

# June, 2024

Helping People. Changing Lives.  
Serving Eastern Oklahoma Since 1968



# KI BOIS NEWS

## Community Action Month 2024

Throughout the entire month of May each year, KI BOIS Community Action joins the other 1,100 Community Action agencies across the nation in promoting and raising awareness of our movement. This year, we've shared stories, promoted successes in connecting struggling families to opportunity, engaged with our staff and increased our visibility.

Community Action agencies have been serving communities for 60 years. President Lyndon B. Johnson declared the "war on poverty" in 1964... and we're stronger than ever. We pursue excellence and innovation. Helping people, changing lives—that's our motto. And with KI BOIS Community Action celebrating 56 years in 2024, we've been there the majority of the time helping people and families reach their full potential with life-changing services like housing, weatherization, emergency services, rural transportation, Veteran services, developmental disabilities and more. We are building strength and resilience in the communities we serve.


In this May, 2024 edition of KI BOIS NEWS, the entire publication is devoted to the wonderful staff and volunteers who make an impact every day in the lives of those we serve. We are America's Poverty Fighting Network and our great staff, Board and management team are reaching families with life-changing services.



Carroll Huggins, Executive Director/CEO

**COMMUNITY ACTION 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
**COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH**

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DATE: 05/06/2024  
TIME: 09:50 AM  
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**WHEREAS**, Community Action has made essential contributions across this Nation for 60 years, inspiring a spirit of hope, creating opportunities for millions of people to be a part of the American Dream, and improving communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Community Action remains committed to a nation that creates opportunities for all people to thrive, builds strong, resilient communities, and ensures a more equitable society; and

**WHEREAS**, Community Action is a robust state and local force connecting people to life-changing services and creating pathways to prosperity in 99% of all American counties; and

**WHEREAS**, Community Action builds and promotes economic stability as an essential aspect of enabling and enhancing stronger communities and stable homes; and

**WHEREAS**, Community Action strategies and innovative solutions evolve as the needs of individuals, families, and communities in cities, suburbs, and rural areas change; and

**WHEREAS**, Community Action is experienced in advancing opportunities by coordinating federal state, local and private resources to achieve results for people and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Community Action insists on community participation and involvement ensuring that all sectors of the community have a voice and will be heard; and

**WHEREAS**, Community Action is recognizing 60 years of innovation, impact, and providing proven results for Americans.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, The Board of County Commissioners of Haskell County, Oklahoma, do hereby proclaim May 2024 as Community Action Month in recognition of the hard work and dedication of KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc.

**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of County of Haskell on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2024.

*Clark McGlary*  
Clark McGlary

*Lafry Watson*  
Lafry Watson

*Billy Don Cloud*  
Billy Don Cloud

ATTEST:  
*Dawn McCreary*  
Dawn McCreary  
County Clerk

## From the Desk of Executive Director / CEO

**R. Carroll Huggins**



We are celebrating a new Federal Holiday this month!  
Juneteenth!

**Juneteenth** (officially **Juneteenth National Independence Day**, and also known as, **Jubilee Day, Emancipation Day, Freedom Day, and Black Independence Day**) is now a federal holiday in the United States commemorating emancipation of enslaved African Americans. It is also often observed for celebrating African-American culture. Originating in Galveston, Texas, it has been celebrated annually on June 19 in various parts of the United States since 1865. The day was recognized as a federal holiday on June 17, 2021, when President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law. Juneteenth's commemoration is on the anniversary date of the June 19, 1865, announcement of General Order No. 3 by Union Army general Gordon Granger, proclaiming freedom for enslaved people in Texas, which was the last state of the Confederacy with institutional slavery.

June is also a month when many of our staff take their annual vacations. Unfortunately the large increase in gasoline prices, motels, airfare, and food have made vacations and travel very expensive.

The much higher cost of living is also making it more difficult for our low-income clients to survive. We are doing our best to assist them with the programs we have available!

We thank each of you for your support of these much needed social programs we operate!

Have a great summer!

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

### KI BOIS COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### Executive Board

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**1st Vice Chair**

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**2nd Vice Chair**

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Lindsey Holloway

John Jones

Chuck Regan

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#### 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.

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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



June 19  
June 24  
July 4 - 5

Juneteenth Federal Holiday  
KI BOIS Executive Board Meeting  
July 4th Holiday



#kibois #BeCommunityAction #CommunityActionWorks #HelpingPeopleChangingLives



The Work Ready Oklahoma Poteau (WRO-Poteau) Employment Center is shaping up. The administrative staff has been hired and the new facility is being built. The plan is to be in the building and ready for the first round of workshops in September. It's an exciting time for LeFlore County.

Work Ready Oklahoma (WRO), funded by Oklahoma Human Services, is a key initiative aimed at empowering low-income Oklahomans with the skills and support needed to achieve financial stability by helping them obtain and maintain quality employment. Focused on the unemployed, the underemployed, veterans and reentrants from incarceration, WRO facilitates unique opportunities for employers to tap into a skilled and motivated workforce that might be unseen in their community.

Pictured above is the WRO-Poteau administrative staff. They are L-R: Royce Alverson, KI BOIS Admin Support; Aaron Goad, WRO-Poteau Program Manager; Jarrod Ridenour, WRO-Poteau Program Director; Gage Crook, WRO-Poteau Employment & Job Coach; Andy Kates, WRO-Poteau Administration & Program Support; Linda Love, KI BOIS Admin Support.



# Latimer County

The Latimer County office has recently begun distributing food boxes to children via The Summer Food Service Program, a project of the Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma. The Summer Food Service Program is designed to fill the nutrition gap and make sure children can get the nutritious meals they need.





# Community Action Month 2024



Muskogee County Office donates various items to RISE & Muskogee Housing Authority for distribution.



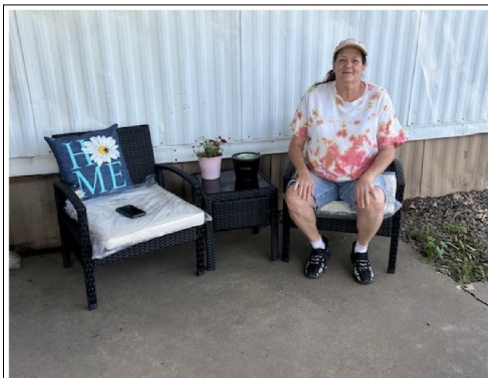
KI BOIS Haskell County sponsored the Whitefield Baptist Church youth to clean Roye Park in Stigler as their project. The Church trimmed trees, hauled limbs and picked up trash in preparation for the annual Rubber Duck Regatta.



# Community Action Month 2024



Latimer County Office spent the afternoon at Tidwell Living Center on May 22nd. They played Bingo, had cupcakes and punch and visited with the residents. Staff was assisted by Jade & Jewel Jeffrey and Kamden Schrader.



The Sallisaw office took on a project for a client who is going through cancer treatments and the struggles that come with that. They planted a flower garden, new lawn furniture and a new grill. They enjoyed a lunch of hot dogs and the trimmings.





# Community Action Month 2024





# Community Action Month 2024





# Community Action Month 2024 Proclamations



LYNN ADAMS | TIMES

## Community Action proclaimed in the community

Senoyah County Commissioners on Monday proclaimed the month of October as KiBois Community Action Month. Community Ac-

tion is observing its 60th anniversary, and has inspired "a spirit of hope, creating opportunities for millions of people

to be a part of the American Dream and creating communities." KiBois has been in business for 55 years.





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.

**EMPLOYMENT Opportunities**

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.