

January, 2024

Helping People. Changing Lives.
Serving Eastern Oklahoma Since 1968



KI BOIS NEWS

2023 REVIEW

Things were beginning to get back to what we will now view as our “new normal” in 2023. Just as in years gone by, we celebrated, mourned and embraced life as we navigate our mission here at KI BOIS. As we look forward to what 2024 has in store for us, let’s take a look back at the top stories that affected our KI BOIS world in 2023.

KI BOIS Community Action kicked off the year by acknowledging our 55 years of providing services in Eastern Oklahoma.

Former KI BOIS Board Chair **Gene Bass** celebrated his 90th birthday with a surprise party at the Board meeting.

Two new **KI BOIS Board Members** were seated. They were Jonathan Wynn from Latimer County and Charlie Rogers from Pittsburg County. Also, **KI BOIS Executive Board Members** were elected. The members are: Cecil Williams, Chair; Joy Walker, 1st Vice-Chair; Frank Phillips, 2nd Vice-Chair; Jan Copen, Secretary/Treasurer; Kodey Toney, Parliamentarian.

Stigler KATS drivers received the Safety Award for the 4th straight year.

KI BOIS teams joined others as the **Are You Smarter Than A 5th Grader** fundraiser in Stigler. We weren’t smarter.

Amy Fair was honored at an OSU basketball game as an honorary cancer survivor!

KI BOIS Weatherization Services were expanded to include Leflore, Sequoyah, Haskell, Latimer, Pittsburg, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Seminole, Hughes, Okmulgee and McIntosh counties.

The **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program** provided free tax assistance from February 1 to April 15.

Friends and family gathered in Wilburton to honor former KI BOIS Board Chairman **John Cook**. A plaque in his honor was presented to his son, Jonathan.

The **Foster Grandparent Program Recognition Banquet** was held in Tahlequah. Top award winners were: Jo Aker, Volunteer of the Year; Lori Means, Partner of the Year; Sandy Johnson & Debbie Weaver, Teacher of the Year.

May was **Community Action Month**. A company-wide picnic was held May 25th at Roye Park in Stigler. Two new Board Members were seated from Muskogee County... Rodger Cutler and Lindsey Holloway.

KI BOIS was instrumental in bringing **Back to School** events to Stigler, Sallisaw, Poteau, and Muskogee.

KATS Celebrated 40 years of service.

Linda Love, Carroll Huggins and Tom Marlatt all renewed their **CCAP** Certifications.

Margaret Floyd, Foster Grandparent Volunteer from Eufaula, received the Volunteer of the Year Award at the OKACAA Fall Conference in Oklahoma City.

Carroll Huggins and **Claudia Jeffrey** each received their 55 years service awards at the OKACAA Fall Conference in Oklahoma.

KI BOIS Wilburton Office won the 2023 Wilburton Main Street Scarecrow Contest.

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From the Desk of Executive Director / CEO

R. Carroll Huggins



I am very pleased at the accomplishments that this agency achieved in 2023. 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. Our Annual Board of Director’s Meeting will be held January 25, 2024 at 3:00PM at our Stigler office. The Board will be electing officers and accepting the Annual Audit among other business.

STARTING THE NEW YEAR RIGHT IN 2024:

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 2024 will bring. Happy New Year!

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

KI BOIS COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Board

Cecil Williams
Board Chairperson

Joy Walker
1st Vice Chair

Frank Phillips
2nd Vice Chair

Jan Coplen
Secretary / Treasurer

Kodey Toney
Parliamentarian

Members of the Board

- De’Anne Booth
- Jeremy Bullard
- Henry Burris
- Rev. Rodger Cutler
- Rosalind Didlott
- Lyndon Emberton
- Lindsey Holloway

- John Jones
- Chuck Regan
- Charlie Rogers
- 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

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2023 REVIEW ★★★★★

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The **Adult Day Center** in Stigler re-opened.

