

June, 2023

Helping People. Changing Lives.
Serving Eastern Oklahoma Since 1968



KI BOIS NEWS

KI BOIS Celebrates 55 Years With Company Picnic

To close out Community Action Awareness Month, an agency-wide picnic was held on May 25th at Roye Park in Stigler.

Staff, Board members and guests were treated to a meal of pulled pork, smoked turkey, baked beans, chips and cookies served and prepared by Okie Brothers BBQ in Stigler. Retiring KI BOIS Board member Joyce Cleveland was presented a plaque in honor of her years of service to the agency.

Talented staff members Fostine Burgess, Janee Lewis, McKinlee Crase, Bethany Seyler, Rev. Rodger Cutler, and Royce Alverson entertained everyone as they visited, reminisced and enjoyed their meal. Crase Music Company provided sound for the day. There were drawings for \$50 gift cards. The grand prize was a Blackstone grill donated by Carroll & Lana Huggins. Winners list is on Page 7.

Lots of pictures were taken by Lana Huggins and Brionna Porter. Selfie frames and the 55 backdrop provided a great place to take individual and group pictures that will serve as a historical account of the day. Special shout-out to Shelli Bass and Courtney King for their work on the 55 backdrop. Great job!



*** More picnic pictures beginning on Page 7 ***

From the Desk of Executive Director / CEO

R. Carroll Huggins



We are celebrating a new Federal Holiday this month! Juneteenth!

Juneteenth (officially Juneteenth National Independence Day, and also known as, Jubilee Day, Emancipation Day, Freedom Day, and Black Independence Day) is now a federal holiday in the United States commemorating emancipation of enslaved African Americans. It is also often observed for celebrating African-American culture. Originating in Galveston, Texas, it has been celebrated annually on June 19 in various parts of the United States since 1865. The day was recognized as a federal holiday on June 17, 2021, when President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law. Juneteenth's commemoration is on the anniversary date of the June 19, 1865, announcement of General Order No. 3 by Union Army general Gordon Granger, proclaiming freedom for enslaved people in Texas, which was the last state of the Confederacy with institutional slavery.

June is also a month when many of our staff take their annual vacations. Unfortunately the large increase in gasoline prices, motels, airfare, and food have made vacations and travel very expensive.

The much higher cost of living is also making it more difficult for our low-income clients to survive. We are doing our best to assist them with the programs we have available!

We thank you for your support of these much needed social programs we operate!

Have a great summer!

*Carroll Huggins, CCAP
Executive Director / CEO*



Carly River Williams — Oktaha High School — daughter of Tonya Williams, KATS
 Brennen Porter — Spiro High School — son of Jeremy Porter, IT
 Tristan Knight — Wister High School — grandson of Sheila Noggle, DD
 Rowdy Knight — Wister 8th Grade — grandson of Sheila Noggle, DD
 Jurnee Justice Williams— Howe High School — daughter of Venita Williams, KATS
 Tyler Ward—Central High School, LA — grandson of Wendy Ward, KATS
 Hailey Burgess — Poteau High School — granddaughter of Fostine Burgess, DD
 Kamden Schrater — Wilburton Kindergarten — son of Stephanie McCann, Wilburton Office
 grandson of Renee' McCann, Wilburton Office
 Kathryn Huggins — McKinney Boyd High School— granddaughter of Carroll & Lana Huggins
 Wyatt Huggins — McKinney Boyd High School, TX — grandson of Carroll & Lana Huggins

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

KI BOIS NEWS

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

Royce Alverson, CCAP - Editor
918-967-3325, Ext. 134
Royce.Alverson@kibois.org



June 18
June 19
June 26
July 3—4

Father's Day
Juneteenth Federal Holiday
KI BOIS Executive Board Meeting
July 4th Holiday



#kibois #BeCommunityAction #CommunityActionWorks #HelpingPeopleChangingLives

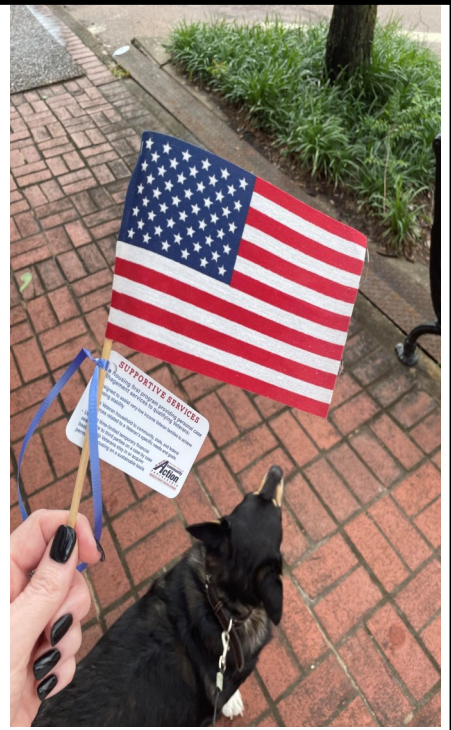


Longtime Foster Grandparent Margaret Floyd from Eufaula is showing off her beautiful rose bush.



KI BOIS SSVF recently passed out flags at the McAlester Armed Forces Day Parade. We are so proud to serve our men and women in any capacity. The SSVF program covers 26 counties in SE Oklahoma.

For more information, visit our website... www.kibois.org.



Multisector Plan on Aging

On May 10th, Jan Garner, Doyleene Knowlton and Royce Alverson attended the Multisector Plan on Aging session in McAlester.

Courtney Fox with OKDHS and Jeromy Buchanan Director of Community Living, Aging & Protective Services (CAP) with OKDHS are pictured with Garner, Knowlton and Alverson.

