



Community Action Solutions

September - October 2003

Community Action staff and volunteers recognized

Bob Yandell, Executive Director, Little Dixie Community Action, was presented the Guy Davis Leadership Award during the Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies (OKACAA) annual conference.

Yandell, who has served as executive director for the past decade, was cited for efforts to promote tourism in far southeastern Oklahoma.

He led Little Dixie and the communities it serves through a strategic planning process that resulted in a large part of the agency's service area being designated a federal Enterprise Community which opened the door to a host of economic opportunities.

Farmer Wann, a member of KI BOIS Community Action Foundation's Board of Directors, received the Fred Tucker Service Award.

In 1965 while serving as Superintendent of Pocola Schools, Wann helped bring the funding for the first Head Start program to Oklahoma.

Three years later when Community Action Agencies in LeFlore, Latimer and Haskell Counties agreed to form a single agency, Wann accepted a position on the board of directors and has served in one capacity or another since creation of KI BOIS.

The Volunteer of the Year Award went to **Belinda Scoggins** from Cookson Hills Community Action Foundation.

Along with a full-time job, she still manages to put in five volunteer hours weekly.

She has assisted with the weatherization program, lined up people to construct ramps for individuals with disabilities, obtained furniture and appliances for families and helped organize a group to demolish dilapidated houses.

Teresa Williams from Southwest Oklahoma Community Action Group received the Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) Scholarship.

The scholarship is awarded by OKACAA, the Oklahoma Head Start Association and Oklahoma Weatherization and Housing Advisory Council.

The Ted Allen Memorial Award was presented to **Virginia Spencer**, Administrative Assistant, Great Plains Improvement Foundation, in recognition of her efforts to promote affordable housing.

Head Start Awards were also presented. **David Eason** received the Allie J. Mitchell and the Phyllis J. Jones Scholarships. **Donna Hicks** received the Staff Scholarship and **Ione Haney** was presented the Teacher of the Year Award. All are from Big Five Community Services.

The Friend of Head Start Award went to **Twana Smith**, DDS, from Little Dixie Community Action Agency.

Big Five also received the Family Literacy Project Award.

35 years of service to Community Action



Paulette Williams
Central Oklahoma Community Action Agency



Louise Bridgett
Community Action Agency of Oklahoma City and Oklahoma/Canadian Counties



Melva Gardner
Community Action Development Corporation



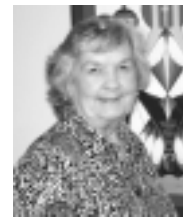
Betty Roberts
Community Action Development Corporation



Carroll Huggins
KI BOIS Community Action Foundation



Johnny Bryant
United Community Action Program



Helen Collins
United Community Action Program

CCAP certification awarded

Loretta Rankins, Finance Director, Community Action Resource & Development, has been awarded the Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) designation.



*Loretta Rankins &
CARD Executive
Director Georgette
Zachary*

She was recognized by the Community Action Partnership during ceremonies at its 2003 Annual Convention in Anaheim, California, on Aug. 28.

Those certified must have demonstrated experience, knowledge, and understanding of Community Action's

history, vision, and values along with management and positive leadership skills.

To earn the CCAP designation, applicants must complete a Candidate Document Data Form which documents their experience, develop an Executive Skills Portfolio which includes a sample of work, and pass a written examination.

In addition, four KI BOIS Community Action Foundation staffers were recertified as CCAPs. They were R. Carroll Huggins, Executive Director; John Jones, Housing Director; Linda Love, Planner; and Tom Marlatt, Director of Operations.

Sharlotte Key, Executive Director, Washita Valley Community Action Council, was also recertified.

Big Five awarded grants to assist in job searches

Big Five Community Services has been awarded a pair of grants to assist people with disabilities and youth in job searches.

A \$297,751 Work Incentive Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor will provide technology upgrades and staff training at One Stop Centers. The goal is to more effectively assist people with disabilities seeking employment.

According to Kerry Manning, Workforce Development Specialist, the grant will help provide such items as hands-free telephones, screen reader software, and magnifying devices at the six full service and five satellite centers that serve a 17-county area.

In addition to the updated technology, the grant will help fund staff disability awareness and service

delivery training.

The SBC Foundation has awarded Big Five an Excelerator Program Technology Grant to add a 'YouthJobHunt' section to its web site.

