

# January, 2025

Helping People. Changing Lives.  
Serving Eastern Oklahoma Since 1968



KI BOIS NEWS

## 2024 REVIEW

KI BOIS Community Action kicked off the year by acknowledging the 60th anniversary of Community Action.

January was *Poverty In America Awareness Month* across the Nation.

The Dolly Parton's Imagination Library was in full swing and *Dolly Day* was celebrated with a fundraiser at Brew & Bliss in Stigler.

KATS brought home the trophy and bragging rights at the annual *Are You Smarter Than A 5th Grader* fundraiser.

In February, First Baptist Church in Stigler hosted a Valentine's Dinner for the *Domestic Violence Services clients and staff*.

VITA volunteers began preparing income taxes for clients.

The KI BOIS SSVF team was recognized at one of six "Superlatives" nationwide.

The Haskell County *Healthy Living Program* provided improvements to the Town of Whitefield in March.

Sequoyah County Partners, led by Melissa Lowe, hosted a *Are You Smarter Than A 5th Grader* fundraiser

KI BOIS was awarded the *Work Ready Oklahoma* Expansion Contract for LeFlore County and plans were made to construct a new building to house the operation.

Mary Roberson was awarded *Foster Grandparent of the Year* at the annual recognition banquet in Tahlequah.

Latimer County Coordinator *Claudia Jeffrey* placed 1st in her age group at the 1st annual Brock Anderson Memorial 5k Race in Wilburton in April.

KI BOIS staff enjoyed checking out the total *Solar Eclipse* on April 8, 2024. Everyone looked so cool in their sunglasses!

KI BOIS joined sister agencies across the nation in celebrating *Community Action Month* in May. Our county offices participated in community outreach projects. Proclamations were signed and cake and punch were served at the KI BOIS Board meeting.

The *Work Ready Oklahoma* administrative staff was hired and immediately began training.

The Latimer County Food Bank distributed food boxes to children via the *Summer Food Service Program*.

In June, *Marcy Ross* became the newest CCAP (Certified Community Action Professional) at KI BOIS.

The KI BOIS *Weatherization* program launched "WapLink", a new way to personalize the weatherization experience online.

KI BOIS was heavily involved with the various *Back to School* round-up's and bashes throughout our service area in July– August.

The Haskell County *Healthy Living Program* facilitated applying for a TSET grant for the Town of Tamaha to restore the old school house there.

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## From the Desk of Executive Director / CEO

### R. Carroll Huggins



I am very pleased at the accomplishments that this agency achieved in 2024. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all board members, employees, and volunteers for their efforts to improve the quality of life for our low-income clients in this strained environment.

In addition to our normal activities, our auditors have completed our annual agency audit. Our Annual Board of Director's Meeting will be held January 23, 2025 at 3:00PM at our Stigler office. The Board will be electing officers and accepting the Annual Audit among other business.

#### STARTING THE NEW YEAR RIGHT IN 2025:

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 2025 will bring. Happy New Year!

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

# 2024 REVIEW

\*\*\* Continued from Page 1 \*\*\*

**U.S. Senator Markwayne Mullin** provided a legislative update in Stigler on August 7, 2024.

KI BOIS DVS Director McKinlee Crase joined fellow directors and advocates at the state Capitol as Gov. Stitt signed Senate Bill 2039 into law, creating the **Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services Revolving Fund**.

KI BOIS Weatherization held it's first **Information Forum** in Muskogee.

The **Work Ready Oklahoma** site in Poteau officially opened in their new facility in September.

**U.S. Senator James Lankford** visited and toured the Town of Stigler.

**Jan Garner** received the Fred Tucker Memorial Award at the annual OKACAA Fall Conference.

Longtime KI BOIS Board Chairman **Gene Bass** passed away on September 18, 2024. Mr. Bass was a champion for the agency for many years and is missed.

**Procurement Training** was held in Stigler in October to roll out the new purchasing procedures put in place.

The **DD Halloween Dance/Party** was a huge success.

The annual **Free Thanksgiving Dinner in Sallisaw** was a huge success once again in November. Over 750 meals were served.

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

**Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign** began in December in Stigler, Wilburton and McAlester.

## 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

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KI BOIS Community Action  
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Royce Alverson, CCAP - Editor  
918-967-3325, Ext. 134  
Royce.Alverson@kibois.org



January 1 New Years Day Holiday  
January 20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday  
January 23 KI BOIS Board Meeting



## Latimer County Sheriff Makes Donation



Latimer County Sheriff Adam Woodruff is shown unloading a pickup bed full of canned goods that were donated to the Sheriff's Department from Latimer County schools. The cans were subsequently donated to the KI BOIS Food Pantry in Wilburton for distribution to families in need.

## Franklin Electric Volunteers at Food Bank

The Latimer County Food Pantry is grateful to Franklin Electric for the employee volunteers that helped sort and shelve all the donated food items from the local sheriff's food drive. Shown are (L-R) Claudia Jeffrey, Cindy Ulmer, Amy Lytle, Megan Damewood, and Stephanie McCann.

