Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc, is proud to announce and welcome Lindsey Miller as the newest Associate Director. Miller will be responsible for administering programs operated by the agency so that a smoothly functioning organization is maintained within the framework of the budget and interest of participating agencies.

Essentially, Miller will directly oversee Little Dixie’s Early Childhood Comprehensive Services Systems Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, Head Start, Early Head Start and Early Head Start-Child Care Programs and Early Learning Centers.

Miller joins the team with more than twenty years' experience in the education field. Her certifications and training’s include ALICE training, SPED Legal Training, Student Learning Objectives Training, Non Violent Crisis Intervention, Restraint Training, Member of TASSP: Texas Association of Secondary School Principals and Texas Teacher Evaluation & Support System Certification. Miller also holds a Master's Degree in Education Administration from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, Oklahoma.

"I am honored and excited to join an organization that enriches the lives of the community I grew up in. I believe my previous background in the education field will compliment my new role as Little Dixie's Associate Director of Early Child Education"
2020 CHOCTAW COUNTY FAIR

Little Dixie participated in the Choctaw County Fair in the month of September. Even though COVID-19 has had a lot of things shut down and we are all trying to practice social distancing the fair was a success. The fair still had a pretty good turn out of booths and spectators. Little Dixie had a drawing via Facebook Live for a pair of Apple AirPods and the winner was Russell Keeler!

Becky Reynold, Executive Director and Patty Nuernberg, Russell’s Mom

Kinsey Cox and Kathy Zachry

DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES SUPPORT PROGRAM RECEIVES GRANT!

The Drug Free Communities Support Program received a $2,500.00 Grant from Walmart Community Giving local store #0049. The program will use this money to help meet the match that the Federal Grant requires. A huge thank you Walmart and local store manager Zack Green.

thank you to Walmart Community Giving!

Zack Green, Store Manager, Janitra Bostic, DFC Director, Kinsey Cox, DFC Program Coordinator

This project is/was supported by the grant 5SPO1358-06 from the Office of National Drug Control Policy and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Its contents are solely the responsibility of LOCRA/CCC-Drug Free Community Support Program and do not necessarily represent the official views of ONDCP, SAMHSA, or HHS and should not be considered as such.
Little Dixie recently reinstated a lending partnership with Southeast Oklahoma Community Development Corporation (SOCDC). SOCDC's mission is to improve economic and financial stability through financing and development assistance for low-income individuals and families. Small Business Lending services are currently being provided to residents in Choctaw, McCurtain and Pushmataha Counties.

Loan products have ranged from $2,500 to $85,000 and are utilized to establish and expand small businesses in rural Oklahoma. Amanda Alford, secured a loan through SOCDC to purchase a balloon stuffing machine. Amanda utilizes this tool to create elaborate gifts for individuals. Additionally, David Thompson, a Choctaw County native, secured a loan through SOCDC to purchase a dumptruck, backhoe and trailer. David is starting a business to install aerobic and septic tank systems and install storm shelters for area residents. David has more than 10 years experience in this field and is eager to serve the surrounding communities.

Little Dixie is eager to continue to partner with SOCDC to serve area small businesses with start up or expansion loans. SOCDC is working towards securing additional capital funds to begin mortgage lending. Contact the SOCDC Loan Officer, Jamie Stevenson, at 580-326-5165 today for more information.

Congratulations David and Amanda!
Around the Agency

 IMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAY FOR TERRY HILL APARTMENTS

The Sarkeys Foundation and NeighborWorks America has awarded funding to Little Dixie to replace all of the walkways and sidewalks at Terry Hill multi-family complex. Terry Hill multi-family complex is home to 59 individuals and families in Hugo, Oklahoma. This will improve the overall safety for tenants. Little Dixie would like to extend our gratitude for the generosity and support of our partners!

thank you for your support!
AUGUST

THE LDCAA EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FOR AUGUST 2020 WAS TINA KITSON. SHE IS A TEACHER AT OUR BOSWELL HEAD START.

Congratulations Tina Kitson!

SEPTEMBER

THE LDCAA EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AWARD FOR SEPTEMBER 2020 WENT TO THE LITTLE DIXIE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT. THESE LADIES WORK HARD EVERYDAY TO ENSURE THAT THE AGENCIES FINANCES RUN SMOOTH.

