

# April, 2024

Helping People. Changing Lives.  
Serving Eastern Oklahoma Since 1968



# KI BOIS NEWS

## KI BOIS COMMUNITY ACTION AWARDED WORK READY OKLAHOMA EXPANSION GRANT FOR LEFLORE COUNTY

Following a comprehensive solicitation process across the state, KI BOIS Community Action was awarded a contract to operate an expansion of Work Ready Oklahoma (WRO) in LeFlore County. This initiative is aimed at enhancing self-sufficiency among low-income families and is an expansion of Oklahoma Human Services TANF work program.

This contract, which is renewable for up to five years, has a goal of equipping participants with the tools needed to achieve family stability and employment opportunities with livable wages.

The process dates back to early 2023 when KI BOIS was approached about applying for the LeFlore County expansion. After initially rejecting the solicitation for bid, KI BOIS leadership felt the timing was right when reapproached in the fall. Since then it's been full steam ahead.

A brand-new facility next door to our LeFlore County office is currently in construction. Staff is being pursued to fill four administrative jobs. It's a very exciting time.



*The foundation is poured and walls are being erected at the new Work Ready Oklahoma Employment Center in Poteau. Construction is due to be completed by late Summer.*

WRO employment centers deliver tailored workshops, job preparation services, coaching and support to meet the diverse needs of low-income individuals, addressing employment barriers and ensuring access to quality jobs. Each center offers co-working spaces and ongoing coaching, connecting participants with employment opportunities. Staff will be trained in evidence-based programming and included in a statewide learning network to boost peer engagement.

The first group of participants will be serviced by Work Ready Oklahoma Poteau in early fall. In the meantime, the building project will continue, staff will be hired and trained and LeFlore County residents and business community will be educated about the benefits of this wonderful program.

WRO being powered by KI BOIS Community Action goes right along with our mission of helping people and changing lives. The employment opportunities for these participants will be life-changing for them.



## From the Desk of Executive Director / CEO

**R. Carroll Huggins**



Most of our monitoring is complete for this year. Each report has been excellent. This is due to the hard work of our staff. Keep up the good work.

Our annual agency audit has been completed by the Landmark CPA firm. It is another good audit. Congratulations to our financial staff who work hard on a daily basis to keep us in compliance at all times.

Our funding at the federal level continues to be good and should so in FY2023-24. We will be getting new funding for Veterans, Transit, CSBG, Homeless Programs, and Weatherization. The state budget for next year is still being considered but increases are expected.

Remember that we are the voice of the elderly, handicapped, poor, and needy in our service area. Keep up the fine work that you are doing each day.

As you enjoy this beautiful spring season with your family and friends please remember the brave men and women who wear the uniform of our country who are protecting our country. Please pray for their safety and pray for the leaders of our nation.

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

### KI BOIS COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**1st Vice Chair**

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**Executive Director/CEO**

Tom Marlatt, CCAP  
**Associate Director/CFO**

Larry Hall, CCAP  
**Associate Director/COO**

#### **KI BOIS NEWS**

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## We care about what you think.

Please take time to complete our COMMUNITY NEEDS SURVEY. Let us know what you think the priorities are in your community. These are YOUR Communities. These are YOUR needs. This is YOUR well-being. We want to hear from YOU.

Share the survey with your friends, family members, neighbors, and co-workers. We will collect surveys from now until 6/30/24.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO BE REDIRECTED TO THE SURVEY



April 2 - 4:  
April 22:  
April 24 - 25:

Region VI Conference - Santa Fe, NM  
KI BOIS Executive Board Meeting, 2pm  
OKACAA Spring Conference - Oklahoma City, OK

#kibois #BeCommunityAction #CommunityActionWorks #60YearsStrong



# APRIL IS SECOND CHANCE MONTH



President Biden has proclaimed April as Second Chance Month. Join OJJDP and the Department of Justice’s Office of Justice Programs (OJP) in supporting second chances for system-involved youth.

Each year, OJJDP takes this opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to helping youth successfully transition out of the justice system and back into their communities. Throughout April, there will be Second Chance Month webinars and events in collaboration with OJP program offices.

## Human Resources Director Gets A BIGGER Monitor

Bless her heart, KI BOIS Human Resources Director Doyleene Knowlton simply asked for a bigger monitor or two that would allow her to do comparisons and other tedious HR tasks.

KI BOIS IT Tech Jeremy Porter had other ideas, being the jokester he is. On the afternoon of March 20th, with Doyleene away from the office for a while, Jeremy replaced her lowly 24” monitor with a 55” television.

Needless to say, Doyleene was shocked and a bit tickled when she returned to find it on her desk. It was a laughable moment for all staff and, yes, it was caught on video. View it on the KI BOIS Facebook page!



← Claudia Jeffrey and Royce Alverson participate in Safety Day in Wilburton on March 21st. The City of Wilburton sponsored family-friendly events all week during Spring Break.

→ Employees from the Board & Administration office in Stigler attended the Ribbon Cutting ceremony at Veterans Park in Stigler on April 1st. This ceremony kicked off Child Abuse Prevention Month.



# Solar Eclipse Pics... next month!

Solar Eclipse Pics... next month!





