

# ***KI BOIS Community Action Salutes Two of Its Many Bravest!***

## **Soldier.....In a**

**war, *soldiers* are the people who do the fighting, on the ground, in planes, or from boats. *Soldier* is also a verb that means to serve in the military, or to continue on through difficult times. What is an army without soldiers? It's a bunch of guns on the ground. A *soldier* is the man or woman who fights for their government and carries the weapons, risking their life in the process. The word comes from the Latin *solidus*, which is the name of the gold coin used to pay soldiers who fought in the Roman army. To "soldier on" to persist steadfastly in one's work; persevere: to soldier on until the work is done.**

KI BOIS Community Action is honored to have many **SOLDIERS** among us. They know what it means to give to their Country and to fight for the freedoms we all hold near.

Aubrey Jones was born in Tacoma, Washington, he graduated from Eufaula High School and entered the U.S Army in 1977 at the age of 17 and six months. Jones served his country until 1986 and ended his service with the rank of E-5. According to Jones, "It made me proud and honored to be able to serve."

Jones served at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Fort Hood, Texas and served a total of three years in Germany

Gregory Wherland served in the U.S. Marine Corp from 1974 to 1993. Wherland was born in Cleveland, Ohio and was 17 years old when he enlisted. He served in the Vietnam Era and was part of **Operation Baby Lift**. He re-enlisted six (6) times. He served two (2) tours in Japan and retired as an E-6. In 1983 Wherland was assigned to Escort Duty so he could escort his brothers' casket from Dover, Delaware to Dresel, MO. "Although I faced some difficult times, joining the Marines was the best thing that ever happened to me, it saved my life!" according to Wherland.

See additional stats on page 7 regarding Veterans.

Top photo: Aubrey Jones as a young soldier and today 43 years later. Third photo, Gregory Wherland as he was promoted to Sergeant and today 46 years later. Both men drive for KATS in the Eufaula Area. Thank you to KATS Dispatcher /Driver Sharon Arnett for taking the time to share these two men's story.



**KI BOIS NEWS**

## November 2020

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

This time of the year makes me thankful to live in our beautiful Southeastern Oklahoma. The wonderful fall weather and the beautiful fall foliage add to the natural beauty of the lakes and woodlands. It seems so peaceful here compared to the events in other parts of the world that we see on television each day.

When giving our daily devotions we need to remember the leaders of our state and country and especially our men and women in uniform who preserve our freedom on a daily basis sometimes at a great cost to themselves and their families. On November 11<sup>th</sup> our great nation honors all Veterans.

We ask for special prayers for those dealing with Covid-19. We pray for our Medical Staff who are providing medical care for them. We pray for an end to this terrible virus!

As we start to think about Thanksgiving and the many wonderful things that we have to be thankful for I encourage you to be especially mindful of those in your local community who are in need. Many of them we serve on a daily basis and many who are too proud to ask for help. Please take time to volunteer with your local community groups and churches that prepare annual Thanksgiving Meals for the needy or deliver Food Baskets to the hungry.

I wish you and yours a Safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

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



**Carroll Huggins**



Friday November 6th...

A FriYay Shot Out goes to KATS Driver Gary Withrow. He's been nominated by his supervisor, Melinda Colbert.

I want to brag on my driver, Gary Withrow. On Wednesday November 4th, Gary went and picked up our dialysis client Edward Neff.

He lives here in Poteau and to dialysis it is about a 7 minute drive. He loaded up Mr. Neff as usual and when he arrived at dialysis. As he went to deploy the lift he noticed Mr. Neff was slumped over in his chair and unresponsive. He tried a couple of times to get him to respond. He called me immediately when he was unable to get him to respond and I told him to get help from the dialysis workers and I'll call 911. He went inside and got the workers and they immediately began CPR. EMS arrived within a few minutes and took over care. Had Gary not noticed there was a medical emergency and took immediate action Mr. Neff would not be alive today. Mr. Neff is in Baptist Hospital with a diagnosis of a massive heart attack.

Melinda Colbert, Supervisor  
KI BOIS Area Transit



## You're Invited



**Groundbreaking  
Ceremony for  
the new  
KI BOIS  
Community Action  
office building in  
LeFlore County  
Wednesday,  
December 2nd -  
11:00 AM**

**100 Tiger Lane  
The site is located  
in the Industrial  
Park South of  
Poteau.**

**(We will be observing  
COVID-19 Safety  
Guidelines.)**

### **KI BOIS News**

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## *Thanksgiving Thoughts.....*

On this Thanksgiving, I am thankful to be blessed to have all my children and grandchildren nearby and having all of them including myself healthy during this pandemic. Also, I am thankful for having such a great job that enables us to help people, and also such wonderful people to work with at KIBOIS. So I am thankful to GOD for those Thanksgiving blessings.

