

August, 2024

Helping People. Changing Lives.
Serving Eastern Oklahoma Since



KI BOIS NEWS

Rx for Oklahoma... A Life-Changing Program

The KI BOIS Community Action Rx For Oklahoma program is a prescription assistance program designed to help Oklahoma residents, regardless of age, who are uninsured or underinsured. The Rx staff assists with the completion of the application and required documentation. Although KI BOIS Rx for Oklahoma cannot guarantee approval, the staff goes to great lengths to do everything possible to get the client approved through the pharmaceutical company. Below is a great story of just how important and life-changing this program has been to a local client.

In May 2024, Curtis Baker met with Stephanie McCann, Rx Outreach Worker from Wilburton, at The Eufaula Health and Wellness Center to apply for assistance with the RX for Oklahoma Program. He had been given a sample of Rinvoq from his Provider and the medication seemed to be working. Mr. Baker has Medicare with a Part D plan and his insurance would not allow the medication due to the criteria that had to be met first. Mr. Baker allowed Stephanie to appeal Humana's decision to deny the life-saving medication.

On June 5th , 2024, after a long-drawn-out process of calling the Insurance company several times and sending in what they required, Mr. Baker was finally approved his Rinvoq through Humana. After calling and giving Mr. Baker the news of his approval, Stephanie called to check the cost of his copay with the Pharmacy and it was \$3095.00 for a 27-day supply! Of course, it was devastating news. The cost was way out of what anyone could afford.

Stephanie sent the approval letter from Humana and the pharmacy co-pay cost to AbbVie.

On June 10th , 2024, AbbVie reviewed the paperwork and called Mr. Baker to let him know he was approved for Rinvoq until Dec 2024 at no cost to him. He will receive a 90-day supply at a time through December 2024. Mr. Baker is very appreciative of the lengths and time that was put into getting him this very important medication that he would not normally be able to afford.

This is just one example of how the outreach efforts and persistence of KI BOIS staff pays off. Being a long-time KI BOIS employee, Stephanie knew how to navigate the systems set forth and pursue the appeals and she was successful in connecting Mr. Baker to another company. This is a perfect example of the KI BOIS culture. We are truly "Helping People and Changing Lives!"

Mr. Baker sent an appreciation letter to Amy Fair, Rx for Oklahoma Director, and Stephanie and praised them for the work they put into helping him get his medication for free. You can read the letter on Page 3 of this newsletter. Way to go Rx for Oklahoma! **NOTE: Mr. Baker gave consent to tell his story and print the**



From the Desk of Executive Director / CEO

R. Carroll Huggins



Summer break for students is over! Schools are starting back! Some schools start back on August 12th! Each of our County Coalitions have had back to school events with Backpacks of school supplies and other family activities.

At both the State and Federal Level we continue to operate under current funding levels with some small increases. We have had monitoring and follow up visits coming up on most all of our programs and we had a one week pre-audit visit from our audit staff.

Some people say that problems are not problems, but rather, they are opportunities. In Community Action there are daily problems or opportunities depending on how you look at it.

That means the greatest of opportunities awaits us. The opportunity to impact lives. There are three kinds of work: First there is a *job*, where the goal is simple earning a living and supporting your family. Then there's the *career*, where you trace your progress through various appointments and achievements. Finally, there's the *calling*, the ideal blending of activity and character that makes work inseparable from life.

We are truly blessed to be called to work with disadvantaged families, to daily have the opportunity to impact their lives. Community Action, what a wonderful profession! What a wonderful opportunity!

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

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



The Poteau Work Ready Oklahoma program is coming along nicely. The construction of the new facility is nearing completion and staff is busy making contacts and growing their network.

Staff has also attended extensive training in Oklahoma City to ready them for their first participant class beginning the week of September 16th.

