



Community Action Solutions

March - April 2006



State Rep. Jari Askins, Democratic Leader from Duncan, encouraged community action staffers to continue talking with lawmakers about efforts to help low-income families achieve self-sufficiency.

OKACAA Legislative Conference **Educating lawmakers on Community Action's role in promoting self-sufficiency**



About 180 people registered for the Oklahoma Association of Community Agencies Legislative Conference held March 27-29.



Delivering information to legislators are, from left, Bob Horn, Russell Morrison, Georgia Forthum and Mary Brack from Opportunities, Inc.



State Rep. Wes Hilliard stopped by to talk with, from left, Rhonda David, Sherri Snider, Becky Deaton and Mynan Hutto from Delta Community Action during the legislative dinner held in Oklahoma History Center.



A large group from KI BOIS Community Action met with lawmakers during a visit to the Capitol.



Helen Pape (left) and Judith Arrieta from the Community Action Agency of Oklahoma City and Oklahoma/Canadian Counties deliver information packets to legislators.

Prescription help focus of Capitol news conference

Oklahomans needing free or reduced-cost medications got one-on-one assistance on March 28 when the "Help is Here Express" bus made a stop at the State Capitol.

Representatives from several OKACAA member agencies attended a news conference held in conjunction with the bus stop at the State Capitol.

The bus is a traveling education center making stops throughout the country to raise awareness about how to take advantage of the Partnership for Prescription Assistance program.

The RX for Oklahoma increases access to prescription drugs for low-income Oklahomans through a partnership with pharmaceutical companies that offer free and discounted prices on prescription drugs.

Community action agencies and area agencies on aging are providing the program statewide.

RX for Oklahoma



Ann Ricketts, community services director, Community Action Agency of Oklahoma City and Oklahoma/Canadian Counties, (left) and Karen Vines, executive director, Central Oklahoma Community Action Agency, attended the prescription assistance program news conference at the State Capitol.

Coweta Head Start center dedicated to Georgene Zachary

Community Action Resource & Development has dedicated its newest Head Start center to long time executive director Georgene Zachary.

Located in Coweta, the center serves 40 children.

"Georgene dedicated over 40 years to serving children and families," Barbara Hankins, Head Start director, said during the dedication ceremony on February 3. "It seems only appropriate that she has a building in her hometown named after her."

Zachary retired in December.

There are 697 children enrolled in Head Start and another 36 enrolled in the Early Head Start programs operated by CARD.



Participating in the ribbon cutting ceremony at the new Coweta Head Start center were, from left, Barbara Hankins, Head Start director; Georgene Zachary, former executive director; and Karol May, executive director, Community Action Resource & Development.

Cookson Hills
Community Action Foundation
has a new web site at:

www.cooksonhillscommunityaction.com

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The radio announcer, portrayed by Deep Fork executive director Jeff Schuman, reads the introduction to the play while sound man Scott Martin, a local radio station employee, prepares to add sound effects during the presentation of "A Night at WSOS."



Actors in the Deep Fork Community Action presentation of "A Night at WSOS" included, from left, Scott Martin, Cheryl Schuman, Rae Ann Wilson, Randy Belford and Craig Brydges. When not on stage, Martin works for KOKL radio, Schuman is a reporter for the Okmulgee Daily Times, Wilson is a city council member, Belford is station manager of KOKL and Brydges is a high school drama teacher.

Radio play raises funds for Deep Fork Community Action

Deep Fork Community Action Foundation is continuing to raise funds to provide emergency assistance in its four county service area with theatrical presentations.

Jeff Schuman, executive director, and Sherry West, social services director, recruited a diverse group of local residents to join the Neighbors-Without-Shame-Players to present "A Night at WSOS" in Okmulgee on March 25.

The event raised about \$1,200. It was the 12th production for Deep Fork, according to Schuman. Most of the other plays have been murder mysteries.

Written by Schuman, the dinner theatre presentation was a humorous behind-the-scenes look at a radio station in the 1930s doing a live broadcast of a play called "The Legend of Tex Arcana."

The three act play revolved around the tall tale being told by a crotchety old grandfather to his pesky grandchildren. High school drama teacher Craig Brydges portrayed the grandfather. City council member Rae Ann Wilson and KOKL radio station manager Randy Belford were the grandkids.

Grandpa was constantly interrupted by grandma who during the week is election board secretary Ann Powders.

Schuman, decked out in a tux, portrayed the station announcer who would hang a silver star on the microphone before delivering his lines.

Veteran ensemble member Scott Martin was the foley man (sound guy) who provided about 100 sound effects. Martin, a regular volunteer at Deep Fork, said he had done four previous productions for the agency.

Okmulgee Daily Times reporter Cheryl Schuman was the play director who was constantly battling "talent" over the size of their dressing rooms and paychecks and berating the script writer, portrayed by sports editor Larry Owen, over the trash he was writing.

A pair of leggy "Fleckler's Cheesettes" -- Kristi Powders and Christi Cranton -- sang jingles for wacky commercials and danced across the stage with "Thunderous Applause" signs at the beginning and end of each act. William Barnett was the commercial announcer.

The Okmulgee Elks Lodge provided the room for the play and the meal. Local businesses provided door prizes.

Deep Fork's next production was a murder mystery dinner theatre presentation of "Final Cut." It was presented by the Eufaula High School Drama Club on April 8 to support Deep Fork's efforts in McIntosh County.

Week of the Young Child observances at Community Action Head Start centers featured special activities

Oklahoma's community action agencies joined early childhood programs across the nation in focusing public attention on the needs of young children and their families during the Week of the Young Child April 2-8. "Building Better Futures for All Children" was the theme for the annual observance sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.



Planting a tree in Purcell as part of Delta Community Action's activities are, from left, Alexis Munoz, Olivia Blanchard, Wesley McElhaney and Alyvia Bonaface. A local business donated two trees for the project.



Children in KI BOIS Community Action's Stigler Head Start Preschool classroom #3 decorated the fence to celebrate the Week of the Young Child. The class is studying recycling and taking care of the earth. They cleaned up the decorations from the playground later that week and will reuse the ribbon for different projects to demonstrate how items can be recycled. Pictured, from left, are Brooke Hodges, Autumn McCormick, Gavin Minor and Montana Ellison.



Children in the Community Action Development Corporation's Head Start center in Mountain View participated in a parade in Carnegie.

Week of the Young Child activities



KI BOIS Community Action Foundation's Spiro Head Start/Preschool classrooms 1, 2 & 3 celebrated Week of the Young Child with a balloon launch.



Megan Beason from First American Bank in Purcell reads to children in the Head Start center. Representatives from local police and fire departments, a church, Department of Human Services and parents took turns reading to the children during the week.

Southwest Oklahoma Community Action Group's Wilson Head Start center in Altus was transformed into an art gallery during the Week of the Young Child. Parents could study the artwork while classical music played in the background. Seventy-four children in three Head Start and one Pre-k class participated.



Youngsters from the Opportunities, Inc. Head Start collaboration in Thomas delivered cookies they prepared around town in a train provided by a local church. During the week, the children's artwork was hung in local businesses.