*John Ford, Director  
Muskogee County*

First and foremost, I am thankful for my family, my new bundle of joy on the way, my health, and my job. It brings me joy that I am able to help families that are in need especially around the holidays. I love to put a smile on their faces. I give thanks that God & KI BOIS has blessed me and given me an opportunity to do something I love & bless someone every-day.

*Tierra Bezzell, Outreach  
Muskogee County*

With so much going unexpectedly wrong this year, it's enough to get anybody down. When I tend to get down on myself (which has happened a lot this year) I try to turn my focus to gratitude. That's why I believe this holiday season was especially needed, what better time to focus on gratitude than Thanksgiving? I tend to focus on the simple things, I'll start by saying that I am thankful for my relationship with God. Through him I've made it through this trying year with my health and most of my sanity intact. I look up and I still have a roof over my head to cover a home full of people who love me. I have a job with people that I can depend on so I can keep that roof. And even though times are uncertain, no devastating losses have hit my family so far. But most of all I am thankful for the setbacks and mistakes I made this year, for that is what continues to mold me and direct me on the path to becoming the man I was meant to be.

*Dimitri Vaughn, Outreach  
Muskogee County*



***We thank You,  
Lord, for all you give;  
The food we eat, the lives  
we live; And help us all to  
live our days with  
thankful hearts and  
loving ways. Amen***



KI BOIS Community Action sends our thoughts to our Board Chair John Cook and his wife, Ruth. Also, Board Member Roy Gordon who are suffering from the effect of COVID 19.

We would also like to include KI BOIS Community Action staff, their family and friends who too are in a fight for their life.

We pray for a safe and healthy recovery for each of you.



### ***It's that time of year again...***

when the Salvation Army Red Kettle drive begins. This year will be a little different due to the COVID-19 pandemic as KI BOIS Community Action and our Board of Directors have opted to not man the kettle with volunteers. According to KI BOIS Community Action Executive Director Carroll Huggins, "Our main focus is to keep our volunteers safe and at this time we don't feel as though we can guarantee their safety." Haskell, Latimer and Pittsburg counties will continue to utilize the kettle in various places....some maybe a smaller counter kettle or you may see the tradition kettle. Please keep an eye out for these kettles as you will not hear a bell to remind you of this great tradition.

***Sir Charles Spencer Chaplin KBE*** (16 April 1889 – 25 December 1977) was an English comic actor, filmmaker, and composer who rose to fame in the era of silent film. Chaplin's childhood in London was one of poverty and hardship, as his father was absent and his mother struggled financially, and he was sent to a workhouse twice before the age of nine. When he was 14, his mother was committed to a mental asylum. Chaplin began performing at an early age, touring music halls and later working as a stage actor and comedian. At 19, he was signed to the prestigious Fred Karno company, which took him to America. He was scouted for the film industry and began appearing in 1914 for Keystone Studios. He soon developed the Tramp persona and formed a large fan base. He directed his own films and continued to hone his craft. By 1918, he was one of the best-known figures in the world. Charlie Chaplin lived 88 years and left us with these thoughts:

***Nothing is forever in this world, even our problems.***

***I love to walk in the rain because no one can see my tears.***

***The most lost day in life is the day we don't laugh.***

***Six of the best doctors in the world: Sun, Rest, Exercise, Diet, Self respect and friends***

***If you see the moon, you will see the beauty of God....***

***If you see the sun, you will see the power of God...***

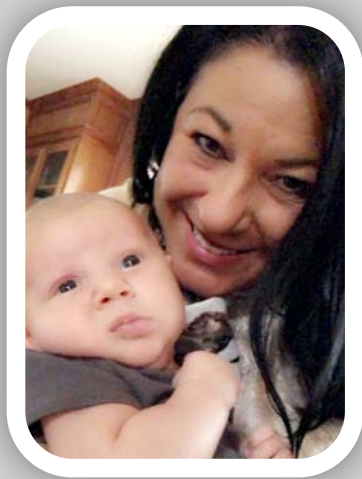
***If you see a mirror, you will see Gods best creation. So believe it.***

***We are all tourists, God is our travel agent.....***

***Life is just a journey! So live today! Tomorrow may not be.***



***Happy Thanksgiving and let's remember some of Sir Charles Spencer Chaplin's thoughts! Kay***



KI BOIS Community Action Domestic Violence Program residents and staff would like to say **THANK YOU** to the Stigler Church of Christ for their special delivery. According to Director Amanda Prewett, “We really appreciate the kindness and thoughtfulness shown to our program.”



