

When you bring two legends together....

Kay Box, Editor

When you think of Head Start you think of Donna Carolan and Alice Walker.

Donna was working on a six month work program when she ended up in the basement of the Haskell County Courthouse working for Jim Hall, Jr. and Joye Roye....Alice on the other hand was working at the Haskell County Hospital in accounting. "I had a tough accounting supervisor, Mr. Louis Fioretti, but I learned a lot from him." When asked why she left the hospital, she stated, "I believe Mr. Fioretti told Mr. Huggins to hire me. I also remember the rumor going around town...Carroll Huggins stole Alice Walker from the hospital!" Before their paths crossed in 1976 they each were Head Start parents volunteering in the classroom not realizing one day they would be the "head" of the Head Start Program. Their combined 88 years of service shows their dedication and love toward a program, which not only benefited their children, but children and families all across southeastern Oklahoma.

Donna and Alice had a lot to say....sometimes finishing each other's thoughts and sentences with a few tears. They each laughed as they talked about "Leonard." Evidently Leonard was a huge machine about the size of a six foot table which was the bookkeeping system. Leonard would print out the data on large cards which would then be filed. According to Donna, "Leonard had a mind of its own. If you had any issues or messed up two or three times it would shut down and you would need to wait about an hour before "he" would work again. Leonard came with a huge book of instructions. Sometimes it would take them hours to figure out what they had done wrong.

When asked about the needs of children from 40 years ago until now...Donna stated, "It is so much more complicated now than then. You have so many more layers of need due to parents not knowing or willing to parent to drug abuse to grandparents raising children. You also have issues of discipline or I should say lack of discipline. Then you throw the everyday issues of food, shelter, medical and not enough money to go around. It is very stressful not only to the families, but to the Head Start staff."

Another issue is Head Start is so much more complicated than it used to be. The government expected the program to do everything for everyone with the

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Donna Carolan top photo and Alice Walker below.



OCTOBER
NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AWARENESS MONTH

See page three for more details!

September, 2020

From the desk of the Executive Director/CEO:

I hope each of you enjoyed your three day Labor Day Holiday weekend! Personally, I am looking forward to football weather. I love the beauty and climate of our Oklahoma Fall Season.

Covid-19 has caused a great change in the way we are conducting business. We are following the CDC recommended guidelines for the safety of our employees and clients. The good side is that we have received a lot of extra funding to help with our client's Covid-19 caused needs.

Almost all of local, state, and national meetings are currently being conducted by ZOOM.

We have received notice of award for the fourth year of funding for our SSVF (Supportive Service for Veteran's Families) in 24 counties in Eastern Oklahoma. We are very pleased with our outstanding staff who will meet their goals for this year.

We are in the process of preparing for our annual agency audit by our independent auditor.

Remember: Wash hands often! Wear masks! Watch your space! Avoid groups!



Carroll Huggins

*Carroll Huggins, CCAP
Executive Director / CEO*



It's September

[T]hat old September feeling, left over from school days, of summer passing, vacation nearly done, obligations gathering, books and football in the air ... Another fall, another turned page: there was something of jubilee in that annual autumnal beginning, as if last year's mistakes had been wiped clean by summer."

— Wallace Stegner

Public Auction.....

Wednesday, September 30, 2020 starting at 2:00 PM

KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc. will be holding a public auction at 1107 Industrial Road Stigler, OK to sell eight (8) buses, one (1) maxi van and three (3) Minivans. Follow the link below to the listing of vehicles...

<http://www.kibois.org/.../KATS/KATS%20Auction%20093020.jpg>



In addition, there will also be various surplus equipment to be auctioned. Follow the link below to the listing of equipment...

<http://www.kibois.org/.../Michael%20Auction%20Items...>

All vehicles must be paid for and removed from the property the day of the auction. All vehicles are being sold "AS IS." Vehicles can be inspected Monday thru Friday from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm from now until September 30th at 1107 Industrial Road, Stigler, OK. If you like more information call 918-967-3365 or 800-289-7228. Office hours are Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm. There will be COVID-19 restrictions and masks must be worn at all times while on KI BOIS Community Action Property.

