

October, 2023

Helping People. Changing Lives.
Serving Eastern Oklahoma Since 1968



KI BOIS NEWS

Margaret Floyd Receives The Volunteer of the Year Award



Margaret Floyd, KI BOIS Foster Grandparent Program Volunteer from Eufaula, was recently named the 2023 Volunteer of the Year. This annual award recognizes an outstanding volunteer who makes an impact on the community by the number of hours they volunteer.

“Granny” Margaret was presented her award on September 22, 2023 at the annual fall conference of the Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies in Oklahoma City. She was nominated by Shaunda Noah, KI BOIS Foster Grandparent Program Director. Her nomination reads...

“Margaret has volunteered with the KI BOIS Foster Grandparent Program for 33 years. She has served Stidham Schools, Hanna Schools, and most recently Eufaula Elementary. She volunteers six (6) hours per day and has served over 40,000 hours over the course of her volunteer service and has assisted hundreds of children with reading and literacy. Margaret has been very instrumental with every school district she has worked with and been a cultural icon within the Creek Nation. She has traveled across the country in representation of the Creek Nation and a representative of the Foster Grandparent Program.

McIntosh County is ranked seventh in persons in poverty, according to index mundi. This index is used by the US Census Bureau to calculate poverty data. As a volunteer within this county, Margaret has volunteered in school districts and worked with children who live in these poverty conditions and she has helped them overcome obstacles at home to be good students in the classroom. The purpose of a Foster Grandparent is to provide one-on-one tutoring and mentoring to children who have special or exceptional needs. Most volunteers do so much more than that, and Margaret is no exception. She provides a warm, safe place for children who have very difficult home lives, and allows them to be able to focus in school and be successful in their studies. Without this caring environment, many children would fall through the cracks and fail.

It would be nearly impossible to fully transcribe the impact Margaret has had over the course of her 33 years of service. If one were to travel anywhere in McIntosh County, most people know Margaret Floyd, either by her service in school, her service within the Creek Nation, or her involvement with her church. The people that know her, love and respect her for her wisdom, kindness, and her giving spirit.

It is a well known fact that the Foster Grandparent Program provides a positive impact on the children, schools, and communities in which they are a part. Margaret Floyd exemplifies the strength, grace, and wisdom that being a Foster Grandparent encompasses. In her 96 years of life on this earth, no one person has given more to service than Margaret Floyd. Thank you.”

Shaunda added, “It is my great honor to nominate Margaret Floyd for Volunteer of the Year. I firmly believe she deserves this esteemed award, and would receive it with grace, sincerity, and the honor it deserves. She exemplifies what Community Action is all about and has a servant’s heart. She gives of herself freely, and shows kindness to all.”

Congratulations!

From the Desk of Executive Director / CEO

R. Carroll Huggins



Covid has changed so many things and adversely affected so many lives. I am thankful that we have had the opportunity to help hundreds of low income people with the additional burdens that has been placed on them.

KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Incorporated is privileged to have such a committed group of board members, staff, and volunteers that use their talents and resources to help those who are less fortunate. Their expertise and commitment to helping people and changing lives is commendable.

Our Community Action Agency helps people and changes lives every day in cities, towns, and rural communities all across our service area. As the Community Action Partnership promise indicates, "Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities and makes our communities a better place to live. We care about the entire community and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other."

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

KI BOIS COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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October is...



OCTOBER 30, 2023

WEATHERIZATION DAY

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) reduces energy burden for families, provides health and safety benefits, and creates thousands of American jobs!



- October 9 Columbus Day / Indigenous Peoples Day
- October 16 Bosses Day
- October 23 KI BOIS Executive Board Meeting
- October 30 Weatherization Day
- October 31 Halloween



#kibois #BeCommunityAction #CommunityActionWorks #HelpingPeopleChangingLives



Employee Service Awards



10 YEARS

Joe Sorrell

Ruby Strain

Matthew Cordes

Bessie Tanksley

Robert Svenelid

Bernadine Fairchild

Susan Marks

Terri Sutton

Kimberley Deihl

Kimberly Ledford

Clyde Unger

15 YEARS

Janis Simpson

Tammy Stokes

Janine Stevenson

Michael Knapp

Crystal Fout

Patricia Barron

20 YEARS

Laura Haynes

Taffi Hardwick

Susan Roberts

Joshua Gravlee

25 YEARS

Charlotte McCann

Linda Carey

Jennifer Faulkner

Debbie Edwards

Redonna Perry

30 YEARS

Stacy Boren

35 YEARS

Charla Sloan

Shelly Davis

Congratulations!

55 YEARS

KI BOIS Executive Director/CEO Carroll Huggins (left), and Latimer County Director Claudia Jeffrey (right) received their 55 year service award at the OKACAA Fall Conference.

Presenting the award to Carroll is Kent Watson, Executive Director of Big Five Community Services and Cecil Williams, Chairman of KI BOIS Board of Directors.

Mr. Huggins and Mr. Williams presented Claudia her award.



Charla Sloan — 35 years



Redonna Perry — 25 years



Shelly Davis — 35 years



IT'S TIME...To Select Your Insurance Benefits for 2024

Option Period 2024 is here! This option period applies to our benefits available through the State of Oklahoma – health, dental, vision and life. This is the annual event when employees can make changes to current coverage, add or drop coverage and add or drop dependents without a qualifying event.

We will also be using EWS Messaging (time clock software) for additional Option Period notifications/reminders. Personalized change forms, as well as enrollment forms, will be available in Brandie Goodman’s office.

Please e-mail brandie.goodman@kibois.org if you want to make changes and need a copy of your 2024 personalized form that shows current coverages or if you are wanting to enroll in insurance for the first time.

