



Community Action Solutions

September - October 2004

Community Action staffers recognized at conference



Georgene Zachary receives Fred Tucker Service Award

Georgene Zachary, executive director, Community Action Resource & Development, was presented the Fred Tucker Service Award during the Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies annual conference by association president Odell Gunter.

She is a 38-year veteran and was one of the first two employees of the agency. She became executive director in 1979.

She wrote her first grant application for the Head Start program that was to only operate for six months, but has successfully maintained funding each year since.

When the agency began in 1966, the service area was only one county. Two counties were later added and in 1999 she led in the merger of two long-established CAAs to create one agency.

Service Awards were presented to more than 220 Community Action staffers during the Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies annual conference.

The conference celebrated the 40th anniversary of Community Action.



Dr. Michael Johnson, author, humorist and university professor, shared his unique blend of academic and real-life experience wrapped in humor during the annual awards banquet.



Peggy Birge receives Guy Davis Leadership Award

Peggy Birge, KI BOIS Community Action Foundation Women's Shelter director, was selected to receive the Guy Davis Leadership Award. Michael E. Jones, executive director, Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies, participated in the award presentation during the association's annual conference.

She was cited for her efforts to carry the message that it is not okay to batter women. She has spoken out at community meetings, before civic organizations, to high school students and even taken her cause to the corridors of the capital.

She has gained the respect of the court and is frequently asked by the judge for her opinion before a verdict is rendered, Odell Gunter, association president, noted during the presentation ceremony.

We've Moved

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Community Action Agencies
2800 N.W. 36th, Suite 221
Oklahoma City, OK 73112
(405) 949-1495 Fax: (405) 949-0955

OKACAA annual conference



Jeff Alexander reports on Oklahoma Head Start Association activities during the closing luncheon as, from left, Brent Morey, Odell Gunter and Michael E. Jones look on.



Nearly 200 people registered for the Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies annual conference held Sept. 22-23 in Oklahoma City. The crowd swelled to about 280 for the awards banquet.

OWHAC seeking scholarship applications

The Oklahoma Weatherization and Housing Advisory Council (OWHAC) is seeking applications for the Ted Allen/David Walker Scholarship.

A \$1,000, one-time scholarship will be awarded. All material must be received by Jan. 14, 2005.

Applicants must be a direct relative (2nd degree) of an employee of U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency or a Community Action Agency.

Applicants are limited to high school seniors with a minimum grade point average of 3.0. Applicants must be planning to attend an accredited four year college/university or an accredited junior college with plans to complete a degree.

The application must include a 500 word essay titled "The Importance of Affordable Housing for the Low Income."

For an application packet, contact: John Jones, KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, P.O. Box 727, Stigler, OK 74462.



Mae Rowlett, Administration for Children & Families, Dallas, conducted sessions on Stress Management during the conference.



Washita Valley Community Action Council's transit system received the Region VI Federal Transit Administration's award of achievement for having the highest percentage of growth in passenger ridership in the Section 5311 Non-Urbanized Area of Oklahoma at the Oklahoma Transit Association Conference in Stillwater. Participating in the presentation are, from left, State Representative Joe Dorman, Wilford Levings, Oklahoma Department of Transportation; Stacey R. Smith, board chairman; Sharlotte Key, executive director; and Patty Lopez, transit supervisor, all from Washita Valley Community Action Council.

No Room For Poverty Rally in Washington is a success



Oklahomans attend rally

The Community Action Partnership's recent 2004 Annual Convention was a big success. Fifteen hundred Community Action professionals attended the event in Washington, DC on August 31-September 3.

The week culminated with the "No Room for Poverty" National Rally. Thousands gathered on the Ellipse in Washington, DC to listen to a variety of uplifting speakers and to call for a White House Conference on American Poverty.

CSPAN, CNN, and several local media outlets from participants' home states covered the event.



Delta awarded grant for youth mentoring program

Delta Community Action Foundation has been awarded a \$50,000 grant to promote participation of youth in local Head Start programs.

Delta Head Start submitted the START (Students Teaching And Reading Together) program grant application in collaboration with Duncan Public Schools, EDGE Academy, Duncan Literacy Council and the Duncan Public Library.

The initiative, according to

Karen Nichols, Delta executive director, works on two levels. The Head Start child will benefit from having an older student with whom to develop an attachment over time. The vulnerable youth will gain competencies necessary to create happy, healthy and successful lives through connections with the project

director, Head Start staff and the community.

