

February 2023

Helping People. Changing Lives.
Serving Eastern Oklahoma Since 1968



KI BOIS NEWS

Rain. Sleet. Snow!

KI BOIS Food Pantry Carries On

KI BOIS Food Pantries are continuing to give back to our communities. Throughout the pandemic, the facilities have seen an increase in need. With inflation rising, families are having to cut their food costs to offset the cost of other necessities.



In 2021, Over 58,784 pounds of food was received for distribution at food pantries. A total of 2,852 families accessed the food pantries.

When the boxes (and boxes) of food arrives at a KI BOIS Food Pantry from the distribution center, they must be unloaded, sorted and put on the shelves. Whether it's sunny and 70 degrees, rainy and 45 degrees or below freezing with sleet or snow, our Food Pantry workers are there to get the job done.

Left, LeFlore County Food Pantry workers Ashley Cogburn, Stacy Richardson, Brooklyn Teegarden and Misti Roberts unloading boxes of food in the cold rain after the February snow/ice storm. These ladies do a great job and are vital to the operations of that location. Great job! #BeCommunityAction

Board Members Seated &

Executive Board Members Elected

KI BOIS Community Action welcomed two new Board members at the January 26, 2023 Board meeting: Jonathan Wynn from Latimer County and Charlie Rogers from Pittsburg County.

In addition to seating new Board members, Executive Board Members were elected. The Members are: Cecil Williams, Chair; Joy Walker, 1st Vice-Chair; Frank Phillips, 2nd Vice-Chair; Jan Coplen, Secretary/Treasurer; Kodey Toney, Parliamentarian.



Carroll Huggins, Jonathan Wynn, Cecil Williams



Carroll Huggins, Charlie Rogers, Cecil Williams

From the Desk of Executive Director / CEO

R. Carroll Huggins



February 2023 is here and our annual agency audit is complete. The CPA audit team reported to us that it is a clean audit with no question costs. Our compliments to our financial staff for their hard work throughout the year.

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

Weatherization, CSBG, SSVF, Transit, RSVP, and Foster Grandparent programs are funded through a continuing resolution at this time. State funded programs are funded until June 30, 2023.

Our hearts and prayers go out to those who are still dealing with Covid. 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 2023. 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!

**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

- Gene Bass
- De’Anne Booth
- Jeremy Bullard
- Henry Burris
- Joyce Cleveland
- Rosalind Didlott
- Lyndon Emberton
- Roy Gordon, Jr.
- Chuck Regan
- Charlie Rogers
- Bud Smithson
- Janice Williams
- Jonathan Wynn

Executive Leadership

R. Carroll Huggins, CCAP
Executive Director/CEO

Tom Marlatt
Associate Director/CFO

Larry Hall
Associate Director/COO

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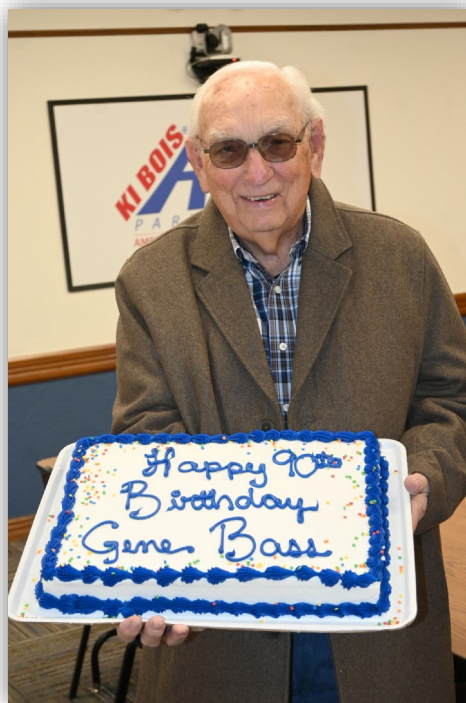
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KI BOIS Board Member Turns 90

Former KI BOIS Board Chair, and current Board Member, Gene Bass was honored with a surprise birthday party at the January 26th Board meeting.

Mr. Bass arrived and walked into the conference room to applause, hand-shakes and hugs from his fellow Board members and KI BOIS staff.

Everyone enjoyed cake and lemonade, and of course Gene was all smiles when the guests sang *Happy Birthday To You*.



