

# August, 2023

Helping People. Changing Lives.  
Serving Eastern Oklahoma Since 1968



*As one of over 1,000 Community Action Agencies in America, we work to empower low-income families, change people's lives for the better and improve the communities we serve. We are all dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.*



# KI BOIS NEWS

## Foster Grandparent Program Sends Seniors Back To School

Students and staff are not the only ones returning to school this month. Foster Grandparent Program volunteers are also headed back to school as volunteer classroom grandparents. They are focused on improving the lives of the students by reading to children, doing math flash cards or any other classroom activity developed by the teacher they are assigned to. However, the most important thing the volunteers probably do is encourage confidence in the children they assist and help them grow and prosper during the school year.

Teachers never seem to have enough time or resources to meet all the demands placed on them and their students. The Covid-19 pandemic left many students behind in the curriculum, and that's where the Foster Grandparent Program volunteers really shine and help to catch the students up in areas where there's a struggle.

"To qualify to be a Foster Grandparent, the individual must be low-income, over 55 years of age and able to pass a background check," said Shaunda Noah, KI BOIS Foster Grandparent Program Director. "This is a win-win program. The students get the help they need, the teachers get extra help, and the volunteer stays active and engaged in the community. The students and faculty will love them endlessly," Noah added.



The Foster Grandparent Program, created by Congress in 1965, is now in its fiftieth decade of providing an inter-generational component. The volunteers are part of the AmeriCorps Seniors which utilizes life skill of seniors to meet community needs through volunteer services.

KI BOIS Community Action is proud administer this program in our service area. Volunteers are honored and recognized every March at a Recognition Banquet in Tahlequah.



***From the Desk of Executive Director / CEO***

***R. Carroll Huggins***



Summer break for students is over! Schools are starting back! Some schools start back on August 10th! Each of our County Coalitions are having back to school events with Backpacks of school supplies and other family activities. We will be handing out hundreds of Backpacks this month.

At both the State and Federal Level we continue to operate under current funding levels with some small increases. We still have unspent Covid funding that we are spending for emergency services. We have had monitoring and follow up visits coming up on most all of our programs and we had a one week pre-audit visit from our audit staff.

Some people say that problems are not problems, but rather, they are opportunities. In community action there are daily problems or opportunities depending on how you look at it.

That means the greatest of opportunities awaits us. The opportunity to impact lives. There are three kinds of work: First there is a *job*, where the goal is simple earning a living and supporting your family. Then there's the *career*, where you trace your progress through various appointments and achievements. Finally, there's the *calling*, the ideal blending of activity and character that makes work inseparable from life.

We are truly blessed to be called to work with disadvantaged families, to daily have the opportunity to impact their lives. Community Action, what a wonderful profession! What a wonderful opportunity!

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

**KI BOIS COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**KI BOIS NEWS**

is published monthly by  
KI BOIS Community Action  
Foundation, Inc.

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**Calendar of Events**



August 28th      KI BOIS Executive Board Meeting  
September 4th    Labor Day Holiday

**#kibois #BeCommunityAction #CommunityActionWorks #HelpingPeopleChangingLives**





Top Left: VFW Auxiliary volunteers Gwen, Carolyn and Polly assisted Claudia Jeffrey with an OBI Mobile Blood Drive on August 10th in Wilburton.

Top Right: #WellnessWednesday is a new thing at KI BOIS Central Office. On August 16th, Linda Love and Brandie Risenhoover demonstrated the phone app "Yuka", that deciphers product labels and analyzes the health impact of food products and cosmetics.

Bottom Left: Claudia Jeffrey and Royce Alverson marketed incoming students at Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton on August 18th.

Helping People. Changing Lives.

In Memoriam



In Memoriam



Brad Stewart

March 18, 1952 - July 24, 2023

Brad was a longtime member of our KI BOIS family and he will be missed.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.



Connie Phillips

July 24, 1943 - July 30, 2023

Connie was a receptionist at the Poteau office for many years. She was so fun and loved KI BOIS.





# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

HOMEBASED SERVICES AND RESOURCES  
6TH ANNUAL FALL FOR FOSTERING

## 5K/10K RUN & WALK



**TIMED AND CERTIFIED**

START FROM STIGLER HIGH SCHOOL GYM  
1111 NW 7TH ST STIGLER, OK  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

Fun run is \$20 for preregistration / \$25 for race day registration  
5k is \$30 for preregistration / \$35 for race day registration  
10k is \$40 for preregistration / \$45 for race day registration  
Start Times: 10k at 8:00, Fun Run and 5k at 8:30

**LAST DAY TO PRE-REGISTER IS SEPT. 29**

ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARD LOCAL FOSTER CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS GIFTS

MORE INFO  
Taylor Wingo  
918-967-8223

Register online or mail to  
904 NW 4TH STIGLER, OK 74462

In partnership with Choctaw Nation PACE



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th @ 8am  
Roye Park, 1215 NW 10th St, Stigler, OK 74462

### SUPERHEROES AND SIDEKICKS 5K

Register online at <https://runsignup.com/stiglerhero5k> by August 27th to be guaranteed a t-shirt.

#### Registration Fees:

5K - \$30 per person, \$35 after 8/27  
Fun Run - \$15 per person, \$20 after 8/27  
Registration will also be available on site the day of race.

All race proceeds will benefit the HWC Foundation to help provide resources to individuals and communities in need.

For more information or to register, scan the QR code!



## COMMUNITY GIVEBACK EVENT

HOSTED BY: HUMANITY918

LAST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

AUG 31ST \*LUNCH  
SEPT 28TH \*SNACKS  
OCT 26TH \*HYGIENE ITEMS  
NOV 30TH \*CLOTHES  
DEC 28TH \*SHOES  
\*BOOKS & MORE



\*While Supplies Last

10AM-2PM Additional Resources/Information  
MAIN ST On Site : Medicaid, SNAP, WIC,  
& CHEROKEE AVE Behavioral Health, Medical, Dental,  
Housing, Employment & More

**TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

HUMANITY918, CARING HANDS HEALTHCARE CENTER, CREEKS, PITTSBURG CO. HEALTH DEPT., FOOD BANK OF OKLAHOMA, ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL, KNOX, Y.E.S

## BOOTS & BADGES

### Haskell County Boots & Badges Community Challenge Blood Drive

Thursday, August 24  
11 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
First Assembly of God Gym

Walk-ins Welcome!

Scan to schedule your appointment!



DONORS RECEIVE A BOOTS & BADGES T-SHIRT AND CHOICE OF ONE OF THE TICKETS BELOW.\*



877-340-8777 • [obl.org](http://obl.org)

While supplies last. Photo ID required.





# IN *Action*



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. COMMUNITY CENTER  
**DREAM TEAM**

## MUSKOGEE

July 27, 2023

KI BOIS is proud to partner with the MLK, Jr. Community Center in Muskogee -- THE DREAM TEAM -- to provide backpacks full of school supplies to their kiddos enrolled during the summer. A big thank you goes out to Laura Hazen from Neighbors Building Neighborhoods and Derrick Reed, director of the program.



The Haskell County Coalition Back to School Roundup 2023 was the first in-person event since 2019. The committee was led by Taylor Wingo with Homebased Services. Taylor and volunteers packed and delivered 250 backpacks full of school supplies to the Kiamichi Technology Center in Tulsa for the event on July 24th.

This is a long-time project of the Coalition and is funded through grants from Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. Operation Round-up and Walmart Foundation.

These backpacks will hopefully alleviate the sometimes stressful time of getting the kiddos off to a great start for the school year.

In addition to the supplies, area service agencies had resource booths and local stylists provided free haircuts. It was a great evening.



# IN *Action*



## 2023 Back to School ROUND UP

SEQUOYAH COUNTY  
AUGUST 5, 2023  
SALLISAW RODEO ARENA



AUGUST 8, 2022  
WILBURTON  
GARY ROSEBURE PARK





# IN *Action*



LEFLORE COUNTY  
AUGUST 1, 2023  
REYNOLDS CENTER POTEAU



# WE ARE HIRING!

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



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](http://www.kibois.org)



All employment opportunities are posted on our website, [www.kibois.org](http://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](http://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.