## Blood Drive Is Huge Success



Members of Wilburton's VFW Auxiliary #3649 recently partnered with KI BOIS and the Oklahoma Blood Institute for a blood drive. Forty-six rolled up their sleeves and gave blood.

Working the KI BOIS and VFW Auxiliary Blood drive were Meg Nicholson, Carolyn Coil, Claudia Jeffrey, Linda Morgan, and Polly McCord.



# FYI FOR YOUR INFORMATION

FEBRUARY 7 & 8

## OkMOM 2025

TULSA  
MISSION OF MERCY

**VETERANS!**  
Pre-register  
Thursday, February 6,  
at 3 P.M.  
Must show proof of I.D.

TWO DAYS OF FREE DENTAL CARE FOR ALL AGES

**TULSA EXPO SQUARE**  
4145 E 21st St, Tulsa, OK 74114

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**  
WWW.OKMOM.ORG

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 A.M. EACH DAY

<p><b>SERVICES OFFERED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cleanings</li> <li>• Fillings</li> <li>• Extractions</li> <li>• Limited Root Canals</li> <li>• Some Partial</li> <li>• Immunizations</li> </ul>	<p><b>SERVICES NOT OFFERED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full Sets of Braces</li> <li>• Dentures</li> <li>• Root Canals on Back Teeth</li> <li>• Wisdom Teeth Extractions</li> <li>• Night Guards</li> <li>• Implants</li> </ul>	<p><b>NO Appointment Required</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>First-come, First-served</i></li> </ul> <p><b>NO Eligibility or Payment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>No Insurance Needed</i></li> </ul> <p><b>NO Questions Asked</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>No ID Required</i></li> </ul>
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PLEASE COME PREPARED

**BE READY TO WAIT:**

Expect to spend up to 12 hours of your day with us. Please bring all medications with you. Patients with children should bring all appropriate supplies (diapers, bottles, food, etc.) as they will not be supplied in the clinic. There are no onsite concessions, so we highly encourage you to bring your own water and snacks.

**PATIENTS RECEIVING TREATMENT MUST MEET THESE REQUIREMENTS:**

- Blood Pressure Levels under 180/100
- Blood Sugar Levels Under 300
- No fever/illness at the time of the event

**TREATING CHILDREN & ADULTS OF ALL AGES:**

Children under 18 **MUST** be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

213 Kerr Avenue  
Poteau, Oklahoma 74953  
www.workreadyoklahoma.com  
918-650-4608

January 29 | NOON- 4:00

## Job Fair & Workshop Info Session

Turn Your Job Search into Career Success

WORK READY POTEAU

918-650-4608

213 KERR AVENUE, POTEAU, OK 74953

## INCOME TAX PREPARATION

# FREE

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 27<sup>th</sup> – April 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 Deduction Form (Form 8965)
- ✓ A voided check or letter from the bank, routing number & account number for direct deposit
- ✓ All W-2s, 1099s and 1098s (Bank Interest & Dividends) 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.

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

FEB. 3-7 | 9:00-3:00

## FREE WORKSHOP

The Prep You Need for the Job You Want

WORK READY POTEAU

918-650-4608

213 KERR AVENUE, POTEAU, OK 74953

# IN *Action*

## WORKlahoma



Claudia Jeffrey and Stephanie McCann are shown representing KI BOIS Community Action at the recent Work Ready Oklahoma job fair (WORKlahoma) in Wilburton, Oklahoma.

## Pittsburg County Office Makes Donation to Ryan's House



The Pittsburg County Office in McAlester recently donated snacks to Ryan's House in McAlester. Ryan's House is a Trauma-informed Child Advocacy Center that facilitates a multidisciplinary response to child maltreatment allegations. Pictured with Pittsburg County Coordinator Megan Reames (right) is Makayla, an employee at Ryan's House.

## The GRINCH



KI BOIS Choir from Central Office was honored to sing Christmas Carols last month to the Keota Senior Citizens, Stigler Nursing Home and Stigler Nutrition Center. The Grinch joined us in Stigler and brought a lot of smiles!

## Best Decorated Door Winner



KI BOIS Central Office held a Best Decorated Door contest during the month of December. Doors were judged by four community members. After much deliberation, the winner was Katie Simpson, HR Clerk. Congratulations! All of the entries were very festive.

# WE ARE HIRING!

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



Operating Since 1968 ✓

On-The-Job Training

Paid Vacation ✓

Competitive Pay

MEDICAL/DENTAL LIFE ✓

Service Awards

MATCHING RETIREMENT ✓

ARE YOU OUR MISSING PIECE?

Follow us on: facebook.com/kibois

KI BOIS Community Action is the largest employer in S.E. Oklahoma. We provide growth opportunities and a great place to work! [www.kibois.org](http://www.kibois.org)

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.