Congratulations Sharon Pennell, Sheree Ensley, Allison McDaniel, Dina Bell, Amy Wilson, Adina Hill, Cindy Mills, and Carol Buster!

SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

5 YEARS

MICHIELLE HUNT- CENTER DIRECTOR FOR EHS PROGRAM IN ANTHERS
MARY WEATHERS- CAREGIVER 2 ELC
NIKKI MCADAMS-ASSISTANT EDUCATION SPECIALIST HS/EHS/ELC
INELL SPENCER -COOK EHS

20 YEARS

JEANNIE MCMILLIN-TRANSIT DIRECTOR
JOHNNY MOFFITT-ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

30 YEARS

DAWN MC DANIEL- HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR

Congratulations!
The AmeriCorps program is a school readiness grant that Head Start/ Early Head Start was awarded in 2007. Hundreds of children have received one-on-one tutoring to help prepare them for Kindergarten. The children are having greater success rates when it comes to entering Kindergarten prepared. This, in turn, gives the children a much better chance at being successful throughout their public school years. The members serve a total of 900 hours throughout the school year and earn a living allowance. Upon completion they receive an educational voucher valued at $2,822 to use for higher education purposes. The education award can be used at any Title IV college or Vo-Tech or it can be used to pay qualified student loans. Members who are 55 and older can transfer their education award to a child or grandchild if they do not plan to use it for themselves. The members receive training that enhance their skills in the classroom and they are receiving experience that sometimes helps determine the career path they choose for themselves.
Court Appointed Special Advocates

As a CASA volunteer, you will be able to work with confidence. All of our advocate volunteers are thoroughly trained in courtroom procedure, social services, the juvenile justice system, high conflict domestic relations cases, and the special needs of abused and neglected children. We welcome volunteers from all cultures, ethnic and educational backgrounds. We have a particular need for men, minorities and senior citizens. Become a CASA volunteer and be rewarded with powerful and fulfilling experiences.

become a volunteer today!

LITTLE DIXIE CASA STRIVES TO ENSURE THAT EVERY CHILD WHO NEEDS A VOLUNTEER WILL HAVE ONE. WITH YOUR HELP, WE CAN ACHIEVE THAT GOAL. CALL DORIS LONG AT 580-298-2921.

CASA BEST-INTEREST ADVOCACY

LEARN
Learn all you can about the child and his or her family and life.

ENGAGE
Engage with the child during regular visits.

REPORT
Report what you have learned and observed to the court.

COLLABORATE
Collaborate with others to ensure that necessary services are provided and are in the child’s best interest.

RECOMMEND
Speak up for the child’s best interests in court. Make recommendations regarding the child’s placement and needed services, and monitor the child’s situation until the case is released by the court.

CASA/GAL volunteers advocate for the best interests of children who have experienced abuse or neglect. Here’s what that means:

CASA/BEST INTEREST ADVOCACY

Brandon Billy sworn in as a CASA Volunteer Advocate by Judge Wallace after 30 hours of training

A guide to the employee onboarding process

National CASA Core Model

The National CASA Board of Trustees Approved Oct. 11, 2016.

The National CASA Association core model identifies the foundational elements of CASA/GAL best-interest advocacy. This includes our guiding principle, the types of cases served, the primary activities performed by CASA/GAL volunteers, parameters for staff serving cases and the screening, training and supervision requirements. National CASA assistance and support is limited to core model activities.

The National CASA Core Model:

The CASA/GAL program provides screened, trained, and qualified community volunteers to advocate for the best interests of children and youth who are before the court as a result of abuse or neglect as defined by the state child welfare laws, living at home or in out-of-home care. State statutes define presence of it provides for the CASA/GAL volunteer to take other types of cases. CASA/GAL best interest advocacy is driven by the guiding principle that children grow and develop best with both their family of origin if that can be safely achieved. CASA/GAL volunteers serve children from birth through the age defined by state statute as the limit to youth remaining in care.

