

# *A Conversation with the Past and with the Future...*

*Kay Box, Editor KI BOIS News*

It was an exciting day as I sat down with two members of the KI BOIS Community Action board. Mr. Gene Bass the outgoing board chair and Mr. John Cook the incoming board chair. The two share a love.....KI BOIS Community Action

Mr. Bass was born in Checotah and lived in Muskogee during his early ages. He talked about attending every grade school in Muskogee as his dad would buy homes, fix them up, sell and then they would move on to the next project. We determined his dad was a "Flipper" before HGTV made "Flipping" a household name.

Mr. Bass started his Community Action involvement when Jim Hall was Director. It just so happened that Mr. Bass was married to Mr Hall's sister, Sue, at that time. So when they visited the Hall's he would volunteer/work to hand out commodities or whatever needed to be done. Those visits became further apart as Mr. Bass left for German in 1969.

Upon finishing his military duty, Mr. Bass continuing in public service as he started his career with the Oklahoma Employment Service.

Having know about Community Action, it was easy for him to step

into the role of a KI BOIS Community Action board member in 1984 representing The Oaks. He became board chair in January 1998 after David Ward stepped down.

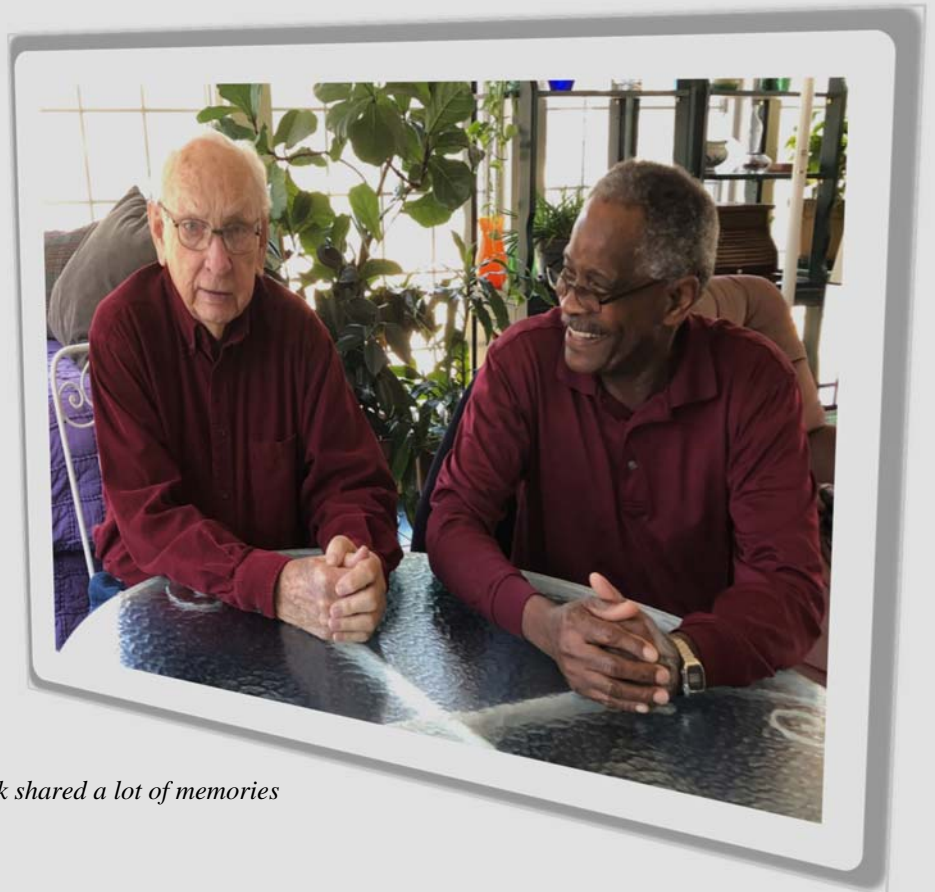
As we talked, Mr. Bass shared that Community Action has changed yearly ....but for the better. "There is more funding, additional programs and numerous community resources. KI BOIS Community Action has always supported the mission "People helping People. The same issues apply today that was faced 50 years ago....how do I feed my family, pay my bills etc. He went on to say if people in Washington D.C. only had a clue of

the real life struggles in rural America.

We discussed how he (Mr. Bass) had contributed to KI BOIS Community Action board. "I did my job by staying out of everyone's way and letting them do their job. I learned that in the military.....I witnessed an old general talk to my commanding officer and he said, "Well, Captain as long as you do your job... you can keep it. The board felt the same way about Mr. Huggins...as long as you do your job you can keep it."