KI BOIS News

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Foundation, Inc.
200 Southeast "A" Street
P.O. Box 727
Stigler, OK 74462
918-967-3325
800-299-4479
www.kibois.org

R. Carroll Huggins

Executive Director / CEO

Tom Marlatt

Associate Director / CFO

Larry Hall,

Associate Director / COO

KI BOIS Community Action
Board of Directors
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Frank Phillips, Parliamentarian

Kay Box, Editor
918-967-3325, Ext. 131
kay.wood@kibois.org

Please join the KI BOIS Community Action Domestic Violence Program for a proclamation and award ceremony designating October

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

in Haskell County.

Monday October 5th, 2020

10:30 AM

Haskell County Courthouse lawn
202 E. Main Street Stigler, OK

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same amount of money and manpower. According to Alice, "It just doesn't work that way. We would find ourselves trying to implement a new service or project with no additional funds and no directive. Sometimes good common sense was nowhere to be found." Donna and Alice both stated, "We loved Head Start and without the support from the coordinators to the teachers to the cooks to the volunteers to the office staff to Carroll Huggins to Tom Marlatt to Larry Hall to Charla Sloan and the KI BOIS Community Action accounting department we would not have been successful. It took everyone to make our program work."

Having worked together for 44 years, I had to ask the question, "Did you ever disagree?" They replied in unison... "Yes we did!" According to Donna, "We disagreed a lot, but we didn't stay mad nor did we hold a grudge." We said what we needed to say and we moved on." When asked if you ever needed to apologize, again the answer was "Yes!" Donna was notorious with these words, "Are you crazy....what are you doing?" According to Donna, "We had to meet quite often with coordinators and other support staff so we needed everyone to come to the table with their point of view, to be honest and know their opinion mattered. It was rough sometimes, but that is how you move forward and accomplish what needs to be done for the benefit of the children. As Alice put it, "Eating after these meetings always put everyone in a better frame of mind.....and we ate a lot!"

When asked do you miss one another? "Yes we do!" They have raised their kids together and shared secrets that will go to the grave with them. They also had a huge discussion about which one of their children was the most difficult to rear.....that disclosure will go to the grave with them. They each spent several minutes counting on their

fingers how many of their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren attended Head Start. Alice came up with seven kids, four grandkids and one great grandchild for a total of twelve while Donna came up with a grand total of 33. She had six kids, 13 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. Evidently they were on a personal mission to make sure Head Start had children. Alice shared a story of when she was a single mom and couldn't afford daycare. So her daughter, Lisa, was passed around to various people and sometimes when no one was available, Lisa would be allowed to go to Head Start for the day. Since Lisa wasn't "officially" enrolled and sometimes "official" people would stop by (I hope the Statute of Limitations has run out) Lisa knew to hide under a desk until she had an all clear signal.

When asked if Lisa thought she was playing a game, "No, she knew she had to be quiet." stated Alice.

As we were finishing our lunch, they each commented on their age...Carolann 73 and Walker 79. They stated, "We don't feel that old." Alice recalls when she turned 50 and the tears she shed....Donna remembers celebrating her 30th at the Stigler Café with turkey and dressing. As we sat there in disbelief and wondering where the years had gone, I reflected on a poem....."Where has the time gone? The years have slipped away. Every time you look around, There is a brand "new" day!"

Editor's note: As I started interviewing Donna and Alice about their days at Head Start and their retirement....I soon realized it was not just a story about having a career, but a friendship. No matter the question asked, the answer was always about them as friends and the respect they felt for one another. Head Start is now a closed chapter, but their friendship is still writing their book! **Kay**



Donna, Carrol Huggins and Alice at one of the many Christmas activities.