***It's a Boy.....***

Parker Joe was welcomed into this world on June 24th weighing in at 8 lbs. and 2 oz. and was 22 inches long.

His parents are Jaedyn and Austan Drewry. He is the grandson of KI BOIS Community Action Account Payable Clerk Shelli Bass and Chuck Huggins. Parker is also the great-grandson of former KI BOIS Community Action Board Chair Gene Bass.

***Just another day at the office....*** According to

**KATS Director Charla Sloan** Monday November 16, 2020 it was a normal day until approximately 3:50 PM, there was a bomb threat at a residence in Henryetta. David Kennedy of emergency management called Henryetta KATS to find out if we could evacuate some of Henryetta’s residents to a central location at the Dewar community center. Of course we were more than happy to help out our community. Phillip Wheat picked up a few residents, transported them to the Dewar community center free of charge of course. Marilyn Brown volunteered to stay and take the residence home after the area was clear for safe return. A couple of hours later we got the all clear call from David Kennedy. Marilyn transported the residents from Dewar back to their homes in Henryetta. There was some explosives that were found in a house on 4<sup>th</sup> street between Moore Street and Ragan Street. Henryetta is safe again thanks to ATF, OHP Bomb Squad, Henryetta Police and Fire Department.



KI BOIS Community Action Area Transit (KATS) hosted a training for RM Pay and SoonerRide trips on Wednesday, November 18th at the KATS office in Stigler. Left to right, KI BOIS Community Action KATS Director Charla Sloan and staff from PE-LIVAN Transit which includes Director of Transit Kendra McGeady, Accountant Shannon Fellers and Operations Manager Kat Hurst.

# *How to Get Ready for the Holidays*

**Purge and Clean....**Before you think about decorating for the holidays, take a couple of hours and ensure that you have a clean slate to start from! Purge anything you need to get rid of, clean your home and go through any stacks of papers. This will make your whole holiday season go more smoothly if you do this now!

**Home Maintenance....**after you purge, clean and decorate your home, you can still do other things to truly prepare your home for the holidays. From fall yard work to cleaning out the gutters, to getting rid of any wasp nests still hanging around, ensure your exterior is ready to go before the holidays hit! Also do any maintenance inside your home that needs to be done too.

**Decorate Your Home....**Grab your totes from the garage or basement and decorate your home for the holidays. If you choose to! Whether you prefer to skip from Halloween straight to Christmas, or you like to squeeze Thanksgiving and Fall decorations in there, decorate as early in the season as you feel comfortable decorating.

**A Good Smelling Home....**While you are taking care of cleaning your home and any maintenance that needs to be done, make sure your home smells good too! You can put out a few fall scented candles this time of year, and holiday / Christmas scented candles after Thanksgiving. It is such a little thing but you will love having a good smelling home this time of year!

**Prepare for Guests....**Guests coming into your home this holiday season? Prepare for that now! If you have a dedicated guest bedroom, be sure the bed is made with fresh linens now and ensure that room is ready to go. This will make your life easier than scrambling to wash bedding the day your guests arrive.

**Prepare Early....**Whether you are preparing for the holidays, preparing for guests for preparing for a holiday party the most important thing is to start early. Things will always take longer than you anticipate, so if you start preparations early, you will not be stressed out or putting up the Christmas tree on Christmas Eve (unless that's your tradition!).

These tips are just not for the ladies.....come on guys you have work to do too!

