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- Head Start Early Enrollment
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- Community Leaders Round Table

LDCAA LOVES COMMUNITY ACTION!

Special points of interest:

- Volunteers in Action!
- Victims Advocacy Services Receives Recognition
- PSO Reads To Broken Bow ELC Students
- Child Abuse Awareness Month Recognized Across Little Dixie

Little Dixie CAA featured in the newly released NeighborWorks® FY2016 community report. This report highlights six stories from the NeighborWorks® network that speak to the yearlong theme of creating economic opportunity. Little Dixie’s story highlighted the Community Building & Engagement activity of “Reclaiming and Renovating Ansley Park”, a collaboration between LDCAA’s Drug Free Communities Program, the City of Hugo, YouCo! (Choctaw County Youth Coalition), NeighborWorks® America, community leaders and residents.

Story continued on page 26

There is much to be offered and learned from the younger generation.”

Rebecca Reynolds, Executive Director Little Dixie Community Action Agency

www.littledixie.org
Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation (TVCDC) has started construction of self-help homes being built in partnership with USDA Rural Development.

These homes are being constructed by members of the Oglala Sioux Tribe in a planned community on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. The development will be a mixed income, mixed-use development and a large portion of it will be dedicated to single family affordable, sustainable and energy-efficient housing.

Nick Tilsen, Executive Director of TVCDC, stated “Thunder Valley CDC has an aggressive vision for creating housing and jobs in a sustainable way for the Oglala Lakota people and our solutions must be as aggressive as our vision. We understand the challenges that exist using the self-help model for housing but the need is so great and it’s an important component of the solution, so we are up for the challenge.”

TVCDC plans to construct 12 homes under their first Rural Development grant and with construction well underway on the first two homes, interest in the Self-Help Program is increasing in the community.

Tierra del Sol Housing Corporation of New Mexico celebrated Cinco de Mayo with a group of future homeowners by holding a group cookout at their location in the Village of Columbus.

City of Liberal Housing &
Community Development Department Holds Open House

John Covino (construction supervisor), Stacy York (USDA loan specialist), Jose and Maria Hernandez, (Self-Help family), Karen LaFreniere (housing director), Rosanna Soto (Little Dixie Community Action Agency), Juan LaValle (construction supervisor), Karina and Irvin Chavez, (Self-Help family), Tony Martinez, (city commissioner), Liberal Mayor Joe Denoyer, city employees Brad Beer, Chris Ford, Daniel Zuniga, and Erika Villa (group coordinator), watch as the ribbon gets cut on the most recent Self-Help housing project on Pennsylvania Avenue Thursday afternoon. There was excitement all around about the project being completed, and the completion of the project marks 58 houses built through the program. LBT photo/Elly Grimm
Northwest Regional Housing Authority Set to Complete 26 Homes

Northwest Regional Housing Authority located in Harrison, Arkansas, celebrated June’s Homeownership Month with an Open House Event. Northwest Regional is operating their seventh Self-Help Housing grant and plans to complete 26 homes during the current grant.

How does a self-help housing program work?

Three elements are necessary to make self-help housing work.

- Technical assistance from Housing Organizations to assist the participants with loan applications and house construction;

- Mortgage loan financing; and

- Families who want to become home owners, and are willing to do a significant portion of the work in building their homes.

Spotlight Website

The Spotlight website, which was created and is maintained by the T&MA Contractors to highlight the success of the Self-Help Housing Program, receives about 14,000 hits per month. This tool is available to you to help promote your program. Send us a success story and we’ll include it on the website. The success story can be 2 or 3 paragraphs and can include a photo if available. Submit your stories to pprice@ldcaa.org, selfhelphousingspotlight.org

Visitors walk through one of the recently completed Self-Help Housing houses during an open house held by the City of Liberal Housing & Community Development Department Thursday afternoon. This was one of three houses built as part of the project on Pennsylvania Avenue, and another Self-Help Housing project is currently going on at Purdue Avenue, according to Housing Director Karen LaFreniere. LDT photo/Elly Grimm

Courtesy of High Plains Daily Leader & Southwest Daily Times Online
When are the houses built?

