

An Uplifting Edition.....



KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc.

KI BOIS NEWS

KI BOIS Community Action Sequoyah County

Feeds Over 700!

To be exact 721.....KI BOIS Community Action and Christians Caring for the Homeless hosted a 1st Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner Wednesday, November 25th. We were able to serve 345 plates inside and sent 376 plates to go. The community support we received for this event was overwhelming!

What started out as a much smaller vision of serving possibly 75 to a 100 people soon grew into a community coming together to serve a much greater need. The people wanting to help and sponsor this event were numerous. They included: The Shed, KATS, Sallisaw Health & Wellness, ICTC students, K-7 Cattle Co, Pierce's Feed, Akin's Feed, Rick Agent, Mallory Martin Funeral Home, Oakridge Assembly Of God, Sallisaw Chiropractic, People Inc., Creoks, Cherokee Nation, Sallisaw Youth Coalition, Roland Lady Rangers, Mix 105.1, Highlight Zone, Marvin's IGA, Maria's, Sequoyah County Health Dept., Trinity Baptist Church, along with several individuals.

With the help of the above mentioned, KI BOIS was able to meet the demand of those in need of a Thanksgiving Dinner in Sequoyah County. With the number of meals served, it's easy to see that the need was great. I am very happy to say that KI BOIS was able to make a very positive impact on the community and give area residents a bright, warming start to the holiday season.

The dinner was held from 11:00 until 1:00 at the Shed in Sallisaw.

Thank you to those who helped to make this event a huge success and we are looking forward to next year.

Melissa Stubblefield, Director
KI BOIS Community Action Sequoyah County



Top photo, Roland High School Sophomore Chiara Joseph advertises for the event. Bottom photo, father and daughter share Thanksgiving dinner together.

From the Desk of the Executive Director / CEO

In addition to normal holiday activities December is always a busy month at KI BOIS Community Action. We are prepared for our annual audit which started this month. Head Start North and South are having a series of Federal Monitorings this fiscal year.

Our state revenue continues to decline because of the lower oil prices. The end of the ARRA funding has brought our Weatherization almost to a standstill. We have also seen large increases in the use of our food bank. Our Medicaid funded Sooner Ride Program has expanded greatly.

At the federal level, we have been informed that CSBG may operate under a continuing resolution until Congress sets new funding levels.

At this time, we have no plans for major cutbacks or layoffs at KI BOIS Community Action. We do feel that it is only prudent for us to be planning and preparing for increased client needs with the slow economy. We are experiencing housing foreclosures, job cutbacks, and increases in food and utility costs for our needy families. The uncertainty of the upcoming changes in the Health Care System is having an effect on all of our clients

I encourage you to keep up the wonderful work that each of you do each day to improve the lives of the families that we serve. We are making a big difference – One Family at a time. We are also making a big difference in the lives of our homeless veterans.

On behalf of the KI BOIS Community Action Board of Directors and Senior Staff, I want to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Carroll Huggins

*Carroll Huggins, CCAP
Executive Director / CEO*



***Haskell and
Latimer
Counties are
involved in the
Red Kettle
Campaign.
Don't forget to
Give!***



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Warm Coats from Warm Hearts....

KI BOIS Community Action was recently involved in a “Warm Coats from Warm Hearts” Project. Over four hundred coats, hoodies, vests, p.j.’s, shirts and pants for men, women and children were donated to our organization by a local family. KI BOIS Community was contacted by Natalee Brown stating, “My aunt from OKC has realized the need in Haskell County and she has been collecting clothing items for several months. Not only had she collected, but washed, mended and delivered all of the items.”

KI BOIS Community Action immediately went into a “get it done” mode and within three hours had the conference area turned into a store. According to Organizer Kay Box, “We wanted the children to shop for their coat. We didn’t want to say here is a coat, hope you can wear it.” The items were distributed on a first come basis with no requirements. The families were also served hot chocolate and cookies. A table was also set-up where the kids could color thank you notes which will be given to the Brown family.

According to KI BOIS Community Action COO Larry Hall, “It was such a joy to watch these kids shop for a coat. One little girl spotted the coat she wanted immediately but her mother encouraged her to continue looking. She kept coming back to this coat and finally her mother said OK. She put that coat on and did not take it off.”

