

February, 2022

Helping People. Changing Lives.
Serving Eastern Oklahoma Since 1968



KI BOIS NEWS

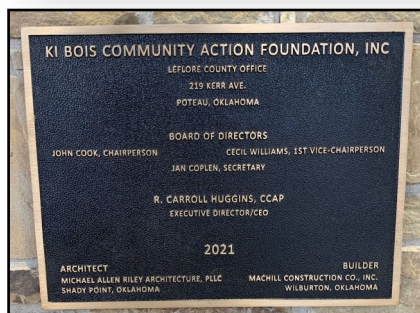
A New Year, A New Location

As the new year 2022 began, LeFlore County administrative office employees were scrambling to pack up their offices to move into a brand-new location in Poteau. KI BOIS Community Action— LeFlore County is now located in the industrial park, south of Poteau. Their new address is 219 Kerr Avenue.

This move comes at a perfect time for KI BOIS, as the office needed space to grow in order to scale-up our impact to the community. Having a new, spacious office will increase the ability of promote real change in the lives of those we serve.

Having all services offered under one roof is a real advantage. The KI BOIS Food Pantry, which was located in a separate office before, is now housed under the same roof as KATS, Developmental Disabilities, CASA and KI BOIS Community Outreach Programs. This makes offering services more efficient and effective.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony and dedication of the Kenneth E. Monroe Conference Room will be announced soon. Congratulations LeFlore County!



Photos courtesy of Sandy Skinner

From the Desk of Executive Director / CEO

R. Carroll Huggins

February 2022 is here and our annual agency audit is complete. The CPA audit team reported to us that it is a clean audit with no question costs. Our compliments to our financial staff for their hard work throughout the year.

Several members of the KI BOIS Community Action staff have been trained by the IRS to do free Income Tax Preparation for our low-income clients under the VITA program.

Weatherization, CSBG, SSVF, Transit, RSVP, and Foster Grandparent programs are funded through a continuing resolution at this time. State funded programs are funded until June 30, 2022.

Our hearts and prayers go out to those who are dealing with COVID. We are so grateful to those in the Health Care field who are caring for those affected.

Our agency continues to grow and prosper due to the hard work and dedication of our board, staff, and volunteers. We look forward to the challenges of 2022. February 14th is also St. Valentine's Day so don't forget your sweetheart or you may be in trouble. We will also be celebrating the upcoming President's Day Federal Holiday!

*Carroll Huggins, CCAP
Executive Director / CEO*



KI BOIS COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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10 YEARS

Hardin Retires After 26 Plus Years

"Sew Sad To See You Go!" Myrna Hardin will be greatly missed not only by KI BOIS Community Action but the residents of Baysul Balentine Estates.

Starting her career with KI BOIS Community Action in March of 1984 in the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Program, Hardin wore many hats, but her latest job was



Stacey Boren and Kenny Barnhart pose with Hardin on her special day!

property manager at Baysul Balentine Estates. Everyday she was greeted by the residents and their needs. "I loved every moment of it....I missed my "kids", but I really enjoyed taking care of my Baysul Balentine friends", commented Hardin.

Hardin also did a lot of embroidery for the agency. If you see a shirt or jacket with the KI BOIS logo or program name, "Hardin probably did it!" according to DD Director Kenny Barnhart.

Hardin will enjoy her retirement with her husband, Billie, her grandkids and her sewing!



Calendar of Events



February 14

January 21

January 28

Valentine's Day

Presidents' Day

KI BOIS Executive
Board Meeting





TOBACCO SETTLEMENT
ENDOWMENT TRUST

OKLAHOMA CITY (Jan. 27, 2022) —The Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust (TSET), state leaders and TSET grantees celebrated 20 years of helping Oklahomans live healthier lives with a [virtual panel](#) and Q&A Tuesday, Jan. 25.

Over the past 20 years, TSET and its grantees created programs and enacted policies to reduce tobacco use and improve preventative health for all Oklahomans through community health initiatives, increased access to high-quality medical care and nutritious food, health education initiatives and funding state-of-the-art cancer research in Oklahoma.

“We are incredibly proud of the impact TSET has made over the past 20 years and the people we have helped,” said Julie Bisbee, executive director of TSET. “Oklahoma’s adult smoking prevalence has dropped from 28.6% to 19.1% since the beginning of our work in 2001. This shows our work is truly helping Oklahomans and we are excited to help future generations have the tools they need to live healthier lives.”

TSET’s mission is to improve the health of Oklahomans and reduce the leading causes of death in the state - cancer and obesity. TSET has accomplished this by funding tobacco cessation programs, health prevention programs, research initiatives and emerging opportunities. These programs have had incredible success and made tangible change in the lives of Oklahomans across the state.

The Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline was the first TSET-created program, and it has played a crucial role in helping Oklahomans become tobacco free. The Helpline has supported 470,000 Oklahomans to become tobacco-free and has maintained an average quit rate of 34%.

“Our Helpline is the top helpline in the nation, and it has truly saved Oklahomans’ lives by helping them stop using tobacco products,” said Michelle Stephens, chair of the TSET Board. “In addition, we have seen communities and the State Legislature enact key policies, like 24/7 tobacco-free school campuses and increased cigarette taxes, which have actively reduced tobacco use in our communities. We are so grateful for the collaboration to make these policies a reality.”

TSET has also focused on preventative health initiatives to ensure Oklahomans have access to quality medical care no matter where they live as well as nutritious foods and the tools they need to combat sedentary lifestyles.