"The YouthJobHunt tools that we will add are generally interactive community tools that will engage our youth on a more personal level and entice them to register for our services," Manning explained.

Little Dixie Community Action receives Award for Excellence

Little Dixie Community Action Agency has been recognized by the Community Action Partnership with an Award for Excellence in Community Action.

The goal of the Award for Excellence in Community Action is to recognize the excellence that exists throughout the Community Action network and to encourage CAAs everywhere to engage in a process of continuous self-improvement.

Little Dixie was cited for its Self-Help Housing program that has resulted in over 1,200 new homes being completed for low-income families in southeastern Oklahoma. The agency was also recognized for its efforts in providing job opportunities and stimulating the local economy through numerous economic development and community development programs.

Little Dixie was one of four agencies receiving the 2003 award.



Little Dixie Executive Director Bob Yandell (right) and Board Chairperson Pat Baggs (center) were presented the Award for Excellence by Community Action Partnership National President Derrick Span during the national convention in Anaheim.



Oklahoma Housing and Weatherization Conference

The 11th Annual Housing and Weatherization Conference featured a variety of programs on topics ranging from “Working with the State Historic Preservation Office” to “Low Income Tax Credits.” The conference was sponsored by the Oklahoma Weatherization and Housing Advisory Council.



Exhibitors distributed literature on programs, products and services to conference attendees.



Tina Lindsey from the Oklahoma Department of Commerce discussed Weatherization Financial Management.

New Head Start center opens at Oklahoma City Metro Tech

Community Action Agency of Oklahoma City and Oklahoma/Canadian Counties has opened a new Head Start center on the Metro Tech campus in Oklahoma City.

The center will have 40 Head Start children. In addition, it will offer child care service for youngsters from six weeks of age up to age 12.

The new center will serve as a lab for the child development program at Metro Tech.

Demetri Gibens is the director.



Attending the Metro Tech Head Start grand opening were, from left, Head Start Director Carolyn Shaw; Pam Hibbs, Child Development Administrator, Oklahoma City Public Schools; and Executive Director Jim Sconzo.

KI BOIS breaks ground on two housing projects



Taking part in the groundbreaking ceremony for the Baysul Balentine Estates Project are, from left, project board members Billy Cleveland, Pam Hall, Kenny Monroe, Audrey Balentine, Pauline King, Jan Coplen, John Jones and Carroll Huggins, KI BOIS Executive Director.



Housing Director John Jones (l) shows the Baysul Balentine Estates project plans to Kenny Moore, KI BOIS board member, and Betty Ford from U.S. Representative Brad Carson's office.



Participating in the groundbreaking ceremony for Marie Cleveland Estates in Stigler are, from left, State Representative Ray Miller, KI BOIS Housing Director John Jones, Mrs. Cleveland's grandson, GERAL Cleveland, daughter-in-law, Joyce Cleveland, and son, KI BOIS Board member Billy Cleveland, and Executive Director Carroll Huggins.

KI BOIS Community Action Foundation broke ground recently on housing projects in Heavener and Stigler for low-income senior citizens.

The Baysul Balentine Estates Project, located in Heavener, is named for a charter member of the KI BOIS board who served for 33 years. Balentine's son, Audrey, was present for the ceremonies.

The project will feature ten 1-bedroom, 540 square foot units. KI BOIS Housing Director John Jones said construction could be completed by April 2004. Construction cost is expected to be nearly \$600,000.

The 11-acre site will have space available for future development of multifamily and single family housing units, according to Jones.

The agency also broke ground on the Marie Cleveland Estates in Stigler -- another 10 units housing complex. There will be nine rental units for the elderly and one unit designated for a person with handicaps.

The project is named for Marie Cleveland, another long time KI BOIS board member.

KI BOIS has some existing rental houses on adjoining property which will be refurbished.



State Senator Kenneth Corn (r) presents a framed certificate to Audrey Balentine.

Affordable Home Ownership Opportunities for People with Disabilities holds retreat

Representatives from Community Action Agencies, Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council and the Home of Your Own Board of Directors gathered recently to learn about mortgage financing options and discuss other issues related to an effort to promote affordable housing opportunities for people with disabilities.

Discussing mortgage options were Noelle St. Clair, Federal Home Loan Bank; Ken Campbell, Rural Development; Sherry Teel, Bank One; and Valenthia Doolin, First Mortgage.

Michael E. Jones, Executive Director, and Tricia Auberle, Homebuyer Education Coordinator, Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies, discussed marketing and resources.