Mr. Bass went on to tell how

*(Continued on page 3)*



*Mr. Bass and Mr. Cook shared a lot of memories*



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BOARD CHAIRPERSON  
GENE BASS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO  
R. CARROLL HUGGINS, CCAP

Dear KI BOIS Community Action family,

The health and well-being of our entire KI BOIS Community Action community is always of paramount importance. Your KI BOIS leadership is closely monitoring the evolution and spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The situation evolves nearly daily, so we remain in close communication with the local and Oklahoma state departments of health, and our resources in Washington, D.C. We feel it is important to mention that, according to the State Department of Health, the coronavirus is NOT currently spreading in Oklahoma and the general public's immediate health risk related to this virus is low.

Out of an abundance of caution, we will be implemented the following:

- Placing additional hand sanitizing stations in all buildings
- Utilizing sanitizing foggers in all offices, and buildings
- Purchasing and providing additional sanitizing wipes for concentrated areas
- Placing informational posters on protecting yourself and others from the spread of not only this virus, but other infectious organisms as well

At this time, we continue to encourage you to practice the following:

- Safe and frequent hand-washing, washing your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or utilizing a hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol
- Stay home if you feel sick
- Cover your mouth with your elbow when coughing or sneezing
- Routinely clean frequently touched surfaces with a disinfectant

We plan to conduct business as usual. Should the situation change you will be notified via your email. Your KI BOIS leadership will be monitoring the situation in an effort to best protect our clients and employees. Should you travel we ask that you familiarize yourself with, and practice, the protocols from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Additionally, if you plan to travel out of the country we ask that you inform us of your travel plans prior to your departure. We would be remiss if we did not discourage international travel for personal reasons; before doing so, please consider the totality of the circumstances regarding world-wide travel and safety.

Please note that we are working diligently to balance action steps with updates as they become available; the situation evolves rapidly, and we are working closely with the experts and our peers to ensure we make sound, logical, and well-timed decisions. We appreciate your patience as we determine, as a team, the best decisions for KI BOIS Community as a whole.

Sincerely,

R. Carroll Huggins, CCAP  
Executive Director/CEO



*Equal opportunity / Affirmative Action Employer  
KI BOIS Community Action Established in 1968*

## *A Conversation with the Past and with the Future... continued from page 1*

KI BOIS Community Action has the best board and staff around the state. We have seen a lot of other Community Action Agencies and have worked one on one with many. A lot of those agencies ask, "How can you do this or how can you do that...it's because we have the best people and they know how to get things accomplished!"

Mr. Bass has given a lot of time and energy to our agency, but he goes on to say, "KI BOIS Community Action has given me a lot too! I have made friends not only in our state, but as I have traveled to numerous national meetings."

When it came to discussing his retirement there was a pause with a heart felt voice.. "I have two good reasons to step down...one is my wife, Betty who is very ill and it is difficult to leave her and the other is I don't like to drive at night. I can say though it is a good feeling when you have someone as capable as Mr. Cook to take your place. I have a lot of confidence in him and so does Mr. Huggins. Our agency will continue to thrive and grow under his leadership.

As KI BOIS Community Action Board Chair John Cook listened to Mr. Bass speak you could see the admiration he feels for this man.

Mr. Cook was born in Wilburton and he's proud to say he still owns the lots where he was born. He was on his way to being an outstanding athlete when he was injured with a blow to the head by a baseball bat. He was transported to OKC where he lay in a comma for seven days. Laughing Mr. Cook stated, "I woke up and saw my mom and wanted some BBQ chicken. I thought I had just been asleep. God saved me!" The injury caused him to lose his eyesight in one eye and left him with a slight paralysis on his left side. He

also spoke about how he and his mom rode a bus to OKC every two weeks for two years so he could receive therapy.

The accident changed Mr. Cooks' life in several different ways. He could no longer play baseball, but found a love for basketball. He also found that in the military some of his goals was also limited because at that time he had no driver's license due to his injury.

Things changed though after completing his military career and returning back to Wilburton. He not only married Ruth, but someone by the name of Earl Jeffrey had taken an interest in his life. According to Mr. Cook, "Earl saw that I was going down a wrong path and he encouraged me to stop and take a look at myself. He also TOLD me to apply for a position at the hospital. He said I was the right man for the job." Earl was always there to help, encourage or to lend an ear and when he passed I lost a good friend.

Mr. Cook became part of the KI BOIS Community Board in 1989 and became Vice Chair in January 1998. Mr. Cook talks about Community Action and how it has affected him. "KI BOIS Community Action is a great organization to be a part of. We have great people working who have a passion for helping those in need." The poverty level is high in the communities we serve and our organization needs to be on the front line to help with those battles. I've seen a lot of changes in Community Action since I became involved."

