

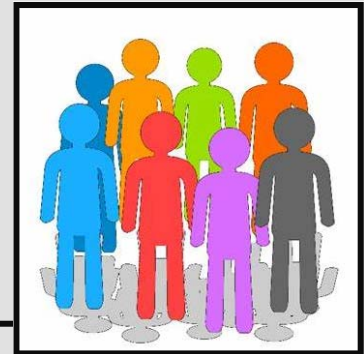
Why it matters.....

A lot is at stake with Census 2020 so we're counting on you Oklahoma even more importantly the individuals in Haskell, Latimer, LeFlore, Muskogee, Pittsburg and Sequoyah Counties! The census is a survey taken every 10 years to get an overall look at communities all across the United States and how to better serve them. The census is used by lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others to help determine funding, congressional representation, and more. Every person living in the 50 states, District of Columbia and five U.S. territories which including Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Filling out the census isn't just our civic duty...it's the law. The constitution mandates that the country counts its population once every 10 years. The 2020 Census will mark the 24th time that the Country has counted its population since 1790.

The Census count will provide funding and services we will live with for the next 10 years, if not longer. Oklahoma stands to lose up to \$1,675 per person per year, for the next 10 years in federal support for programs that use Census data such as healthcare, parks and roads, education and more.

If you need help filling out your Census form or have additional questions, please feel free to call your nearest KI BOIS Community Action office and we will be more willing to give you a hand.



The Census has a 10-year benefit of \$16,750 per person for your community!



KI BOIS Community Action hosted a Mobile Food Pantry Thursday, April 2nd in Roland and Sallisaw. Over 200 families received much needed food during this difficult time. Left, center, KI BOIS Community Action Sequoyah County Coordinator Melissa Lowe is shown with other volunteers preparing for distribution. Melissa and her group of volunteers were featured on radio station KXMX Mix 105.1 out of Sallisaw as being Hidden Heroes. Thanks Melissa and your volunteers for making a difference!

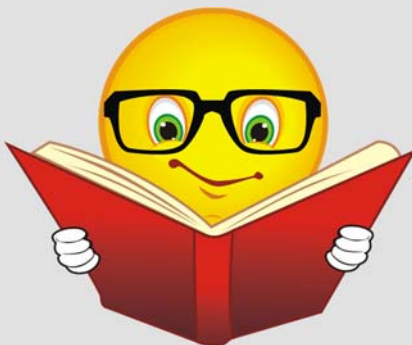
Just Some Thoughts!

1. I pray that when this is over and a friend sticks their hand out for a hand shake or grabs me and pulls me in for a hug, I actually take the time to appreciate the gift of their embrace.
2. I pray that when school resumes and you are dropping your kids off, you take the time to thank the staff for the amazing gift that they give to your family.
3. I pray that the next time I'm sitting in a crowded restaurant I take the time to look around at the smiling faces, loud voices and be more appreciative for the gift of community.
4. I pray that when I am at the grocery store that I take a moment to acknowledge the necessities of life and the amazing people who work so hard to keep us supplied.
5. I pray that I never take for granted, the ability to hop in the car and visit a friend, or tell myself, "I'll call them tomorrow."
6. I pray that we take the lessons and challenges of the past few weeks and create a new normal.
7. If there is someone that needs to hear, "I'm thinking of you" or "I Love You", tell them today!
8. We are visiting our family via Zoom which is nice but we are in need of hugs and face to face conversations when this is over.
9. I am missing the personal contact with my work family. All of my meetings are Zoom or on the telephone. Lots of people are working from their homes. When I conduct business I prefer looking people in the eye and shaking their hands. I think I will value this even more when this social distancing is over!
10. I am sure missing the personal contact we enjoy in our church family too! I need that contact in my life! I am looking forward to the prayers, handshakes, smiles, hugs, and tears we exchange in the Christian love we have for each other.



Carroll Huggins

Carroll Huggins Executive Director / CEO



"A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies....The man who never reads lives only one."

- George R.R. Martin

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and some more thoughts....

Larry Hall, Associate Director/COO..... As we travel along this uncharted path of COVID-19, I want to take the time to acknowledge and thank all of the KI BOIS staff who have continued to provide service to our clients through these uncertain times. KI BOIS has continued to operate and provide needed services as an essential business as defined by the Governor of Oklahoma; such as transportation, DD services, emergency services, DV shelters, veteran's services, Advantage services and administrative services.