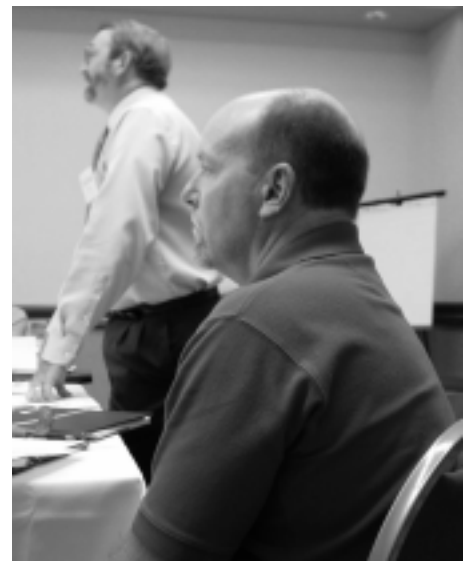
Wanda and Byron DeBruler from DeBruler, Inc. served as facilitators for the retreat.



Discussing mortgage financing options are, from left, Noelle St. Clair, Ken Campbell, Sherry Teel and Valenthia Doolin.



Becky Byrd from Little Dixie Community Action Agency listens to a presentation.



Michael E. Jones discusses resources as Byron DeBruler listens.



Jean Cooper attended from Northeast Oklahoma Community Action Agency.



Representing Great Plains Improvement Foundation were Odell Gunter and Virginia Spencer.



Mary Whitman from Southwest Oklahoma Community Action Group and Cindy Hays from Community Action Agency of Oklahoma City and Oklahoma/Canadian Counties attended.



Greg Smith from Community Development Support Association and OKACAA Homebuyer Education Coordinator Tricia Auberle were among those attending.

Service Awards presented at OKACAA Annual Conference

Big Five Community Services

10 years

Ron Clay
Lori Gentry
Rebecca Hallford
Kent Harper
Margaret Hill
Darla Holt

Betty Kashou
Shirley Mills
Juanita Shaw
Brenda Summers
J. D. Voto

Gena Weldon

15 years

Vickie Jones
Cindy Rhyne
Carolyn Wheatley

20 years

Genevia Byrd
Beth Parker

25 years

Bill Haddock
Nancy Morrow
JoAnn Sexton

Central Oklahoma Community Action Agency

10 years

Amber Davis
Lerlene Hill

20 years

Mary Ruth Anderson
Catherine Crowley
Mary Reed

35 years

Paulette Williams

Community Action Agency of Oklahoma City and Oklahoma/Canadian Counties

10 years

Darlene Anderson
Emily Autherlee
Felicia Baker
Barbara Boyer
Diedre Bradley
Lamar Bridges
Marva Duhart
Alma Fields
Maa-Uatchet Ra
Rhona Saltzman

Regina Scott

Vickie Threatt

15 years

Mary Franklin
Sharon Post
Connie Sanders
Almatine Smith
Vanita Wallace
Juanita Williams

20 years

George Campbell
Lucille Logan
Dorothy Taylor
Aggie Webb

25 years

Wanda Wallace

30 years

Ava Bailey
Gloria Burrell
Sheila Edwards

35 years

Louise Bridgett

Community Action Development Corp.

10 years

Janet Gomez
Shirley Marquez
Barbara Meador
Helen Russ
Lizabeth Shipp
Elsie Smith

15 years

Jan Byrd
Jean Dobbs
Cendie Newman
Gwenna Prescott
Kimberly Ritter

20 years

Jereada Bowers
Donna Hardwick

25 years

Pat Allen
Barbara Hayes
JoAnne Huggins
35 years
Melva Gardner
Betty Roberts

Community Action Resource & Development

10 years

Dawn Chaney
Peggy Ford
Joyce Long
Shirley Mizer
Anna Belle O'Canas

Mary Walker

Betty White

15 years

Becky Nielsen

20 years

Shirley Ricks

Cookson Hills Community Action Foundation

10 years

Carol Bolles
Winnie Bowen
Ada Brown
Delois Cullom
Margery Hallford
Glenda Lankford
Betty Smith

15 years

Blanch Harlin
Carolyn Latty
Sharon VanDevender

20 years

Artie Holloway
Elsie Howell
Sherry Hullinger

Jean Wood

25 years

Roxie Kirby

Deep Fork Community Action Foundation

10 years

Norene Arnold
Ginger Barger
Annie Black
Carrie Brogdon
Paulette Dixon
Rosetta Gist