Mr. Cook sees a

different need today as opposed to several years ago and that is broken homes. Our children today suffer from the lack of a two parent household where parents provide and children are allowed to be children. Drugs, alcohol and incarceration are just a few of the things destroying our homes. "Our children are our greatest asset and we need to protect, provide and educate them to the best of our ability." Mr. Cook knows the feeling of how to provide as he and Ruth have four children and proud of the fact they each attended KI BOIS Head Start and today they live productive lives.

"I am scared though," states Mr. Cook. "I have big shoes to fill and I know it is going to be difficult for several months until I become more confident and get those butterflies under control. I am so proud to be apart of

KI BOIS Community Action not just because I am board chair, but because of the great work we do. As we talked, I agreed he has some big shoes to fill, but it's the man who wears those shoes that really makes the difference.

It was difficult for Mr. Bass and Mr. Cook to speak of their past without mentioning Earl Jeffrey. There were stories of a horse on the stairs of Hotel Antione, a mechanic who may or may not have shared his concerns about the plane's ability to fly to Washington D.C. and the story about a fish who was caught by Mr. Bass in Florida and somehow ended up on the wall of Earl's office with a plaque stating "Caught by Earl Jeffrey in a farm pond with a cane pole!"

It was an honor!

*Kay Box*



Ruth and John Cook along with Betty and Gene Bass shared numerous stories about their time on the KI BOIS Community Action Board.

# *It Was a Night to Shine...*

Arriving in limousine's, decked out in black tuxedos and beautiful gowns a "Night to Shine" was an unforgettable prom night experience, centered on God's love, for people with special needs. KI BOIS Community Action Developmental Disability consumers and staff attended the one night event on February 7th, 2020. This was a night for everyone to shine as approximately 115,000 honored guest through the support of 215,000 volunteers danced the night away all around the world.

The event is sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation and is committed to celebrating people with special needs. This was a coordinated event as 215,000 volunteers and 721 churches came together to make this one night event possible.

As you look at the photos on this page and the next, you can see by the faces it was a huge success.



*It Was a Night to Shine...continued from page 4*



Thank you to the Tim Tebow Foundation  
and all the volunteers for giving us a  
***“Night to Shine.”***

# Awards, Staff Meeting and Food.....

KI BOIS Community Action held a staff meeting on Friday, February 14th with all program directors, county directors, administration staff and our leaders Mr. Carroll Huggins, Tom Marlatt and Larry Hall. Each individual gave a short description of how their program or county was facing the many challenges of serving those in need. Stories, ideas and encouragement was shared giving each of us a better understanding of what each program or county maybe facing.

Mr. Huggins gave us an overview of our agency and his vision for the future. Mr. Marlatt and Mr. Hall also spoke regarding funding, insurance and any topics that arose. Awards were also presented to those in attendance.

Left, Jodi Briggs 25 years of service. Below, Jan Garner 25 years of service.



Left, Michael Knapp 10 years of service.  
Right, Shelli Bass 10 years of service.



Just a few of the many faces who attended staff meeting on February 14th, 2020



## ***FYI....***

- The KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Incorporated Board of Director's meeting will be held in the **KI BOIS Community Action Conference Center, 200 SE A Street, Stigler, OK at 7:00 pm on Thursday, March 26 2020.** Due to the National Emergency we are limiting attendance to key staff and board members. There will be no early visitation, meal and there will be an abbreviated agenda and a very short meeting. Please do not bring guests!
- Thoughts and prayers are needed for IT/ DD Special Project Coordinator Karen Thompson. Karen has been ill since the first part of February and at this time her physicians are unable to give her a definitive answer as to her illness. If you would like to send Karen a card, please feel free to send to the administrative office and we will get those to her.
- The annual KI BOIS Foster Grandparent Program Recognition Banquet scheduled for March 20, 2020 has been postponed and will be rescheduled for summer. Also, the monthly in-service meetings for the volunteers of Foster Grandparent Program will be cancelled for the remainder of March and the entire month of April. Our volunteers are very important to us and their safety is of utmost concern. If you have questions, please contact Shaunda Noah, Foster Grandparent Program Director at 918-465-3381.



**FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE**

## **Income Tax Preparation**

If you income is less than \$56,000 and you have a BASIC Income Tax return, KI BOIS Community Action will prepare and e-file your Income Taxed 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

# What is Take Down Tobacco?

Take Down Tobacco, a fresh take on Kick Butts Day, is the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids' signature platform for empowering people to stand up and speak out against the tobacco industry. The Take Down Tobacco program is a 365 day a year effort that culminates every March with the Take Down Tobacco National Day of Action.