Thank you to all who worked so hard on this project. We made a lot of little ones happy and warm.

Top photo, Natalee Brown and some of the families shopping. **Second photo,** Two families color their thank you notes as they enjoy cookies and hot chocolate. **Bottom two photos,** KI BOIS Community Action staff pose with some of the many coats.



FCCLA & Student Council Sponsor Food Drive for KI BOIS Community Action

It was not only food but cash! FCCLA and Student Council members collected food during the Stigler High School Canned Food Drive. According to FCCLA officer Adara Wren "The community does so much for us and our school. To be able to give back and help someone else out makes me feel good."

For many years, a contest has been held between classes. According to Stigler High School instructor Caleb Knowlton, "I love watching the students get excited about helping the community and they did an excellent job."

This year the contest was held on November 16th and 17th between seniors, juniors, freshmen and sophomores to see which class could collect the most food.

The seniors won with a total of 220 pounds and \$705.00 in cash. Juniors came in second with a total of 160 pounds and a total of \$285.00. Freshmen came in third with a total of 160 pounds and \$283.22. Fourth place was sophomores with 160 pounds and \$46.78. The total pounds of canned food was 700 pounds and a total of \$1,320.00 in cash. (The cash will be used to buy food)

FCCLA and STUCO officer Jaedyn Bass states "I love giving back because I am so blessed by those who give to me. To be able to watch the school come together and help out is really inspiring."

KI BOIS Community Action COO Larry Hall is also impressed by the dedication and hard work these students accomplished. "It is awesome to see how these students came together to help their community. Kuddos to them for their hard work and community service."

Top photo, Lakin and Jaedyn Bass along with KI BOIS Community Action staff unload the food collected. **Second photo**, KI BOIS Community Action COO Larry Hall accepts additional money which was also raised by the students. **Bottom photo**, It was all smiles as FCCLA and Student Council members, along with Stigler High School, food pantry and KI BOIS Community Action staff pose with some of the food which was collected.



Two men work with agency to make new beginning

Harrison Grimwood Writer, Muskogee Phoenix

Rolland Varize, 29, and Jakoma Sanders, 27, are both veterans and homeless.

Varize and Sanders are trying to find their footing after returning from their respective Army deployments. After some unfortunate events, battles with drugs and post-traumatic stress syndrome, Sanders and Varize are working with KI BOIS Community Action Foundation Supportive Service for Veterans Families (SSVF) “to get back on their feet.”

Varize, a California native, returned to Oklahoma after his deployment. He returned to his mother and brothers. “This past year, I lost my mom ...and that’s when it started,” he stated. Varize served in 2009 and 2010 in Iraq, driving an Interim Armored Vehicle Stryker. He drove patrol missions, roadside bomb missions and several humanitarian missions.

Varize often tried to distance himself from his brother, trying to avoid bad influences, but after his mother died, he lost his home, his fiancé and eventually his Chevrolet Blazer....his second home. “I worked hard,” Varize said. “Even with all the hours I worked, it didn’t seem to add up.” While he lived in his car, he sold prescription drugs to make ends meet. “I just needed a way out and drugs was it.” Varize said.

Sanders echoed the same sentiment. Similarly, Sanders, a veteran who served in Afghanistan, tried to distance himself from his hometown, he said.

Both came to Muskogee to escape their old environments. During his deployment as a combat engineer, Sanders walked the roads near Kandahar, Afghanistan to ensure routes were clear and patrolled for roadside bombs. When Sanders returned home, he began dabbling in drugs. He did catch a few felony convictions for petty larceny and possession in 2013, according to court documents.

Through SSVF, Varize and Sanders have found a temporary roof over their heads at a local hotel. Both have been given vouchers through the Housing and Urban Development to use when they find a home.

The real struggle for Sanders and Varize has been finding work. Varize and Sanders both talked about trying to get a commercial drivers license to find work similar to their military experience. Varize has also considered returning to school for higher education. He struggles to find work he can do with a service-related back injury. Sanders is plagued by a former felony conviction. And both, though they drove large vehicles while in the military, are stifled by their lack of transportation.

“That’s all we’re asking for, just hire us!” Sanders said. “I made a few dumb mistakes and I’m pretty much paying for it the rest of my life.”

