

Garvin, McClain and Stephens Counties

The Delta Difference

Karen Nichols,
Executive Director

Programs

- Child Development/
Head Start
Sharon Horton,
Director
- Free Income Tax
Preparation
Becky Deaton,
Coordinator
- Foster Grandparents
Mynan Hutto,
Director
- Housing
Kathy Griffith,
Director
- Nutrition-
Dan Lowrance,
Director
- Rx for Oklahoma
Becky Deaton,
Coordinator
- Transportation
Susan Coldwater,
Director
- Weatherization
Sherri Snider,
Director
- Client Education
Lynn McCurdy,
Director

This issue

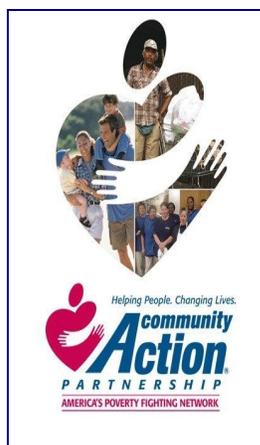
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Transit Expands Route to Residents of Washington and Goldsby

Delta Public Transit continues to expand. Beginning October 1, 2009 Delta Public Transit will provide public transportation to the residents of Washington and Goldsby, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

To sign up for the Senior Nutrition Daily Route, call the Delta Nutrition Center @ 405.288.6404.

For more details and to schedule out of town trips, call Delta Public Transit @ 1.866.842.8287.



People Helping People,
Changing Lives, One
Family at a Time

Services provided will be:

- Round trip transportation to the Washington Delta Nutrition Center for the noon meal.
- One day a week transportation to Purcell for shopping and business opportunities.
- Transportation to Norman, Moore, Oklahoma City, Purcell and Pauls Valley for medical

Delta Senior Nutrition

The mission of Delta is to provide hot congregate and home-delivered meals to **any senior over 60 years of age** in Stephens and McClain counties. These meals are to be provided at a minimum cost to the participants, or no payment is required of those who cannot afford to pay.

Delta Nutrition continues to see increases in the demand for our services during these tough economic times for most seniors. In August alone we provided 7,337 meals for 532 clients at our nutrition sites and delivered 3,013 home-delivered meals for 158 seniors who are unable to leave their homes.

Cut backs in state funding levels have caused us to look ahead at the need to ask for additional support to continue our programs that are so important to the seniors in our communities. Some of the nine sites in McClain and Stephens counties are planning possible fundraising activities over the next few months to help us defray part of the costs of purchasing our food for our meals. Be sure to be aware of this and help us out if an event is held in your community. We will try to bring you information and further details of these events in future newsletters.

If you would like to have additional information regarding our programs and services, please contact us at: **Delta Nutrition, 707 King Place, Duncan, OK 73533 580.255.3967**

OKACAA 2009 Annual Conference and Awards Banquet

Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies held the Service Awards Banquet at the 2009 Annual Conference in Oklahoma City September 17. We are proud to list Delta's own that received awards for their dedicated years of service to Community Action.

10 Year Awards:

Suzan Carroll, Avaneil McLemore, Misty Wood

15 Year Awards:

Lavonna Condit, Sue Early, Sharon Horton, Mynan Hutto, Peggy McCullough,

Clarissa McMillion, Shirley O'Hagan, Sherri Snider
30 Year Award :
Janis Pollock



Karen Nichols presents Janis Pollock with 30 Year Service Award

Left to right:
Shirley O'Hagan,
Avaneil McLemore,
Janis Pollock,
Karen Nichols



Left to right:
Clarissa McMillion,
Sue Early,
Suzan Carroll,
Sharon Horton



Foster Grandparents—Share Today. Shape Tomorrow.

When you share your love, time, and experience, you have the power to help a child who needs you. As a Foster Grandparent, you're a role model, a mentor and a friend. Serving at one of thousands of local organizations— including faith-based groups, Head Start Centers, schools and other youth facilities— you help children learn to read, provide one-on-one tutoring, and guide children at a critical time in their lives.

Put simply, you give the kind of comfort and love that sets a child on the path toward a successful future. According to Mynan Hutto, Program Director, we currently have a total of 64 Foster Grandparent Volunteers in Garvin, McClain and Stephens Counties. When you volunteer, you're not just helping others— you're helping yourself.

If you're 60 and want to share your experience and compassion, you have what it takes to be a Foster Grandparent. For more information call 1.580.255.3222 or 1.800.833.3722

Weatherization Working

Weatherization is a program designed to make your home more weather-tight and energy efficient. It should have a significant impact by reducing energy consumption, lowering utility bills and making your house a more energy efficient and comfortable place to live. Sherri Snider, Weatherization Director let me read this "thank you" letter from the Arredondo family (my being new to community action) she wanted to give an example of what a difference the Weatherization Program truly makes in peoples lives. After reading this, nothing else needed to be said. I understood the difference we are making.

"There could never be enough words for me to express my gratitude for what you have done. It is remarkable the kindness and the efforts that you have shown to me and my children. You were able to provide a better home for us, something I have tried so hard to do, but I have been unable to accomplish because I now live with physical and financial limitation. I firmly believe that angels walk and live among us. Arch-Angel Michael is the valiant protector of each and every one of us. You too are an Angel of Protection. Just as our new windows will protect us from the storms, you have protected me from giving up hope."



2009 Head Start Scholarship Award

Amanda Burk, daughter of Steve and Angie Burk and former Delta Head Start student, is the recipient of the **Allie J Mitchell Scholarship for 2009**. Amanda is on the National, Native American and Oklahoma Honor Societies. In Amanda's senior year of high school, she was concurrently enrolled at Marlow High School and Cameron University and through hard work and determination she is currently enrolled as a Sophomore at Cameron University. Congratulations Amanda!