This year's Take Down Tobacco National Day of Action will be held TODAY, March 18, 2020. This year also marks the 25th occurrence of this event, and there have been many important victories since the first Kick Butts Day was held in 1996. Over the past quarter century, the U.S. has made remarkable progress in doing just what the Kick Butts Day name describes: kicking butts. **But even though youth smoking rates are on a downward trend and at an all-time low, skyrocketing youth e-cigarettes rates are reversing the progress we've made toward achieving the first tobacco-free generation.** And of course, from cigarettes and cigars to smokeless tobacco to heat-not-burn cigarettes, the tobacco industry peddles a wide range of addictive and dangerous products that put kids at risk across the globe.

On March 18, 2020, the Take Down Tobacco National Day of Action, youth activists, educators, parents, health advocates and concerned citizens come together to organize events that:

- Raise awareness of the problem of tobacco use in their community
- Encourage youth to reject the tobacco industry's deceptive marketing and stay tobacco-free

Urge elected officials to take action to protect kids from tobacco

Take Down Tobacco is a project of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.

In Haskell/Latimer county, the Healthy Living Program / TSET visited schools and events to spread the information on how big tobacco companies target elementary and middle school students. **KIDS LIKE CANDY AND BIG TOBACCO NEED NEW CLIENTS.** With 1200 deaths a day in the US, big tobacco companies need replacements clients. Big tobacco spends \$1,000,000.00 an HOUR on advertisement to draw in KIDS to the addiction of tobacco, that is why vaping pens and PUFF BARS come in flavors that are pleasing to elementary grades. For more information call 1800-QUITNOW or <https://>



Whitefield Students make a pledge to "Be the First Tobacco Free Generation."

*Make A Difference  
In Someone's Life  
This Christmas!*

Pictured are just a few of the many volunteers who truly did make a difference by their efforts to the Salvation Army Kettle Drive in Latimer County. In addition, KIBOIS board members, John Cook, Jeremy Bullard, and Jennifer Woods also rang the bell.

I love Christmas, Frosty the Snowman, Peace on Earth, mangers, Salvation Army bell ringers, reindeer, office parties, cookies, and the movie, 'Meet Me in St. Louis.' Mo Rocca

# Latimer County Takes First

KI BOIS Community Action Director Claudia Jeffrey once again won the battle of the Red Kettle Collection. Haskell County came in second with Pittsburg County in third. This is a great project which allows each county additional funds to help those in need.



# Domestic Violence Director Retires.....

The KI BOIS Domestic Violence Program Director, Anne Peck, retired on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Anne had been employed with KI BOIS since March 4th, 2002. She was first employed with the Developmental Disabilities Program and then took over as the DV program director in 2009. This is Anne’s second retirement. Prior to her employment with KI BOIS she retired from the State of Oklahoma as a Juvenile Officer. Anne’s years of work in the juvenile office served her well in dealing with individuals facing hardships in shelters. Amanda Prewett has been named the new Director and will do a fantastic job.

Anne was an empowering leader, urging her staff to use their skills and seek out training opportunities as often as they presented themselves. Anne began succession planning several years before her actual retirement. She promoted Amanda Prewett to Assistant Program Director and began training her on the ins and outs of program leadership over the last few years.

“Anne’s guidance was not just a blessing to me, but to the program. It provided a seamless transition for me into the director role which kept us from experiencing too much stress in her absence and allowed us to have full confidence moving forward,” said Prewett.

Anne is looking forward to retirement as she will be spending more time with her daughter Jessica and husband, Joey and two beautiful granddaughters, Ireland and Raelyn.



Top photo, Anne Peck and Amanda Prewett.  
Bottom photo, DV staff Beth Stanford, Peck, Kaci Frame, Prewett, Kasey Vail and Paula Hall.

## ***KI BOIS Community Action Notice of Job Posting March 10th, 2020***



### ***KIBOIS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER***

**JOB TITLE: STAFF AID – PT Schedule: M-F, 4PM-8PM (Stigler)**

**JOB REQUIREMENTS:** HS Diploma/GED, valid driver’s license required. Applicant should have interest or experience in crisis intervention, 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. Ability to assist with household upkeep, organization of donations, and children’s activities. On-site training provided.

***KI BOIS Community Action***  
***Notice of Job Posting - Continued from page***  
***February 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:** HABILITATION TRAINING SPECIALIST –2 FT (Stigler Group Homes)  
**HOURS for Position 1:** Sunday 8am – 12am, Thursday 12 am – 8 am and Saturday 8am – 12 am  
**HOURS for Position 2:** Sunday, Monday, Friday and Saturday – 12am – 8am, Wednesday 4pm – 12am

**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 5

**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!**