These programs couldn't have happened without the commitment and work ethic of our KI BOIS employees from all departments and programs. Your dedication is one of the many reasons KI BOIS is successful and a major service provider in Eastern Oklahoma.

Once this pandemic is behind us, we will look back and realize we have made a difference and helped



Tom Marlatt, Associate Director/CFO..... COVID 19 has certainly forced us all to live altered lives lately. I'm ready for our community to "get back to normal" so folks can earn a living in our communities. I realize it has been hard on local businesses and will have a long lasting effect, and some may not be able to recover. I just hope the new normal includes a new outlook and direction for today's society.



Linda Love, Director of Planning and Development..... The Planning Department has not really been affected by the current situation. Some deadlines have been extended, but most "paperwork" is still expected by our funding sources. In some cases, they are asking for increased and separate reporting. The Salvation Army has gone so far as to ask for daily reports from the service units. Grant application deadlines have remained in place, no extensions. We are also busy preparing for the receipt of CARES Act funding. CARES Act funding requires separate budgets, policies, accounting, and reports.



Michael Knapp, Weatherization Director..... Weatherization services across the state have been suspended since March 26, 2020 due to health concerns from the COVID-19 Pandemic. Oklahoma Department of Commerce, ODOC, our funding source, in conjunction with Public Service of Oklahoma, PSO, have had several weekly Webinars to keep the network updated in these trying times. We are still receiving and processing applications until the suspension is lifted, which was estimated to take place the first or second week of May. Once suspension is lifted by the state, KI BOIS will evaluate the situation, to ensure client and worker safety, before Weatherization work will resume.

Weatherization workers, during this shut down, have had time to work on maintenance and repair issues needed at KI BOIS properties. As of March 27, 2020 no maintenance/repair issues have been addressed, in doors of an occupied facility, unless it was an Emergency. PPE, Personal Protective Equipment, is used as necessary.



Amanda Prewett, Domestic Violence Program Director..... It is a much different work environment as our service approach with clients has drastically changed. In our program, many services are provided with a level of closeness. Now, we are offering tele-advocacy services utilizing face time and Zoom. Intakes have proven to be difficult while trying to social distance, but our advocates are being very creative in their approaches. The state has offered many webinar trainings on how to best serve people during a pandemic. We are social distancing while still trying to protect people from violence. We expect domestic violence incidents to increase as people are stuck in their homes with an inability to leave.





Top photos left to right: McAlester KATS driver Jerry Lee McAlester, is shown preparing his bus with a large container of hand sanitizer provided by Oklahoma Transit Association. Right: Redonna Perry and Aaron Goodman are shown getting masks ready to distribute to KATS offices across their service area. Bottom photo: Chris Ishmel owner of CWI Digital, third from left, is shown with Redonna Perry, KATS Director Charla Sloan, Ishmel, Ron Davis and Aaron Goodman. KATS not only purchases their camera systems from CWI Digital, but recently the company also aided KATS in acquiring masks. Ishmel was approached by one of his vendors which was going to start producing masks so in turn Ishmel reached out to transit systems across Texas and Oklahoma. Ishmel was able to put an order in for 140,000 masks and since has placed another order for an additional 80,000 masks. KATS was given the opportunity to purchase 20,000 mask which will be used by their drivers as well as handed out to riders that do not have a mask.

The CARES Act Works for All Americans

The CARES Act provides fast and direct economic assistance for American workers and families, small businesses, and preserves jobs for American industries. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by Congress with overwhelming, bipartisan support and signed into law by President Trump on March 27th, 2020. This over \$2 trillion economic relief package delivers on the Trump Administration's commitment to protecting the American people from the public health and economic impacts of COVID-19.

The CARES Act Provides Assistance to Workers and their Families..... Through Economic Impact Payments and other means, the Treasury Department is ensuring that Americans receive fast and direct relief in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. The CARES Act provides for Economic Impact Payments to American households of up to \$1,200 per adult for individuals whose income was less than \$99,000 (or \$198,000 for joint filers) and \$500 per child under 17 years old – or up to \$3,400 for a family of four.