Editor’s Note....the above information was taken from an article written by Harrison Grimwood, Muskogee Phoenix.



Jakoma Sanders, left middle, and Rolland Varize, Middle, join several other homeless veterans enjoying Thanksgiving dinner of sweet potatoes, green beans, ham, turkey and more. The meal was provided by the local chapter of Civitan International as a service project.

Sensitive Santa Comes to Stigler

The first ever Sensitive Santa for the Haskell County area was held Tuesday, Dec. 8 in Stigler. The event was sponsored by the Pervasive Parenting Center and Smart Start Kiamichi Country, and was considered a huge success by organizers. "We had about six children come out, which may sound low to some, but it is a good comfortable number for these kids with sensory issues," according to Kodey Toney.

The children enjoyed a movie, refreshments provided by Amanda and Eric Southerland at E's Hideaway, games, and crafts. They also got to visit with Santa Claus, which for many was an enormous feat. It was also a relief for the parents and guardians. This was an opportunity for people with sensory issues to get to meet Santa without standing in the long lines usually associated with the holiday season.

"For some families with children on the autism spectrum, or with other sensory problems, the holiday season can be overwhelming," added Toney. "The long lines at stores to get a couple seconds with Santa, which may or may not work out, can be frustrating for a child with autism and the families." Stigler High School Student Council members, Jerika Hurst, Jonnie Rutherford, Justin Gerald, Mayalee Minor, Dillon Busby, and Sidney Roberts, Advisor - Caleb Knowlton helped out with the event as well as Santa's Elf Emma Goodwin.

"This is my favorite event we hold each year," Kodey stated. "When you see a child that wouldn't normally even get close to Santa finally ease their way up to him, or you see one come in the door, their face lights up, and they bolt to him with excitement, it makes everything we do worthwhile."

Elf, Emma Goodman, helps Santa aka Dad and KATS Mechanic Aaron Goodman, as Shae Butler sits on Santa's lap.



KI BOIS Community Action Notice of Job Posting ***December 7, 2015***



KI BOIS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PROGRAM

JOB TITLE: **PROGRAM COORDINATOR** (Ardmore)

JOB REQUIREMENTS: Bachelor's Degree and one (1) year of experience or six (6) years experience working with people with disabilities. Program Coordinator must be able to exercise patience, understanding, creativity and flexibility. PC must have supervisory, organizational and excellent communication skills. A valid OK driver's license along with safe and reliable transportation is also required. Must be able to complete any required/requested training and able to lift a minimum of 50 lbs.

JOB TITLE: **HABILITATION TRAINING SPECIALIST - PT/FT** (Poteau, McAlester, Ada, Ardmore, Pauls Valley and Sulphur)

JOB REQUIREMENTS: Will serve as direct support staff for consumers. Ability to handle sensitive issues while protecting others' welfare. Able to exercise patience, understanding, creativity and flexibility. HS Diploma/GED, valid DL and auto insurance. Must complete Foundation, CPR and First Aid Training (and any other training as required/requested.) Must be able to lift a minimum of 50 lbs.

Job Postings continued from page 7

KI BOIS AREA TRANSIT PROGRAM

JOB TITLE: TRANSIT DRIVERS (Contact local Transit Office to verify opening)

JOB REQUIREMENTS: Maintain a valid driver's license. Good driving record. Must be physically able to assist passengers and their belongings while entering and exiting the vehicles. Must be able to lift a minimum of 50 lbs and provide wheel chair assistance. Should have knowledge of area resources and live within convenient distance of city where job opening is available.

KI BOIS Community Services Programs

JOB TITLE: WELLNESS SPECIALIST - FT (Haskell and Latimer Counties)

JOB SUMMARY/REQUIREMENTS: Knowledge of nutrition, fitness and tobacco trends and strategies that target children, youth and adults, including advertising, policies and standards and best practices. Demonstrated ability to provide technical assistance to various organizations in planning and managing community based programs. Skill in developing and delivering oral presentations and communicating effectively in writing. Ability to work well with people of diverse backgrounds, perspectives and cultures. Technical skills and proficiency in computer applications. Demonstrated experience in formulating and implementing policies and procedures. Ability to objectively analyze a situation and evaluate pros and cons of any course of action. Ability to design and implement effective workflow processes and procedures. Must be organized, proactive, work independently and be a self-starter; must be able to multi task. At a minimum, the Wellness Specialist must have a bachelor's degree in nutrition, community health, physical education, social work, communications or a related field. Substitutions for the educational requirements require a minimum of two years of college with two years experience working within the communities on food, nutrition or community development and mobilization and/or the implementation of preventive health programs. Extensive and overnight travel is required.

