Little Dixie CAA Holds Annual In-Service Event

December 7, 2018 - Little Dixie Community Action Agency held its annual In-Service Event for full-time employees. Executive leadership, Board Members and 215 full-time employees in attendance were provided with highlights and accomplishments of agency programs, sexual harassment training and safety/risk management training.

Rebecca Reynolds, Executive Director, welcomed staff and provided an overview of the programs she directly supervises. Johnny Moffitt, Associate Director, followed suit and informed the crowd of updates on the programs he directly supervises. Myrl Redman, Associate Director, also reported on the agency programs he directly supervises.

Service Award and Employee of the Month recipients were also honored. Jordan Mack, Head Start/Early Head Start Assistant Director, was announced as LDCAA’s 2018 Employee of the Year.

Dawn McDaniel, Human Resources Director, presented a video to staff regarding sexual harassment in the workplace. W.F. Grammar, Risk Manager, provided staff with general tips/guidelines for keeping the workplace safe and creating optimal work spaces. Staff then had the opportunity for some fun and fellowship during the catered lunch.

For the special activity this year, LDCAA hosted a Cornhole Tournament and Bingo! A total of 16 teams competed in the Cornhole Tournament, and the remaining staff participated in Bingo. Prizes were awarded to the first and second place teams, as well as the winners of each Bingo game. See page 4 for more from LDCAA’s Annual In-Service Event.

In-service was a terrific time for staff to congregate together and prepare for another wonderful year of serving the residents of Choctaw, McCurtain and Pushmataha Counties!
Around the Agency

Employee of the Month Awardees

October

The LDCAA Employee of the Month for October 2018 was Sheila Pierce (center). Sheila is the Housing Director and has been with the agency since 2013. Also pictured: Board Chairman Brent Franks (left) and Executive Director Rebecca Reynolds.

November

The LDCAA Employee of the Month for November 2018 was Dee Dee Atwood. Dee Dee (center) is the Victim Services Coordinator for the Victim Advocacy Services Program and is pictured with Board Chairman Brent Franks (left) and Executive Director Rebecca Reynolds.

December

The LDCAA Employee of the Month for December 2018 was Stacy Teague (center). Stacy is a Loan Officer and has been with the agency since July 2018. Also pictured is Board Chairman Brent Franks (left) and Executive Director Rebecca Reynolds.

Congratulations to our monthly winners, who are chosen by their peers!

Planning Director Rhonda Teague (center) stands with Executive Director Rebecca Reynolds (right) and Board Chairman Brent Franks after receiving her 20-Year Service Award.

2018 LDCAA Employee of the Year

Pictured with Board Chairman Brent Franks (left) and Executive Director Rebecca Reynolds (right), Head Start/Early Head Start Assistant Director Jordan Mack receives the 2018 Employee of the Year Award at the Board of Directors Meeting in December. Jordan was chosen from among the 12 agency staff members who were named Employee of the Month during 2018.

LDCAA Transit staff competed in the Oklahoma Transit Association’s "Roadeo" Event, placing at the top in their respective areas. James Jackson (fourth from left) placed highest in the Written Test Score category, which gauged knowledge of State and Federal traffic laws. Frances Pierce (fifth from left) also placed first in the Wheelchair Securement category. Congratulations on taking pride in a job well done as shown by these achievements! Also pictured (L-R) is Associate Director Johnny Moffitt, Board Chairman Brent Franks, McCurtain County Transit Supervisor Regina Hill and Executive Director Rebecca Reynolds.

Housing Director Sheila Pierce (center) was honored for five years of service to LDCAA in November 2018. Also pictured is Board Chairman Brent Franks (left) and Executive Director Rebecca Reynolds.
Around the Agency

New Faces at the LDCAA Administration Office

Evielyn Wolfe became the agency’s newest Administrative Receptionist/Accounting Clerk in October 2018. Evielyn is a great addition to the agency and we are happy to have her. Welcome to the agency, Evielyn!

Olivia Barnett, Program Planner, joined LDCAA’s team in early December. Olivia will be focusing her efforts on seeking funding opportunities for the agency. Welcome to the agency, Olivia!

Allen Carroll joined the team as a Construction Superintendent in October 2018. Allen is providing oversight to the various on-going projects throughout the agency. Welcome to the agency, Allen!