Additionally, the IRS will use the information on the Form SSA-1099 and Form RRB-1099 to generate \$1,200 Economic Impact Payments to Social Security recipients who did not file tax returns in 2018 or 2019. Recipients will receive these payments as a direct deposit or by paper check, just as they would normally receive their benefits.

Treasury is launching a web-based portal for individuals to provide their banking information to the IRS online, so that individuals can receive payments immediately as opposed to checks in the mail.

Be sure to check irs.gov/coronavirus for continuous updates.

The CARES Act Provides Assistance to Small Businesses..... The Paycheck Protection Program is providing small businesses with the resources they need to maintain their payroll, hire back employees who may have been laid off, and cover applicable overhead. The Paycheck Protection Program established by the CARES Act, is implemented by the [Small Business Administration](#) with support from the Department of the Treasury. This program provides small businesses with funds to pay up to 8 weeks of payroll costs including benefits. Funds can also be used to pay interest on mortgages, rent, and utilities.

The Paycheck Protection Program prioritizes millions of Americans employed by small businesses by authorizing up to \$349 billion toward job retention and certain other expenses.

Small businesses and eligible nonprofit organizations, Veterans organizations, and Tribal businesses described in the Small Business Act, as well as individuals who are self-employed or are independent contractors, are eligible if they also meet program size standards.

The CARES Act Preserves Jobs for American Industry..... By implementing the CARES Act, the Treasury Department is taking unprecedented steps to preserve jobs in industries adversely impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. The CARES Act offers meaningful financial support to American businesses and job creators so they can better support employees and be prepared to get back to business as soon as possible.

Employee Retention Credit..... Employers of all sizes that face closure orders or suffer economic hardship due to COVID-19 are incentivized to keep employees on the payroll through a 50% credit on up to \$10,000 of wages paid or incurred from March 13, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

Payroll Tax Deferral..... To enhance cash flow so that businesses can better maintain operations and payroll, employers and self-employed individuals can defer payment of the employer share of the Social Security tax they otherwise are responsible for paying to the federal government with respect to their employees. The deferred employment tax can be paid over the next two years—with half of the required amount to be paid by December 31, 2021 and the other half by December 31, 2022.

Payroll Support..... Treasury has published the resources to assist some eligible businesses in applying for payroll support to enable the continued payment of employee wages, salaries, and benefits, and for loans pursuant to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.



Kasey and Jerred Vail would like to announce the birth of their first child, Leo James. Leo was born on April 17th, weighing 5lbs. 7 ounces and was 18 1/4 inches long. Kasey works at the KI BOIS Community Action Domestic Violence Shelter in Stigler as Shelter Manager. Congratulations Vail family.

Stigler:
(918) 967-2512

McAlester:
(918) 423-0032

Shelter and crisis
intervention services are still
available 24/7/365.



FYI....

HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THE
CORONA VIRUS: COVID-19



Wash Your Hands Often
With Soap And Water



Avoid touching your eyes,
nose, and mouth.



Cover your cough or
sneeze with a tissue



Disinfect frequently touched
objects and surfaces.



Avoid close contact with
people who are sick.



Stay home if you are sick,
except to get medical care.

How is COVID-19 impacting rural transit in Oklahoma

T4AmericaBlog....Chris Rall

Transit agencies are struggling to continue providing service in the face of plummeting fare revenues and increased costs associated with the need for cleaning vehicles and providing enough service to allow for safe spacing of passengers.

The fallout for transit in this crisis has been more visible in large cities than rural communities, since more people use transit in urban areas, and urban transit is typically more dependent on farebox revenue. But the impact has been just as severe for rural transit systems. Rural systems often don't have staff that can dedicate time documenting impacts and calling members of Congress. They are trying to keep the doors open, the vehicles clean and running, and the drivers and riders safe. This may in part explain why many rural and tribal transit systems were caught off-guard when their share of the \$25 billion of transit relief funding in the CARES Act was cut in half, from \$4 billion to \$2.2 billion just before the bill passed.

The reality is that rural transit agencies, already operating on very tight margins with unstable financial support, are already at a breaking point in this crisis. "Rural transit systems are at their wits' end emotionally, physically, mentally and financially," says LaQuita Thornely, Executive Director of INCA Community Services, an agency that operates JAMM Transit in four rural Oklahoma counties. "The nature of rural transit makes survival during this time questionable."