Most of the construction takes place on Tuesday-Saturday between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. Since some participants in the program must work during the day.

How many families are in each group?

Generally, a group in the program is made up of 6-12 families.

Can I select my house plan?

There are a variety of house plans available in each project area. The size of the house depends on the size of the family, what the family can afford, and the size of the building lot. In many cases, the house plan is assigned to a specific lot.
Can I make changes to my house?

No. These are not custom homes and have to be built according to USDA-Rural Development approved plans. Once you move into your home, you are allowed to make any changes you would like.

How many hours of labor does each family contribute to the construction of all the houses in the group?

Each family contributes as much labor as is required to complete all the houses in the group. Generally, about 1,200 hours of labor per family is required, with each family contributing at least 35 hours each week to the building group. “Family hours” include the labor of all owners, any child 16 years of age or older, and 1-3 approved helpers (optional).
What will the interest rate be for my mortgage?

USDA-Rural Development uses current interest rates at the time of closing. Depending on your income and family size, that interest can be subsidized down to 1%.

Pictured left to right Beverly Coleman Self-Help Group Worker, Zack Williams Rural Development Specialist, Jerry Burton Self-Help Construction Supervisor, Rebecca Jamerson and Tiffany Colley

Terri Perry ground breaking

Jennifer Cross and her 3 children

Zack and Rosa Wammack Ground Breaking Event in Pushmataha County left to right: Kyle White, TBMA Director, Zack Williams, Rural Development Specialist, Gayla Vaughan, LDCAA Self-Help Housing Group Worker, Danika, (Zack & Rosa’s daughter), Micah, (Zack & Rosa’s son), Rosa Wammack, (Homeowner), Terri Harless, LDCAA Self-Help Housing Program Director, Pam Price, TBMA Self Help Specialist, Jason Stillwell, TBMA, Self-Help Specialist, and Jerry Burton, LDCAA Self-Help Housing Construction Supervisor
RURAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Rural Development Regulation Updates:

Several updated or new Administrative Notices have been released by the Department of Agriculture/Rural Development they are:

AN 4831: Section 523 Self-Help Rehabilitation Program Guidance Acquisition and Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Projects

AN 4840: Supervised Bank Accounts and Custodial Accounts Used in Conjunction with Self-Help Technical Assistance Grants

AN 4842: Self-Help Technical Assistance Grants High-Risk Determination

Updates can be viewed on the Rural Development website at www.rd.usda.gov, click on the Publications tab and then on Regulations & Guidelines.

Updated Income Limits

May 18, 2017

The 2017 Income Limits for the Single Family Direct Loan and Grant Programs were published on May 17, 2017 through a special Procedure Notice (PN). The Income Eligibility calculator in the Eligibility website has been updated to use the new income limits. Thank you for your support of the Single Family Direct Loan and Grant Programs.

"Homeownership helps families break the bonds of poverty and move into improved housing and economic conditions."
June saw many activities during National Homeownership Month, a time to recognize the value of homeownership to individuals, families and communities across the United States.

“Homeownership gives people a sense of well-being and families a place to establish roots to grow and thrive. The process gives communities opportunities to build wealth through taxes and community infrastructure. There is no doubt Homeownership creates jobs and strengthens communities”, says LDCAA T&MA technical assistance program Director Kyle White.

The U.S. homeownership rate is 63.6 percent, with the average first-time homebuyer about 33 years old at the front end of the millennial generation. Approximately 80 percent of the 41.4 million Americans age 65 and older own their home. The housing sector directly accounts for approximately 14 percent of total economic activity.

Homeownership builds wealth over time and in the long run, buying is more cost effective than renting. Owning a home can have positive tax implications for many families since their mortgage interest and property tax payments may be deducted from federal taxes, as well as many state taxes.