Janis Cravatt-Rico, Tri-County Opioid Response Project Director, will concentrate her efforts on addressing the systemic needs of the opioid epidemic within the communities we serve. Welcome to the agency, Janis!

Community Needs Assessment

The purpose of LDCAA’s Community Needs Assessment is to identify and prioritize the needs and resources defined in our communities. Data is gathered from target populations and results are analyzed in order to understand the causes and conditions of poverty and changing population demographics. Little Dixie Community Action Agency’s Board and leadership will use this data to design effective, outcome-based programs that will work to alleviate poverty. The analyzed data is summarized in a report which can be used to provide justification, both to agency funders and the public, on the need for resources and how resources are being allocated to programs. The report also provides useful data to educate the public and community leaders on issues related to poverty.

Macy Self, Program Planner, leads discussion with attendees over identified barriers, resources and strategies.

Macy Self (right) presents Mehlanie Adamson (left) with a $50 gift card door prize.

Meeting attendees participate in identifying barriers, resources and strategies with which to address the identified community needs.
Around the Agency

2018 Agency In-Service Event
Around the Agency

Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign

The Antlers, Hugo and Idabel Service Units of the Salvation Army wrapped up their 2018 Red Kettle Campaigns around mid-December. Bell ringers volunteered their time in 1.5 to 2 hour shifts at locations including Walmart Supercenters (Hugo and Idabel) and Pruett’s Food (Antlers). Volunteer bell ringers included Rotary Club members, Kiamichi Opportunities, area Banks, LDCAA Board Members, agency staff, family, and many other volunteer residents.

Over the course of three weeks, approximately $5,761.42 was raised throughout the three counties. The local Salvation Army Boards appreciate all who volunteered to ring the bell to raise funds to help families with low incomes. All donations dropped in the kettles will be used to assist residents of Choctaw, McCurtain, or Pushmataha Counties.

LDCAA organizes the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign activities for the Antlers, Hugo and Idabel Service Units in order to assist families in need. While the International Salvation Army provides a multitude of services for poverty-stricken individuals and families, the local Salvation Army Service Units have primarily provided utility assistance for families in emergency situations.
Supporting Local Angel Tree Program

LDCAA staff recently partnered with Choctaw County Youth Services to wrap presents for their Angel Tree. Individuals in the community were asked to fill out an application, then provide a photo ID of the parent or legal guardian, Social Security Cards for all children, proof of income and proof of residence. The program was open to Choctaw County residents, designed to assist underprivileged families during the Christmas season. LDCAA is very humbled to have been a part of this program; it is always rewarding to play a role in creating a memorable Christmas for a child.

LDCAA staff who participated in wrapping presents for the Angel Tree included (L to R) Charles Rust, Dawn McDaniell, Alli McDaniell, Rebecca Reynolds, Kyle White, Bryce Nash, Jason Stillwell, and Jeannie Reynolds.

Rebecca Reynolds, Executive Director, wraps an outfit for an angel tree recipient.

Technical and Management Assistance Program Analyst Jeannie Reynolds (above, left) and Self-Help Specialist Jason Stillwell (above, right) wrap presents.

T&MA Self-Help Specialist Bryce Nash (left) and Self-Help Specialist Charles Rust (right) wrap presents.

T&MA Program Director Kyle White wraps a present for an Angel Tree recipient.
AmeriCorps

AMERICORPS MEMBERS WANTED!

Little Dixie Head Start & Early Head Start

- Earn a monthly living allowance that will not affect government benefits.
- Receive an educational award of $2,822.
- Members 55 & older can transfer their education award to a child or grandchild.

Please call for more information

Phone: 580-326-7581

Positions in Choctaw, McCurtain and Pushmataha Counties.

All members must be at least 17 years of age and have a high school diploma or GED.

Now Recruiting!

Little Dixie Head Start/Early Head Start is seeking to place AmeriCorps Members in the following locations: Antlers, Boswell, Clayton, Hugo, Idabel, Rattan, and Soper. The flyer above provides information regarding the AmeriCorps Program and the many benefits offered to members who wish to serve. If selected, members will serve children within Head Start and Early Head Start classrooms, helping them to achieve school readiness goals and become successful in their next learning environment.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in serving as an AmeriCorps member or have any questions, please contact the Head Start office at (580) 326-7581. AmeriCorps applications can be turned in at the Head Start central office in Hugo, by email (mferguson@ldcahs.org), by fax (580-326-7584), or at the local Head Start Center in your community.
Court Appointed Special Advocates Program

2018 Holiday Food Basket and Toy Drive Initiative

The Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays provided a time to reflect on the blessings received during the year and share with others. To this end, Little Dixie Community Action Agency sought local funding opportunities to support an initiative to provide Thanksgiving and Christmas meals to families in need, who were nominated by agency staff. The agency also supported a toy drive to benefit children served by the Victim and Youth Services Programs.