KI BOIS Board Member **Kodey Toney** received two prestigious awards: Judy Pluess Excellence in Autism Award and the Rural Health Advocate of the Year.

The **DD Halloween Dance** was held in Stigler. FUN!!

Carroll Huggins and **Royce Alverson** each received the Leadership in Excellence Award at the 2023 Leadership & Health Equity Summit in Stigler.

OG&E Energy Corp. presented KI BOIS a donation of \$10,000 to be used for emergency services.

The annual **Free Thanksgiving Dinner in Sallisaw** was a huge success once again in November. Over 750 meals were served.

Sensitive Santa, a project of Pervasive Parenting, was hosted by KI BOIS in Wilburton and Stigler in December.

Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign: Volunteer bell ringing donations per county: Pittsburg, \$1,014.41; Haskell, \$11,218.92; Latimer, \$6,676.00.



- January 1 New Years Day Holiday
- January 2 New Years Break Holiday
- January 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
- January 25 KI BOIS Board Meeting



#kibois #BeCommunityAction #CommunityActionWorks #HelpingPeopleChangingLives



JANUARY IS NATIONAL POVERTY IN AMERICA AWARENESS MONTH

POVERTY AWARENESS MONTH

From coast to coast, America's more than 1,000 Community Action Agencies work to help families improve financial stability and build assets to support long-term success and resilience.




Poverty is not a static condition endured by an unlucky few – it is a multidimensional human experiential state with causes and conditions that can be addressed and shaped by policy decisions. According to the federal government, 88.5% of people in the U.S. achieved an acceptable standard of living in 2022. As a singular Network of Community Action Agencies fighting poverty on the front lines in all types of communities, we know those numbers present a distorted, incomplete account of hardship.

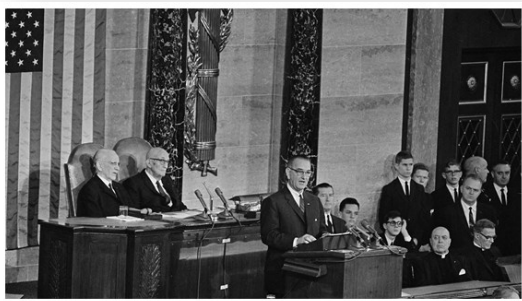
Harmful stereotypes and artificially depressed estimates of people experiencing poverty allow othering that contributes to negative narratives about under-resourced populations. The Community Action Network can help change that narra-

tive by sharing the stories and circumstances of customers in our communities and engaging the public and policymakers to raise awareness about the true experience of poverty in America.

Sixty years ago today, President Johnson reported to Congress on the State of the Union. As part of that historic speech, the president declared an unconditional war on poverty, stating, “many Americans live on the outskirts of hope--some because of their poverty, and some because of their color, and all too many because of both. Our task is to help replace their despair with opportunity.” From that declaration grew not just the original Community Action Program, but many of the programs that are still a part of our movement today, including Head Start, weatherization, SNAP, utility assistance, VISTA, and Job Corps.

But even before the Economic Opportunity Act and other bills creating substantive antipoverty programming were introduced, LBJ had accomplished something significant: by prioritizing the fight against poverty in his State of the Union, he increased public awareness of poverty in America and identified it as a problem affecting all Americans and one that we must solve together.

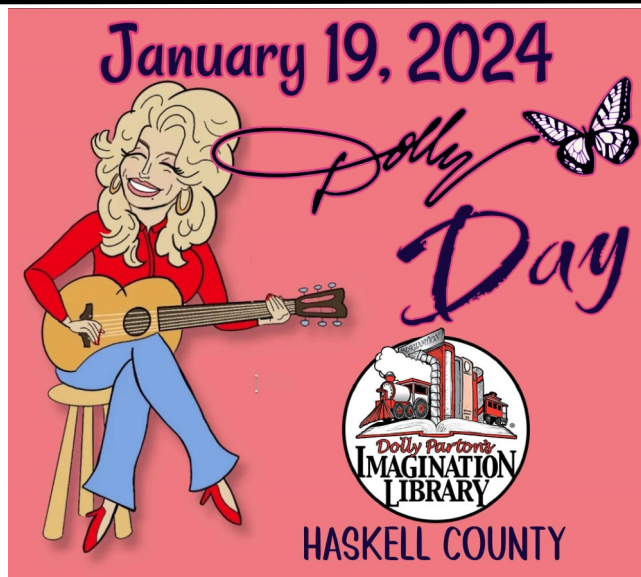
The National Community Action Partnership continues that legacy by recognizing January as National Poverty in America Awareness Month and supporting the 1000+ Community Action Agencies and Associations fighting every day for social and economic justice in communities across the country.



