

January, 2022

Helping People. Changing Lives.
Serving Eastern Oklahoma Since 1968



2021 REVIEW

KI BOIS NEWS

The past year has presented many challenges at home, at work — basically around the globe. It's prompted us all to be more resilient than ever. As we look toward 2022, we can all be proud of the many contributions we made to our communities in 2021. KI BOIS Community Action — through its programs and staff — has made a tremendous impact. These are the top stories from 2021.

- ⇒ In spite of the growing COVID-19 pandemic, the annual Red Kettle Drive raised funds that helped so many. Totals per county were: Latimer - \$9,281.00; Haskell - \$5,924.98; Pittsburg - \$2,244.57.
- ⇒ RSVP Celebrated it's volunteer accomplishments with a drive-through events in Stigler and McAlester in January. "A lot of different ideas were thrown around, but the drive-through event seemed to cover everything we wanted to achieve," - Sandie Rutherford, RSVP Director.
- ⇒ KATS purchased 23 mini vans and 8 transit vans to be used throughout the service area in February.
- ⇒ In May, construction began on the new LeFlore County office and the new Domestic Violence Shelter was remodeling. The Latimer County and Sequoyah County offices will follow in the months ahead.
- ⇒ PICK Transportation was rolled out in Oklahoma. KATS began offering the service to residents in Poteau, Sallisaw, Tahlequah and Eufaula in June.
- ⇒ In July, the COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program began in Pittsburg County, serving residents who live in the city limits of McAlester.
- ⇒ Carroll Huggins received the "Unsung Hero" award from the Gordon Youth, Inc. Foundation in August.
- ⇒ Charla Sloan received the coveted Guy Tucker Memorial Award from the Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies during their 2021 Virtual Fall Conference.
- ⇒ KI BOIS welcomed two new Board members in September: De'Anne Booth and Roy Gordon, Jr.
- ⇒ RSVP celebrated 50 years of leading with experience in September, and had a very successful appreciation banquet in Stigler.
- ⇒ Amy Fair, Rx for Oklahoma / VITA Director, was honored by her family and friends at a special 5k run at Robbers Cave State Park in October. Amy is a breast cancer survivor.
- ⇒ In October, John Jones retired after 40 years of service to KI BOIS Community Action and McKinlee Crase became the new Domestic Violence Services Director.
- ⇒ The Annual free Thanksgiving Dinner in Sallisaw was a great success.
- ⇒ PICK Transportation expanded to the cities of Coweta and Wagoner in December.

Our work at KI BOIS Community Action is never done. We're truly doing our best to eliminate poverty and make our area a better place to live. Happy 2022 everyone!

From the Desk of Executive Director / CEO

R. Carroll Huggins

I am very pleased at the accomplishments that this agency achieved in 2021 in spite of the COVID Epidemic. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all board members, employees, and volunteers for their efforts to improve the quality of lives for our low-income clients in this strained environment.



In addition to our normal activities our auditors have completed our annual agency audit. As usual it is a great audit with no questioned costs.

STARTING THE NEW YEAR RIGHT IN 2022:

Supervisors and staff; Questions to ask yourself:

What can I do to improve my performance?

Am I a team player?

Do I use the terms I, me, and my when referring to the things we accomplish?

Am I a gossip, whiner, griper, or complainer? How can I change my attitude?

We are looking forward to new opportunities and challenges that 2022 will bring. Happy New Year!

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

10 YEARS



Pictured, left to right, is OHFA staff Sandra Worley, KI BOIS Domestic Violence Services Director Anne Peck, OHFA staff Elaine Bulmer and KI BOIS Community Action Associate Director / COO Larry Hall.

Santa's Helpers Made Their Way To KI BOIS Community Action

We all need a little help sometimes and Santa Claus is no different! Thanks to the generosity of wonderful sponsors and the hard work of volunteers from Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency, (OHFA) each July golfers from across Oklahoma tee off at the Coffee Creek Golf Club in Edmond to raise money for children living in shelters across Oklahoma during the Christmas Season. Proceeds benefit more than 1,200 homeless children across Oklahoma and for the past several years the KI BOIS Community Action Women's Shelter has been on Santa's list.

