

In This Issue

2-1-1 Service Gains Momentum	2
Thousands Saved on Meds with Rx for OK	2
The Commons, 4-year-old Class	2
CDSA Goes to National Conferences	3
Affordable Housing Set to Open	3
Enid Farmers Market in Incubator	3
Employees, Board Awarded	4

Did You Know? Summer energy savings

- Don't place lamps or televisions near your air conditioner thermostat. The heat from these appliances will cause the air conditioner to run longer.
- A microwave oven saves 70% on energy consumption compared to a conventional oven.
- Reduce your air conditioner's labor by placing window units on the north or shady side of your residence to avoid overworking the unit in the hot daytime sun.
- Replacing older shower heads with low flow units could save a family of four as much as 15-thousand gallons of water per year and can reduce your water heating costs.

Stimulus Funding Expands Housing Weatherization Services



Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), CDSA will receive 10 times the current amount of weatherization funding.

The increase in funding also expands some qualifying criteria. Your income must be equal to or less than 200% of poverty as opposed to 120% in the past. Below is a breakdown of income qualifications for Garfield County:

2 members:	\$29,140
3 members:	\$36,620
4 members:	\$44,100
5 members:	\$51,580
6 members:	\$59,060
7 members:	\$66,540
8 members:	\$74,020

In addition to expanding income

qualifications, the new weatherization funding allows for a total possible \$6,500 to be spent on energy savings retrofits for a home. In the past the limit was \$3,066.

"Having this extra funding for weatherization is really a good thing for Enid and northwest Oklahoma," says Craig Stokes, CDSA housing coordinator, "It is creating jobs and saving money for folks that benefit most from reduced energy bills."

Weatherizing a home can be a big money saver. The average savings of a home with energy efficient retrofits is \$14 - \$40 a month, \$180 - \$480 a year.

The program is accepting applications which can be downloaded from www.cdsaok.org. Project work will begin in July 2009 and last through September 2011.

George Kaiser Family Foundation Awards \$10,000

Friday, May 8th, The George Kaiser Family Foundation (GKFF) awarded CDSA a \$10,000 dollar undesignated grant recognizing excellent service to Enid and northwest Oklahoma communities.

Ken Levitt, CEO of the foundation, said GKFF is proud to support CDSA and that CDSA has done an outstanding job providing a variety of critical services ranging from basic human needs to early childhood education and that their efforts should be commended.

GKFF is based in Tulsa, Oklahoma. They are dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty through investments in early childhood education, community health, social services and civic enhancement.



From left: Sen. Anderson, Cheri Ezzell, Ken Levitt, Rep. Jackson, Brad Waken
Photo provided by Saxum | PR

2-1-1 Information and Referral Gains Momentum

Since its beginning in April 2008, North Central Oklahoma 2-1-1 has served over 3,000 callers. 2-1-1 is an information and referral call service for anyone who needs non-emergency assistance and is operational all over the state of Oklahoma.

Legislation was recently passed in both the House and Senate of the State legislature supporting a national 2-1-1 Act that would help streamline call centers and allow for possible federal dollars to be granted to support this service. This support was gained largely from the rapid increases in use of 2-1-1 service.

State 2-1-1 Director, Lori Lindstead, is astounded at how quickly 2-1-1 is growing in use. "We saw a 25% increase in call volume from 2007 to 2008." This increase in call volume means over 40,000 more people used 2-1-1 information and referral service in 2008 than did in 2007.

CDSA, Now Employment Network, Accepts Ticket to Work

CDSA is now recognized by the Social Security Administration (SSA) as an Employment Network. This means individuals on SSI or SSDI with a Ticket to Work can come to CDSA directly for employment assistance. Enid Supported Employment Program (ESEP) has been helping individuals with disabilities find and retain employment since 1989. Judy Mahoney is the Program Coordinator and Sindy Clemens is the Job Coach/Job Developer.

Judy Mahoney explains, "There are many people out there who are receiving SSI or SSDI that would benefit from employment assistance. Our goal is to reach out to the community and provide the needed employment services and resources." The Ticket to Work (TTW) is an actual ticket that a person on SSI or SSDI receives from SSA and it may be used in exchange for employment assistance services.

If you have a TTW call: 580.548.2366

Rx for Oklahoma Saved Hundreds of Thousands of Dollars in Prescriptions for NW OK in 2008

The average American receiving Medicaid benefits spends 28% of their income on prescription drugs, according to an AARP study.

"It is hard to survive, to pay rent and utilities and keep up with your prescriptions as a Medicaid beneficiary," says Rx for Oklahoma Program Planner, Carolyn Pickard.

The Rx for Oklahoma program, funded through the Oklahoma Department of Commerce

aims to reduce the amount spent on prescriptions.

"The money saved by the Rx for Oklahoma program allows families to pay their bills and purchase basic necessities," explains Ms. Pickard.

In 2008-2009 fiscal year, the Rx for Oklahoma Program was able to save \$590,000 for Oklahomans living in the northwestern part of the state alone.

