

Garvin, McClain and Stephens Counties

The Delta Difference

Karen Nichols,
Executive Director

Programs

- **Head Start/Early Head Start**
Sharron Horton, Director
- **Free Income Tax Preparation**
Becky Deaton, Coordinator
- **Foster Grandparents**
Mynan Hutto, Director
- **Housing**
Kathy Griffith, Director
- **Senior Nutrition**
Dan Lowrance, Director
- **Rx for Oklahoma**
Becky Deaton, Coordinator
- **Transportation**
Susan Coldwater, Director
- **Weatherization**
Sherri Snider, Director

Homeowner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program Making a Difference

Several area residents are currently in the process of receiving new homes through the Homeowner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program at Delta. This remarkable program helps lower-income families living in substandard conditions repair and often replace dwellings that have safety issues or pose serious health threats to the inhabi-



Micki's new home during the construction phase.

tants. Micki, a local resident who has been raising her disabled niece in a structurally unsound home built in the early 1900's, will now be living in an 1100 square foot handicap accessible home with energy efficient features. Another client, Jane, will no longer have to endure the moldy conditions that have caused numerous health problems. She is now the proud owner of a new 766 square foot home. Program Director, Kathy Griffith, tells us "She has been so excited throughout the process that she



Jane's home nearing completion.

calls every day checking the progress. She has told us over and over how grateful, blessed, and appreciative she is of our program." For more information regarding the Homeowner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program please contact Delta Community Action at 405-756-1100.

Free Income Tax Preparation

You may qualify for free income tax preparation. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) offers free tax help to people whose incomes are \$50,000 or less. For locations and appointment, call the main office at 405-756-1100.

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Head Start Happenings April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is nationally recognized as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Delta Head Start students from Garvin and McClain Counties were busy making handprint plates as part of an event to help bring awareness to child abuse. The plates were hung from trees on the courthouse lawns in both counties to symbolize children who have suffered at the hands of abuse.



Amy and Cilee King work on handprints at Lindsay Head Start.



Representative Lisa Billy was on hand during the ceremony in Purcell

Pictured: Lisa Billy, Kendra, and Family Advocate, Debbie Davis



29th Annual Delta Community Action Foster Grandparent Honorees

Foster Grandparents Recognized

Twenty-five Foster Grandparents were honored recently during Delta Community Action's 29th Annual Foster Grandparent Recognition Luncheon held March 12, at the Chickasaw Nation Culinary Arts Academy in Ardmore. The federal

program that matches senior citizens to special needs children in the classroom is currently celebrating its 45th year. Those being honored at the luncheon serve in classrooms in Carter, Marshall, Johnson, and Murray Counties.

Transit News

Delta Public Transit has received five of the seven vehicles awarded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. A seventeen passenger Federal Coach, a nine passenger Ford Glaval, and three Dodge Grand Caravan mini-vans will be used throughout Garvin and McClain counties to better serve clients. Two more fifteen passenger buses to service the Pauls Valley area are expected in the next few months. "They couldn't have come at a better time," stated Susan Coldwater. A total of \$351,145.00 in funding has been awarded. These new vehicles will be used to replace older ones with mileage in excess of 150,000 miles.



Pictured with new Federal Coach in Purcell: Karen Nichols, Executive Director of Delta Community Action, Susan Coldwater, Transit Director, Shawna Long, City Clerk, Delta Transit Rider, and McClain Co. District 2 Commissioner, Wilson Lyles.



This 2009 Ford Glaval will be used in the Blanchard area.



Pictured with the recently received vans are Transit Director, Susan Coldwater, and Route Supervisor, Jim Bratt.

OKACAA Legislative Conference 2010

The OKACAA Legislative Conference was held at the Biltmore Hotel in Oklahoma City on March 22, 23, and 24. This three day event allowed community action leaders to engage in pivotal training sessions and meet with various lawmakers from around the state. "This is an important conference because it allows us to show appreciation to local and state representatives for all of their hard work," said Executive Director, Karen Nichols. Those participating in the conference were treated to a legislative reception at the Oklahoma History Center where Delta program directors were able to visit and dine with legislators from across the state about current issues.



Delta Directors visited with Senator Susan Paddock during the 52nd Legislature's Second Session at the Oklahoma State capitol.

Back Row: Dan Lowrance, Susan Coldwater, Becky Deaton, Tina Casey, Sue Evans, Tina Tucker, Kelly Seabourn, Front Row: Sen. Susan Paddack, Karen Nichols, Mynan Hutto, Jana Boyce, D. Brown



Above: Executive Director Karen Nichols introduces Lt. Gov. Jari Askins at a recent luncheon.



Representative Lisa Billy and Legislative Aides Meaghan Wilson and Amanda Mitchum joined Directors Sherry Snider, Lynn McCurdy, and Executive Director Karen Nichols at the Legislative Reception held at the Oklahoma History Center.

RX for Oklahoma Helping Oklahomans Pay for Prescriptions

Since 2005, more than 15,000 people have used Rx for Oklahoma for prescription assistance. Uninsured, as well as underinsured, Oklahomans are encouraged to apply. Call 1-877-RX4-OKLA where staff members are ready to assist you in filling out the necessary paperwork. The entire process takes approximately one month to complete so only long term medications will qualify.

1-877-794-6552
Or
1-877-RX4-OKLA



Delta Community Action Agency in 2009

- Provided income tax preparation assistance to 287 households
- Built 7 single family houses for low and moderate income residents
- Improved the energy efficiency of 77 housing units through the Weatherization Program
- Served over 86,000 nutritious meals at congregate meals sites and delivered another 39,215 to residences
- Provided 67,137 passenger trips taking riders to jobs, medical appointments, meal sites, and shopping
- Provided opportunities for more than 300 children, to develop mentally, socially, emotionally, and physically through the Head Start program

Courtesy of the Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies

Karen's Korner: The Executive Exclusive



Karen Nichols
Executive Director

Delta Community Action Foundation, Inc., is privileged to have dedicated board members and staff who face the challenges encountered each day while helping people and changing lives in the communities we serve. We are proud to offer the various programs sponsored by Delta and continually look for better ways to assist those living among us who are in need. Some of our newer programs this year include Early Head Start, Head Start Expansion, and the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

The Early Head Start Program is designed to promote healthy lifestyles for pregnant women, enhance the development of infants and toddlers, and encourage positive family growth. We will initially begin with facilities in Duncan, Lindsay, and Purcell. Hopefully, we will be able to include more areas in the future. The Head Start Expansion Program will allocate funds to upgrade Head Start Centers and classrooms allowing us to accept more children into HS programs. The Neighborhood Stabilization Program will allow us to purchase and redevelop foreclosed properties in order to counterbalance declining neighborhoods and communities. These are exceptional programs that will benefit many in our communities.

In closing, I would like to welcome Tina Casey into our Delta family. Tina will be serving as our new Communications Director. I would also like for you to remember and reflect upon what it means to be involved in community action. As the Community Action Partnership promise indicates, "Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes our communities a better place to live. We care about the entire community and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other." Thank you for your support.

Board Members

Garvin

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Rosa Lee Conner
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