According to the National Association of Realtors, homeowners move far less frequently than renters, making it easier to build community networks and support systems. This results in a higher membership in voluntary organizations, greater social interaction in communities where they live, higher student test scores by children living in owned homes, a higher rate of high school graduation and higher earning, and better health outcomes, including better physical and psychological health.
Public Service Company of Oklahoma presented ‘Louie the Lightning Bug,’ a streetwise animated cartoon character, teaches kids about safety around electricity. The animated insect with four arms, two feet and an electric light body lights himself up by pulling a chain attached to his neck. The animated mascot of the electric company is known to share the television spotlight with dancing and singing electrical plugs and hair dryers in one spot. In another he’s cast with humming and singing ducks, telling kids two messages:

‘Hi, kids! I’m Louie the Lightning Bug. And I’m an expert on safety and electricity.

‘Never fly kites or climb trees near power lines.

‘Around home, never use radios or hair dryers near baths or showers. And don’t put your fingers or other objects in electrical outlets.

‘So please remember, gang. Play it safe around electricity.’

-‘When you and your daddy go to sail for the day, make sure the power lines are far away.’

-‘And when your daddy and you make the house look fine, don’t raise ladders or antennas near power lines. The lightning bug doesn’t raise his antennae near power lines. No way!’
Child Sock and Hat Day Enjoyed by All at Hugo Early Head Start

Birth to Three - Early Head Start Staff Receive In-Service Training in June

Play is a great relationship builder. Spending time playing with your child sends a simple message – you are important to me. This message helps your child learn about who she is and where she fits in the world.

Each year in June Early Head Start staff along with Child Care Partnership employees gather for training in Hugo at the Kiamichi Technology Center, this training covers a variety of topics ranging from health and safety to education. This year in particular staff received a Safe Sleep training required by Oklahoma DHS for anyone working with infants, 12 months and younger. Staff also attended training on how to properly administer medication and the requirements surrounding medication for children in the classroom. Our Education Specialist was able to present information involving lesson planning and individualization for the children. Early Head Start and Child Care Partnership classrooms serve children age birth to 3. Individualization in these classrooms help to make sure all children are meeting their specific developmental milestones.

Information was shared from our Nutrition Specialist on any changes regarding the Child and Adult Food Care Program. This group will come together again in July to receive more training for two days at our annual Pre-Service training also held at the Kiamichi Technology Center.

Play is a great relationship builder. Spending time playing with your child sends a simple message – you are important to me. This message helps your child learn about who she is and where she fits in the world.
Little Dixie Head Start has been out and about in the tri-county area recruiting children for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year. Several teachers have been going out to parades and other festivities in their local areas recruiting children. The family advocates and ERSEA specialist recently attended the Soper Homecoming and Parade to recruit children in Choctaw County. Some of our Family Advocates have been enduring the heat to place signs, talk to families and businesses about what Little Dixie Head Start has to offer. We have also used maximum exposure on Facebook to reach thousands of people through social media. So far, our efforts have had a positive feedback and successful turn out. To receive an application call 580.326.7581.
Little Dixie Communities Come Together in Recognition of April as Child Abuse Awareness Month

- Hugo Walk
- Antlers March
- Idabel Volunteer Rally
- Hugo Fire Department
- CASA Volunteers
- McCurtain County Child Welfare Office
- Choctaw County Sheriff
- Christian Life Outreach Ministries
- McCurtain County District Attorney’s Office
- Antlers Masonic Lodge
- LDCAA
- Pushmataha County Child Welfare Office
- Pushmataha County Sheriff’s Office
- Will Payne & Barry Diamond
- Bikers Against Child Abuse

At Risk Youth Programs Hold Child Abuse Awareness Events Across Little Dixie
Pushmataha County Advocates for Child Abuse Awareness Month
Child Abuse Awareness Events Continued...
Recognizing the statistics surrounding girls who do not have a consistent role model in their lives, LDCAA Youth Mentoring Program and the Cheerleaders from Antlers Middle School put a new spin on the Daddy Daughter dance with a gathering inspired by young girls and the mighty men who ARE in their lives. Young ladies got their dresses pressed and called their fathers, grandfathers, uncles, older brothers, family friend or male caregivers and joined the Antlers Middle School Cheerleaders and Youth Mentoring Program for the annual non-traditional spin on the “Daddy Daughter Dance.” girls without a “dad” were strongly encouraged to attend and take part in the festivities.

