

January, 2023

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KI BOIS NEWS

2022 REVIEW

As we look forward to what 2023 has in store for us, let's take a look back at the top stories that affected our KI BOIS world in 2022.

Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign: Volunteer bell ringing donations per county: Pittsburg, \$3,858.01; Haskell, \$14,794.39; Latimer, \$9,600.00.

SSVF Program expanded **Shallow Subsidy Services** in 2022.

The brand-new **LeFlore County Office** was opened in January..

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

Betty Sue Scott was named **Foster Grandparent Volunteer of the Year** at the annual FGP Banquet in Tahlequah in March.

The **KI BOIS Weatherization Program** purchased two new trucks with grants from the Department of Energy.

KI BOIS received the **Civic Improvement Award** from the Poteau Chamber of Commerce in April.

KI BOIS **Latimer County Office** flooded in early May. 3 inches of water in almost every office.

On May 17th, KI BOIS Central Office picked up trash at Roye Park in Stigler in honor of **Community Action Awareness Month**.

The **Stigler Recycling Center & Food Pantry** got a much-needed facelift in the Spring.

KI BOIS assisted local service coalitions and partners with **Back to School** events in July.

In August, **KI BOIS Muskogee County** assisted with temporary housing for victims of the Greenleaf Apartment fire in Muskogee.

Stigler resident Linda Watson donated 12 homemade quilts to the **KI BOIS Women's Shelter** in Stigler.

Heather Purdom received her CCAP Certification in August.

In September, a **KATS vehicle was stolen** from the Wetumka office and was recovered in Shawnee.

Jan Garner, Doyleene Knowlton and Royce Alverson attended the **National Community Action Partnership Conference** in New York City in August.

Doyleene Knowlton received the coveted **Fred Tucker Memorial Award** at the OKACAA Fall Conference in Oklahoma City.

The annual **RSVP Recognition Banquet** was held in Stigler in October.

The **DD Halloween Dance** was brought back in 2022.. The first since the pandemic began. FUN!!

The annual **Free Thanksgiving Dinner in Sallisaw** was a huge success once again in November.

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

From the Desk of Executive Director / CEO

R. Carroll Huggins



I am very pleased at the accomplishments that this agency achieved in 2022 in spite of the COVID Epidemic. 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.

STARTING THE NEW YEAR RIGHT IN 2023:

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 2023 will bring. Happy New Year!

*Carroll Huggins, CCAP
Executive Director / CEO*



The year 2023 will be very special for KI BOIS Community Action. We will be celebrating 55 years of helping people and changing lives in Eastern Oklahoma. Keep watching our Facebook and Twitter feeds to learn more about our how you can help us celebrate.

KI BOIS COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Parliamentarian

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KI BOIS NEWS

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

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



January 2
January 16
January 26

New Years Day Holiday
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
KI BOIS Board Meeting



IN *Action*



Stigler Middle School Student Council members and students did a lot of volunteering in December. Left, they contributed and shopped for Christmas presents for Women’s Shelter residents; Below, students rang the Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell at Stigler Walmart.



As the Kenny & Dolly song says.... *You Can’t Make Old Friends*. These three have certainly been friends for a long time, and for many years co-workers. It was nice of former Head Start Administrative Coordinator Alice Walker to come by for a visit. L-R: Carroll Huggins, Walker, Larry Hall.



Michael Knapp, KI BOIS Weatherization Director, received the Ted Allen Award at the December 13th.

IN *Action*

Sequoyah County Angel Tree



Community partners (from left) Lindsie Dyer (People Inc.), Heather Silva (SNC), and Melissa Lowe (KI BOIS), as well as KI BOIS staff Andy Kates and Tanya Harrison, all put in extra hours to make sure no child went without on Christmas morning.

The group only had one month to make it happen, and with no dedicated "Angel Tree" account or funds, they turned to the community for help.

"This year was definitely our biggest feat, and we are all very thankful for the wonderful people in our community that helped with our project this year," Dyer said. "We had businesses from all over the county and some from other states come together to help bless these families! Individuals stepped up and adopted angels to buy for; some donated gifts, and others donated cash."

This particular Angel Tree requires families to meet several qualifications prior to signing up. Families are not allowed to be on any other Angel Tree or Shop With a Cop list; they must meet income guidelines and provide proof of residency and social security cards for each child prior to sign-ups.

"I wish we could thank each and every person individually, but I am afraid I would leave someone out. So, if you are seeing this, just know that I am talking about you," Dyer added.

The trio also collaborates with Roland and Moffett Schools to host food drives each year. The food donations go toward putting together Christmas food baskets for all Angel Tree recipients' families. The Boys and Girls Club of Sequoyah County also assisted with their donations of hams for each family's food basket.



Welcome TO THE WORLD LITTLE ONE



Mr. Bodhi Bryce Edwards was born on November 28, 2022 at 5:20 p.m. He weighed in at 8 lbs. 8 oz. and was 20.75 inches long.

Bohdi was welcomed home by his parents, Hunter & Haley Edwards and sisters Harper, Jayden and Marnie.

Hunter is a KI BOIS Computer Technician. His uncle Blake Smith is the KI BOIS IT Director.

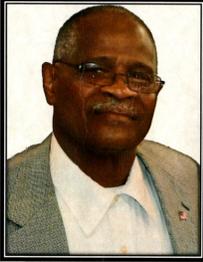
In Memoriam



Elaine Washburn

September 12, 1948 - December 31, 2022

Elaine is the mother of KI BOIS DD Program Coordinator Sherri Washburn.