The following donations for the Holiday Food Basket and Toy Drive Initiatives were received from area businesses and individuals during the months of October through December, 2018:

- AmeriStat e Bank - $300
- FirstBank - $300
- Individuals/LDCAA Staff Donations - $808.

A total of $1,408 in local monetary donations was received. These donations allowed the agency to provide Holiday Food Baskets to 46 families who would otherwise have not had sufficient funds for a Thanksgiving or Christmas Dinner.

In addition, the Victim and Youth Services Programs served approximately 350 children through the Toy Drive Initiative—the most of any year thus far. Toy Drive Initiative donations were received from: Pine Mountain Trail; Tom and Deb Foster; James Smith and Carolyn Hill; Antlers Masonic Lodge #39; Pushmataha County Volunteer Fire Departments; Outlaw Mud Crew; City Body; LDCAA employees; the Office of Twana Duncan, DDS; and many other individuals who donated anonymously.

46 Total Baskets Distributed
350 Total Children Receiving Toys

This project is supported by VOCA Subgrant No. 2018-VOCA-Little Dixie CAA-141 awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice through the Oklahoma District Attorneys Council.
Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Impact Program

Family Fun Day

ECCS partnered with the Choctaw County Coalition to provide our first Family Fun Day in Choctaw County. There were several community programs and organizations that set up a booth, so parents could learn about services offered within our community. At registration, families received a family engagement activity, which was a gingerbread house, to take home and enjoy as a family. ECCS offered free Ages and Stages Developmental Screenings for parents to complete at the event. Children had the opportunity to decorate their own bag during the event and take home age-appropriate books to enjoy. Overall 436 children participated in the event and 56 people helped with the event. It was a huge success and we look forward to spreading these efforts into McCurtain and Pushmataha Counties in the upcoming new year.

At left, various tables were filled with family resources (such as age-appropriate books), which were distributed to attendees at the event.

At right, local residents Vickie Wolfenbarger and Koven Tuck enjoy Family Fun Day, visiting with community programs and participating in the various activities.

Event attendees could decorate their own book bags (pictured at left) and were given age-appropriate books to help encourage child and family literacy.

New Partnership: Antlers Eye Care

ECCS is happy to announce a new partnership with Dr. Andrew Kraft at Antlers Eye Care, located in Pushmataha County. The program has incorporated an Early Literacy Corner within Antlers Eye Care. The corner includes developmental activities, toys, books, and resources for parents to access while they visit Dr. Kraft’s Office.

Dr. Andrew Kraft (pictured left) with a patient enjoying the Early Literacy Corner (pictured right).

Community Team Meeting

During the quarterly Community Team Meeting, ECCS updated the team over our Early Literacy Corners, Help Me Grow implementation, and program successes. Our partner, Lil’ Dawgs Child Care (in McCurtain County), has now implemented the developmental screening process within their center. During the meeting, the team had an opportunity to break out into groups and brainstorm on the Help Me Grow Readiness Assessments we are working to complete. The team provided helpful and insightful information that will allow us to complete the assessments accurately.

This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under Grant Number H25MC30343, Community-Based Integrated Service Systems (Local/State)/ECCS Impact for $426,600. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred from HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.
National Head Start Association's Parent and Family Engagement Conference

The NHSA Parent and Family Engagement Conference was held in Orlando, Florida on December 17-20, 2018. The conference was attended by Tori Crawford, Family and Community Engagement Specialist for the Head Start, Early Head Start, and EHS-Child Care Partnership Programs. This year’s Parent and Family Engagement Conference revealed a wide range of new resources and thinking on the topic of young children’s challenging behaviors and how Head Start programs can address the wellness needs of children, families and staff. Experts in adverse childhood experiences and trauma-informed care shared techniques and skills that LDCAA staff will incorporate to create safe environments in which children can flourish and learn. In addition to content focusing on parent and family engagement, new sessions addressed the topic of challenging behavior, including:

• Strength-based care that focuses on helping children build their sense of control and feel empowered

• Tools and resources available to help staff and parents feel confident and prepared when nurturing children experiencing difficult home experiences

• New ways of understanding how trauma impacts development, attachment and school readiness.