The contact information for the Work Ready Oklahoma—Poteau site is:

213 Kerr Avenue
Poteau, OK 74953
Phone: 918-650-4608

Current staff members are: Jarrod Ridenour, Program Director; Aaron Goad, Program Manager and Andy Kates, Job & Employment Coach.



<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61563286808458>



August 26
September 2

KI BOIS Executive Board Meeting
Labor Day Holiday

School is back in session! Be aware of the little ones and be safe.



#kibois #BeCommunityAction #CommunityActionWorks #HelpingPeopleChangingLives



Rx for Oklahoma... Continued from Page 1

My name is Curtis Baker and I would like to tell everyone about the help I received from the Kibbois Community Action Agency to get a new medicine to treat Crohn's disease.

I was diagnosed with Crohn's in 1997 and after trials on a number of medications I was prescribed Colozal along with Azathioprine. I did well on these until a year ago in June. They just stopped working. I made numerous trips to doctors but nothing we tried would control the episodes of Crohn's. I was sick and in pain daily. Finally in Jan. this year the Gastro doctor in Tulsa prescribed Rinvoq for me, stating it would be best for me.

Now comes the problem. My Insurance would not approve Rinvoq, and without insurance, a 30 day supply would \$6,170. That was out of my budget. I needed help.

A friend at Church Sam Rossen gave me the phone number of Amy Fair at Kibbois and said I should call

her because Kibbois get help for people in my circumstance. I called and she and Stephanie made my gum team to Jay Stephanie went to work filing papers a request with the drug company and insurance company to get the Rinvoq approved for me. At first we get denials but Stephanie would not give up, after 3 denials for my insurance and repeated request to the drug company for enrolment into their assistance program, I have been approved.

I am receiving Rinvoq cost free and my health is improving steadily. The Rinvoq is working and my daily life is looking much brighter.

Bless you all for your help
Thank you Sam Rossen
Thank you Amy Fair
Thank you Stephanie McLean
for all your hard work to get me back to a more healthful life.
your friend Always
Curtis Baker



Welcome TO THE WORLD LITTLE ONE

Miley Jo Faulkner made her way into this great big world on July 4th, 2024. This little firecracker is the daughter of DJ and Makensi Faulkner. Her grandmother is Jennifer Faulkner, KI BOIS Adult Day Center Director. Welcome to our KI BOIS family Miss Miley Jo.



TAMAHA SCHOOL RESTORATION OPEN HOUSE

Submitted by Denice Daniels

On July 17, The Town of Tamaha, along with the Choctaw Nation, held a ribbon cutting for the newly restored Tamaha School House. Tamaha leaders and citizens have worked hard to apply for grants from the Choctaw Nation, USDA and TSET Healthy Living Program as well as raising private funds to restore the school house to a functioning facility.

The work this little community has done to restore this historical icon is amazing, especially considering the size of the community.

Tamaha is currently working to reopen the building as a Senior Citizens Center, among other things, to provide healthy food options to those citizens that find it difficult to drive 45 minutes into Stigler.

As you can see, KI BOIS was well represented at the event and we look forward to working with this community in the future. Its great to see what we can accomplish together!

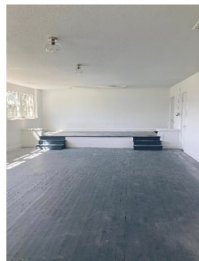


1st Row, L-R: Larry Watson, Dist. 2 Commissioner; Carroll Huggins, KI BOIS Executive Director/CEO; Jess Henry, Choctaw Councilman; Ron Perry, Choctaw Councilman; Michelle Stallard, Mayor of Tamaha; Karen Allen; Aundreah Coye, USDA; Denice Daniels, TSET; Larry Cox, Tamaha Council. 2nd Row, L-R: Linda Love, KI BOIS Planning & Development Director; Ron Falconer, Larry Hall, KI BOIS COO; Tom Marlatt, KI BOIS CFO; Jim Rowe; Tina Parsons, Tamaha Council; Diana Jaramillo, Tamaha Council.