KI BOIS COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Board

John Cook

Board Chairperson

Cecil Williams

1st Vice Chair

Jan Coplen

Secretary/Treasurer

Frank Phillips

Parliamentarian

Joy Walker

Executive Committee Member

Members of the Board

Joyce Cleveland

Janice Williams

De'Anne Booth

Jeremy Bullard

Rosalind Didlott

Lyndon Emberton

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VACANT

Bud Smithson

Executive Leadership

R. Carroll Huggins, CCAP

Executive Director/CEO

Tom Marlatt

Associate Director/CFO

Larry Hall

Associate Director/COO

KI BOIS NEWS

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January 3

New Year's Day Holiday

January 17

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 27

KI BOIS Board Meeting

January 27

Statewide Point in Time

Count of the Homeless





VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

If your income is less than \$54,000 and you have a BASIC Income Tax return, KI BOIS Community Action will prepare and e-file your Income Taxes for FREE!

Each year, KI BOIS Community Action helps hundreds of residents prepare and file their income tax returns for free through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. VITA is available to low and moder-

ate income individuals and families with yearly incomes below the \$54,000 threshold. Federal and state tax returns are filed by certified volunteer tax preparers who generously donate their time to this impactful community program.

Tax returns CANNOT be prepared if you have Stocks, Capital Gains/Losses, Cancellation of Debt, Health Savings Accounts (HSA), Farms, Clergy and any other return that is deemed out of scope by each county office. VITA preparation sites in Haskell, Latimer, LeFlore and Pittsburg Counties will be available February 1st – April 15th, 2022, for your 2021 Income Taxes.

IRS SENDING INFORMATION LETTERS TO RECIPIENTS OF ADVANCE CHILD TAX CREDIT PAYMENTS AND THIRD ECONOMIC IMPACT PAYMENTS

The IRS started issuing information letters to advance child tax credit recipients in December. Recipients of the third round of the Economic Impact Payments will begin receiving information letters at the end of January. Using the information in these letters when preparing a tax return can reduce errors and delays in processing.

People receiving these letters should keep them. DO NOT THROW THEM AWAY. These letters can help taxpayers, or their tax professional prepare their 2021 federal tax return.

To help taxpayers reconcile and receive all the 2021 child tax credits to which they are entitled, the IRS started sending Letter 6419, *2021 advance CTC*, in late December 2021 and will continue into January. This letter includes the total amount of advance child tax credit payments taxpayers received in 2021 and the number of qualifying children used to calculate the advance payments. People should keep this and any other IRS letters about advance child tax credit payments with their tax records.

Families who received advance payments need to file a 2021 tax return and compare the advance payments they received in 2021 with the amount of the child tax credit they can properly claim on their 2021 tax return.

The letter contains important information that can make preparing their tax returns easier. People who received the advance payments can also check the amount of their payments by using the [CTC Update Portal](#) available on IRS.gov.

Eligible families who did not receive any advance child tax credit payments can claim the full amount of the child tax credit on their 2021 federal tax return. This includes families who don't normally need to file a tax return.

The IRS will begin issuing Letter 6475, *Your Third Economic Impact Payment*, to EIP recipients in late January. This letter will help Economic Impact Payment recipients determine if they are entitled to and should claim the recovery rebate credit on their 2021 tax returns when they file in 2022.

Letter 6475 only applies to the third round of Economic Impact Payments, which were issued in March through December of 2021. The third round of Economic Impact Payments, including "plus-up" payments, were advance payments of the 2021 recovery rebate credit that would be claimed on a 2021 tax return. Plus-up payments were additional payments the IRS sent to people who received a third Economic Impact Payment based on a 2019 tax return or information received from the Social Security Administration, Railroad Retirement Board or Veterans Affairs. Plus-up payments were also sent to people who were eligible for a larger amount based on their 2020 tax return.

Most eligible people already received the payments. However, people who are missing stimulus payments should review information on [IRS.gov](#) to determine their eligibility and whether they need to claim a recovery rebate credit for 2020 or 2021. This includes people who don't normally need to file a tax return. The Economic Impact Payment letters include important information that can help people quickly and accurately file their tax return.



STAY TUNED!!!