WIPFLI Winter Conference 2018

Head Start/Early Head Start/EHS-Child Care Program Director Darla Galyon and Head Start/Early Head Start Assistant Director Jordan Mack attended the Wipfli Winter Training Conference in December 2018. This conference covered a range of topics including: Head Start Monitoring Protocol, eligibility, recruitment, selection, enrollment, attendance, impactful technology, methods of procurement, uniform guidance, and recruitment/hiring practices for employees.

Managing Comprehensive Health Services

Katelyn Nelms (pictured below, right) and Johonna House (left) recently attended a training in Savannah, GA, where they obtained information on managing comprehensive health/services within Head Start and Early Head Start. Primary training topics centered on Nutrition, Medical, Oral, and Mental Health services. Other topics included: Pediatric Nutrition “Hot Topics”, Regulations and Mandates, Nourishing Infants and Toddlers, and Data Management in Nutrition.
Little Dixie Head Start/Early Head Start/Child Care and Early Learning Centers

HS/EHS/EHS-CC IN-SERVICE

Little Dixie Head Start/Early Head Start/Child Care Management Team includes (from left): Rita Burke, Johonna House, Carolyn Whitley, Nikki McAdams, Lori Henry, Susie Mashburn, Jordan Mack, Mattie Ferguson, Darla Galyon, Marsha Zulkey, Ronda Spear, Katelyn Nelms, Kim Weatherford, Sara Moore, and Christina Merritt.

The Head Start/Early Head Start/EHS-Child Care Management Team includes from left: Rita Burke, Johonna House, Carolyn Whitley, Nikki McAdams, Lori Henry, Susie Mashburn, Jordan Mack, Mattie Ferguson, Darla Galyon, Marsha Zulkey, Ronda Spear, Katelyn Nelms, Kim Weatherford, Sara Moore, and Christina Merritt.

The Group Costume Winners were (L to R): Lisa Engler, Shyloe Harvey, Lori Stiles, Peggy Parker, Sara Hickman, Lisa Watkins, Judzaya Davis, Joyce Beggs, Erica Shirey, Carolyn Moss, and CherTorie Arnold.

The projects described were supported by Grant Numbers 06CH7099, 06CH010743, and 06HP0017 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. Contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Administration for Children and Families or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
Students at Clayton 2 Head Start exhibiting Michelangelo painting (upper left). This type of activity is used to help improve fine motor skills!

Clayton 2 Head Start students pictured (upper right) on a class field trip to a local pizza parlor for their study of bread.

To emphasize the idea of random acts of kindness, the Clayton 2 Head Start class collected enough food for two families to have a Thanksgiving dinner (pictured bottom left).

As a part of the Head Start Program, families are encouraged to participate in events with the children at the Head Start centers. Grandparents (pictured middle left and right) are a huge part of that experience and are welcomed into the classrooms to build family support!

Smokey Bear and State Forestry workers recently visited Battiest Head Start (bottom right) to provide instruction to the students regarding fire safety.

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Housing Programs

During the last quarter, LDCAA Housing Coordinators Gayla Vaughan, Paula Dillishaw and Ruby Gann visited numerous sites in Pushmataha and Choctaw Counties, including Little Dixie Head Starts, Kiamichi Family Medical Center in Clayton, and the Clayton Daycare. During these visits, they provided parents with Self-Help Program & Housing information, housing counseling information, and resources the housing department provides to the community.

At left, two "purfect" LDCAA employees (Housing Coordinators Gayla Vaughan and Ruby Gann) teamed up to participate in the Halloween Festival at the Train Depot in Fort Towson. During the festival, they operated a fishing booth (pictured at right). In three hours, they handed out over 200 bags of candy and brochures about Self-Help and Housing programs to attendees.