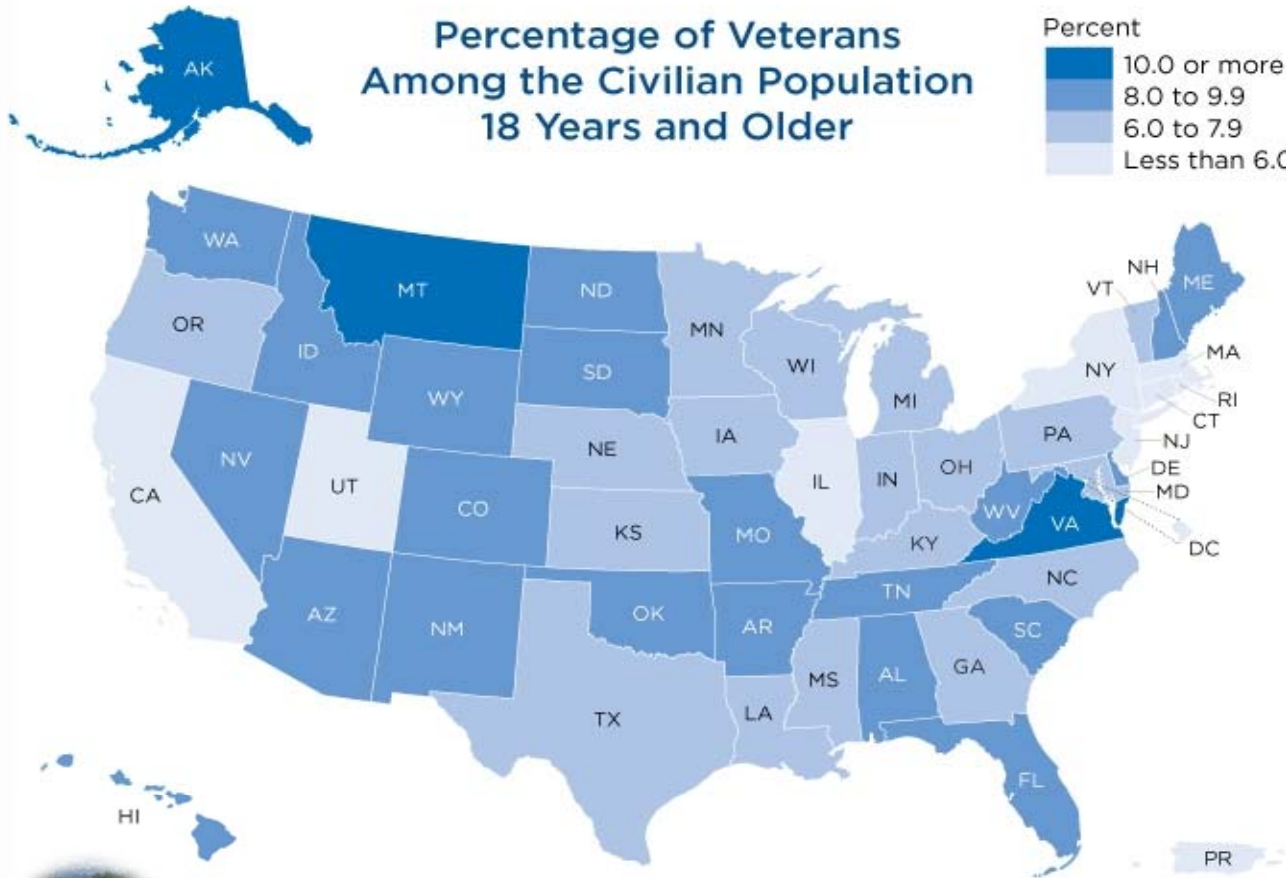
With everyone's hectic schedule, KI BOIS Community Action Administration office started a early on the Christmas spirit. The tree and all of the decorations were brought from storage and the decorating began. Right, Michael Knapp prepares to put the bow on top, Sandie Rutherford is preparing to add the tree skirt and Jodi Briggs is hanging the decorations. Great job.....



11 NOVEMBER

# VETERANS DAY

## Percentage of Veterans Among the Civilian Population 18 Years and Older



Veterans Day originated as “Armistice Day” on Nov. 11, 1919, the first anniversary marking the end of World War I. Congress passed a resolution in 1926 making it an annual observance, and it became a national holiday in 1938. Then-President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation in 1954 to change the name to Veterans Day to honor all those who served the country in war or peace. On this day, the nation honors military veterans with parades and other observances across the country and a ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

## ***Notice of Job Posting - November 16th, 2020***

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

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

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

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

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

### ***KI BOIS AREA TRANSIT PROGRAM***

**JOB TITLE:** ENTRY LEVEL MECHANIC – FT (Stigler Transit Administration and Maintenance Facility)

**JOB REQUIREMENTS:** Responsible for maintaining and servicing bus fleet, mini vans, vans and buses. Must have own (basic) hand tools. Must be willing to obtain ASE Master Technician Certification.

**JOB TITLE:** TRANSIT DRIVERS (Please verify current openings with local transit office.)

**JOB REQUIREMENTS:** Maintain a valid driver's license. Good driving record. Must be physically able to assist passengers and their belongings while entering and exiting the vehicles. Must be able to lift a minimum of 50 lbs. and provide wheel chair assistance. Should have knowledge of area resources and live within convenient distance of city where job opening is available.

### ***KI BOIS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES***

**JOB TITLE:** 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!**