CASA/GAL volunteers advocate for children’s best interest through the following activities:

- Information gathering
- Visit the child at least monthly
- Collaborate and coordinate with legal, child welfare and other partners to assure services provided that is in the child’s best interests
- Report to the court with recommendations regarding the child’s placement and needed services
- Monitor the case until released by the court

This project is supported by VOGA Grant #Subgrant No. is 2019-V0CA-LITTLE DIXIE CAA-047 awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice through the Oklahoma District Attorney’s Council.
Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Impact

EARLY CHILDHOOD ACTIVITY BAGS

As summer comes to an end, we have wrapped up our Early Childhood Activity Bag initiative. Over 2,000 activity bags were disseminated to our three place-based communities. The Early Childhood Activity Bags included a board book, activity workbook, colors, and an educational parent handout. 65% reported the activity workbooks were their favorite item in the bag, while 32% reported the board book was their favorite item, 100% reported that all materials included were beneficial to their child's learning. We are so excited that these were so helpful to our community and look forward to providing them again in the future.

INTERACTIVE ACTIVITY SERIES

In July, ECCS created and developed the ECCS Interactive Activity Series on the Little Dixie ECCS Impact Facebook page. Our goal is to provide at least one interactive video a month, whether it is a song, activity, or craft hosted by one of our team members. The goal of our new series is to encourage parent/child engagement. The positive outcomes of engaged parents are powerful: increase support for children's learning at home, empowered parents, and improved family well-being. Children see benefits like improved cognitive development and academic performance, better social-emotional development, and improved health.

HELP ME GROW

Our Little Dixie ECCS Team is excited to announce that we have officially launched our Help Me Grow Centralized Access Point, as of September 14th. Help Me Grow will be open every Monday from 10:00am -12:00pm and 1:00pm-3:00pm. Through our centralized access point, we have the capability to connect with callers through phone and text support. Our Help Me Grow Oklahoma call center will serve Choctaw, McCurtain, and Pushmataha counties. Families benefit as Help Me Grow is here to link families to services and resources and provides ongoing support. Whether families are looking for pregnancy services, childcare, Head Start, or want to ensure your child is meeting important developmental milestones, we are here to help!

contact us today!
580-326-3351

THIS PROJECT IS/WAS SUPPORTED BY THE HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (HRSA) OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS) UNDER H25MC30343. OKLAHOMA EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEMS IMPACT PROJECT, $426,000. 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 INFERRRED BY HRSA, HHS OR U.S. GOVERNMENT.
Head Start, Early Head Start and Early Head Start-Child Care

COVID-19 AND RETURNING TO SCHOOL

The pandemic has really affected recruitment for Head Start, Early Head Start and Child Care these last few months. With our Family Advocates being cautious and following the social distancing guidelines, they have been able to put out the traditional Apple signs in the community. We have revamped some of the flyers that we usually are able to post in businesses and have posted them to various media sites. Postcards are another way in which we are working on reaching the communities. The Little Dixie website has helped tremendously by placing an "Apply for Head Start" button on the main page making it a lot easier for parents to find and apply. With the help of our staff working together we are still actively recruiting children to try to maintain a healthy waiting list for when openings do occur throughout the school year.

Beginning the school year has also been difficult for many teachers. they have had to learn how to conduct different ways of doing enrollment. Several teachers talked through enrollment over the phone with parents, some video conferences parents, while many enrolled the traditional, in-person way while following social distancing and sanitizing guidelines.

With many parents afraid to send their children to school during the first weeks of school, the teachers have been offering distance learning to the children. this has helped to keep the children up to speed with the other children in the classroom and not miss out on precious learning opportunities. Parents have appreciated the different approaches that Little Dixie has offered to them for their children to be able to attend class this school year.

HEALTH SCREENINGS

For the 2020-2021 school year, the students in Head Start have received health screenings, which includes vision, hearing, and a speech screen. Any follow-up referrals needed have been discussed with the parents. Case meetings are held every two weeks for the specialists to discuss any concerns the teachers or parents have about a particular child. Data is reviewed and recommendations are made to the teachers. The Special Education Child Count was turned in to the schools by October 1, 2020. This child count allows the schools to receive funding on the students they are providing special education to that are enrolled in the Head Start Program. Services include Speech Therapy, Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy and are provided by contracts with the schools. The public school provides special education service to all enrolled children, ages three and over. Little Dixie maintains documentation of background checks on all the providers/consultants that provide any of these services to these students.

