of increased miscarriage rates.

During natural infection, the immune system generates the same antibodies to the spike protein that COVID-19 vaccines would. Thus, if COVID-19 affected fertility, there already would be an increase in miscarriage rates in women infected with COVID-19. This has not happened.

### ***Myth: I am allergic to eggs so I shouldn't get the COVID-19 vaccine***

**Fact:** Neither the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine nor the Moderna COVID-19 vaccines contain egg nor were eggs used the development or production of either vaccine. However, those with severe allergic reactions to eggs or any other substance (i.e., anaphylaxis) are encouraged to remain after vaccination for 30 minutes for observation.

***(This information was taken from the Mayo Clinic official website.)***



*Carroll Huggins proudly displays his inoculation site....*

## KI BOIS Community Care New Year Hopes.....

**Halie Ribera** - My hope for 2021 is that case managers can safely complete home visits again. I know some of my members are eager to put a face to my name and look forward to me coming to their homes.

**Jamie Stinson** - My hope in 2021 is I can make a positive impact in people's lives and that this year can bring hope and healing to our country.

My New Year's Resolution is to help all my friends gain ten pounds so I look slimmer!

Well I was going to quit all my bad habits for the new year, but then I remembered that nobody likes a quitter.



## Tips to Make Getting Back to Work Easier..... NOT!

- **Accept how you are feeling.** Whatever you are feeling currently is valid, so don't try to fight it. The drudgery and dread at your emails, embrace it. Let the bitterness of meetings and reports swell. Feel it coursing in your veins. Good, good, let the hate flow through you!
- **Look at the items on your to-do list.** Now—and hear me out because this may sound a little unusual—put the list aside and watch something on Netflix.
- **Use a weighted blanket.** If you have a weighted blanket, it can be a great tool to use, especially if you fold it into a cube, place your laptop on it, and re-watch Coco.
- **Get ordained by Universal Life Church or American Marriage Ministries so you can marry people.** It only takes a minute, and it will give you a sense of confidence to know that in an emergency, you will be able to perform the legally binding ceremony to help people get married. This sense of confidence will allow you to get through the week!
- **Declare email bankruptcy.** Let's face it, our email inboxes are hopeless. Send out a message to all your contacts saying that you have declared email bankruptcy and ask them to re-send you any message that's important. Then delete all your emails and bask in the sweet, sweet silence.
- **If none of those work,** here's another tip: **Remember that you matter and your work does too.** As Leon Brown once said, *"Never underestimate the valuable and important difference you make in every life you touch, for the impact you make today has a powerful rippling effect on every tomorrow."* That's what you do. That's what we do. It's been a rough year, and there is so much work to do. But everything you do creates ripples, some that you may never be able to see. We are all brilliant, talented and wonderful people ....put here to make a difference.

## FREE Income Tax Preparation

If your income is less than \$57,000 and you have a BASIC Income Tax return, KI BOIS Community Action will prepare and e-file your Income Tax at no charge. Contact the city nearest you for help.



Wilburton: 918-465-3381

McAlester: 918-423-3525

Poteau: 918-647-3267

Stigler: 918-967-3325

## *It's Little Angels for Muskogee County!*



Tayla Lanise was born on December 8th weighing 7lbs and 12 ounces. She was welcomed home by her parents Gregory & Tierra Bezzell and her brothers, Kyson and Kassius. Her mom, Tierra, is an outreach worker for KI BOIS Community Action Muskogee County.



Jerzey Noel was born December 16th weighing 7lbs and 3 ounces. She was welcomed home by her parents, Jeremy and Brittney Ford and a sister Jordyn. Jersey's is the granddaughter of KI BOIS Community Action Muskogee County Coordinator John Ford and his wife, Angela.

# 2020 W2s

## IS YOUR ADDRESS CORRECT?

W-2s will be mailed prior to month end. Please review your pay advice/check stub or EWS account to verify that the address that appears there is the mailing address for your W-2. If it is wrong, please submit an address change either by e-mail, EWS, or by completing an address change form ASAP. If your W-2 is mailed to a wrong/old address or lost, it will be mid February before any re-prints will be processed.

## *KI BOIS Community Action Job Posting - January 11th, 2021*



### ***KI BOIS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER***

**JOB TITLE: DAY SUPERVISOR - FT (McAlester) Mon-Fri/8:00am – 4:30pm**

**JOB REQUIREMENTS:** HS Diploma/GED, valid driver's license required. Applicant should have interest or experience in crisis intervention, experience working with Microsoft Excel along with other computer systems, ability to assist in household upkeep/donation organization, 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 both in person and on the telephone.

### ***KI BOIS COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM***

**JOB TITLE: CASE MANAGER - FT (Program Service Area)**

**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.

# Notice of Job Posting

*continued from page 7*



## ***KI BOIS SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VETERAN FAMILIES***

### ***SOUTHEASTERN OK – VETERANS HOUSING FIRST***

**JOB TITLE:** VETERAN PROGRAM CASE MANAGER - 2FT - Current funding for this position is 18-24 months (Service Area)

**JOB REQUIREMENTS:** Bachelor's Degree from accredited University required. Preferably in Social Services, Management or Leadership. Case Management experience preferred.

**JOB SUMMARY:** This position will be responsible for providing intake and eligibility screening for the program. Will provide needs assessment, program orientation, case management, maintain liaison with area resources and attend community meetings. Will develop housing stability plans for participants, maintain case files and prepare required data and reports.

## ***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 DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES***

**JOB TITLE:** HABILITATION TRAINING SPECIALIST - PT/FT (Stigler GROUP HOMES)

**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.

**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](http://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](mailto: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!**