Alice Walker and Donna Carolan, center, left to right, are shown with KI BOIS Community Action Executive Director Carroll Huggins and Board chair John Cook with their plaques of appreciation for their years of service.

Did You Know?

Carbon monoxide is an odorless gas that causes thousands of deaths. It is the leading cause of poisoning death in the United States.

Carbon monoxide is a chemical produced from the incomplete burning of natural gas or other products containing carbon. Carbon monoxide may be produced by anything that burns coal, gasoline, kerosene, oil, propane or wood, such as automobile engines, charcoal grills, indoor and portable heating systems, portable propane heaters, stoves and water heaters that use natural gas.

When you breathe in carbon monoxide, the poison replaces the oxygen in your bloodstream. Your heart, brain and body will become starved of oxygen. Those at high risk include young children, the elderly, persons with lung or heart disease, people at high altitudes and smokers. Carbon monoxide can also harm a fetus (unborn baby still in the womb). Some of the symptoms are breathing issues, chest pain, coma, confusion, convulsions, dizziness or fainting, drowsiness, headache, nausea and vomiting. If a person breathed in the poison, immediately move him or her to fresh air and seek medical help immediately.

Many carbon monoxide poisonings occur in the winter months when furnaces, gas fireplaces and portable heaters are being used and windows are closed. The best way to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning is to have your major gas-burning appliances regularly inspected to make sure they are safe to use. All homes approved by KI BOIS Weatherization are retro-fitted with a carbon monoxide detector.



*Submitted by Michael Knapp,
Weatherization Director*



Vets hit hard by COVID crisis

(KTEN) -- There's been a sharp increase in the number of homeless veterans in Oklahoma since the start of the coronavirus pandemic.\

The KI BOIS Supportive Services for Veteran Families program, which serves 24 counties in southeastern Oklahoma, said demand for its services has surged nearly 50 percent. The organization received \$560,000 from CARES Act funding distributed by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

"In rural southeast Oklahoma this year, we've already served 260 veteran families and anticipate on serving many more," said SSVF program director Tammy Randazzo.

Veteran homelessness over the past few years in Oklahoma had been on the decline, but the SSVF said that has changed in 2020.

"I may have like two new enrollments every few weeks or so; now I'm having like two to three, it's been every week for the past couple of weeks," said SSVF case manager Tanya Newton.

Many new enrollments can be attributed to job loss, eviction, failing to qualify for benefits, or a backlog in benefit delivery.

"If we have a veteran that is job-searching or has found themselves maybe in a financial hardship or crisis, anything that they're trying to do is taking longer," Randazzo said.

The SSVF is using CARES Act funds to provide housing for veterans, and it expects to see demand for its services increase.

"The whole goal of the program is for us to end veteran homelessness," Newton said. "Our goal is to work ourselves out of a job."

Editors Note: To see the KTEN story aired live go to<http://ow.ly/xAc550B8SaD>



Tammy Randazzo,
SSVF Director



As more and more individuals test positive for COVID - 19 the need for additional safety precautions are being put in place. KI BOIS Community Action Director of Facilities and Maintenance John Jones is shown fogging the reception area of the administrative office in Stigler. Also please remember to:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and use hand sanitizer.
- Cover your nose and mouth (facemask) when you leave your office.
- Practice social distancing- 6 ft. apart.
- Disinfect your workspace regularly
- If you are sick stay home and see a doctor.



Great News for Transit Systems Across OK.....

The FTA today announced \$464 million in Infrastructure grants in 49 states to improve the safety and reliability of America's bus system. Congratulations to the following Oklahoma systems on their award:

Tulsa Transit will receive \$3,175,604 in funding to replace buses, rehabilitate a parking and paratransit call center building facility, and introduce modernized technology to support its Route 66 (11th Street) bus rapid transit line. The projects will help build the regional transit network and elevate Tulsa as a hub for business, culture and entertainment.