The Mental Health Component is contracting with Crossroads 1010 Counseling Services in Antlers OK. The contract between Little Dixie and Crossroads 1010 includes a classroom observation for each Head Start, Early Head Start, Early Head Start-Child Care classroom. The LPC will be available to observe the classroom and visit with the teachers and parents at the scheduled visit. A written report with suggestions and resources for the teacher and the parent will be completed and sent to the center. If further evaluation is appropriate, parents can sign a parent consent for referral for their child. Another observation would be done at this time.

For more information please contact Sara Moore, Enrollment Specialist at (580) 326-7588 or by email smoore@littledixie.org

Little Dixie Head Start staff have been trained in CPR and First Aid and classes are scheduled to keep all staff current. Updated CPR/Choking posters have been placed in all centers. No-touch Infrared thermometers have been provided to all centers with pre-entry temperature requirements. Evacuation procedures such as fire, tornado, earthquake, shelter in place, and lock down procedures have been revised to more closely reflect the procedures in our centers. Health requirements of up to date immunizations, physicals with labs and dental are closely monitored with staff and parents/guardians being kept up to date on due and upcoming health requirements for their children. We are collaborating with the Oklahoma State Department of Health to fully immunize all children as they prepare entry into the Public School system after completing the Little Dixie Head Start Program. All Children in the classroom setting have received hearing, speech, and vision screenings within the 45 day timeline. Distance learners are being scheduled for screenings. We are also monitoring to ensure follow up exams are scheduled and completed as quickly as possible to enable them to have a positive learning experience.

Children have received a packet with toothbrush, toothpaste, and a flyer for parents to encourage tooth brushing at home twice daily to promote a healthy smile. This distribution will be continued as we are unable to practice tooth brushing in the classroom setting due to the pandemic. Printouts on COVID-19 safety precautions were sent to center staff for parents. Masks and face shields have been provided for center staff and face masks for children provided for encourages to wear. Staff has been diligent in extra cleaning schedules to provide healthy environment for both themselves and the children in their care.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional Development at the Little Dixie Head Start ensures that all staff members are on track to meet any education requirements in the proper time frame. Staff members have been making progress and are on track to be completed within requirement deadlines. We have been working on ensuring all the new staff meet requirements for the programs they work for including trainings as well. We strive for excellence and want to make the new staff as well as a seasoned staff as informed as possible.

Just like most organizations during these interesting times, we have had to edit our normal protocol for just about everything including trainings, with creative ideas. With the help of directors, specialists, an iPad, and many flash drives, we were able to successfully present our required four day July Pre-Service materials to all Head Start staff virtually. This helped us ensure that Head Start staff kept their required training while keeping staff safe and helped prepare them for the return to school during the COVID pandemic. Head Start was also very fortunate to be able to purchase the Conscious Discipline online training presented by Becky Bailey which was also required during Pre-Service. Each staff member was able to train on the specific age group that they work with daily.

Head Start, Early Head Start and Early Head Start-Child Care

2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR LOOKS DIFFERENT

This school year looks different for all of our Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Head Start Child Care Programs. Some preschool children have started the year in the classrooms, while others have started as distance learners. For those children that have started as distance learners, Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Head Start Child Care programs have purchased the Teaching Strategies Gold distance learning curriculum that coincides with our current curriculum used in the classrooms.

CENTER HIGHLIGHTS

FORT TOWSON HEAD START PARTICIPATED IN A FOOD EXPERIMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THEIR JOHNNY APPLESEED THEME. STUDENTS TASTED APPLES AND VOTED ON THEIR FAVORITE.

IN AN EFFORT TO ENSURE HEAD START LOCATIONS ARE ADEQUATELY PROTECTED DURING COVID-19, DAD'S WERE ASKED TO RECORD THEMSELVES READING AND SHARE THE VIDEO WITH THE CENTERS. THIS IS JUST ONE INSTANCE OF DIFFERENT MODALITIES HEAD START IS EXPLORING TO SUPPORT FAMILY INVOLVEMENT.

ALL HEAD START LOCATIONS ARE PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING DURING SCHOOL HOURS.

In the United States, car accidents are the number one cause of death among children ages 4 to 12 and the number two cause of death among children ages 1 to 4. Studies done by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHSTA) and the Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), among other organizations, show that the best way to decrease the risk of injury and death for children is to properly install and use the appropriate car seat for your child.

When car seats and booster seats are installed correctly and used according to the recommended guidelines, they can prevent injury and even save the lives of your kids.