All the necessary items were provided for the families to just relax and have fun together. An important goal for the Youth Mentoring Program is to not only bring joy but also model positive, healthy communication and relationships.

Passport to the Future Mentoring Program in partnership with Christian Life Outreach Ministries brought happiness, fun, and crafts to its Mother’s Day Celebration helping families celebrate the holiday together. Everyone worked hard to be sure all participants felt special and knew that someone cared for them. All the necessary items were provided for the families to just relax and have fun together. An important goal for the Youth Mentoring Program is to not only bring joy but also model positive, healthy communication and relationships.

On June 13th Highway Patrolman Wofford presented an in-service training on how to read an old-fashioned “paper” mapping system for rural areas. The in-service was voluntary and was designed to assist CASA volunteers in finding homes that are difficult to locate and cannot be located with modern GPS systems.

Passport to the Future Mentoring Program Celebrates Mothers Day!
Lois Poe Receives Recognition

Lois Poe, Director of Victim’s Services, receives a certificate of appreciation from the Pushmataha County Coalition for volunteering her time at their many events and activities. Dana Dunlap, Director of TSET Healthy Living Pushmataha County Health Department presents Lois with her certificate of appreciation.
Annual Field Day at Rebel Hill Ranch

Rebel Hill Ranch welcomed all area schools including Head Start programs in Choctaw and Pushmataha counties once again to its Annual Field Day event. Organizations from both counties had activity booths for the kids to enjoy fun and games while learning about life on a real ranch. Participants were able to enjoy a petting parlor with farm animals and more exotic animals. Admission was free to all.

Wright City Area Churches Hold Volunteer Recruiting Event

The Oak Grove Baptist Church in Wright City played host to area congregations to recruit for volunteers for the Little Dixie Community Action Agency’s At Risk Youth Programs which include CASA and the Youth Mentoring Program. Music, fellowship, food, fun and information was had by all. Thank you to the Wright City Community!

“Farms are educational playgrounds for young minds. Being active is not only fun, it also promotes a healthy lifestyle”. www.mommyuniversity.com
Lisa Corey and Tiffany Johnson received their CDA (child development associate) credentials.

The Childhood Development Associate is awarded by the Council for Professional Recognition.

Tiffany and Lisa worked vigorously to meet the 480 hours of work experience and 120 clock hours of specific training. The requirements included completing a competency portfolio, being observed by a council professional representative and taking the CDA exam. LDCAA would like to congratulate Lisa and Tiffany on their accomplishment.

Healthy Start Attends Area Parades

Healthy Start Services can be provided to you in the comfort of your home, at some obstetric offices or at any place that is good for you. You may qualify for services from Healthy Start or Healthy Families no matter what your income level is. Participation is voluntary and you can stop services whenever you want.

Healthy Start is here to support you and your family.

You work with a Care Coordinator who can help you find community programs and services that are right for you.

Together you and your Care Coordinator will set goals and develop a "Plan of Care".

The Healthy Start program has been busy with their recruitment efforts this summer. In addition to normal recruiting they have been attending the local parades promoting the Healthy Start program.
Annual Pushmataha Recognition Event Honors RSVP Volunteers

On Wednesday April 5, 2017, Little Dixie RSVP held its annual recognition event honoring Retired and Senior volunteers in Pushmataha County. The luau themed event reminded the volunteers “You are a Lifesaver”. The program highlighted those who served more than 1,000 hours as “Volunteer Heroes”, they included: Verne & Monett Jackson.

In 2016, 159 volunteers donated 26,616 hours in 18 stations throughout Pushmataha County. The value of the volunteer’s service totals $572,238.63.

In honor of the Corporation for National and Community Service and County Recognition Day for National Service, a mock check displaying the value of the volunteer hours was presented to Antlers Mayor, Michael Riser, along with Pushmataha County Commissioners Michael Brittingham and Brad Burgett. The mock check was presented by Brent Franks LDCAA Board of Directors Chairman.

Pictured at left are Little Dixie RSVP staff members Jerri Mitchell Coordinator; and Karla Luginbill Director and Sherri Cheek Coordinator.

Pushmataha County volunteers and staff gather for "You are a Lifesaver" luau recognition event.
RSVP Recognition Event 2017 continued...

