

# Oklahoma Ranked Third.....

October is designated as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Across the nation, activities are conducted to connect those who work to end violence, mourn those whose lives have been lost, and to celebrate those who have survived the crime of domestic violence. In a recent report by the Violence Policy Center, Oklahoma ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Nation in the number of women killed by men in single victim, single offender incidents of homicide. Last year, 88 people lost their lives to domestic violence in the state. Since October 2019, approximately 320 victims of domestic violence have been served by the Stigler and McAlester shelters and many more were served via the crisis hotlines.

In spite of COVID-19, The KI BOIS Community Action Domestic Violence Program has made efforts to bring local awareness. Throughout the service area, the program has worked with other community partners to provide educational outreach. We also want to honor the individuals who have worked with us so victims can live free from violence and harm. In Oklahoma, one (1) in four (4) women and one (1) in seven (7) men will experience some form of physical violence by their intimate partner. At the Haskell and Pittsburg County Courthouses you will see flag displays which represent these victims. Lo-

*(Continued on page 3)*

Top right, District Attorney Chuck Sullivan, KI BOIS Domestic Violence Program Director Amanda Prewett and Haskell County Sheriff Tim Turner speak about Domestic Violence Awareness.



# Bringing Home the Honors...



The 2020 Oklahoma Safe Transit Van Driving Champion and the Oklahoma State Pre-trip Inspection Champion is Freddie Lovett. Lovett competed in the Oklahoma Transit Bus Rodeo October 20th - 21st in Shawnee. This event was sponsored by the Oklahoma Transit Association (OTA).



Mr. Lovett has been a driver for KI BOIS Area Transit System (KATS) in Okmulgee for the past eight (8) years.

Also competing were Joby Chuculete and Amos Christie both from Stilwell.

(Look for more photos and the complete story in the November Edition of KI BOIS News.)

Left, Freddie Lovett with his honors.

## October 2020

### *From the desk of the Executive Director/CEO:*

Covid-19 has changed so many things and adversely affected so many lives. I am thankful that we have had the opportunity to help hundreds of low income people with the additional burdens which has been placed on them since March of this year.

KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Incorporated is privileged to have such a committed group of board members, staff, and volunteers that use their talents and resources to help those who are less fortunate. Their expertise and commitment to helping people and changing lives is commendable.

Our Community Action Agency helps people and changes lives every day in cities, towns, and rural communities all across our service area. As the Community Action Partnership promise indicates, "Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities and makes our communities a better place to live. We care about the entire community and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other."

*R. Carroll Huggins, CCAP  
Executive Director / CEO*



**Carroll Huggins**

## *45 Years....*

### *It's Been a Good Ride....*

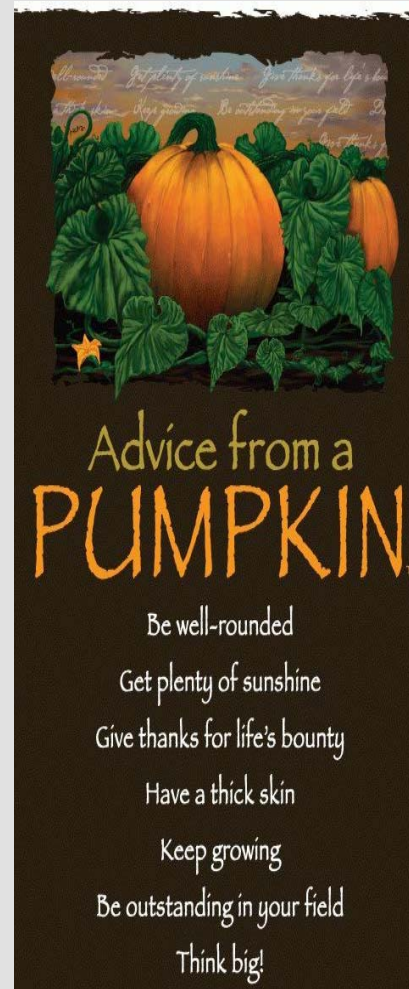
This journey started out in a wagon coming from Arkansas to Oklahoma at the age of five or six....it took several weeks but Lavon Coyle arrived in the Panama, OK area. He graduated from Panama High School in 1955 and married his high school sweetheart, Patricia, in 1957.