The AAP advises parents to keep their children in rear-facing car seats until the age of 2 or until the child reaches the height/weight limits for the car seat. Children should also ride using a booster seat until they have reached 4 feet 9 inches and are between the ages of 8 and 12. Rear-facing car seats are up to five times more effective than forward-facing car seats in protecting and preventing injury for children up to 23 months.

CAR SEAT SAFETY

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CAR SEATS REDUCE THE RISK OF FATAL INJURY BY 71%.

CHILDREN BETWEEN 4 AND 8 ARE 45% LESS LIKELY TO BE INJURED IF THEY ARE IN A BOOSTER SEAT RATHER THAN A SEAT BELT.

THE NHTSA RECOMMENDS ALL CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER BE RESTRAINED IN THE BACK SEAT.

Housing Services

FAMILIES ONE STEP CLOSER TO HOMEOWNERSHIP

Little Dixie’s Housing counselors have helped seven families in Carter, McCurtain and Pushmataha Counties to get one step closer to reaching their goal of owning their own home. Our counselors were able to assist them in decreasing their debt by 80% and increasing their credit scores by 88%. Three of the families are now on their way to building a home through Little Dixie’s Self Help Program and the other four families are in the process of buying a home through Rural Development’s 502 Direct Loan Program. Counselors provided these families with individualized housing counseling to improve their financial wellness by addressing medical collections, charge-off accounts, repossessions, and student loans. Counselors shared financial tools such as annualcreditreport.com, creating realistic household budgets, assisting with debt settlements and utilizing Power Pay for savings. The tools and guidance of the counselor along with the focus and dedication of the families will lead to a successful outcome of homeownership.

Helping families take the first steps towards owning their homes!

PURCHASE-REHAB-RESALE PROGRAM

Through our purchase-rehab-resale program, we were able to provide a home for a family in Marshall County. As we strive to continue our mission to provide safe, decent, and affordable housing in our service area, we buy and rehab existing homes for resale. We also build and sell “speculative” single family homes. Little Dixie could have the perfect home for you. Watch our website for current listings!

www.littledixie.org

WEATHERIZATION EXPANSION

In this quarter, Little Dixie was awarded five additional counties to serve through our Weatherization Program we now serve: Bryan, Carter, Coal, Love, and Pontotoc Counties. Weatherization is a free service for eligible homeowners who meet income and other guidelines. Little Dixie’s Weatherization Program reduces heating and cooling costs, improves living conditions by making homes healthier, safer, and more comfortable.

welcome to the agency!

welcome to the agency!
Passport to the Future Mentoring Program

WHAT IS MENTORING?

Little Dixie Community Action Agency’s Mentoring Program covers Pushmataha, Choctaw, and McCurtain counties. The program’s goal is to provide youth, ages 6-17, who have a need for a positive influence in their life, with a caring adult mentor who will provide the youth with emotional and academic support as well as exposure to a variety of experiences that they may not otherwise encounter.

Mentors are recruited from a variety of sources, including faith and community based organizations, the business community, or volunteers. Mentors are ordinary people performing extraordinary deeds.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Our program is looking for volunteers to be positive mentors and youth aged 6-17 to participate in the Passport to the Future Mentoring Project. The mentors will be matched with a child who has similar interest and who reside in their area. Our program covers Choctaw, Pushmataha, and McCurtain counties. The mentor and mentee will work out a schedule together to meet for one hour per week or at least four hours per month. All mentors are thoroughly checked on their background, personality and character. We will host several activities for everyone to attend and participate. This is a free program that will make a difference in the life of youth and their Mentor. If your interested in becoming a mentor or enrolling a child in the program please contact: A.J. Henslee, Program Assistant ahenslee@littledixie.org or Doris Long, Program Director dlong@littledixie.org or call us at 580-298-2921.

