

September, 2023

Helping People. Changing Lives.
Serving Eastern Oklahoma Since 1968



KI BOIS NEWS



The year 1983 was a flagship year for KI BOIS Community Action. It was the year that a brand-new transit program was added to the services KI BOIS provided to the area.

Funding became available for rural transportation that year, and KI BOIS applied, along with 4 other programs. In addition to KI BOIS, those funded were: Little Dixie in Hugo; Call-A-Ride in Ada; Red River in Frederick; and Southwest Transit in Altus. Larry Hall wrote the grant and came up with the name: KI BOIS AREA TRANSIT SYSTEM (KATS).

The agency used seven Head Start vans to start the program during Head Start off-hours. At that time, the KI BOIS service area included Haskell, Latimer, LeFlore and Pittsburg Counties. Each county had four vans and 2 backups. Larry was named KATS Director and it was a wonderful success. Six initial drivers were hired, but as demand increased and vehicles were added, so did the number of employees.

The old Vaughn Motors in Stigler was purchased for the KATS headquarters and maintenance facility and that's when tremendous growth started. Charla Sloan became KATS Director in 1996 and has grown the program to a fleet of 236 vehicles, and the relocation of a brand-new KATS headquarters and maintenance facility in 2007.

"KATS is engrained in our communities. Charla has done a great job and the program has grown by leaps and bounds under her leadership. We got it started, but the growth has been through Sooner-Ride and work routes," said Larry Hall, KI BOIS Associate Director/COO.

Charla Sloan, KATS Director adds, "I am always proud to say I work for KI BOIS. KATS has allowed me to work with so many wonderful people. From drivers, mechanics, dispatchers, route supervisors, Director of Operations and clerks, KATS makes a difference in so many lives by providing quality transportation and that is a true blessing to me. I want to thank Carroll Huggins and our Board of Directors for entrusting me to lead this program and for supporting the growth to make KATS what it is today."

From the Desk of Executive Director / CEO

R. Carroll Huggins



I hope each of you enjoyed your three day Labor Day Holiday weekend! Personally, I am looking forward to football weather. I love the beauty and climate of our Oklahoma Fall Season.

Things are back in full swing after the summer for our staff. We are in the process of our annual agency audit by our independent auditor.

We have received notice of award for funding for our SSVF (Supportive Service for Veteran’s Families) in 24 counties in Eastern Oklahoma. We are very pleased with our outstanding staff who will meet their goals for this year.

Tom Marlatt, Linda Love, and I attended the National Community Action Partnership Annual Conference in Atlanta, GA on August 23-25, 2023, where we all three received our National CCAP Certification renewal. We have fourteen Nationally Certified CCAP’s in our agency. Michael Knapp, Blake Smith, Brandie Risenhoover, and Marcy Ross are enrolled and are now studying for their national exam.

We are still having a few cases of Covid among our staff. I understand a new booster shot will be available later this month for the new variant. I highly recommend this protection along with a new flu shot. Better to be safe than sorry!

*Carroll Huggins, CCAP
Executive Director / CEO*

KI BOIS COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Tom Marlatt, CCAP
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- Larry Hall, CCAP
Associate Director/COO

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KATS Honored With Award

Congratulations KI BOIS Area Transit System and other transit systems in Oklahoma for receiving the NADO Excellence in Regional Transportation Award on behalf of the PICK program.

PICK Transportation provides curb-to-curb mobility services on demand in 21 rural communities in rural eastern Oklahoma. PICK provides accessibility options for those with visual, audible, and developmental disabilities.



Accepting the award were:
Charla Sloan, KATS Director, and
Kendra McGeady, Pelivan Transit Director .



- September 4
- September 19
- September 20-22
- September 28

- Labor Day Holiday
- RSVP Volunteer Recognition Event
- OKACAA Fall Conference
- KI BOIS Board Meeting



#kibois #BeCommunityAction #CommunityActionWorks



After a year of racking up thousands of volunteer hours in area communities, the annual Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) recognition event will be held on Tuesday, September 19th. It's a time to give a pat on the back the seniors who have given of their time.

RSVP is a National Service program within AmeriCorps Seniors that connects volunteers age 55+ with service opportunities in their community.

To join RSVP, you need to:

- Be at least 55 years old
- Be able to volunteer for at least one hour a week
- Enjoy working with others to better our community

Call 918-967-3325 for questions on how to join other volunteers in your community. KI BOIS RSVP Director is Sandie Rutherford.



CCAP Recertifications



KI BOIS Community Action has three agency leaders receiving their recertification as CCAP's this year: Carroll Huggins, Tom Marlatt and Linda Love. They attended the National Community Action Partnership Conference in Atlanta August 23—25.

The Certified Community Action Professional credential recognizes individuals who have demonstrated knowledge and application of the core competencies required to effectively carry out the vision, mission, purpose, and values of the Community Action movement.

With well over 100 years experience between them, it's safe to say that these three leaders have the mission and vision of Community Action rooted deep within their spirit. Congratulations Carroll, Tom & Linda!

Joining these three as KI BOIS CCAP's are: John Jones, Shaunda Noah, Pam Harless, Heather Purdom, Larry Hall, Royce Alverson, Amy Fair, Kenny Barnhart, Jan Garner, Doyleene Knowlton and Ginger Bryant.

Four more employees are in the process of sitting for the exam. They are: Blake Smith, Michael Knapp, Brandie Risenhoover and Marcy Ross.



Linda Love and Carroll Huggins all dressed up and someplace to go.... the annual Gala & awards banquet.

IN *Action*



Picture of the fleet of KATS vans early in the program.



Larry Hall, left, and Jerry Carolan, right, checking under the hood of a KATS van over 40 years ago.



A brand-new KATS headquarters was built in 2007.



Buses and vans all got the new KATS logo in 2018.



And buses and vans all got another new KATS logo in 2020.

IN *Action*



Holdenville KATS



Eufaula KATS



Henryetta KATS



Wagoner KATS



Sallisaw KATS



IN *Action*



McAlester KATS



KATS Mechanics



Stilwell KATS



Wetumka KATS



Wilburton KATS

Other transit offices will be featured in the October Newsletter as we celebrate 40 years of KATS

WE ARE HIRING! A career with KI BOIS is a career with a future! ✓

KI BOIS Community Action Partnership
Helping People. Changing Lives.
AMERICA'S POVERTY FIGHTING NETWORK

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MATCHING RETIREMENT ✓

ARE YOU OUR MISSING PIECE?

Paid Vacation ✓
Competitive Pay

MEDICAL/DENTAL LIFE ✓
Service Awards

KI BOIS Community Action is the largest 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.