Volunteer of the Year for Pushmataha County is Eilene Jones. Eilene volunteers at 5 stations in Pushmataha County. Thank you Eilene for your selfless commitment to the RSVP program.

Citations from District #19 State Representative Humphries were sent to honor volunteers with 500 hours or more: Martha Tucker, Annette Kimball, Betty Cole, Robert Boren, Sarah Boren & Grace Potter are pictured with RSVP Director Karla Luginbill.

"Volunteer Heroes" with more than 1,500 hours Verne & Monette Jackson were also awarded with Citations from District #19 State Representative Humphries.
Pushmataha Community Partner Organizations Volunteers Honored at Luau

Pictured are RSVP volunteers from Antlers Nutrition Center. The center was recognized for their service to the community.

Pushmataha Hospital Auxiliary was recognized for having a positive impact on the community through their service.

Pictured are RSVP volunteers for the First Baptist Church Food Bank who was recognized for their service to the community. The food bank averages 140 families a week receiving assistance.

Robert & Sarah Boren, representatives for First Baptist Church Food Bank along with RSVP Director Karla Luginbill. Items donated by RSVP volunteers from Pushmataha County will help the food bank serve more people in need.

Annual National RSVP Statistical Highlights

- Volunteers 208,000
- Hours Served 46,019,150
- Number of Projects 627 Federally-funded projects
- Children mentored or tutored – 78,000
- Adults receiving independent living services – 797,000
- Veterans Serving as RSVP volunteers - 20,100
- Number of Projects – 627 (Federally-funded)

Information courtesy of
https://www.nationalservice.gov/newsroom/marketing/factsheets/senior-corps
On Wednesday April 12, 2017, Little Dixie RSVP held its annual recognition event honoring Retired and Senior volunteers in Choctaw County. The luau themed event reminded the volunteers “You are a Lifesaver”. The program highlighted those who served more than 1,000 hours as “Volunteer Heroes”, they included Johanna McKerney and Norman Pence.

In 2016, 71 volunteers donated 14,630 hours in 15 stations throughout Choctaw County. The value of the volunteer’s service totals $314,542.42.

In honor of the Corporation for National and Community Service Elected Official Recognition Day for National Service, a mock check displaying the value of the volunteer hours was presented to Choctaw County Commissioner District 2, Randy Robertson, by Little Dixie Community Action Agency Associate Director Johnny Moffitt, LDCAA Board of Directors Chairman, Brent Franks and Will Payne with Payne Radio Group.

At left Gladys Sharp was recognized for her service at Sawyer Senior Nutrition Center. She has been a volunteer there since 2007 and has completed over 5,134 hours during her time volunteering.

At right Thelma Goodman, was recognized as a volunteer with heart. She exhibits what Retired Senior Volunteering means as she is volunteering at the Messer Senior Center at the age of 92.
Clinton Crawley was recognized as “Volunteer of the Year”. His community service is matched by no other, as he eats, sleeps and breathes serving others. Thank you Clinton for all that you do for our community we can never thank you enough!

Honored for their dedication and service to the community were members from the Sharing Hope Food Bank. Hundreds of families in need are served each month through the food bank.

Pictured are RSVP volunteers from the Hugo Heritage Railroad Museum. The museum was recognized for their service to the community.

Keith Robertson and Clinton Crawley, representatives for Sharing Hope Food Bank along with RSVP Director Karla Luginbill. Items donated by RSVP volunteers from Choctaw County will help the food bank serve more people in need.
WHEREAS, Americans are living longer and achieving more, taking on new roles after decades of hard work to ensure opportunity for the generations that follow:

WHEREAS, the nation recognizes the contributions of seniors during the month of May, designated as Older Americans Month:

WHEREAS, older Americans bring a lifetime of skills and experience that can be tapped to meet challenges in our nation’s communities; and

WHEREAS, for more than five decades, the three Senior Corps programs – Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and RSVP – have proven to be a highly cost-effective way to engage Americans age 55 and over in volunteer service that meets pressing community needs; and