# FOR YOUR INFORMATION



*Submitted by Kathy Healy, Healthy Living Program Coordinator*

I am so excited and proud that our Stigler VFW passed a “No Tobacco” policy. If you know anything about the VFW or know someone who plays Bingo, you know that smoking usually goes with it. I would go with my mother and my aunts to play, and they were very serious players. When I say serious, I mean do not talk while they are calling numbers because you will get a shushing if you’re lucky and a lot worse if they were close to a Bingo. They were just as serious about their smoking. I have seen people sit down next to them and tell them that their smoke bothers them. My mother and aunts would tell them to sit somewhere else. So, in other words messing with the Bingo players is not easy. It was a difficult step for VFW but a step in the right direction. No matter how much a smoker wants to smoke, they do not want their kids to start smoking. When the VFW went No Tobacco, they lost some players. This is an unfortunate truth that hurts the community and the vets that the VFW help. However, I think that when we continue to get the word out the VFW is a smoke free environment, we will see people start to come again. Bingo is a fun time and a chance to have fun with friends and family. Who knows, you could win some money! The VFW does so much for our community we need to do what we can to give back to awesome organization! ***Bingo every Thursday evening. Early Games at 4:30 p.m. Mini Games at 6:00 p.m. Regular games at 7:00 p.m.***



Latimer County Coordinator Claudia Jeffrey was the winner, in her age group, of the 1st Annual Brock Anderson Memorial 5K race in Wilburton on March 30th. Her grandson, Christian Fair was the overall winner. Christian is the son of KI BOIS Rx for Oklahoma/VITA Director Amy Fair.





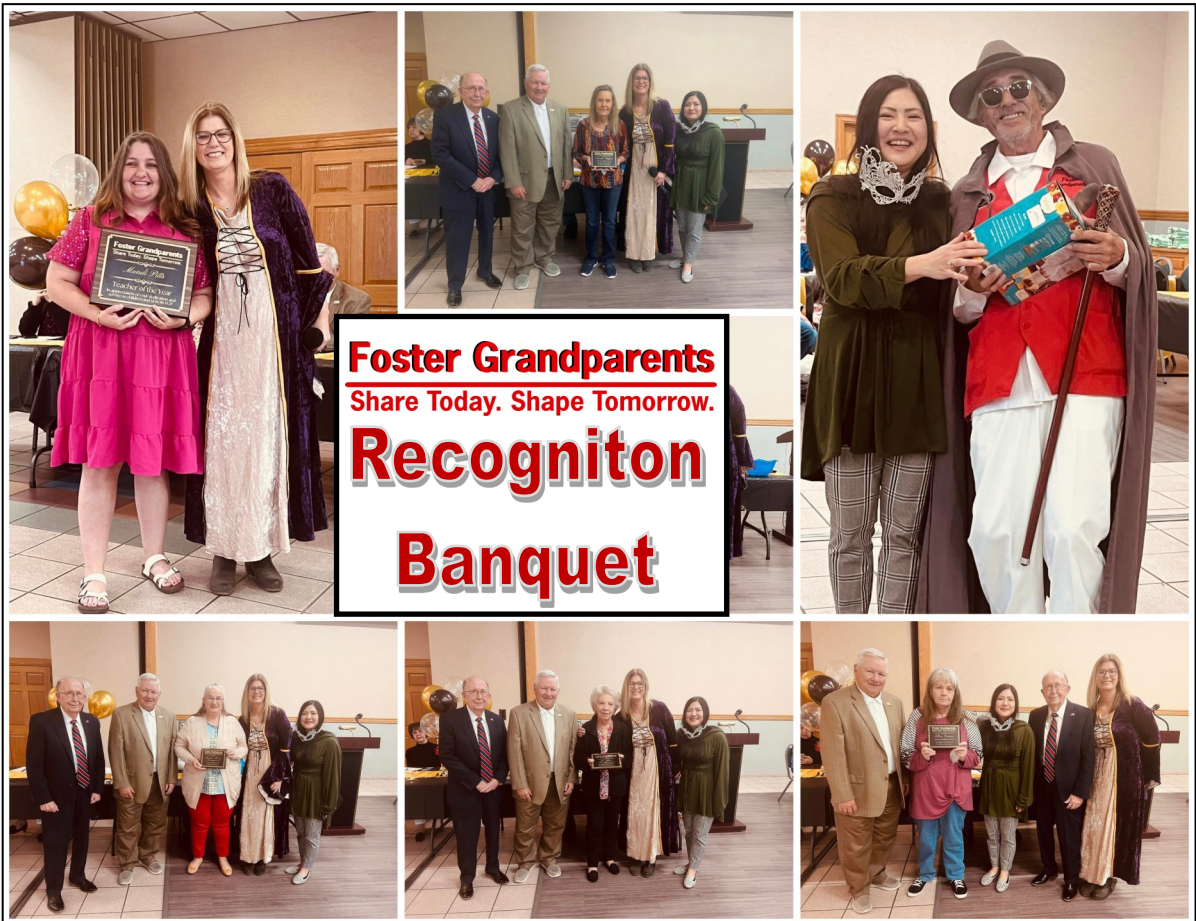
# IN *Action*



## MARY ROBERSON AWARDED FOSTER GRANDPARENT OF THE YEAR

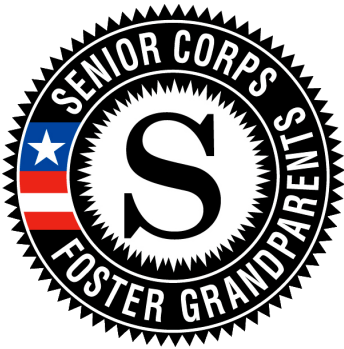
Mary Roberson, Foster Grandparent volunteer at Dahlongegah School in Adair County, was recognized as Foster Grandparent of the Year at the Foster Grandparent Recognition Banquet in Tahlequah on March 22nd.

Roberson also received her five year service award that day. She and the other KI BOIS Foster Grandparent volunteers are true assets to the agency.





# IN *Action*





**1964 - 2024**

In every corner of America. Helping people, changing lives — for 60 years and counting.

**RECOGNIZING 60 YEARS OF COMMUNITY ACTION!**

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.