Before



After



IN *Action*

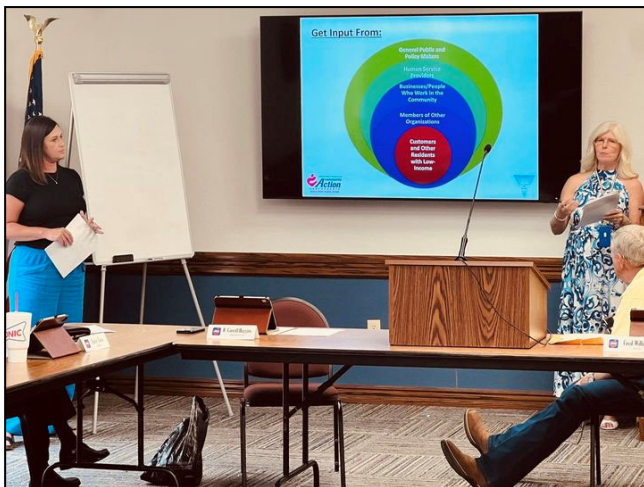
KI BOIS Board Members



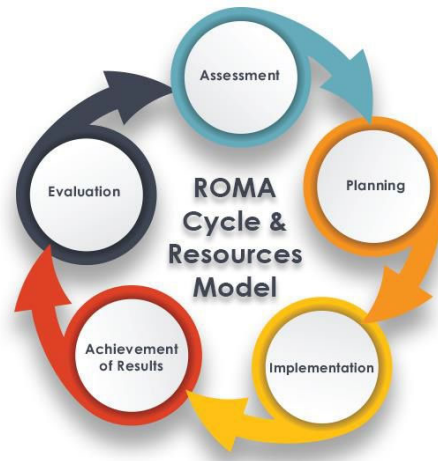
KI BOIS Board Chairman Cecil Williams is honored for his service in the Army in Poteau. Thank you for your service to our Country and to our Board Corporal Williams.



KI BOIS Board Member Janice Williams was all smiles as she assists at the annual Back to School Roundup in Stigler on July 22nd.



Linda Love and Brandie Risenhoover provided ROMA Board training to the KI BOIS Board of Directors at the bi-monthly Board Meeting on July 25th. KI BOIS uses this model to manage and assess community needs and reporting to funding sources.



IN *Action*

YOUR CHANGE CHANGES LIVES

Nearly two decades back, a small idea sprouted into a spectacular yearly event - the Back to School Bash by the Living in Latimer County Coalition. This time around, they're on a mission to hand out 350 backpacks jam-packed with school goodies to kids in the community. Let's give a big shoutout to our awesome members whose regular, monthly donations make this heartwarming act of kindness possible!



To learn more about Operation Round Up, please visit www.kiamichielectric.org



The Red Oak Masonic Lodge recently presented a donation check to the Living in Latimer Coalition to use toward their annual Back to School Bash. Accepting the donation on behalf of the Coalition was Tana Hanson, Claudia Jeffrey and Stephanie McCann.

Thank You Kiamichi Electric



U.S. SENATOR MARKWAYNE MULLIN COMMUNITY VISIT IN STIGLER

Senator Markwayne Mullin made a stop at the Kiamichi Technology Center in Stigler on August 7th to provide a legislative update and answer questions.

Pictured with Senator Mullins in our very own Associate Director/COO Tom Marlatt and Stigler/Haskell County Chamber Director and KI BOIS Board member Janice Williams.

GREAT DAY FOR DVS

McKinlee Crase, KI BOIS DVS Director was joined fellow directors and advocates at the Oklahoma State Capitol on August 2nd when Governor Kevin Stitt signed Senate Bill 2039-creating the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services Revolving Fund.

According to McKinlee, "This was a great step for victim services in Oklahoma."





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. *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.

EMPLOYMENT Opportunities

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.