What we heard from transit agencies in Oklahoma are examples of what is likely happening to rural transit agencies nationwide.

The modest pay and part-time nature of driving for a rural system means it doesn't pay the bills but can supplement retirement income. Because of this, rural transit drivers are more often older — many are over 65 — and therefore at greater risk of complications or even death, should they be infected by COVID-19.

For good reason, drivers are already skittish about continuing to work, and many are quitting, often not even bothering to give notice. Recently, a dialysis patient tested positive for the coronavirus after exposing two drivers. "We are awaiting the ripple effects of that incident on driver retention," said Charla Sloan, Transit Director for KI BOIS Area Transit System (KATS) that serves 12 rural Oklahoma counties. "Social distancing is not possible when rural drivers have to secure wheelchair passengers in the vehicles." Several systems in Oklahoma have had to cut service due to the COVID-19-caused driver shortage.

Making sure drivers are protected could go a long way toward keeping drivers safe and more of them on the job. But personal protective equipment (PPE) and even hand sanitizer is in short supply and hard to come by. The Oklahoma Transit Association (OTA) has found a supply of hand sanitizer from a local distillery and protective masks from China through one of its vendor members. "We have been driving hundreds of miles around the state delivering hand sanitizer and masks to systems that have no other way to protect its drivers and riders," said Mark C. Nestlen, Executive Director of OTA. "We have still not found a supplier for small spray bottles to dispense the hand sanitizer or vehicle cleaning supplies, so the stress level remains high."

The fiscal impacts of the pandemic on already-stretched rural transit systems will be immense. "My system is two payrolls away from being broke," said Melissa Fesler, Director of First Capital Trolley who serves three Oklahoma counties. "Already subdued local rural economies are shut down with physical distancing practices taking hold. Local revenue sources are drying up quickly, and those local revenues will not recover for years to come."



"Concern is growing as to the long-term viability of rural transit once the pandemic subsides and we return to a new normal," said state representative

(Continued on page 9)

How is COVID-19 impacting...cont. from page 8

Avery Frix (R-Muskogee), who serves as Chairman of the Oklahoma House of Representatives Transportation Committee and represents two rural counties. “As a result of the COVID-19 health crisis and the related economic collapse, the funding from local sources is going to plummet. Our rural transit providers rely on local matching funds to leverage federal dollars to keep vehicles moving. And those local funds are not going to be there for years.”

Prior to the public health crisis many rural transit providers were already walking a razor’s edge with being able to continue service. Closing down entirely would be especially devastating to many seniors and disabled who rely solely on their local transit system for the one meal at the senior site or access to much needed health care like dialysis or to the worker who relies on transit to get to work.

“As rural states recover from the crisis, public transit will have to be a major component of the economic recovery,” Frix continued. “Without an effective public transit system operating seamlessly statewide within and between rural communities and urban cities, a recovery will be slow at best, if at all.”

May is.....

Community Action Month



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.



Blake Smith, Karen Thompson and Jeremy Porter

KI BOIS Community Action Executive Director Carroll Huggins, board and staff send their thoughts and prayers to the family of Karen Thompson. Karen became ill the first part of February with a rare and unusual blood disorder and was in and out of the hospital for several months. She fought her disease with grace and dignity until God said “Tis Finished.” Karen started her career with KI BOIS Community Action as a Habilitation Training Specialist (HTS) on May 14th, 2002 and ended her career on April 23rd, 2020 in Special Projects. Karen “loved” her job, her IT Team (which she called her boys) and all which KI BOIS Community Action stood for. She will be greatly missed. Rest in Peace our Friend!

KI BOIS Community Action
Notice of Job Posting - Continued from page
May 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(Tulsa Area) 2(Cherokee 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: PROGRAM COORDINATOR – FT (Ardmore)

JOB REQUIREMENTS: Bachelor's Degree and one (1) year of experience or six (6) years of experience working with people with disabilities. Program Coordinator must be able to exercise patience, understanding, creativity and flexibility. PC must have supervisory, organizational and excellent communication skills. A valid OK driver's license along with safe and reliable transportation also required. Must be able to complete any required/requested training and 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, 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!**