

July, 2023

Helping People. Changing Lives.
Serving Eastern Oklahoma Since 1968



KI BOIS NEWS

It Looks Like Christmas In July

When you walk into the Sequoyah County outreach office in Sallisaw, you're greeted warmly by Andy, Tanya or Melissa. They are committed to "helping people and changing lives!" One particular project they work on year-round is the Angel Tree project.

The KI BOIS office is responsible for children in Moffett and Roland. Other charities provide for children in other towns throughout the County. KI BOIS staff collaborates with Moffett School and Roland School to conduct food drives and collect various donations. This project is offered strictly on donations, and children not only get toys, but they get other items that they "wish" for.

Each year, an application is completed that informs the staff of what each child is in need of. Many times they ask for a coat, shoes, sock or underwear. The child's family also receives a Christmas food box filled with items collected during the food drives.

Melissa Lowe, Sequoyah County Coordinator, is quick to let you know this project is near and dear to her heart. "My staff and I are always looking for clearance items, which we purchase and store throughout the year. We have a closet in the office that is dedicated to Angel Tree and by Christmas it is packed out," said Lowe. "It looks like Santa's workshop most of the time. But we love finding good bargains and seeing our hard work pay off when a child gets a new toy or shoes that they desperately need."

It takes an average of \$100 each child to provide toys and clothing. Community members are welcome to "pick" angels to provide for, however KI BOIS fills the gaps for Angels not collected. Lowe said, "Last year, we provided for 209 Angels and miraculously, we had enough toys, food and clothing to supply all of the needs. It's like a Christmas miracle each year."

This is just another project that KI BOIS could not do without it's community partners. For over 55 years, it's projects like Angel Tree that truly help to change lives and bring confidence to even the most vulnerable demographic we serve.



L-R: Melissa Lowe, Tanya Harrison, Andy Kates surrounded by toys they have collected.

From the Desk of Executive Director / CEO
R. Carroll Huggins



Effective leadership is the key to success of any agency. KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Incorporated has been fortunate over the years to have good leadership at both the board of director level and staff level. This is no accident. Leadership is something that has to be continually improved on. I encourage you to continue to develop your leadership skills and continue with your lifelong learning. The following are some facts on leadership that may be helpful to you:

Leadership is the art of **influencing others to create positive change** (transformation) in the **community**.

Leaders believe in.....

- * service to others
- * hard work
- * life-long learning
- * their ability to succeed

Effective leaders.....

- * Lead from the future
- * Communicate a clear vision & purpose
- * Act with courage and integrity
- * Empower followers
- * Persevere with strong passion
- * Engage conflict and controversy
- * Hold themselves accountable
- * Seek to understand before being understood
- * Respect the dignity of others
- * Keep commitments



Our KI BOIS Community Action leadership teams in each county work to improve training and inner agency communication for our mid-management staff. KI BOIS Community Action Associate Director/COO Larry Hall, CCAP works with our six KI BOIS Community Action County Office Managers to implement this effort. KI BOIS Project Directors also conduct staff training on their respective programs as needed. KI BOIS Community Action County Office Managers are: Haskell County, Linda Love, CCAP; Latimer County, Claudia Jeffrey; LeFlore County, Kenny Barnhart, CCAP; Pittsburg County, Megan Duff, Sequoyah County, Melissa Lowe, and Muskogee County, John Ford. We have a weekly Zoom Program Director's Meeting to share information and exchange ideas. Our goal is to improve customer service to our low-income Community Action clients.

There is a big difference in being a **boss** and being an **effective leader!** Which are you? Let's work together to help people and change lives!

Have a Safe Summer!

Carroll Huggins, CCAP
Executive Director / CEO

KI BOIS COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Bud Smithson
- Janice Williams
- Jonathan Wynn

Executive Leadership

R. Carroll Huggins, CCAP
Executive Director/CEO

Tom Marlatt, CCAP
Associate Director/CFO

Larry Hall, CCAP
Associate Director/COO

KI BOIS NEWS

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

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- July 24
- July 27
- August 1
- August 5
- August 7

- Stigler Back to School Roundup
- KI BOIS Board Meeting
- Poteau Back to School Bash
- Sallisaw Back to School Roundup
- Wilburton Back to School Bash



#kibois #BeCommunityAction #CommunityActionWorks #HelpingPeopleChangingLives



Oklahoma has had an annual "Back To School" sales tax holiday since 2007. This tax holiday is meant to help parents save money when purchasing common back-to-school supplies for their children.