<p><i>In Loving Memory of</i> John Cook</p>  <p>FEBRUARY 2, 1954 - DECEMBER 26, 2022</p>	<p>John "Pappy" Cook</p> <p>BORN February 2, 1954 McAlester, Oklahoma</p> <p>PASSED AWAY December 26, 2022 Norman, Oklahoma</p> <p>FUNERAL SERVICE Saturday, December 31, 2022 Wilburton High School Auditorium Wilburton, Oklahoma</p> <p>OFFICIATING Mr. Darren Harber Rev. Josh Bull</p> <p>INTERMENT Degnan Cemetery Wilburton, Oklahoma</p> <p>PALLBEARERS Wilburton Fire Department</p> <p>HONORARY PALLBEARERS Retired Wilburton Firemen</p> <p><i>Arrangements Entrusted to</i> Waldrop Funeral Home Wilburton, Oklahoma</p>	<p>~ REFLECTION OF LIFE ~</p> <p><i>John was a devoted husband to his beloved wife, Ruth Cook. He was the world's greatest father and grandfather. He loved to travel with his family. He lived to serve the Lord and his community. John was a friend to all.</i></p> <p>His Employment Latimer County General Hospital 27 years (Housekeeping & Maintenance Dept. Head) Worked for Kiamichi Electric 15+ years (Dispatch & Mapping) Owner of Cook's Cleaning Service Custodian at the Latimer Courthouse</p> <p>His Service Ki Bois Community Action since 1988. He was elected to the Board of Directors in 1996 and was currently serving as Chairman. Keddo Board member Latimer County Hospital Board of Directors (2010 - 2022) Member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) of Oklahoma Emergency Medical Technician Certified Red Cross CPR Instructor Wilburton Volunteer Fire Fighter (1980 - 2002) United States Army (1973 - 1977) 911 Dispatch Board of Directors Latimer County Emergency Planning Committee A member and Trustee of First Free Will Baptist Church in Wilburton Robbers Cave Fall Festival Committee - Transportation Chair (1989 - 2022) OSU Extension Rural Development Advisory Committee (2005 - 2022) Voter Precinct Poll Volunteer Member of Disabled American Veterans (DAV) of Oklahoma Chapter 20 Honor Guard Latimer County Board of Health</p>	<p>SONS Joey Cook Jonathan Cook and wife, Jessica</p> <p>DAUGHTERS Joanna Cook Jocelyn Cook</p> <p>GRANDDAUGHTERS Emissa and Eboni</p> <p>GRANDSONS JoVohn - Jalen - Leroy - Bryson - Christian</p> <p>SPECIAL NEPHEWS Michael Cook and wife, Latisha Mark Cook and wife, Jill</p> <p>SIBLINGS Brother: Harry Cook Twin Sister: Geri Cook Brother-in-law: Rodney Price and wife, Kathy Sisters-in-law: Victoria Gardner, Tennie Clark and husband, Randy</p> <p>~ PRECEDED IN DEATH BY ~</p> <p>BELIEVED WIFE Ruth Cook</p> <p>MOTHER Easter Mae Cook</p> <p>FATHER Joe DeGraffenred</p> <p>SIBLINGS Willie Cook - Claude Cook - Eddie Cook Shirley McNeil - Cynthia Cook - Donna Cook - Betty Cook</p>
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The following article was published in the March, 2020 edition of *KI BOIS NEWS*. Kay Box, former editor, had interviewed outgoing Board Chairman Gene Bass and incoming Board Chairman John Cook. This sums up John Cook to a tee. - Royce

Mr. Cook was born in Wilburton and he's proud to say he still owns the lots where he was born. He was on his way to being an outstanding athlete when he was injured with a blow to the head by a baseball bat. He was transported to OKC where he lay in a coma for seven days. Laughing Mr. Cook stated, "I woke up and saw my mom and wanted some BBQ chicken. I thought I had just been asleep. God saved me!" The injury caused him to lose his eyesight in one eye and left him with a slight paralysis on his left side. He also spoke about how he and his mom rode a bus to OKC every two weeks for two years so he could receive therapy. The accident changed Mr. Cook's life in several different ways. He could no longer play baseball, but found a love for basketball. He also found that in the military some of his goals was also limited because at that time he had no driver's license due to his injury.

Things changed though after completing his military career and returning back to Wilburton. He not only married Ruth, but someone by the name of Earl Jeffrey had taken an interest in his life. According to Mr. Cook, "Earl saw that I was going down a wrong path and he encouraged me to stop and take a look at myself. He also TOLD me to apply for a position at the hospital. He said I was the right man for the job." Earl was always there to help, encourage or to lend an ear and when he passed I lost a good friend.

Mr. Cook became part of the KI BOIS Community Board in 1989 and became Vice Chair in January 1998. Mr. Cook talks about Community Action and how it has affected him. "KI BOIS Community Action is a great organization to be a part of. We have great people working who have a passion for helping those in need." The poverty level is high in the communities we serve and our organization needs to be on the front line to help with those battles. I've seen a lot of changes in Community Action since I became involved."

Mr. Cook sees a different need today as opposed to several years ago and that is broken homes. Our children today suffer from the lack of a two parent household where parents provide and children are allowed to be children. Drugs, alcohol and incarceration are just a few of the things destroying our homes. "Our children are our greatest asset and we need to protect, provide and educate them to the best of our ability."

Mr. Cook knows the feeling of how to provide as he and Ruth have four children and proud of the fact they each attended KI BOIS Head Start and today they live productive lives. "I am scared though," states Mr. Cook. "I have big shoes to fill and I know it is going to be difficult for several months until I become more confident and get those butterflies under control."

John Cook will be missed by his family, his friends, his community, his church and by all of us at KI BOIS Community Action.



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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.