The youth will receive a stipend to support their volunteer activities and after they complete the program they will qualify for a \$500 scholarship.

Only 200 Head Start grantees received this nationally competitive grant.

Cookson Hills breaks ground on senior housing project in Tahlequah

Cookson Hills Community Action Foundation has broken ground in Tahlequah for 23 apartments to serve the elderly of Cherokee County.

Cookson Hills received a \$1,443,500 grant to develop the apartment project from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The independent living apartments are dedicated to persons at least 62 years old. The residents will have a community building on-site and access to a broad range of senior services available in the Tahlequah area.

Applications will be taken next Spring for the new apartments at the office of Cookson Hills Community Action Foundation.

Dan Doyle, senior project manager

from HUD's Oklahoma City office, attended the ceremony.

Others attending the ground-breaking were Cookson Hill staffers Helen James, executive director; Jerry Latty, assistant director/housing director; Lisa Williams, executive secretary; and Jean McCollum along with Glendon Watkins, board member; Amy Berg from Congressman Brad Carson's office; State Representative Jim Wilson, Police Chief Norman Fisher; Cherokee County Commissioner Bobby Botts; Randy Gibson, representing the Chamber of Commerce; Mark Gish, president, BancFirst; Clyde Enlow, president, Armstrong Bank; along with contractors Max Holloway, Andy Gladd and Alan Patton and consultant Larry Sand.

How to Reach OKACAA Staff

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Teens learn about business at Youth Entrepreneur Camp

Southwest Oklahoma Community Action Group's (SOCAG) Jackson County Promise program introduced a group of teens to the world of business through its Summer Youth Entrepreneur Camp.

The goal of the program, according to AmeriCorps Promise Fellow Jenny Ward, was to teach young people in a practical and interesting way how to start and run a small business.

The teens spent two weeks studying what it took to start their own business.

Teresa Williams, director, Retired and Senior Volunteers Program, explained the youth learned about developing a business plan, applying for a loan, legal issues, marketing and accounting systems from local business leaders.

Then with start-up loans from the Banks of Promise, the teens ran their businesses for five weeks. The youth were partnered with an adult mentor to help guide them.

Ilia Locklear, an 8th grade student from Mangum, started one of the more unusual businesses -- buffalo meat sales.

She opened Ilia's Buffalo Sales with a ribbon cutting ceremony sponsored by the Mangum/Greer County Chamber of Commerce.

The business is located in a freezer in a back room of her father's chiropractic clinic.

Other business ventures launched by the teens included house number curb paint, dog walking and bathing, lawn mowing, auto detailing, baby-sitting and homemade dog treats.

SOCAG secured \$1,153 from local Banks of Promise and distributed it to the youth as start-up loans.

Loans ranged from \$50 for the dog walking business to about \$370 for the lawn mowing venture. At a recognition luncheon, the junior business owners reported profits ranging from \$60 to \$400 after the loans had been repaid. Total profits topped \$2,000.

"These youth have really done a super, super job," declared Ward.



Thirteen-year-old Nigel Williams, a participant in the Summer Youth Entrepreneur, paints house numbers on a curb. Clear Curbs was a summer business venture that he started as a result of the camp.



Jenny Ward, an AmeriCorps Promise Fellow with Southwest Oklahoma Community Action Group, reviews the basics of bookkeeping at the Summer Youth Entrepreneur Camp.



Danika Bartsh goes over her business plan and loan application with Curtis Thornton, loan officer, First State Bank of Altus, during a mock loan interview. She started a dog walking and bathing summer business venture.



Jenny Ward, AmeriCorps Promise Fellow with SOCAG, joins local youth from the Summer Youth Entrepreneur Camp for a radio interview. Local radio stations recorded free advertisements for the youths' summer business ventures. Youths pictured are Lonna Leonard, Homemade Dog Treat Business; Ilia Locklear, Bison Meat Sales; and Nigel Williams, House Number Curb Painting.