*Lavon Coyle*

He started off his working career at Whirlpool in Ft. Smith, AR where he was an inspector. This job didn't last as he heard about a better life in California by his best friend, Jack. So Boran, CA became his home in 1959. He went from \$.35 cents an hour to \$2.49. According to Lavon, "I was in hog heaven." He went from paying \$35.00 a month rent to \$75.00, but groceries were cheap. Although pay was good, "I hated California" states Lavon. For one thing my family wasn't there and for another there were no trees. I got off that bus at 3:00 a.m. and the next morning when I woke up and looked out the window....all that I could see was desert. "I got there a few days early and since Jack and I loved to play golf we headed to the golf course. I soon learned a valuable lesson....don't go putting your hand underneath a sage bush to find your

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### **KI BOIS News**

is published monthly by  
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cal police departments also displayed purple ribbons on their patrol vehicles.

During the Haskell County Proclamation Ceremony held on October 5<sup>th</sup> District Attorney Chuck Sullivan presented about the Coordinated Community Response Team’s efforts to respond to and prevent domestic violence in District 18. KI BOIS Domestic Violence Program Director Amanda Prewett acknowledged and awarded agencies and individuals who went above and beyond to prevent, treat and respond to victims of domestic violence and Sheriff Tim Turner reviewed a local case and explained the importance of a community response.

According to Pruitt, “Domestic Violence doesn’t end when October does and neither will our efforts to raise awareness about Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking. If you or anyone you know could benefit from our program, please have them to call us.

(More Photos on page 4)



Stigler Police Department shows support for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.



The McAlester Police Department shows their support for Domestic Violence Awareness Month



KI BOIS Community Action Haskell County staff show their support for the Domestic Violence Awareness event.



Pittsburg County, Shelter Manager Breanna Sharp and Daytime Supervisor, Bethany Domingue have provided outreach and educational presentations to the local Lions and Rotary Clubs. They participated in a shelter donation drive which benefitted the local shelters in McAlester



Left, Ethan and his friend, Finn set up a lemonade stand to raise money for the homeless in McAlester. They raised \$350.00 and a part of those funds went to the KI BOIS Community Action Women's Shelter in McAlester.

## ***KI BOIS Community Action Board Member Laid to Rest***

Neil Brannon of Arkoma, OK was born October 29, 1940 in Muse, OK to Jewel Dean (Hall) and Ammon James Brannon and passed away September 22, 2020 in Fort Smith, AR.

Neil was a lifelong resident of LeFlore County. He loved God, his family, and his community. Neil served in the education field for 41 years. He started his career in Fanshawe, OK as a teacher / coach and ended his career as Superintendent of Arkoma Schools. At that time, Neil had the opportunity to serve his community as their State Representative for eight years, where he accomplished many things for the people of LeFlore County. He also served on the KI BOIS Community Action Board of Directors for six years and served on the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). He was a lifelong member of the Community of Christ Church and served as an elder in the church. Neil's great passion was the outdoors because that's where he and God could visit through prayer. He was married to his loving wife, Gail, for 56 years.

Funeral services were held Friday, September 25 at Evans Chapel with High Priest Sally McGowen officiating. Interment followed at Fanshawe Cemetery in Fanshawe, OK.



### ***Open Enrollment for***

## ***Medicare and Medicare D***

***October 15th, 2020 - December 7th, 2020***

KI BOIS Community Action doesn't do Medicare counseling, but we refer those individuals 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**

# ***KI BOIS Community Action Scary Halloween Stories***

## ***Calendar***

It was an ominous fall morning. In the distance, thunder grumbled. Gnarled tree branches clawed desperately at Linda Loves' windows. She woke up, looked at her phone, and issued a silent scream of anguish and despair....she had 11 zoom meetings scheduled that day!



## ***The Donation***

Jan Garner, Tom Marlatt and Heather Cantrell were driving to a conference when their car broke down and refused to start. Unfortunately, they had no cell phone reception. They saw a lone dark house in the distance. It was 3:00 am, but they had no choice - they walked up and knocked. A man answered. "You guys need some help?" he asked. The man grabbed his jumper cables and drove his car to theirs.

