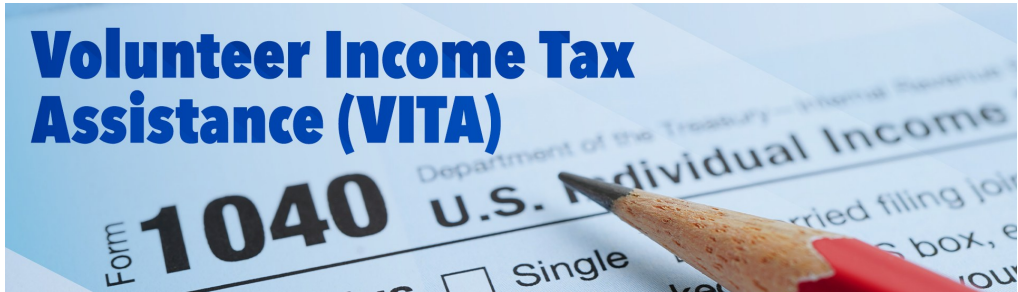


February, 2025

Helping People. Changing Lives.
Serving Eastern Oklahoma Since 1968



KI BOIS NEWS

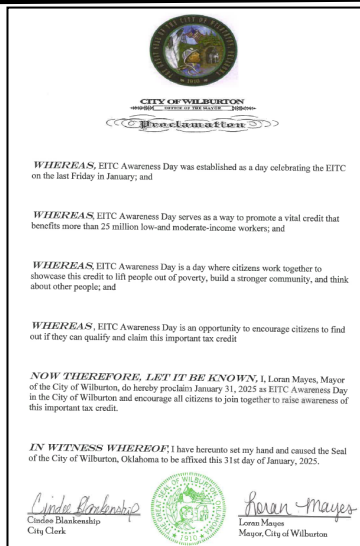


KI BOIS staff attended the IRS Oklahoma Partner Meeting on December 12th in Midwest City. KI BOIS has partnered with the IRS since December 2003 to offer free tax preparation services to qualified taxpayers.

The VITA program is an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) program designed to help low-and moderate-income taxpayers complete their annual tax returns at no cost. To carry out it's mission of free tax preparation for taxpayers who qualify, the VITA program uses trained and certified volunteers to provide the service of preparing tax returns. Founded in 1971 by Gary Iskowitz at California State University Northridge, the original program concept was to provide local taxpayers with free tax return preparation in an effort to provide a valuable community service and a hands-on learning experience for the students. The program has grown from a small group of accounting students to a nationwide program with more than 92,000 volunteers preparing 3.2 million returns annually. Staff is already busy preparing returns. For tax-year 2024, the income threshold is \$67,000 or less.



Pictured L-R: Jeremy Porter, Nikki Morrison, Stephanie McCann, Amy Fair, Dena Baker, IRS Sr. Tax Consultant, Rosalind Newby and Megan Reames



Wilburton Mayor Issues VITA Proclamation



Pictured L-R: Stephanie McCann, Mayor of Wilburton Loran Mayes, Claudia Jeffrey and Jonathan Wynn, KI BOIS Board Member.

From the Desk of Executive Director / CEO

R. Carroll Huggins



February 2025 is here and our annual agency audit is near completion. The CPA audit team will report the audit to the Board of Directors at our March 27, 2025 Board Meeting. Our compliments to our financial staff for their hard work throughout the year.

Several members of the KI BOIS Community Action staff have been in trained by the IRS to do free Income Tax Preparation for our low-income clients under the VITA program.

Our Weatherization program has expanded in territory and funding. Our SSVF Program and our KATS Program have both received funding increases.

Our hearts and prayers go out to those who are still dealing with Covid and the Flu. We are so grateful to those in the Health Care field who are caring for those affected.

Our agency continues to grow and prosper due to the hard work and dedication of our Board, staff, and volunteers. We look forward to the challenges of 2025. February 14th is also St. Valentine’s Day so don’t forget your sweetheart or you may be in trouble. We will also be celebrating the upcoming President’s Day Federal Holiday!