OSU/Stillwater Community Transit System will receive \$9,120,000 to expand and upgrade its 50-year-old maintenance facility. The new facility will provide OSU the ability to maintain buses rather than outsourcing, providing cost savings and enhancing service for the Oklahoma State University community.



KI BOIS Area Transit System (KATS) will receive \$1,452,544 to purchase new buses to replace vehicles that have exceeded their useful life. The replacement vehicles will improve safety, reduce maintenance costs and improve reliability so KATS can continue its critical rural service across 12 counties, including three tribal nations.



We're Moving.....



KATS will be moving to a new location in Tahlequah The new address is 1502 S. Muskogee Ave. The phone number will remain the same..918-453-1155.

Open Enrollment for Medicare and Medicare D October 15th, 2020 - December 7th, 2020

KI BOIS doesn't do Medicare counseling, but we refer those folks to the KEDDO Area Agency On Aging. You can call your local counselor at 1-800-722-8180 or 918-465-2367. You can also call the Senior Health Insurance Counseling Program (SHIP) for assistance at 800.763-2828



BENEFIT NEWS

OPTION PERIOD 2021 - EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

DUE DATE – October 30th, 2020

Option Period 2021 for our State of Oklahoma benefits, Health, Dental, Vision and Life, will open October 1st, 2020 and continue through October 30th, 2020. During Option Period, all eligible employees will have the opportunity to make changes to existing coverage, drop coverage, or to enroll in new coverage to be effective January 1st, 2021.

Please watch your e-mail and/or EWS Messaging for further information. Personalized change forms, as well as enrollment forms will be available here in our office. Please call Joyce at 1.800.299.4479 Ext. 118 or e-mail joyce.honeycutt@kibois.org if you have questions.

TOBACCO-FREE ATTESTATION FOR 2021

DUE DATE – November 13TH, 2020

If you are enrolled in the HealthChoice High or Basic Plan and wish to remain enrolled in that plan, you must complete the online Tobacco-Free Attestation for Plan Year 2021 available at www.healthchoiceconnect.com by November 13th, 2020. If you cannot sign the online Attestation, you will be automatically enrolled in the High Alternative or Basic Alternative Plan effective January 1st, 2021 and your annual deductible will be **higher**.

There are reasonable alternatives available that might allow you to remain on your current plan, if you are unable to sign the Tobacco-Free Attestation. Please contact Joyce at 1.800.299.4479 Ext. 118 or e-mail joyce.honeycutt@kibois.org if you need further information or assistance.

KI BOIS Community Action
Notice of Job Posting - September 14th, 2020



KI BOIS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER

JOB TITLE: NIGHT ADVOCATE - FT (Stigler) Mon- Fri / Midnight – 8AM

JOB REQUIREMENTS: HS Diploma/GED, valid driver's license required. Applicant should have interest or experience in crisis intervention, basic computer skills, ability to assist in basic household upkeep, 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. On-site training provided.

Continued on page 8

Notice of Job Posting - Continued from page 7

**KI BOIS SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VETERAN FAMILIES
SOUTHEASTERN OK – VETERANS HOUSING FIRST**

JOB TITLE: HEALTH CARE NAVIGATOR – FT – Current funding for this position is 18-24 months (Muskogee)

JOB REQUIREMENTS: Bachelor's Degree from accredited University required. Preferably in Social Services, Management or Leadership. A minimum of 2 years experience in Human Services, Social Services or Healthcare. Must be able to work independently, and be task oriented.

JOB SUMMARY: This position will act as a liaison between the SSVF Program and the VA or community medical clinic. Will work with a population of Veterans with complex needs who require assistance in accessing health care services or adhering to health care plans. Will provide case management and care coordination, health education, interdisciplinary collaboration, and administrative duties.

JOB TITLE: VETERAN PROGRAM CASE MANAGER - 3 FT (1-McAlester Area, 1-Hugo Area, 1-Muskogee 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 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 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, 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!**