While they waited for the battery to charge, they struck up a conversation. The stranger told them his name was Jim. He asked what they did. "So, you guys all work at a nonprofit, huh? Well, that's definitely something." They told him about their organization's mission. Jim stared at each of them in the eye, and something about his gaze unnerved them all. Then he said, "Listen, since you do such good work, I want to make a donation." He got out his checkbook and started writing. They watched in astonishment. "This is unrestricted," he said, "so you do what needs to be done with it." Tom took the check and put it into his pocket. They thanked him and left.

At the conference, they were telling the locals what happened. Everyone in the group became silent. "Jim was a generous man, always helping folks out," one of the locals whispered, "but...he died in 1984." Then Tom took the check out from his pocket, and suddenly his face went pale. They looked and saw that it was dated October 20, 1984...

Suddenly Jan grabbed the check from Tom and rushed out of the room. "Where is she going?" asked the locals, surprised. "Oh," said the others, "she's driving back to that house. Jim forgot to sign the check."



## ***Touch-up***

It was his third Zoom meeting of the day, and Michael Knapp was exhausted. He looked like he hadn't slept for several days, and truth was, he hadn't. He had bags under his eyes and so many blemishes; luckily, the wrinkles distracted from both. By the seventh meeting, he remembered that Zoom had a "touch-up my appearance" function that made one look better and less raggedy. He clicked to turn it on and discovered...it was already on!.



KI BOIS Community Action sends our thoughts and prayers to our board chair John Cook and his wife, Ruth. We wish them both a speedy recovery.

## We're Moving.....



KATS will be moving to a new location in Stilwell. The new address is 83539 Highway 59, Stilwell. The phone number will remain the same..

**918-696-4787**



*Sit Back and Relax* was the theme of the retirement party for Ronda Berber. Ronda began her career with KI BOIS Community Action in January, 1984. She started out in the KATS Program as a driver and has worked her way up into the administration office.

Left, Ronda on her big day and bottom photo Larry Hall, Carroll Huggins, Ronda and KATS Director Charla Sloan are shown celebrating with Ronda.

Although Ronda will be missed, we at KI BOIS Community Action wish her a happy retirement.



# It's Been a Good Ride.....continued from page 1

ball...there are huge rattlesnakes hiding in those bushes.....needless to say I lost a lot of golf balls.” Jack is still a good friend and lives in Sapulpa. He travels to Poteau often and he and Lavon are still chuckling over the good ole days.

California was soon a distant memory as he returned home and started to Northeastern State College. He taught school for one year and didn't like it. He soon ended up as a DJ for KINBFM Poteau. “I really enjoyed people calling in with comments or questions. Back then we could express ourselves...good bad or ugly. It was a good time,” states Lavon. When asked if he had any tapes of his radio show and he stated, “Yes, somewhere I have reels and reels!” I personally would love to listen to those. Even at the age of 83, he still has a voice of distinction.

As we talked a lot of memories were stirred. When asked what was the best part of his life he didn't hesitate.....when I got married and the hardest was when his daughter, Karen, passed away. “No one should experience the death of a child. I've had a good life tho,” stated Lavon.

***“We probably shouldn't share those stories as Kenny and Melvin aren't here to defend themselves.”***

In 1975, Lavon started another career with KI BOIS Community Action. “I have great respect for everyone at KI BOIS. I got to experience travel, making new friends and doing a job which helped people. Mr. Huggins sent me to places for training I would of never got to see. I appreciate all he has done for me. I will always remember my good friends, Kenny Monroe and Melvin Taylor (KI BOIS Community Action Board Members from LeFlore County). It was a sad day when they passed. Lavon went on to share some adventures with Kenny and Melvin, but he stated, “We shouldn't share those stories as they are not here to defend themselves.”

When asked about the current situation with COVID-19, Lavon states, “I think this virus has done more to disrupt our normal activities then anything I've ever witnessed.” When I tried to talk politics he stated, “Let's don't go there.”

This journey Lavon has been traveling isn't over. He and Patricia after 63 years are still taking care of one another, although she is in poor health. His son, Sean and daughter, Robin live nearby and they have four grandchildren and two great grand. He plans to stay busy and make a difference in the lives of those he loves.

Editor's Note: I had a great time interviewing Lavon and I will miss his kind voice and his caring heart. He will be missed and we at KI BOIS Community Action wish him and his wife, Patricia the best.