WHEREAS, Senior Corps volunteers build capacity of organizations and communities by serving through more than 28,000 nonprofit, community, educational, and faith-based community groups nationwide; and

WHEREAS, each year Senior Corps provides volunteer service opportunities for more than 245,000 older Americans to serve their communities across the nation, including approximately 184 SENIOR CORPS VOLUNTEERS in PUSHMATAHA COUNTY; and

WHEREAS, nationally, Senior Corps volunteers last year provided more than 74.6 million hours of service, improving the lives of our most vulnerable citizens, strengthening our education system, helping seniors live independently in their homes, protecting our environment, and contributing to our public safety; and

WHEREAS, at a time of mounting social needs and growing interest in service by older Americans our nation has an unprecedented opportunity to harness the talents of 55-plus volunteers to address additional community challenges; and

WHEREAS, service by older Americans keeps them active, healthy, and engaged; helps our communities by solving local problems; and helps our nation by saving taxpayer dollars, reducing healthcare costs, and strengthening our democracy; and

WHEREAS, Senior Corps volunteers demonstrate commitment, dedication, and patriotism by making an intensive commitment to service, a commitment that makes a lasting impact on the individuals and communities they serve; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, JOEL TAYLOR, CITY MANAGER, ANTlers, OKLAHOMA of PUSHMATAHA COUNTY, do hereby designate May 15-19, 2017, as National Senior Corps Week and urge other officials, organizations, and citizens to recognize Senior Corps volunteers and programs for their commitment to our communities.
Antlers City Manager Designates May 15-19, 2017 Senior Corps Week

Antlers City Manager Joel Taylor made it official May 15-19, 2017 was declared “Senior Corps Week,” in Antlers, Oklahoma in Pushmataha County. The eventful week was designed to honor the service that Senior Corps programs and volunteers provide to individuals and communities across our country and in our local area. More than 245,000 Senior Corps volunteers are serving in more than 28,000 organizations helping children increase their literacy skills and stay in school and on track; providing important support during disasters; helping frail elderly citizens age at home; and so much more. Senior Corps volunteers are putting their experience to work for all of us.

Volunteers in Action for Senior Corps Week

Fifty-five Antlers Elementary students toured 2 RSVP stations on Monday to learn about their community. Mrs. Joyce Brooks is pictured above giving the students a tour.

Mr. Jackson gives a tour of the Pushmataha Historical Society Museum located in the historical Depot.

Mr. Jackson gives a tour of the Wildlife Heritage Center in Antlers, Oklahoma.
Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc. to be featured at NeighborWorks® America’s 2017 Rural Membership Conference

Executive Director, Rebecca Reynolds, was contacted by NeighborWorks® officials with a request to spotlight a few of the agency-operated programs which reflect innovative approaches to addressing community and economic development. The programs selected by NeighborWorks® included: Hugo Lake State Park; The Ansley Park Reclamation project and a participating family in LDCAA’s Mutual Self Help Housing Program. The video was shown during the Annual Rural Convening Conference in Memphis, Tennessee, April 18–20, 2017.

NeighborWorks® Video: Hugo Lake State Park

Ron Reese Hugo Lake State Park Manager discussing development of the park and its importance to the local economy.

Honorary park ranger Buddy, Hugo Lake State Park Manager Ron Reese, LDCAA Executive Director Rebecca Reynolds and LDCAA Grants and Public Relations Director Rhonda Teague on the deck of the Hospitality House at Hugo Lake State Park.

Ron Reese and Rebecca Reynolds discuss recent developments to park communications.
NeighborWorks® Video: Reclamation of Ansley Park

Former DFC (Drug Free Communities) Project Coordinator Katelyn Jones, Current DFC Program Director Tonya Green-Finley, and former DFC Program Director Michele Frazier discussing steps taken to successfully complete the Ansley Park Reclamation project and steps taken since the successful implementation to sustain the park’s renovation for all in the community to safely enjoy.