Donuts For Dads More Than Just a Donut!



Purcell Early Learning Center



Delta Head Start centers in all three counties are hosting and planning their Doughnuts with Dad events for the fathers and father figures of their children. Recently Purcell Early Learning Center hosted their event. They had a few extra hands on board from the City of Purcell to be with those children who didn't have a father available to attend the event. It was heart warming to see the fathers line the halls waiting for their child's small hand to be their partner. You see it's not about the doughnut, its about the relationship building that is happening with positive male role models and young children. One of the reasons that this event is held to kick off the Delta's Awesome

Dad's Program activities for the year is because of research showing the importance of fathers' role in their children's up-bringing in the early childhood years. Fathers' personality traits have been strongly related to their children's well being. Researchers have also found that women and men who get along well at work and in their personal relationships were likely to have had warm, loving relationships with competent, strong, and emotionally secure fathers who helped to nurture them while they were young. Delta Head Start is committed to the fatherhood initiative which complements our mission to

"Empower families to shape the future one child at a time."
-submitted by Angie Burk



RX for Oklahoma Prescription Assistance

RX for Oklahoma helps Oklahomans access prescription assistance programs provided by pharmaceutical manufacturing companies. Free and discounted medication assistance has proven to be a much needed service for Oklahomans since the inception of RX for Oklahoma on December 1, 2005.

In Oklahoma, more than 700,000 people—close to 17 percent— don't have insurance or can't afford to purchase medicine, as reported by Rx for Oklahoma, a program working to solve the problem. Administered through the Community Action Agencies of Oklahoma, it helps people who are uninsured or underinsured receive free or low-cost prescriptions. The prescription program for 2008 statewide has assisted over 3912 clients with 12,964 prescriptions for an estimated cost savings of approximately \$6.5 million. Rx for Oklahoma staff assists you with the completion of the applications and required documentation for submission. For more information, contact Becky Deaton 405.527.6537



1.877.794.6552

OSU Coop Extension Reality Check 2009



Housing Director,
Kathy Griffith and Heather Selzer

We would like to thank Pauls Valley National Bank for sponsoring the hospital-suite.

Delta's Housing Program participated in the *Reality Check 2009* held on September 23, 24 by Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service and Mid America Technology Center at Wayne. Approximately 650 ninth grade students from several schools had the opportunity to learn basic skills in financial planning, goal setting and decision making. Upon arrival, the students were given a "card" which told them if they were married, had children, and their monthly income. The next step was to make real life purchases from housing and utilities, furniture, insurance, tags and tax, transportation, food, day care, etc.. The things you don't think about at that age. Upon arrival, a young man

wanted a "party house and a hot car". It wasn't long before he was back at Housing stating he needed a cheaper house and he had to sell his Mustang. Alex, age 14 was frustrated because "daycare and food alone are *crazy high!* I have to get a cheaper car and a 2nd job. The lady told me I make too much money for help and I don't think I can afford health care either". (Even at this age they seem to know how important health care is). The participation from local businesses included banks, insurance company's, doctors, hospitals, utilities and the health department. There were many volunteers that helped make this *Reality Check* a success.

Karen's Korner: The Executive Exclusive



Karen Nichols
Executive Director

Who We Are—What We Do.

Delta Community Action Foundation, Inc. was incorporated in 1968 as a non-profit corporation to serve McClain and Stephens Counties with the later addition of Garvin County to our service area. Delta operates under the direction of a Board of 18 Directors, currently chaired by Mr. Darrel Ford. Carrying on the day to day functions of the agency is the Executive Director, various Program Directors Administrative Staff and field personnel.

Our operational funds come from Federal and State Grants with some private donations. All of our Programs are audited on an annual basis by certified public accountant (CPA) with on-going monitoring by Federal and State agencies. The old saying "that's close enough for government work" - not true. Every tax dollar is strictly accounted for.

Now that I've given you a very brief description of Who We Are, the question is What Do We Do?

Former President Lyndon B Johnson signed into law in 1964 a bill attacking poverty across the United States. The Community Action Agencies were formed at this time and given the responsibility of carrying out the intent of the bill. As Community Action Agencies (CAA) continually strive to fulfill the Community Action motto "Helping People, Changing Lives" our goal on the local level is to make a difference in the lives of those we are privileged to serve. From this endeavor comes our **first edition newsletter "The Delta Difference"**.

Different Agencies across the country operate different programs. Determination of the programs operated at any given location is determined by a community needs assessment. Once a community need is identified then a grant is applied for to operate a program to meet those needs.

Having told you "who we are", "what we do", how and why, the following is a list of programs Delta CAA operates: Foster Grandparents, Head Start, Housing, Public Transportation, RX for Oklahoma, Senior Nutrition, Weatherization WX Client Education, Emergency Assistance— food pantry, clothing, temporary shelter, rent, mortgage payment assistance, utility assistance.

In future issues of *The Delta Difference* we will give you a brief introduction to the staff who are responsible for these programs. They are your friends and neighbors, they live and work among you and are striving to make a difference in the lives of those in need.

Board Members

Garvin

Rex Carlton
Rosa Lee Conner
Todd Hinkley
Kenneth Holden
Shon Richardson
David Wall

McClain

Kerry Carwile
Darrell Ford
Charles Foster
Mickey Holden
Wilson Lyles
Rodney Powers

Stephens

Dee Bowen
Janice Graham
Jo Johnson
Marion Lennox
Michelle Meddler
Darrell Sparks

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Delta's web site is a "work in progress",
please be patient.

deltacaa.yolasite.com