Calendar of Events



- February 8
- February 20
- February 22
- February 27
- March 12
- March 23
- March 29 - 31

- Lunch & Learn in Poteau with Michael Knapp
- President’s Day Holiday
- Lunch & Learn in Stigler—Narcan Training
- KI BOIS Executive Board Meeting
- Daylight Savings Time begins (Spring Forward)
- KI BOIS Board Meeting
- OKACAA Spring Conference (Virtual)



Stigler KATS Drivers Receive Award



Stigler KATS drivers recently received the Safety Award for the 4th straight year.

To earn the safety award you have to go an entire year without an at fault accident. Stigler KATS drove over 150,000 miles and transporting more than 27, 000 riders in 2022 while staying accident free.

Pictured L-R: Lena Brewer, Stacey Lewis, Kathy Lewis, Terry Williams, Tresha Wages, Bryan Chambers, Wyatt Strauch, Darrell Stout and Aric Bush.

Great job Stigler KATS!!

Crase Joins Legislative Committee

KI BOIS Domestic Violence Services Director McKinlee Crase recently joined the Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (OCADVSA) Legislative Committee. This Committee is comprised of 15-20 Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program Directors from across the State of Oklahoma.

Committee members will meet once a month, along with their OCADVSA Coalition Court Liaison, Jenny Ellis, to discuss new bills and laws around Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (DVSA). It will also serve as a united voice for the programs and shelters need and how State funds are appropriated to enhance the impact of the DVSA programs.

After discussion among the committee, results are shared with the OCADVSA Lobbyist who then takes it to the legislators at the Capitol.



Outgoing Board member Ross Selman was presented a plaque at the January Board Meeting in recognition for his service to the KI BOIS Board from 2017-2022.

In Memoriam



Floyd Jefferson Turney

November 17, 1958—February 8, 2023

Floyd is the brother of KI BOIS Foster Grandparent Program Director Shaunda Noah.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

IN *Action*



Lunch & Learn Comes To Poteau

KI BOIS LeFlore County hosted Lunch & Learn in Poteau on February 8th. Michael Knapp, KI BOIS Weatherization Director, provided information and demonstrations to employees in an effort to educate our front-line staff, program directors and board members about this longtime program.

KI BOIS Weatherization is a no-cost energy conservation program currently serving LeFlore, Sequoyah, Haskell, Latimer and Pittsburg counties. This program can reduce utility costs by 50%.

For more information and to download the application, visit www.kibois.org and click on Weatherization on the menu.



Michael Knapp, KI BOIS Weatherization Director, received two appreciation awards at the OWHAC meeting in December. Left, he was presented the Ted Allen Memorial Award. Mr. Allen was an urban planner for U.S. Housing and Urban Development and was killed in the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in 1995. Right, he was presented a plaque in appreciation of his service as OWHAC President from 2019—2021.



* OWHAC— Oklahoma Weatherization & Housing Advisory Council



“ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A 5TH GRADER?”
A FUND RAISER EVENT FOR HASKELL COUNTY COALITION



Three words... We Are Not! But our three KI BOIS teams had a great time participating for this great cause. The “Kool KATS” team made it all the way to round 4, but the “KI BOIS Kuties” and “It’s Five O’Clock Somewhere” teams were out after round 2. Linda Love, Kathy Healy and Denice Daniels were busy keeping score and running answers to the Judge.




If your income is less than \$60,000 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 February 1st – April 15th, 2023, for your 2022 Income Taxes.

ATTENTION 2023 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 for direct deposit
- ✓ All W-2's, 1099's and 1098's (Bank Interest & Royalties) received in 2022

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.



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



NCAP and the Community Action Network are proud to celebrate Black History Month during the month of February. Black History Month is an annual observance originating in the United States, where it is also known as African-American History Month. It has received official recognition from governments in the United States and Canada, and more recently has been observed in Ireland and the United Kingdom. It began as a way of remembering important people and events in the history of the African diaspora. It is celebrated in February in the United States and Canada, while in Ireland and the United Kingdom it is observed in October.

** Taken from Wikipedia*



KI BOIS Community Action is celebrating 55 years in 2023, and plans are being made to commemorate this milestone. The highlight of the year will be our company-wide picnic in May.



May 25, 2023
Roye Park - Stigler

WE ARE HIRING!

A career with KI BOIS is a career with a future! ✓



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Service Awards

MATCHING RETIREMENT ✓

ARE YOU OUR MISSING PIECE?

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KI BOIS Community Action is the largest non-profit employer in S.E. Oklahoma. We provide growth opportunities and a great place to work! www.kibois.org



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.