City of Hugo Mayor Darren Frazier being interviewed for video spotlighting collaborative partnerships in economic and community development.
NeighborWorks® Video: Self Help Housing “A Place to Call Home”

Grady and Monica Ford share the process and outcomes of receiving a LDCAA Self-Help Home. Pictured below is the beautiful Ford family home.
Drug Free Communities Organizes Fun Run and Kicks Off Community Garden

The Choctaw County Drug Free Communities Support Program (DFC) works to establish and strengthen collaboration among community partners in order to support the efforts of the Choctaw County Coalition to prevent and reduce substance use among youth. This year the Annual Choctaw County Coalition Scholarship was a COLOR RUN and was held June 3rd. In addition, Little Dixie’s Community Garden in Hugo had a work day on April 20th. Community members and students from Drug Free Communities, Student Council, YAB, YouCo, and Project Gain helped paint fences and shovel dirt.

There will be many more opportunities to join in in the fun and everyone is invited to share in the bountiful harvest of the community garden!
The Federal Reserve System was created by Congress in 1913 to address periodic financial crises in the nation; the Federal Reserve System came to be charged with broader responsibilities, including fostering a sound banking system and a healthy economy.

Community Development was created in the 1980s mainly to help banks understand their responsibilities under the Community Reinvestment Act. But as it became active in development issues, Community Development forged new relationships with nonprofit community groups.

Over the years, the staff has sought out new opportunities for collaboration to assist low and moderate-income populations. With more than 25 years of experience, Community Development departments have become integral parts of their communities, keeping a focus on what is happening in the nation’s diverse geographic regions, stretching far beyond Washington, D.C., and Wall Street.

Rebecca Reynolds was appointed to the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City’s Community Development Advisory Council on Jan. 1, 2017. The Community Development Advisory Council advises Bank President and CEO Esther George on current developments and emerging issues in community and economic development. Council members are community and business leaders from the Tenth Federal Reserve District’s seven states and serve three-year terms. The Council meets twice a year with Ms. George and the Community Development department’s staff.

In keeping with the overall goal of the council a local meeting with key stakeholders from different sectors of the community was held March 29, 2017 at the Hugo, Oklahoma LDCAA Homeownership Center to discuss leading factors affecting local economic growth and stability.

Representatives from Choctaw, McCurtain, and Pushmataha Counties discussed topics such as Housing, Finance, Business, Non-Profit, Economic Development and Charitable Giving with representatives from the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.

Brent Franks - LDCAA Board Chair; Steven Shepelwich - Senior Community Development Advisor Oklahoma City Branch Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City; Rebecca Reynolds - LDCAA Executive Director; Valerie Powell - Hugo Chamber of Commerce President; Michael Melton - Loan Officer Security First National Bank; Bobby Lee Yandell - Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Housing Director; Miriam Costilow - President Choctaw County Arts Council; Meridith Russell - Sharing Hope Food Bank; William Smith - Executive Director Kiamichi Opportunities; Clinton Crawley - Men United and Washington Community Center; Chantell Garrett - Senior Stakeholder Engagement Advisor Community Development Department of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.
May is NATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH!

May is National Community Action Month, a time when Community Action Agencies across the country tell their stories and share their successes! Help us raise awareness about the anti-poverty impact that Community Action Partnership has both locally and nationally.

National Community Action Month in May was created by the Community Action Partnership to reinforce Community Action Agencies’ role helping low-income families achieve economic stability.

During National Community Action Month, Community Action Agencies truly make the Promise of Community Action—to help people and change lives—come alive by hosting events that help put a "face" on the families living in poverty and the dedicated individuals who are helping them escape it. Success stories are honored and personal achievements are recognized. Some governors and mayors even proclaim May “Community Action Month” in their states and cities.

#BeCommunityAction

In honor of Community Action Month CASA and Mentoring Staff recognize LDCAA Head Start/Early Head Start and Early Head Start Child Care Teachers during National Teachers Day by presenting them with Keychains! Happy National Teachers Day!
Community Action Activities Across Little Dixie

Donna Hunter Hudson works in the LDCAA Antlers Transit office and is also a member of the Moyers Volunteer Fire Department, where she serves as the Assistant Chief. Thank you Donna, and ALL Firefighters/First Responders, for what you do for our community.