® KI BOIS Area Transit System (KATS) will be selling used vehicles in the very near future.

8 Minivans

7 Buses

Will be auctioned through Purple Wave Auction. Be watching our website, Facebook and Twitter pages for dates. All vehicles are sold as is.



The stats have been calculated. The numbers have been crunched! Congratulations are in order for KI BOIS Area Transit System (KATS).

Each year the KATS Safety Report is compiled by Aaron Goodman, Training/Safety Supervisor. According to Goodman, "I am excited and extremely proud that 12 of our 17 offices will be receiving our safety award plaque this year! *Thank you, thank you, thank you, and congratulations to those 12 offices!*"

In 2021 KATS drivers traveled almost 4 million vehicle miles and did around ½ million passenger trips. Here is how year 2021 year looks in numbers:

- 4 million vehicle miles
- 500,000 passenger trips
- 63 total entries in the accident/incident report spreadsheet
- 28 of the total are *information only*
- 11 of the total are *claims on other insurance companies* (non-fault accidents)
- 10 of the total are *PHLY insurance claims* (this is our insurance company)
- 13 of the total are *at fault accidents* (this is accidents caused by our negligence)
- 6 of the 13 *at fault accidents* were caused because of backing! (Just think, the total *at fault accidents* could have been 7!)

Congratulations!



Way To Go!

THE TOTALS ARE IN

Haskell County	Latimer County	Pittsburg County
\$15,293.87	\$10,283	\$6,915.13



VA expands SSVF Shallow Subsidy program.



The Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Shallow Subsidy service provides rental assistance to very low-income and extremely low-income Veteran households who are enrolled in SSVF’s Rapid Rehousing or Homeless Prevention projects. Veterans will have already received rental assistance via traditional SSVF projects (Rapid Rehousing or Homeless Prevention) but remain rent burdened and do not have access to public funded subsidized housing.

Under the Shallow Subsidy service, SSVF grantees provide rental assistance payments to landlords on behalf of the Veteran household. The rental assistance is at a fixed rate every month, regardless of changes in the Veteran household’s income or monthly rent amount. SSVF will offer light case management services to the Veteran Families enrolled.

For KI BOIS SSVF’s Shallow Subsidy service, the maximum amount of rental subsidy that can be provided on behalf of the Veteran household is up to 50 % (during the Pandemic) and then up to 35% (after the Pandemic) of the local rent reasonableness. The Veteran will be responsible for the remaining portion.

Veteran households will not undergo a full recertification while they are receiving a shallow subsidy but verification will be verified every 90 days. At the end of the 24 month shallow subsidy period, however, the Veteran household may be recertified, and the fixed rental assistance amount would be updated at the current rent reasonableness.

KI BOIS Community Action started their Shallow Subsidy services in November. According to Tammy Randazzo, KI BOIS SSVF Director, “There is a great need in our rural area for immediate access to subsidized housing, especially for our Veterans on a fixed income, and this funding and initiative will help many Veteran Families in our 24 counties.”

For more information about KI BOIS SSVF Shallow Subsidy program, please visit our website or call (918) 681-7525.

Welcome
 TO THE WORLD LITTLE ONE



Miss Mariana Minami Garcia was born December 28, 2021@ 8:08am! She weighed 6lb 10oz. Her parents are Izzy and Yukari Garcia. Yukari is the KI BOIS Foster Grandparent Program Coordinator.



Mr. Cash Wayne Crase was born December 31, 2021 at 12:08 pm! He weighed 7.11 lbs and was 19 1/2 inches long. Proud parents are Cord and McKinlee Crase. McKinlee is the KI BOIS Domestic Violence Services Director. Baby and Mommy are perfect and healthy!

In Memoriam



Philip Don Wardlow

November 12, 1941—January 1, 2022

Phillip was a driver for KATS in Holdenville. According to his supervisor, Chris Franks, “It was stated in his obituary that driving for KATS was his favorite job. He was a good driver and many of his passengers in this area have told me they are saddened by his passing.”

IN *Action*



Photos from the RSVP Training in Stigler
On December 6, 2022

WE ARE HIRING!

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Competitive Pay

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MATCHING RETIREMENT ✓

ARE YOU OUR MISSING PIECE?

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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

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.