*Kay Box, Editor*



**Gathering to cheer Lavon on with his retirement are back row, left to right:: Brandie Risenhoover, Matt Gentry, Sheila Noggle, Wanda Wyatt, Ashlea Fraizer, Leah McLaughlin and Rosalind Newby. Front row, Patty Underwood and seated Lavon Coyle**

# SSVF Staff Attends Meeting / Retreat

The KI BOIS Community Action Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program held their Annual Meeting and Retreat at Lake Murray State Park this year September 16th and 17th. Each year we bring the staff together in the Fall to conduct some of our annual trainings, reflect on the previous and plan for the next grant year, cover any major updates or changes, incorporate team building, as well as provide training on items the staff have identified as needed. This was our first year to hold the training in the Southwest part of our coverage area and Lake Murray and the State Park were a great place to spend a few days in training and focus on building the capacity of our SSVF Team.

This year our SSVF staff have been very busy and have seen growing case loads and demands through the COVID pandemic. Some of the areas we focused on this year at our meeting were stress management, teamwork and support, preventing burnout in a challenging field, as well as program updates and changes.

The event, also provided our team with additional skills needed to meet the growing and changing needs of the veterans we serve while also building their ability to identify and address their own needs as essential working during this challenging time.



Bottom pic, left to right: Louise Musselman, Tanya Newton, Kellie McCauley, Rena Thomas, Kendall Spears, Jennifer Robison, Megan Pender, Jackie Lovett (all with the SSVF program) and presenter Pam Sparks.



# BENEFIT NEWS

## DEADLINE APPROACHING – October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020

October 1, 2020 marked the opening of Option Period 2021. This open enrollment/change opportunity is only available once a year. Please contact Joyce at 1.800.299.4479 or e-mail [joyce.honeycutt@kibois.org](mailto:joyce.honeycutt@kibois.org) if you wish to make changes to existing covering - or if you need to enroll for the first time. KI BOIS Community Action pays a benefit amount for member (employee) only HealthChoice High and Basic Plans. If you choose to cover dependents, you are responsible for the full cost of their coverage. Employees are also responsible for the full cost of employee and dependent coverage for dental, vision or life. **DEADLINE TO RETURN ALL FORMS – October 30<sup>st</sup>, 2020.**

All changes/new enrollments will be effective January 1, 2021.

Health plans offered for 2021 (Amounts shown are for Single Coverage):			
	<u>Employee Cost</u>	<u>Employer Cost</u>	<u>Monthly Total</u>
HealthChoice Basic and Basic Alternative:	\$90.00	\$397.36	\$487.36
HealthChoice High and High Alternative	\$218.54	\$397.36	\$615.90

[www.omes.ok.gov/services/employees-group-insurance-division](http://www.omes.ok.gov/services/employees-group-insurance-division) (Go to LINK)  
 Go to the above link to go directly to the Option Period Information. Under the Current Employees section, you'll find excellent information regarding health, dental, vision and life plans; plan changes, (if any); plan comparisons; contact information; eligibility requirements; and more! If you do not have computer access – please call us! It is your responsibility, and always to your advantage, to be familiar with your benefits.

[www.healthchoiceconnect.com](http://www.healthchoiceconnect.com) (Go to LINK)  
 If you are enrolled in the HealthChoice High or Basic Plan and wish to stay enrolled in that plan, you must complete the online Tobacco-Free Attestation for 2021. Failure to complete will result in automatic enrollment in the Alternative Plan. Deductibles are **higher** for the Alternative Plans!  
 1. **Go to the above link** for the opportunity to complete both the Tobacco-Free Attestation and the Verification of Other Coverage (the annual verification of other health or dental coverage).  
 2. Under the Member section, choose Be Tobacco Free.  
 3. Scroll to bottom of page and click on the Tobacco-Free Attestation button...complete forms.  
 4. Click on the “Choose Both” button to complete the annual verification of other health or dental coverage. Failure to verify other insurance coverage, for you or your dependents will result in denial of claims until verification is completed.  
**Call or e-mail if you have any questions or need assistance!**

**KI BOIS Community Action**  
*Notice of Job Posting - October 19th, 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.

**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 - 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 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](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!**