Tax free weekend in Oklahoma is August 4-6, 2023.

Oklahoma allows you to purchase up to \$100 worth of clothing tax-free during their annual sales tax holiday.



The Farmer's Market happens every other Saturday on South Broadway in Stigler. This is a great place to get homemade items, fresh produce and more.

The Farmer's Market is coordinated by Jaedyn Drewry . Jaedyn is the daughter of KI BOIS Accounts Payable Clerk Shelli Bass and granddaughter of former KI BOIS Board Chairman Gene Bass.

KI BOIS Food Pantry

During the past few years of the Covid-19 pandemic, SNAP benefits were expanded with many families receiving max benefits for emergency food relief. Now, these benefits have been slashed and many households face reductions of \$250 or more.

Due to this reduction, food banks across the nation are gearing up for a higher demand.

KI BOIS Community Action operates three food banks in the service area

LeFlore County, 204 Wall Street – Poteau
918.649.3999

Latimer County, 300 W. Main – Wilburton
918.465.3381

Haskell County, 1007 East Main – Stigler
918.967.9017



ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY

Community Action has been working to meet the increased food needs in their communities by providing food pantry and delivery services.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

HASKELL COUNTY COALITION

Back to School Roundup
JULY 24, 2023

STIGLER VO-TECH
4PM TO 8PM

BTSROUNDUP@GMAIL.COM FOR ANY QUESTIONS!



SHARED BLESSINGS
BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

AUG 3RD, 4-6PM
@ MAIN & OKLAHOMA CHURCH OF CHRIST

BRAND NEW SOCKS & UNDERWEAR

FOOD

HYGIENE PRODUCTS

FUN

GIFT CARDS TO HELP PURCHASE SHOES

While supplies last!
CHILD MUST BE PRESENT




BACK TO SCHOOL BASH 2023

COMMUNITY RESOURCES, FOOD, AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES **ALL FREE**
 HOSTED BY: LEFLORE COUNTY COALITION FOR HEALTHY LIVING
 REYNOLDS CENTER
 AUGUST 1ST 10AM While Supplies Last

BACK TO SCHOOL
ROUND UP
2023

August 5, 2023
Sallisaw Rodeo Arena
10 am - 12 noon



AUGUST 7, 2023
5PM - 7PM

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

FUN
RESOURCES

FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES
SPLASH PAD

FOOD
GAMES

GARY ROSEBURE PARK - WILBURTON



IN *Action*

CAPLAW 2023



Carroll Huggins, Jan Garner, Doyleene Knowlton and Larry Hall attended the annual CAPLAW Conference in Austin June 27-29. They are joined by Karla Benford, Office & Programs Manager, Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies.

Choctaw Nation



KI BOIS is proud of our great working relationship with the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. KI BOIS Executive Director/CEO Carroll Huggins recently had the opportunity to visit with Tribal Council Members Ron Perry and Jess Henry at the Stigler/Haskell County Chamber of Commerce meeting.

Claudia's Kid & Grandkids



It's Back to School Bash time in Latimer County. County Coordinator Claudia Jeffrey had a genius idea... put her grandchildren to work stuffing backpacks! Of course, her daughter, KI BOIS Rx/VITA Director Amy Fair, got in on the action too. L-R: Jade Jeffrey, Amy Fair, Alayna Fair and Jewel Jeffrey.

Sallisaw Resource Fair



Royce Alverson, Melissa Lowe and Andy Kates represented KI BOIS at the annual Resource Fair in Sallisaw on Jun 21, 2023.

JULY IS UV SAFETY MONTH

PROTECT YOUR SKIN IN 5 WAYS



find shade under an umbrella, tree or shelter



wear a hat to shade your face, neck & ears for protection



wear sunglasses to protect your eyes from sun damage



light and breezy shirts provide the best protection



apply sunscreen to protect against UVA & UVB rays



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.