Option Period will open October 5, 2023 and continue through October 27, 2023.

All changes made during Option Period 2024 will be effective on January 1, 2024.

TOBACCO-FREE ATTESTATION

Must be completed by November 10, 2023. Failure to complete will result in being moved to HealthChoice High Alternative or Basic Alternative plan January 1, 2024. To complete Attestation, log in to <https://gateway.sib.ok.gov/Attestation>. (The form will ask for your Employer Name – Please enter **KI BOIS Community Action** – not the specific program in where you are working.)

If you are in the process of quitting tobacco, you must be tobacco-free for 90 days prior to attesting.

Tobacco users still qualify for the High or Basic plan if you:

Show proof of an attempt to quit using tobacco.

Provide a letter from your physician.

If you choose to receive an e-mail confirmation of your Attestation – HR doesn’t need a copy. It will be for your records only.

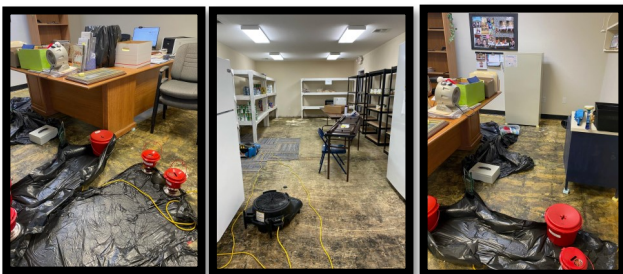
Questions? Please email brandie.goodman@kibois.org Phone is 918.967.3325 EXT 131



KATS’ 40th Year was celebrated at the September Board Meeting. 1983 — 2023



Latimer County employees John Hancock, Tracy Coley, Wendy Ward, Stephanie McCann & Renee McCann decorated the office front with these adorable fall decoration, including a KATS bus, scarecrows & pumpkins. Great job!!



Unfortunately inside the Latimer County office didn’t look as adorable. Following torrential rain on September 23rd, a few offices and the Food Pantry were flooded. According to Claudia Jeffrey, “This isn't our first rodeo!” The same thing happened a couple years ago to another part of the office. Staff is working to get everything back in order.

FYI FOR YOUR INFORMATION

MEDICARE ASSISTANCE

The Senior Health Insurance Counseling Program (SHIP) is a non-profit organization helping to inform the public about Medicare and other senior health insurance issues. This division provides accurate and objective counseling, assistance, and advocacy relating to Medicare, Medicaid, Medicare supplements, Medicare Advantage, long-term care, and other related health coverage plans for Medicare beneficiaries, their representatives, or persons soon to be eligible for Medicare.

Call your local counselor with the KEDDO Area Agency on Aging at 1-800-722-8180 or 918-465-2367.

You can also call the SHIP Senior Help Line at 1-800-763-2828 for assistance.



MEDICARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

EODD Regional Solutions
Area Agency on Aging

1012 North 38th Street
PO Box 1367
Muskogee, OK 74402
(918) 682-7891

State Health Insurance Assistance Program

- SHIP Trained
- SHIP Certified
- Unbiased Counseling

Make sure to review your plan every year during Open Enrollment.
October 15 - December 7

Find your local SHIP at shiphelp.org or call (918) 682-7891

IT'S MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT TIME

Now is the time to compare your current coverage to all your choices for 2024 and select the plan that best fits your needs and budget. Medicare's Open Enrollment period gives everyone with Medicare the opportunity to make changes to their prescription drug plans or health plans for coverage beginning January 1, 2024. But don't delay, the Open Enrollment period is October 15 — December 7.

Refer to the flyers to the left as to which agency to consult, should you have questions.

The HEALTHY LIVING Expo 2023

Friday, October 20th
9am - 1pm
Stigler Courthouse Lawn

Vendors, Healthy Living Demos, Prizes, and more!

Vendor Registration:
KI BOIS Fax 918-767-8440
Kathy-kathy.healthy@kibois.org
Denice-denice.daniels@kibois.org
Deadline: 10/13/23

Proudly Sponsored By:

Resource FAIR

Living in LATIMER

Open To The Public

Learn about the resources available to residents of Latimer County. Resource booths and representatives will be there to answer your questions.

OCT 24TH
10:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

BALLROOM EASTERN OKLAHOMA STATE COLLEGE
WILBURTON, OKLAHOMA

For More Information:
Claudia Jeffrey, KI BOIS
Claudia.Jeffrey@kibois.org
918-465-3381

LEFLORE COUNTY HEALTH & SERVICES FAIR

OCTOBER 26th 10 AM - 2 PM
CASC'S HOFFMAN-WILSON CENTER - POTEAU

Healthy Living Information
Blood Sugar & Blood Pressure Checks
Cholesterol Checks
Local Resources
Prescription Take-Back - Turn in your unused or expired drugs for safe disposal
FREE - Flu Shots & Immunizations

Door Prizes

For more information: Contact Amy Graves at Leflore County Youth Services... 918-647-4196

A project of the Leflore County Coalition for Healthy Living

IN *Action*

KI BOIS RSVP PRESENTS
★ ★ ★ 2023 ★ ★ ★
**ANNUAL VOLUNTEER
RECOGNITION EVENT**
FIRST ASSEMBLY LIFE CENTER
303 S.E. A STREET
STIGLER, OK



IN *Action*




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 ★★ **2023** ★★
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 303 S.E. A STREET
 STIGLER, OK**



*Oklahoma
 Association of
 Community Action
 Agencies 2023
 Annual Fall
 Conference Awards
 Luncheon*



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

Operating Since 1968 ✓
On-The-Job Training

Follow us on: facebook.com/kibois

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.