"Mentors are really important because everyone needs to know that someone’s got their back"

Susan Aglukark
Singer/Songwriter

A mentor empowers a person to see a possible future, and believe it can be obtained

Shawn Hitchcock

PICKIN’ ON THE PORCH

Passport to the Future Mentoring Program partnered with the Antlers Masonic Lodge every other Friday from June through September. They set up an information table and provided refreshments as a community service at ’Pickin’ on the Porch’ event.
Region II Self-Help Housing

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Bette Brand will serve as USDA Rural Development Deputy Under Secretary following the retirement of Donald "DJ" LaVoy. Elizabeth "Beth" Green has been named Acting Administrator of the Rural Housing Service following the retirement of former Administrator Bruce Lammers. Ms. Green began her new role effective August 3, 2020. Cathy Glover has been selected to serve as Deputy Administrator of Single-Family Housing following the retirement of Roger Glendenning. Ms. Glover began her new role August 1, 2020. Scott Nista has been named the Acting Assistant Deputy Administrator for Single Family Housing following the appointment of Cathy Glover as Deputy of Single-Family Housing. Brooke Baumann has been named Direct Loan Division Director for Single-Family Housing following the retirement of the former Director Barry Ramsey.

congratulations!

T&MA CONTRACTOR SELF-HELP TRAINING GUIDES

The T&MA Contractors have worked collectively to produce a variety of training materials for the purpose of assisting grantees and training grantees staff. These training guides can be found on our website at https://littledixie.org/tma/.

- Board of Directors Training Guide
- Construction Supervisor Handbook
- Financial Management Handbook for Federally Funded Organizations
- Group Coordinator Handbook
- Guide to Basic Bookkeeping for Nonprofits
- Accounting for Individual Borrower Accounts
- Program Director Handbook
- Pre-Construction Meetings Handbook

TRI-COUNTY INDIAN NATIONS CDC CONGRATULATES NEW HOMEOWNERS

Congratulations Taleshia!

Congratulations Alexis!

Congratulations Caycic!

LITTLE DIXIE SELF-HELP HOUSING CONGRATULATES NEW HOMEOWNER!
Huron, S.D., Sep. 2, 2020 – The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development State Director Julie Gross and staff joined Inter-Lakes Community Action Partnership (ICAP), and homeowners at a groundbreaking event to celebrate their accomplishments in expanding home ownership opportunities through USDA’s Section 502 Direct Loan and Mutual Self-Help Housing Programs on Wednesday, September 2, 2020 at a new housing development in Brookings, SD.

“USDA is committed to providing access for safe, decent, and affordable housing for rural South Dakotans,” said Gross. “Through the partnership with ICAP and Little Dixie Community Action Agency’s Technical and Management Assistance Contractor several homeowners have been able to realize the dream of homeownership with the assistance of the Mutual Self-Help and Section502-Direct Single-Family Housing programs.”

USDA Rural Development’s Mutual Self-Help Program allows families to work together in groups to build their own home. A public body, or nonprofit organization, coordinates the program by assisting homeowners with finding lots, developing house plans, working with contractors, coordinating materials, training participants on the skills needed to complete construction tasks, providing construction supervision and assisting families with obtaining a loan to build a self-help home.

USDA Rural Development has partnered with ICAP’s Mutual Self-Help program and Little Dixie’s T&MA Contractor to construct 46 homes in the past decade. Today’s announcement is to recognize the first ever and largest group of ten homes being constructed. Financing for the homes is provided through USDA’s Single-Family Home Section 502 Direct Loan Program.

USDA Rural Development’s Section 502 Direct Loan Program provides a path to homeownership for low- and very-low-income families living in rural areas. Providing these affordable homeownership opportunities promotes prosperity, which in turn creates thriving communities and improves the quality of life in rural areas.

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements, business development; housing, community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov/sd or call (605) 352 1100.

USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER, EMPLOYER AND LENDER

Pictured above are the families, Peg Pederson, ICAP; US Representative Dusty Johnson; Paul Moriarty, Dana Whitehouse; David Knelp, Cindy Dannenbring-ICAP and Julie Gross, USDA RD South Dakota State Director
USDA STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

USDA Rural Development has taken a number of immediate actions to help rural residents, businesses and communities affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. Rural Development will keep our customers, partners and stakeholders continuously updated as more actions are taken to better serve rural America.

Single Family Housing Direct Loan and Guarantee Programs:

*Effective August 28, with the exception of vacant or abandoned dwellings, foreclosures and related evictions for borrowers with USDA single family housing Direct and Guaranteed loans are suspended through December 31, 2020

Visit www.rd.usda.gov/coronavirus for information on Rural Development loan payment assistance, applications deadline extensions and more.