Community Action staff members recognized for years of service

Big Five Community Services

10 years

Sherry Cooper
Lawanna Dopson
Priscilla Douglass
Liz Jones
Norma Kuykendall
Kathron McMiller
Marilyn Simmons

15 years

Judy Boyd
Pat Eggleston

20 years

Rubye Gates

25 years

Barbara Newell
Charlotte Reeves
Jerrye Southward
Mary Tadlock

35 years

Clarita Allen
Janet Rambo
Jackie Watson

Central Oklahoma Community Action Agency

10 years

Mac Carter
Jane Files
Ray Scarbrough

20 years

Carol Himle

Community Action Agency of Oklahoma City and Oklahoma/Canadian Counties

10 years

Laticia Berry
Angela Carroll
Cleo Daniels
Kiana Fdyfil
Jane Findley
Larry Free
Rashell Hammons
LeAnnesya R. Jones
Maria Marquez
Marva Pitre
Linda Rayfield
Valerie Salmon
Bob Sanders
Theresa K. Spellmon
Melba Jo Walker
Diana Welborn
Margarett Williams

15 years

Patricia J. Barber
Sharon Beaver
Mattie Garrett
Twila Long Gorden
Theodora Lynn Hall
LaVonda Howell
Debra Sweezy
Margaret Taylor
Tommy Watts

20 years

CeCelia Caldwell
Hazel Comas
Regina Count
Felecia Vaughn

25 years

Linda M. Christian

30 years

Henre' Green
Ann Ricketts
Jacquelyn Walker

35 years

Leola Gadderson
Vivian Jones
Mercedes LaCue
Marie Slaughter

Community Action Development Corporation

10 years

Myra L. Casey
Connie Evetts
Lola Hart
Katie Swint

15 years

Rhonda Nelson

20 years

Kay Wolfe

30 years

Teresa Hanlin

35 years

Pearlie Crowder
Frances Elix
Diana Kauahquo

Community Action Resource & Development

10 years

Jaqi Caldwell
Mary Lou Carpenter
Debi Dobyns
Kathy Higgins
Lisa Huddleston
Jessica Marrujo
Steve Peck
Loretta Rankins
Donna Thompson
Nancy Threet
Rahlen Unrau

Cookson Hills Community Action Foundation

10 years

Norma Barnes
Donna Conrad
Claudia Johnson
Marie Kelly
Lela Jean Moody
Jewell I. Spicer
Lucille Utley

15 years

Donna Barnes
Mary Kathryn Connor

Alice Green

Eva Matthews

Louanna Stick

20 years

Peggy Carroll
Dorothy Russell
Eva Nell Shipp
Mamie Toon

Deep Fork Community Action Foundation

10 years

Greg Chaplin
John Kennedy
Wanda Kizzie
Verbal Nail
Ellen Rogers
Robert Warren
Lonnie Watts

15 years

Teri Andrews

25 years

Laurie Miles

30 years

Mary Pearson

Delta Community Action Foundation

10 years

Lavonna Condit
Sue Early
Sharon Horton
Kathy Mynan Hutto
Cheryl Jarman
Peggy McCullough
Clarissa McMillion
Shirley O'Hagan
Sherri Snider

15 years

Shelly Clay

Great Plains Improvement Foundation

10 years

Delores Byrd
Jane Torres

30 years

Patricia Peters

INCA Community Services

10 years

Debbie Lewis
Kristy Mobbs
Sharon Ruffini
Leslie Trout
Barbara Sharp

15 years

Jo Ann Barnes
Pennye Pendergraft

20 years

Sherrie Adams

KI BOIS Community Action Foundation

10 years

Jodi Briggs
Marlene Carver
Jennifer Christopher
Jean Daniels
Laura Davila
John Ford
Victoria Ford
Carla French
Sandra Galloway
Jan Garner
Judy Harris
Betty Jenkins
Lisa Lemons
Kelly McGee
Marcia Mitchell
Sheila Noggle
Kathy Reidy
Iris Standridge

15 years

Pam Abernathy
Fay Armstrong
Kenny Barnhart
Calvin Blevins
Sandra Few
Cindy Hamm
Doylene Knowlton
Peggy Summers
20 years
Ronda Berry
Wanda Bray
Jo Griffith
Myrna Hardin
Mabel Smith

Continued on next page

Community Action staff members recognized for years of service

Continued from previous page

25 years

Lavon Coyle
Claudia Jeffrey
Tom Marlatt

30 years

Diane Sheives

35 years

Janis Kay McKee
Helen Morton

Little Dixie Community Action Agency

10 years

Herman Adams
Becky Byrd
Vonda Benson
Sandra Herd

15 years

Melinda Ammons
Sheila Price

20 years

Barney Harless

25 years

Terri Harless

35 years

Bob Yandell

Northeast Oklahoma Community Action Agency

10 years

Naomi McFadden

15 years

Pat Cochran

25 years

Pamela Northcutt
Donna Williams

OKACAA outgoing president honored

Odell Gunter, executive director, Great Plains Improvement Foundation, was presented the Mitch Sheffield Presidential Award in recognition of his service as president of the Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies.