On October 16, 2018, the Choctaw County Coalition sponsored a Dr. Seuss reading program. Housing Coordinators Gayla Vaughan and Ruby Gann participated in the event by handing out brochures on LDCA’s Housing Programs and promotional items.
HAC Rural Housing Conference

The biennial HAC Rural Housing Conference brings together stakeholders in the field of rural affordable housing from local nonprofits, federal agencies, Congress, state and local governments, and other industry leaders for two-and-a-half days of training, discussion and networking. This year’s conference was a resounding success with over 600 stakeholders from 48 states coming together to learn, discuss and network in support of affordable housing and building rural prosperity.

The conference featured over 40 workshops detailing best practices for rural housing development, organizational management, resource development and innovative approaches to housing and community development. There was even a six-session self-help housing tract with sessions presented by the staff of the Technical and Management Assistance Contractors.

The event included a pre-Conference day packed with gatherings for coalitions, associations, and working groups. During the National Rural Self-Help Housing Association (NRSIIHA) meeting the state of the program and its challenges were discussed. The organization encourages all self-help groups that have not paid their dues and joined the organization to do so. This organization is critical to the unity and continuation of self-help housing. Contact your T&MA provider if you need information.
Refunded Grantees

T&MA Contractor Congratulations USDA Rural Development Re-Funded Housing Programs:

- **Universal Housing Development Corporation of Russellville, AR** was funded to complete 25 homes.

- **Northwest Regional Housing Authority of Harrison, AR** received their eighth grant to complete 28 homes.

- **Tri-County Indian Nations CDC** received their seventh grant to complete 20 homes.

- **Little Dixie Community Action Agency** was funded to build 55 homes in southeast Oklahoma.
Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

RSVP Holds Celebration for County Volunteers as "All-American Heroes"

The "All-American Heroes" Recognition event served as a tribute to all those in the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program. Program Director Karla Luginbill held three celebrations, one in each service county, to recognize the hard work, tenacity and outstanding accomplishments of the RSVP volunteers. RSVP Volunteers were also provided Deterra Drug Deactivation Kits. Luginbill provided training on the kits and explained that the Deterra Drug Deactivation System deactivates prescription drugs with its proprietary activated carbon, which renders drugs ineffective. This resource is another way in which the program works towards achieving Healthy Futures for the communities it serves. The Deterra Drug Deactivation Pouches were made possible through a generous donation by The AmerisourceBergen Foundation.

RSVP
Lead with Experience

Pictured prior to the start of the McCurtain County Volunteer Recognition Event are (from left) LDCAA Board Members Sharon Jernigan, Vicky Wade, Andrea Henkel, and Mayor Tina Foshee-Thomas, Executive Director Rebecca Reynolds, Board Member Trilla Frazier, County Commissioner Jimmy Westbrook, RSVP Director Karla Luginbill, and RSVP County Coordinator Jerri Mitchell.

Barbara Passmore (center) was selected as McCurtain County Volunteer of the Year for 2018. She is a leading force with the Trinity Rockers and is pictured with RSVP County Coordinator Jerri Mitchell (left) and Director Karla Luginbill.

Lanette Cole (left) receives the Rising Star Award from RSVP Director Karla Luginbill. Cole has been volunteering for about five years and became RSVP official in July 2018; she volunteers at three RSVP stations.

Sue Wall (center) was named as the Choctaw County Volunteer of the Year. Also pictured is RSVP Director Karla Luginbill (left) and County Coordinator Sherri Cheek.

RSVP volunteers pictured above with the Deterra Drug Deactivation Kits they received during the Choctaw County Recognition Event.
**Safe Place Healing Hearts Program & Victim Advocacy Services**

**Rural Grantee Training**

The overall aim of the Safe Place Healing Hearts Program is to enhance the safety of rural victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. The program is working towards the goal of enhancing collaboration between and building the capacity of service providers in our communities to appropriately respond, improve the rate of prosecution, coordinate service delivery and assist victims in cases of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking. Safe Place Healing Hearts Program staff recently attended the Rural Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking Assistance Grantee Orientation in Rockville, MD in December 2018.

**Topics:**
- Grants Management System (GMS)
- Technical Assistance for Law Enforcement
- Semi-Annual Progress Reporting
- Recognizing & Responding to Stalking
- Civil Rights Obligations
- Rural Sexual Assault Teams
- Strengthening Rural Advocacy
- Protecting Survivor Privacy
- Enhancing Court Responses
- and many more!

**Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

The National Domestic Violence Hotline invited the public to participate in a special campaign in October during Domestic Violence Awareness Month by committing to do “one thing” to end relationship abuse. To join, participants were asked to tape a short message, 30-60 seconds on their smartphone and to answer the question, “What is the one thing you are doing, or plan to do, to end domestic violence?” and then share their video on social media using the hashtags #1Thing and #NDVH.

1 in 4 women (24.3%) and 1 in 7 men (15.8%) aged 18 and older in the United States have been the victims of severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

- The National Domestic Violence Hotline
Self Help Housing Program

One Step Closer to Becoming a Homeowner...

Pictured above (left to right) are Rural Development Specialist Zach Williams, Self-Help Housing Director Terri Harless, Group Worker Sommer McMurtry, Homeowner Kayti Townsend, and Construction Supervisor Grady Ford during the final inspection on November 21, 2018.

Pictured (left to right) are Loan Assistant Shaunda Webb, Rural Development Specialist Zach Williams, Group Worker Sommer McMurtry, Construction Supervisor Grady Ford, Homeowner Jessica McGinnis and child, and Self-Help Housing Director Terri Harless at the final inspection on October 31, 2018.

Community Events

Self-Help Housing Group Worker Sommer McMurtry and Program Secretary Brandy Stachowski (along with their children) set up a candy station at the Durant Christmas Parade.

On September 14, 2018, the Self-Help Housing Program held a blood drive at its office location in Durant. Pictured at left is blood drive patron Bryan McMurtry.

Group Worker Sommer McMurtry sets up information booths at Choctaw Nation Health Fairs held in September and October. These venues provided a perfect opportunity to recruit new applicants and spread the word about the Self-Help Housing Program. Also pictured (at left) is Sommer’s daughter Jayla Corzine.
The Tri-County Opioid Response Project, funded in September 2018 through a Rural Communities Opioid Response Program-Planning Grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration, serves southeastern Oklahoma’s Choctaw, Pushmataha, and McCurtain Counties. The project specifically aims to address the systemic needs of the opioid epidemic. This Planning Grant project encourages partnerships with community members and their organizations to start informative dialogues, build partnerships and plan systemic changes to prevention, treatment and recovery of individuals affected by this epidemic. Our goal is to create a positive impact on community health and reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with opioid overdose. As one of the top three identified priorities by our service communities and 27-member Board of Directors, this new project already has a strong base of support as it plans for future resources and programming to decrease opioid overdose deaths and addiction within the tri-county area.

**Understanding Addiction**

Many people don’t understand why or how other people become addicted to drugs. They may mistakenly think that people who use drugs lack moral principles or willpower and that they could stop their drug use simply by choice. In reality, drug addiction is a complex disease, and quitting usually takes more than good intentions or a strong will.

**Planning Focus Area:**

**Prevention:**

The main goal for the planning process is to understand the exposures to opioid use and other substances in our communities. We will try to do this by asking hard questions about community perceptions around opioids and other drugs and how they interact and why they interact with substances in their daily lives. These questions can help understand how to help prevent opioid use and addiction.

**Treatment:**

The second goal is to understand what is working and not working for people in treatment or who need treatment. We are asking questions around how to gain access to services and what barriers there are to seeking treatment. Based on the information from people who are in and seeking treatment we will work with services organizations to increase access and improve existing programs around the things people need most.

**Recovery:**

The third and final goal is to understand what supports people in recovery. We are asking questions about current recovery programs and if they are helpful, if they can be improved or what is lacking that could be instrumental to staying in recovery. Specifically, speaking with A.A. Groups, Celebrate Recovery Groups, inmates and many other members of the community.

If you know anyone employed by a school, law enforcement, substance treatment center, physician or family member that may have some feedback or can help with connection, or if you yourself have a story or suggestions to share in these three areas, please contact:

**Project Director:** Janis Cravatt-Rico
**Phone:** 580-326-3351 or jcravatt@littledixie.org
Youth First

Youth First participants and their families enjoy a fun group trip to the local movie theater.

Youth First participants in a Strengthening Families Training and decorating pumpkins for Halloween.

Youth First Coordinator AJ Henslee leads a workshop with participants and their families. During the activity, participants made their own Christmas ornaments.

Little Dixie Digest

A quarterly publication of
Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc.
209 N. 4th St.
Hugo, OK 74743
(580) 326-3351
https://littledixie.org/

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