LITTLE DIXIE T&MA CONTRACTOR NOTES

Little Dixie T&MA Contractor Notes...on Self-Help Housing is an occasional bulletin of observations and recommendations intended to assist Self Help Grantees. Written and distributed by Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc. T&MA Contractors, 209 North 4th Street, Hugo, OK 74743.

If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please email: Kyle White, T&MA Contractor Program Director kwhite@ldcaa.org or Pam Price, T&MA Contractor Program Analyst pprice@ldcaa.org.

Notes...on Self-Help Housing is updated monthly on the Little Dixie CAA website. For the current edition click on the following link: https://littledixie.org.

SPOTLIGHT WEBSITE

The Spotlight website: https://www.selfhelphousingspotlight.org/ was created and is maintained by the T&MA Contractors to highlight the success of the Self Help Housing Program. This is a great tool for you to help promote your program.

Send us a success story and photos and we’ll include it on the website. Submit your stories to pprice@ldcaa.org.

THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT 502 DIRECT NOTE RATE FOR SEPTEMBER IS 2.50%
Retired Senior Volunteer Program

RSVP

Little Dixie RSVP program received masks provided by the Department of Health & Human Services. These masks are being distributed throughout RSVP stations in the 3 counties in our service area for volunteers and those that may be at risk.

9/11 DAY OF SERVICE

Volunteering looks a little different in 2020! For many RSVP volunteers, this year’s 9/11 Day of Service was spent cooking for those who cannot get out and go to the store themselves and doing door deliveries, or just calling and checking on those affected by the virus. Little Dixie RSVP remains grateful for all of our steadfast volunteers and we look forward to seeing you all in person soon.

NEW BRAND, SAME LEGACY!

Did you hear? Senior Corps rebranded! While there may be a new look, we continue to get things done for America.

- For 50+ years Senior Corps volunteers have brought out the best of America. Although we have a new name, our legacy will continue. #AmeriCorpsSeniors
- We’re thrilled to be a part of the next chapter of #AmeriCorpsSeniors! Our volunteers bring out the best of America.
- National service brings out the best of America.

Thanks to the more than 270,000 @AmeriCorps members & @AmeriCorpsSeniors. We know service brings out the best of America. We’re excited to join @AmeriCorpsSr in their effort to inspire more Americans to serve!
Safe Place Healing Hearts

Safe Place Healing Hearts seeks to enhance the safety of rural victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking; and to enhance collaboration and build capacity of service providers 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.

WHAT IS DATING ABUSE?

Dating abuse is a pattern of behaviors including physical, sexual, emotional, and/or verbal abuse used to gain power and control over a partner. The abuse can happen over time and may continue to get worse. Dating abuse can happen to anyone regardless of age, gender, race, class, education level, or religion. It also occurs in same sex relationships.

Victims Advocacy

CONGRATULATIONS ALICIA!

Alicia Manning was nominated for the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) 2020 Morton Bard Allied Professional Award. Alicia is an Investigator at the McCurtain County Sheriff's Office. Alicia makes a critical impact in her community daily. Her unwavering dedication to assisting and empowering victims and survivors of crime in an inspiration! Alicia's extraordinary compassion, leadership and ingenuity in her work has helped countless victims begin to heal in the aftermath of a crime. Alicia your work is truly inspiring!
Self-Help Housing

ASSISTING RESIDENTS WITH HOME-OWNERSHIP

Little Dixies Self-Help Housing Program serves income eligible individuals and families in Atoka, Bryan, Carter, Choctaw, Love, Marshall, McCurtain and Pushmataha Counties. Home ownership is achieved through the involvement of construction of their homes and other participant's homes, resulting in reduced costs. Contact our Self-Help Program today for more information!

congratulations to these families on achieving homeownership!

CONTACT US TODAY!

Atoka, Bryan & Marshall Counties
580.920.2479

Carter & Love Counties
580.226.3030

Choctaw, McCurtain & Pushmataha Counties
580.226.3030
The YouthBuild Program for Choctaw County provides educational instruction, occupational skills training, classroom and hands on construction training for at risk youth ages 16-24 who have previously dropped out of high school, are adjudicated, are aging out of foster care, possess a disability, are homeless, or qualify as at risk participants.

Recently members of the Choctaw County YouthBuild Program spent the day at Lake Raymond Gary State Park. Members prepped the restroom facility, trash cans and signage for a new coat of pain which, weather permitting, our YouthBuild Crew will do at a later date.