Gunter has served as the association's president for the past two years.

Opportunities, Inc.

10 years

Jona Arthur
Candice Corvin
Jana Fowler
Ruby Hernandez
Norma Hudson
Anita Johnson
Joy Moon
Emaline Pohlmeier
Larry Rickey
Mollie Robbins

15 years

Wanda Compton

20 years

Jack Buchheit

30 years

Dianna Fisher
Darlene Ross

Southwest Oklahoma Community Action Group

10 years

Janie Macias
Tracie Mayabb
Margaret Myers
Maria Rivera
Lori Sherman

15 years

James A. Molledahl

20 years

Carlotta Gonzalez
Alvilda Ortiz

25 years

Pedro Garcia
Neil Montgomery
Virginia Ruiz

Twin Rivers Head Start

25 years

Darlene H. Brandt

30 years

Glenda Dumas

United Community Action Program

10 years

Christine Burnett

Don Lamb

Mary Scott

15 years

Virginia Dvorak
Malinda Ford
Theronda Petty

20 years

Ada Farnan

Ada Jones

25 years

Reva Rico

Washita Valley Community Action Council

10 years

Wanda Bowles
Mary Carr
Judith Mays

15 years

Lori Anderson
Karen Bruce

25 years

Norma Schneberger
Charlotte Whitfield
35 years
Princetta Pendarvis
Tracye Wiley

Volunteer of the Year Award goes to Rev. John Blue

Rev. John Blue, former board member at KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, was named Volunteer of the Year.

He had over 1,200 hours of volunteer service in a single year.

He is a police chaplain and on the Salvation Army board of directors.

Head Start Awards

Jeff Alexander, president, Oklahoma Head Start Association, presented seven awards during the annual conference awards banquet.

Carolyn Whitley, Little Dixie Community Action Agency, received the Head Start Staff Scholarship.

The Friend of Head Start Award went to Dwight Davidson at Little Dixie.

Southwest Oklahoma Community Action

Group's Mary Compos received the Teacher of the Year award.

Dr. Wavel Wells, also from Southwest, was presented the Alliance for Youth award.

Kelly Thomas, Little Dixie, received the Helen Taylor Memorial Scholarship.

The Phyllis J. Jones Scholarship went to Tyler Stacy from Twin Rivers Head Start.

Southwest received the Family Literacy Project Award.

Judy Smith gets Ted Allen Award

Judy Smith, housing specialist, Community Action Development Corporation, was selected to receive the Ted Allen Memorial Award in recognition of her efforts to promote affordable housing in Oklahoma.

The award is presented

by the Oklahoma Weatherization and Housing Advisory Council.

It is named for Ted Allen who worked for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and died in the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building.

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This was financed with funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For copies of articles in an alternate format, call 405-949-1495

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Big Five Community Services

Durant (580) 924-5331
Serving: Bryan, Carter, Coal, Love and Pontotoc Counties

Central Oklahoma

Community Action Agency
Shawnee (405) 275-6060
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Community Action Agency of Oklahoma City and Oklahoma/Canadian Counties

Oklahoma City (405) 232-0199
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Community Action Development Corporation

Frederick (580) 335-5588
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Community Action Resource & Development, Inc.

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Cookson Hills Community Action Foundation

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INCA Community Services

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KI BOIS Community Action Foundation

Stigler (918) 967-3325
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Little Dixie Community Action Agency

Hugo (580) 326-3351
Serving: Choctaw, McCurtain and Pushmataha Counties

Muskogee County Community Action Foundation

Muskogee (918) 683-7637
Serving: Muskogee County

Northeast Oklahoma Community Action Agency

Jay (918) 253-4683
Serving: Craig, Delaware and Ottawa Counties

Opportunities, Inc.

Watonga (580) 623-7283
Serving: Alfalfa, Beaver, Blaine, Cimarron, Custer, Dewey, Ellis, Harper, Kingfisher, Major, Texas, Woods and Woodward Counties

Southwest Oklahoma Community Action Group

Altus (580) 482-5040
Serving: Greer, Harmon and Jackson Counties

United Community Action Program

Pawnee (918) 762-3041
Serving: Creek, Kay, Noble, Osage and Pawnee Counties

Washita Valley Community Action Council

Chickasha (405) 224-5831
Serving: Grady and Caddo Counties