KI BOIS HEAD START PROGRAMS SOUTH and NORTH

JOB TITLE: FAMILY SERVICE WORKER/CENTER DIRECTOR - FT (Tahlequah South)

JOB REQUIREMENTS: Must have, at a minimum, an AA in Early Childhood.

JOB TITLE: TEACHER/CENTER DIRECTOR - FT (Liberty)

JOB REQUIREMENTS: Must have, at a minimum, AA in Early Childhood.

JOB TITLE: COOK - FT (Westville)

JOB REQUIREMENTS: Must have HS Diploma/GED and enjoy working with children, as well as some experience in cooking in a similar setting.

JOB TITLE: TEACHER'S AIDES AND SUBS - PT (Muldrow/Gans; For other openings, inquire at your local center.)

JOB REQUIREMENTS: Must have HS Diploma/GED and enjoy working with children.

ALL POSITIONS SUBJECT TO CONTINUED PROJECT FUNDING. All positions are open to KI BOIS Community Action Foundation Staff as well as to the public - unless otherwise noted. Deadline for all openings: Until Filled. CURRENT AGENCY EMPLOYEES – please submit a letter of interest, and updated resume (if applicable) to Human Resources. Applications for new hires are available online at www.kibois.org, or may be picked up at any KI BOIS Community Action office. Applications should be returned to KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc. P. O. Box 727 Stigler, OK 74462, Attention: Human Resources or e-mailed to doylene.knowlton@kibois.org. Fax: 918.967.9100.

Applicant will be subject to a criminal history records search, as well as drug testing. KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc. is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. It is the policy of the KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc. to not discriminate against or deny equal employment opportunity to any applicant or employee on the grounds of race, sex, color, age, national origin, genetic information, religion, or disability, so long as the disability does not render the person unable to do the work for which employed. All employees of KI BOS Community Action Foundation, Inc. are lit will'employees.

**KIBOIS COMMUNITY ACTION FOUNDATION, INC. IS AN
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER!**

Twenty Questions.....



1. Who was the first Head Start Director ? _____
2. What year was the current administrative office built? _____
3. What was the name of the program KI BOIS Community Action administered that is similar to the Angel Tree? _____
4. Has anyone besides Kay Box ever produced a newsletter ? _____
If so name that person? _____
5. Does KI BOIS Community Action recognize Good Friday as a Holiday? _____
6. The first Head Start in the State of Oklahoma was administered by a former KI BOIS Community Action board member. What is his/her name? _____
7. What year was Sequoyah County added to our service area? _____
8. Name the hospital where The OAKS, McAlester, is now located. _____
9. Which KI BOIS Program Director was once a state representative? _____
10. There is an original board member still seated on the KI BOIS Community Action Board. What is his/her name? _____
11. What month is Fair Housing? _____
12. Does KI BOIS Community Action participate in the state Special Olympics? _____
13. What does ODOC stand for? _____
14. Did KI BOIS /Community Action ever participate in a garden seed program? _____
15. When KI BOIS Community Action participated in the AmeriCorps program what was their purpose? _____
16. What KI BOIS Community Action LeFlore County staff was a radio announcer?

17. What year did Latimer County KI BOIS Community Action move into their current location? _____
18. Latimer County KI BOIS Community Action is located in what former grocery store?

19. Name the KI BOIS Community Action service county that once operated a daycare.

20. Does KI BOIS Community Action Administrative office have a time capsule? _____
If so where is it located? _____

Contest Rules

1. **Deadline for submission will be Monday, December 21st at Central Office. (You can mail, fax, drop off etc.) Please put attention Kay Box on all entries.**
2. **All correct entries will be entered for random drawing.**

3. **1st place will be a \$75.00 cash prize!**