Not pictured, but attending the afternoon session was Christi Jones and Sandie Rutherford.

“Our goal is to give every senior the confidence to live life on their terms and to provide them with the resources needed to lead a healthy lifestyle,” said Buchanan.

By 2030, the population of older Oklahomans is projected to increase by 21.3%, and for the first time in the known history of our state, seniors are expected to outnumber children. There are approximately 875,877 adults aged 60 and older in Oklahoma and approximately 140,000 adults aged 80 or older. This directly affects the folks we serve and KI BOIS will be involved with workshops such as this in the future.





VITA Closes Another Successful Year



KI BOIS Community Action has participated in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program for many years. Our team of IRS-Certified preparers were recently honored at their post-season recognition meeting on May 24th. Dena Baker, Tax Consultant with the IRS, presented appreciation certificates to the Site Coordinators and preparers to commemorate this successful season and partnership with the IRS.

Amy Fair, VITA Program Director, gave an update on the number of returns processed by each VITA location. Pittsburg County—269; Latimer County—142; LeFlore County—134; Haskell County—108 for a total of 653 Federal Returns. In addition, a total of 101 Oklahoma 538-S forms were submitted. The 538-S is a low-income sales tax refund for seniors.

The KI BOIS preparers and intake workers in each county were: Megan Reames, Debra Mikles and Lucille Johnson — Pittsburg County; Amy Fair and Stephanie McCann—Latimer County; Rosalind Newby and Jeremy Porter—LeFlore County; Christi Jones, Nikki Morrison and Royce Alverson—Haskell County.



Lunch & Learn



KI BOIS Community Action is celebrating 55 years of operation. The month of May is Community Action Awareness Month, and the May 24th Lunch & Learn was dedicated to the history of our great agency. Two key players in the success of KI BOIS are Carroll Huggins and Claudia Jeffrey, both of whom have been here for the majority of those years.

Following a great lunch, Carroll, Claudia and other members of management shared stories and memories from the humble beginnings of Community Action up to the current status. KI BOIS is a leader in social services in Eastern Oklahoma. Beginning with single-county offices, it has grown to include a six-county service area... with some programs having an expanded service area.

As Carroll mentioned, "It's always a good day to be a KI BOIS employee!"

***** Read the History on page 6. *****



KI BOIS HISTORY

55 Years & Going Strong!

Soon after President Lyndon Johnson's declaration of war on poverty and of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, civic minded citizens of Easter began to prepare applications for federal funds to operate Community Act Programs. These applications were usually made in each county and most were funded. By the end of 1966 three of the four counties in the KI BOIS Co area were operating.

Haskell County's first director was Earl Jeffery. The director in LeFlore when Community Action began was Wallace Heatley who was soon rep Kirk. Latimer County, approved in 1966, hired Mr. Bill Beck as Direct 1967.

When Mr. Jeffery entered the Armed services in 1967, Jim Hall, Jr., was named director in Haskell County. By 1968 requirements concerning area population began to force smaller counties to consider the possibility of merging with neighboring counties, thus Haskell, Latimer, and LeFlore counties merged forming KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc., which was incorporated on March 11, 1968 and appointing Jim Hall, Jr., as Executive Director a position he held until October 1978 when he retired. At the time of the merger E.A. Caldwell was working on an application for Pittsburg County which could be approved if this county became a part of KI BOIS Community Action. This was accomplished July 1, 1968 and KI BOIS Community Action became a four-county agency, encompassing Haskell, Latimer, LeFlore and Pittsburg counties. Muskogee, and Sequoyah counties were added later.

The first Board Chairman was Don Huddleston. Baysul Balentine, David Ward, Gene Bass, and John Cook served as Board Chairman for many years. Cecil Williams is our current Board Chairman. Upon the resignation of Mr. Hall, Carroll Huggins was hired as Executive Director in November, 1978. He is the current Executive Director/CEO and supervises 1,000 employees and oversees a 40 million dollar plus annual budget.

Among the earliest programs initiated by KI BOIS Community Action was Head Start, beginning while there were still single county agencies. By the summer of 1966, classes were starting and this program has grown to the extent that 1000+ children are enrolled in KI BOIS Community Action Head Start and Pre-K which was directed by Carolyn Jeffrey, Reba Dunn and Donna Carolan. Other early programs were U.S. Dept. of Labor Manpower programs which Earl Jeffrey directed upon his return from the armed forces.

Some more familiar names associated with the early days of Community Action in the KI BOIS Community Action arena are Marie Holley (later Morrison), Richard Baldwin, Reba Dunn, Joy Roye, Pauline King, Becky Hickman, Louise Searles, Jerry Barlow, Sharon Hickman, Faye Shoat, Barbara Walden, Brenda Daniels, Louise Gregory, Betty Nolen, Helen Scyrkels, E.A. Caldwell, Alene Williams, Phyllis Murphy and others too numerous to mention.

IN *Action*



\$50 Gift Card Winners

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Jackie Waldroup | Diane Jarrett | Sandra Manning | Jamie Murry |
| Fostine Burgess | Phyllis Belcher | Tony Ramsey | Katie Simpson |
| Drucilla Dearman | Shanasi Smith | Bud Relford | Susan Benefield |
| Dianna Dennis | Don Caldwell | James Ritzendollar | Kendall Spears |
| Christopher Ashby | Nicole Dotson | Dana Bayless | Natalie Bourne |
| Joseph Longoria | Betty Nelson | Lonnie Pickens | Yukari Garcia |
| Mindi Scott | Kristina | Fred Lovett | Danny Gibson |

Blackstone Grill Winner

Ruby Strain



IN *Action* Picnic



IN *Action* Picnic



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.