LDCAA’s Antlers Family Service Center delivered Gatorade and cookies to the Antlers Fire Department in honor of International Firefighter’s Day.
Emergency Assistance: Through funding received from the Emergency Food and Shelter Program and local donations to the Little Dixie Emergency Fund and through the Salvation Army Bell ringing, a total of 66 families received much needed emergency assistance.

Self Help Housing: 29 single family homes were built for low-income families in the eight southeast Oklahoma counties serviced through the program.

Passport to the Future Mentoring + Program: 77 youth and their families received mentoring services. 50 volunteers assisted with activities contributing a total of 948 hours.

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP): 356 volunteers (ages 55 and over) provided 81,240 hours of service to their communities at 63 volunteer stations which equated to a dollar value of $1,746,662.80.
**Early Head Start:** Seventy-three infants & toddlers received services through three Early Head Start centers.

**Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership/Early Learning Centers:** Through partnerships formed with four child care providers via the EHS-CC program, a total of 157 infants and toddlers received through 8 childcare centers.

**Head Start:** A total of 548 children were provided Head Start services in 29 classrooms.

**Child and Adult Food Care Program:** CACFP served 160 Daycare Home providers in 38 counties serving approximately 2500 children.

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This Veterans Day, Community Action Partnership thanks all of our veterans for their service and sacrifice.

#CommunityAction #BeCommunityAction #MemorialDay
NeighborWorks® Week

June 3-10, 2017

Each June, NeighborWorks® America and its network of local organizations mobilize tens of thousands of volunteers, businesspeople, neighbors, friends, and local and national elected and civic leaders in a week of neighborhood change and awareness.

Since its inception in 1983, NeighborWorks® Week showcases how the NeighborWorks® network strengthens communities and celebrates our collective impact as a network.

Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc., the City of Broken Bow employees and local volunteers descended on the City Park in Broken Bow, Oklahoma for a two-day community project to clean up the East side of the park.
LDCAA volunteers have been walking up and down the streets of Antlers gathering surveys from the Antlers community. This information will be used by NeighborWorks® to assist in determining what needs/concerns of the community need to be addressed.

EMPLOYEES OF THE QUARTER

Congratulations to LDCAA Employee of the Month for April; Fiscal Officer Sharon Pennell. Mrs. Pennell was nominated by Pam Price. Ms. Price says, “Sharon Pennell will work what is required to get the job done and many times that means late nights and weekends. Her actions exemplify integrity, leadership, loyalty and dedication to Little Dixie. Presenting Sharon with her Employee of the Month Certificate is LDCAA Board President Brent Franks and Associate Director Johnny Moffitt.”
EMPLOYEES OF THE QUARTER continued...

Congratulations to LDCAA June Employee of the Month - Doris Long. Doris is the Director of the Victims and Youth Advocacy Program and was nominated by Marissa Jordan and Becky Reynolds. Ms. Jordan stated, “I have worked with many, many supervisors over the years and have RARELY met anyone with her character.” Ms. Reynolds said, “Doris is truly one of a kind and has a caring, kind and considerate attitude.” Candice Bruce laments that “Doris is a model employee and the students love Miss Cynthia.” Thank you Doris Cayton for all you do for Little Dixie Head Start!

Congratulations to LDCAA May Employee of the Month - Cynthia Cayton. Cynthia is a Head Start Teacher at the Rattan Head Start facility. Cynthia was nominated by Candice Bryce, Shelly Pinkston and Jessica May. Jessica states that “Cynthia is always smiling and has a positive personality.” Shelly says “Cynthia is truly one of a kind and has a caring, kind and considerate attitude.” Candice Bruce laments that “Cynthia is a model employee and the students love Miss Cynthia.” Thank you Cynthia Cayton for all you do for Little Dixie Head Start!

Service Award Winners

5 Years
- Sylvia Watkins - Transit Program (Dispatcher)

10 Years
- Charles Rust - Self-Help Specialist (T&MA)
- Cathy Zachry - LDCAA Housing (Apartment Clerk)

20 Years
- Doris Long - Victims and Youth Advocacy Program (Director)

Thank you for your dedication and service to Little Dixie CAA. We appreciate YOU!
LITTLE DIXIE COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY, INC.

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