POVERTY AWARENESS MONTH

Community Action is equipped and committed to ensuring everyone has the opportunity to reach their full potential.



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL) affiliates across Oklahoma will be celebrating "Dolly Day" on January 19th. This is Dolly Rebecca Parton's birthday, and as a promo tool for the DPIL, there will be fun and exciting things going on across the state in honor of the "Queen of Country"!

Santa's elves.. a/k/a Sequoyah County Office staff (Melissa, Andy & Tanya) have been busy securing food boxes and angel tree gifts. With the help of Maintenance Director Kenny Moore and crew, 106 food boxes and gifts to 232 were delivered to Angels. What a blessing it is to not only the recipients, but also those who have contributed to this labor of love.



**A FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR
HASKELL COUNTY COALITION**

JANUARY 22, 2024
6:00 PM
 STIGLER VFW BUILDING
 (General Admission: \$2.00)
 Concession Stand opens at 5:00 pm

SAVE THE DATE

**WORKING WITH
FAMILIES AND
CHILDREN
CONFERENCE**

12 April, 2024 | 8:00am - 5:00pm

LIFE CHURCH - MCALESTER OKLAHOMA

In Memoriam 



Bill Leroy Knapp

March 1, 1944 - December 13, 2023

Mr. Knapp is the father of KI BOIS Weatherization Director Michael

In Memoriam 



Lenore Ida Carrillo

October 12, 1946 - December 19, 2023

Mrs. Carrillo is the mother of KI BOIS RSVP Director Sandie Rutherford.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families.



FYI FOR YOUR INFORMATION



Pictured is Latimer County Director, Claudia Jeffrey, accepting a donation for the Salvation Army in Latimer County from the Wilburton Masonic Lodge # 141.



The Latimer Food Pantry received 1,700 cans of donated food, along with cases of ramen noodles, beans, and rice, from a food drive coordinated by the Latimer County Sheriff's Office through all schools in Latimer County.

Donations Make A Difference



McKinlee Crase, Domestic Violence Services Director informed.... "Our shelters have received so many donations this Christmas! Here are just a few pics of some that came in ". We have such giving communities who see a need and respond. These donations assured that shelter residents had a Merry Christmas.

Melissa Lowe - Nifty @ 50



Sequoyah County Coordinator Melissa Lowe was a good sport when she came in to work on December 29th! What a great asset she is to our organization. To see some of the fruits of her labor, check out the Angel Tree & Food boxes that she and her staff secured. Happy Birthday Melissa - and many more!

IN *Action*



Jeremy Porter, KI BOIS IT guru, submitted this gorgeous picture. He says, "We sure get to see a lot of pretty country out of the windows of this van. I Stopped and took a this picture on HWY 82 today. I think we need to start taking pictures of every town sign we come across with the van nearby and say "WE SERVICE THIS AREA TOO!"



Several staff members from KI BOIS Central Office sang Christmas carols to the residents at the Haskell County Nursing Center in Stigler today. What a blessing it was.



KI BOIS Fiscal Officer Jan Garner and her grands Brooklyn and Ethan Flippin rang the Salvation Army bell on December 21st at Stigler Walmart.



You never know who will show up to ring the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign bell at Walmart in Stigler. Thanks Ms. Gingerbread, a/k/a Darla Barger!



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.