Aretha Hildreth

Beverly Hilterbrand

Carmencita Jones

Suzanne Lindsey

Shirley Maxey

Gladys Mayfield

Clarence Parker

Clara Vaught

Joyce Walker

15 years

Pat Kerns

Rita Porter

25 years

Dorothy Fisher

Delta Community Action Foundation

10 years

Kathy Griffith
Mary Ann Rogers
Brenda Worley

20 years

Theta Brown

Lois Paige

25 years

Sharon Hawkins
Bea Boyles

Great Plains Improvement Foundation

10 years

Frances Flores
Betty Maytubbie

15 years

Sandra Butler
Betty Caldwell

INCA Community Services

10 years

Sherri Carter
Janet Davis
Sue Ishmael
Sherri Ogle
Pam Springer

15 years

Mary Hilliard

20 years

Rena Payne
Faye Webster

30 years

Bobbie Rowland

KI BOIS Community Action Foundation

10 years

Stacy Boren
Regina Bratton
Delores Clayton
Diana Dyer
Theresa Embrey
Mary Lloyd
Jim Oliver

Betsy Stephenson

15 years

Shelly Davis
Michael Dine
Barbara Hamlin
Tanga Luu
Donna Martin

Continued on page 7

Service Awards presented at OKACAA Annual Conference

Continued from page 6

Barbara Mayhall
 Kristi Parent
 Charla Sloan
 Donald Tubbs
 Carol Wall
 Edith White
20 years
 Vicki Bowers
 Maryland Frizzell
 Sandra Miles
25 years
 Ardith Harris
30 years
 Carolyn Selph
 Gladys Wright

35 years
 Carroll Huggins

Little Dixie Community Action Agency

10 years
 Billie McSwain
 Radonda Moffatt
 Teresa Young
 Johnna Yow
15 years
 Anita Bruce
 Imogene Clark
 Leona Rivers
20 years
 Shirley Cooley

Northeast Oklahoma Community Action Agency

10 years
 Helen Douglas
 Wanda Jackson
 Cindy Tuder
 Lisa Walker
15 years
 Janis Clinton
 Linda Verrette
30 years
 Myrna Cawyer

Twin Rivers Head Start

10 years
 Edwina Logan
15 years
 Sheree Mackey

United Community Action Program

10 years
 Renee Farley
 Leona Lile
 Paula Mitts
 Shari Moore
 Lillian Newland
 Lola Rogers
15 years
 Jacque Courtney
 Janet Dickey
25 years
 David Ellison
30 years
 Geraldine Daniels
 Bob Littlesun
35 years
 Johnny Bryant
 Helen Collins

Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies

10 years
 Patty Laub

Opportunities, Inc.

10 years
 Vickie Arnold
 Anita Cowan
 Maggie Lumpkin
 Gaverne Scott
15 years
 Sandy Adasiak
 Brenda Kurtz
25 years
 Mary Ann White

Southwest Oklahoma Community Action Group

15 years
 Emma Allen
20 years
 Rolando Ruiz
25 years
 Katherine Dickson

Washita Valley Community Action Council

10 years
 Martha Hudson
 Sonya Mandrell
20 years
 Ella Jay
 LaWanda Wilson
25 years
 Tomi Coffin
 Lottie Manning
 Opal Post

How to Reach OKACAA Staff

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Wanda Welters
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Sarah Lee
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 Okhs@okacaa.org

OWHAC awards scholarship



David and Ashley Ellison

Ashley Ellison, daughter of United Community Action Deputy Executive Director David Ellison, was awarded the \$1,000 Ted Allen/David Walker Scholarship during the OWHAC Housing & Energy Conference.

She will attend the U.S. Naval Academy where she will pursue an engineering degree.

Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies

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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
Serving: Cleveland, Lincoln,
Logan, Payne, Pottawatomie and
Seminole Counties

Community Action Agency of Oklahoma City and

Oklahoma/Canadian Counties
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KI BOIS Community Action Foundation

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Hugo (580) 326-3351
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Muskogee (918) 683-7637
Serving: Muskogee County

Northeast Oklahoma Community Action Agency

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Ottawa Counties

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Watonga (580) 623-7283
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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
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and Pawnee Counties

Washita Valley Community Action Council

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