(Article take from www.tset.ok.gov website)

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KI BOIS Community Action administers the HALT Project in Haskell County. HALT stands for “Healthy, Active Lifestyles Today”. The mission of the HALT Project is to HALT the influence of the tobacco industry and the effects of obesity, to support community members in their effort to create a healthier lifestyle and to work toward making the healthy choice the easy choice in Haskell County.

The HALT Project is led by Denice Daniels, Wellness Coordinator and Kathy Healy, Assistant Coordinator. For more information, visit our website, www.kibois.org, or call 918-967-3325.

100% FREE COVID TESTS

Keep yourself and your family protected. Every household can now order 4 at-home rapid antigen COVID tests from the Department of Health and Human Services, free of charge. Visit the below link to get started.

covidtests.gov

CSBG

CTC

IRS Letter 6419, 2021 advance CTC, can help you get the remainder of your Child Tax Credit.

EIP

IRS Letter 6475, Your Third Economic Impact Payment, helps determine if you can claim a Recovery Rebate Credit.



2022 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline
1	\$13,590
2	18,310
3	23,030
4	27,750
5	32,470
6	37,190
7	41,910
8	46,630

For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$4,720 for each additional person.

Department of Health and Human Services Releases 2022 Poverty Guidelines

On January 12, 2022, the Department of Health and Human Services released updated poverty guidelines for 2022.

The CSBG Act requires the Secretary to update these guidelines at least annually based on changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

The CPI increased by 4.7% from 2020 to 2021 and these new guidelines reflect that increase.

Welcome TO THE WORLD LITTLE ONE



Miss Livia Lane Jeffrey was born at McAlester Regional Medical Center on January 31, 2022 at 12:04 p.m. She weighed in at 5 lbs. 13 oz. and was 18.5 inches long.

She has been welcomed home by her grandmother, Latimer County Director Claudia Jeffrey, and her aunt, Rx for

Oklahoma/VITA Director Amy Fair.

Livia and mom, April, are doing great and proud dad Lane is all smiles. Congratulations!

In Memoriam



Linda Fay Holdridge Crites

May 26, 1943 —December 29, 2021

Linda is the sister to Lana Huggins, and sister-in-law to Carroll Huggins, KI BOIS Executive Director/CEO.



Jerry Lee Bailes

September 1, 1962 —January 20, 2022

Jerry is the brother to KI BOIS Staff Accountant Nicole Dotson.



Michael Knapp, Weatherization Director, and Heather Purdom, Accounting Supervisor are in the process of obtaining their Certified Community Action Professional credentials through the Community Action Partnership. This distinction helps leadership professionals to see so much more of what Community Action is about, how we've gotten to where we are, and the potential that we have going forward.

Congratulations and keep up the good work. They will join 13 other CCAP's in the KI BOIS organization.

APARTMENTS



Champ Hodgens Estates in Hartshorne.
Baysul Balentine Estates in Heavener.
Bob Miller Estates in McCurtain.

- One-bedroom, no smoking apartment for rent.
- Must be 62 or older and meet income guidelines.
- Rent and Security Deposit is based upon income. Pet deposit is required.
- Units are total electric with the water, sewer and sanitation paid.
- Washer and Dryer available in the community room.

Contact Pam Harless, Director at 918-967-3325 for application.

IN *Action*



KI BOIS Community & Public Relations Director Royce Alverson spoke to the Lion's Club in McAlester today at their weekly meeting. Even with the twenty minutes allotted, there was no way to touch on all of the services KI BOIS provides to this area. Royce is shown pictured with Lion Megan Waters.

KI BOIS Community Action welcomes any opportunity to speak or present on our fantastic service programs.

VITA Tax Preparer Training

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Tax Year 2021



Tax season is in the air. KI BOIS Community Action Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) staff and volunteers were provided training on January 20th at the Latimer County office. Amy Fair, VITA Director, provided information on the latest tax laws, procedures and tips. Each attendee then took their tests.

It's a great day at KI BOIS when all staff and volunteers pass their IRS preparation tests, and January 20th was a GREAT DAY.

The VITA program offers FREE Income Tax preparation for families who's household income is \$58,000 or less. Our IRS-certified preparers e-file returns to the IRS and to the State of Oklahoma. This provides a safe, faster turn around for any refund anticipated.

VITA staff includes Amy Fair, Stephanie McCann, Cara Riggsby, Megan Reames, Debra Mikles, Royce Alverson, Nikki Morrison, Christi Jones, Rosalind Newby. We also have two RSVP volunteers.

Call your local KI BOIS office for more information.



WE ♥ OUR
VOLUNTEERS

WE ARE HIRING!

A career with KI BOIS is a career with a future! ✓



KI BOIS Community Action is the largest non-profit employer in S.E. Oklahoma.
We provide growth opportunities and a great place to work!

www.kibois.org

**EMPLOYMENT
Opportunities**

All employment opportunities are posted on our website, www.kibois.org. **These positions are open to KI BOIS Community Action Foundation Staff as well as to the public.** (ALL POSITIONS SUBJECT TO CONTINUED PROJECT FUNDING.)
Deadline for all openings: Until Filled. Current employees – please submit a letter of interest to Human Resources.

Applications may be picked up at any KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc. office or printed from the website, www.kibois.org. Applications should be returned to:

**KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc.
P. O. Box 727, Stigler, OK 74462
Attention: Human Resources**



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**.



**KI BOIS Community Action
Foundation, Inc.**

Mission Statement

KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc. is a community-based organization dedicated to eliminating the causes of poverty and bettering the economic, mental, physical and social well-being of all people - most importantly the disadvantaged - by utilizing effective coordination and administration of available resources and information.