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

KI BOIS COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Bud Smithson
- Janice Williams
- Jonathan Wynn

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KI BOIS NEWS

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

**Salvation Army
Honors Volunteers**



The Muskogee Salvation Army recently honored volunteers with a recognition supper at the Army Chapel in Muskogee. Among those honored was KI BOIS 1st Vice Chair Board member Joy Walker (3rd from left in the picture above). She and fellow volunteer Joann Clark were presented plaques for their dedication during the annual Angel Tree distribution. There were 552 children served through this program... 100 more than in the past year. Major Regina Durant said “I am so in awe of these ladies. I didn’t have to worry about anything, working with Angel Tree.” Congratulations Joy!

Calendar of Events



- February 2 - Groundhog Day
- February 14 - Valentine’s Day
- February 17 - President’s Day Holiday
- February 24 - KI BOIS Executive Board Meeting.



Ardmore DD Services

KI BOIS Community Action provides Developmental Disabilities (DD) Services that includes clients in the Ardmore area of the state. KI BOIS employs Habilitation Training Specialists (HTS) and Health Care Coordinator's (HCC) assigned to each home served. The caseload in Ardmore has grown to require three Program Coordinator's (PC's) who supervise staff, schedule shifts, secure training opportunities and provide admin support.

On February 4th & 5th, Jan Garner, KI BOIS Fiscal Officer, Doylene Knowlton, KI BOIS Human Resources Director, Jodi Briggs, KI BOIS Payroll Coordinator and Shelly Davis, KI BOIS Billing Specialist traveled to Ardmore to meet with the PC's to provide training. These four ladies have a combined knowledge of over 100 years experience at KI BOIS Community Action. "We felt that it was important to visit our Ardmore operation in person and introduce ourselves, get to know the staff, and provide one-on-one training to the PC's," said Jan Garner.

On day two, the PC's accompanied them to several client homes where they were introduced to direct-care staff and the clients they serve. "It was a great opportunity to the incredible staff and clients in Ardmore," said Doylene Knowlton.



FYI FOR YOUR INFORMATION

INCOME TAX
FREE PREPARATION

If your income is less than \$67,000 and you have a **BASIC** Income Tax return, KI BOIS Community Action will prepare and e-file your Income Taxes for **FREE!**

KI BOIS has IRS-certified preparers to assist you in e-filing your Federal AND Oklahoma state taxes. The following Income Tax preparation sites will be available January 27th – April 15th, 2025, for your 2024 Income Taxes.

ATTENTION **2025 Requirements**
 It is **REQUIRED** for anyone taking advantage of this service to provide the following, or we will be unable to process your return.

- ✓ Photo identification of Taxpayer or Spouse
- ✓ Social Security card for **EACH** family member named on the return
- ✓ Proof of Health Insurance Coverage (Form 1095) or Exemption Form (Form 8965)
- ✓ A voided check or letter from the bank, routing number & account number for direct deposit
- ✓ All W-2's, 1099's and 1098's (Bank Interest & Royalties) received in 2024

KI BOIS **WILL NOT** prepare the following returns:

- Civil Service Retirement (CSA-1099's)
- Stocks
- Capital Gains/Losses
- Cancellation of Debt
- Health Savings Accounts (HSA)
- Farms
- Clergy
- Any other return that is deemed out of scope by each county office.

IRS e-file

KI BOIS Community Action
 PARTNERSHIP
 AMERICA'S POVERTY FIGHTING NETWORK

Wilburton: 918-465-3381
 McAlester: 918-423-3525
 Poteau: 918-647-3267
 Stigler: 918-967-3325

WR
WORK READY
 POTEAU

January WRO Graduates

11th Annual
Eastern Oklahoma
AUTISM WALK

FLOYD H NORRIS PARK, TAHLEQUAH, OK

SATURDAY, APRIL 5
 11 A.M. – 1 P.M.

Bring the whole family.

Event Highlights
 GAMES & ACTIVITIES
 FOOD & REFRESHMENTS

PERVASIVE PARENTING CENTER
 C.P.R.C.
 PRESENTS

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 918-647-1255 OR EMAIL
 TVARBERY@PERVASIVEPARENTINGCENTER.ORG

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CELEBRATING
3 Million
 Registered Children!

Dolly Parton's IMAGINATION LIBRARY

In October, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL) reached a significant milestone with 3 million children under five registered worldwide, distributing over 3 million books each month. That's one book mailed every .86 seconds! This incredible achievement reflects the dedication of more than 2,800 local Imagination Library Partners working to bring the gift of reading to families everywhere.

KI BOIS Community Action is the fiscal agent for the Haskell County Coalition, DPIL affiliate.

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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.