Generations meet at 4-Year-Old Classroom at the Commons

Paula Waters, NW OK Smart Start Coordinator and Dianne Juhnke, Director of the Early Childhood programs at CDSA, have been hard at work with other community stakeholders helping to coordinate a 4-year-old classroom at the Commons.

The Commons is a Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) that will be the location of an innovative new Enid Public Schools classroom that aims to enhance the learning environment of both young children and senior adults by mixing generations in a stimulating atmosphere.

In order to attract more community leaders to the Commons to experience this new initiative first hand, NW OK Smart Start meetings will be moved from the CDSA Branch Offices to the Commons Retirement Community on S. Oakwood.

The class will follow the same curriculum as other 4-year-old programs in the district and will be limited to only 20 students.

Enrollment for this program will be at the Enid Public Schools Central Office, 500 South Independence. For more information call 580.234.5270.

CDSA Staff Present, Attend at National Conferences for Smart Start and The Non-Profit Center Network

Communities across the country are interested in what is happening in Enid with early childhood development and the future non-profit center.

In May, Paula Waters, NW OK Smart Start Coordinator, presented a video at the National Smart Start Conference in Greensboro, North Carolina. It was made for Enid and NW Oklahoma and focuses on the linkages between future economic development and early childhood development.

“The video that we created is at the forefront of a national movement to inform communities about the positive results of investing in our children in their earliest years of life,” says Paula.

Bill Millet, an expert in the field of early childhood and economic development, presented with Paula at the convention. He says this is the best video he has seen on the topic.

Others have been interested in the video, too.

CDSA is currently working with a production company to make the film re-usable for other communities across the region.

Cheri Ezzell, CDSA Executive Director, recently attended the annual Nonprofit Centers Network’s Annual Conference. It was a three day event that showcased best practices and innovations in the burgeoning development of nonprofit centers across the US.

Conference participants toured several well-known nonprofit centers in the Washington DC metro area. “What stood out during the tours,” Ms. Ezzell explains, “was that CDSA and Enid area nonprofits are really onto something innovative with our vision for a nonprofit center downtown. We’re creating something that no one else has done before.”

The Non-Profit Center that CDSA is developing will be at 116 S. Independence on the downtown square and will help nonprofit organizations provide better services by centralizing and sharing resources.

48 High Quality Affordable Housing Units, Opening Slated for Early Summer

If you are looking for a nice place to live and haven’t driven by the old Roosevelt Elementary School site, you’re missing some of the most attractive new apartments in town. CDSA, the city of Enid, Garfield County and many others have been working diligently for years to develop this site into high quality affordable housing.

A significant shortage of affordable

high quality housing makes finding a place to live challenging for hundreds of people in the Enid area. The Roosevelt Park apartments offer quality housing for these hard working families.

This development is also part of a concerted effort to help revitalize and restore areas of the historic east side of Enid. The apartments are slated to open in early July. For more information call 580.234.1625.

Enid Farmers Market, Literacy Council Enter Non-Profit Incubator Program

Help is sometimes needed to get off your feet or to get going again as a non-profit organization. CDSA’s non-profit incubator program is designed to give organizations capacity that they wouldn’t otherwise have in order to help them become self-sufficient.

The Enid Farmers Market, lead by Executive Director Corey Groendyke, is one such organization that has recently signed onto the incubator program. “CDSA has helped tremen-

dously with our development. They helped us with strategic planning, accounting and are getting us on our way to gaining non-profit status,” says Corey Groendyke.

Additionally, the incubator program is used for non-profits that need to re-organize in order to keep operating. The Enid Literacy Council recently agreed to enter the program in order to build capacity from resources and guidance offered by CDSA.



Main Office:
2615 E. Randolph
Enid, OK 73701

Branch Office:
129 N. University
Enid, OK 73701

Phone: (580) 242-6131
Fax: (580) 234-3554

www.cdsoak.org

Employees, Board Awarded for Service

At the CDSA annual meeting, Steve Whitfill and Janet Cordell were honored for their dedicated service on the Board of Directors. They have finished their terms but both vow to stay involved with CDSA in other ways.

Eilene Crites is retiring from being a parent educator for the Parents as Teachers (PAT) Program here at CDSA. Through her dedication to parents and children she has changed the lives of hundreds of families. Consider that During Eilene's tenure at CDSA, she has:

- Served 777 families
- Helped 1033 children
- Completed 8676 visits, and
- was bitten by a dog only once!

This is an amazing example of what impact Eilene and the other Parent Educators have on the community.

Those employees receiving service awards for working for CDSA 15 years included: Linda Record, CFO; Kim Bailey, Executive Assistant; and Kate Jordan, Smart Start Support Staff.

Carolyn Pickard was also recognized for her 5th year with CDSA.

CDSA Board of Directors

Brad Waken
President

L. Wade Patterson
Vice President

Jim Rives
Secretary Treasurer

Frank Baker
Richard Dunn, Ph.D
Cheryl Evans, Ed.D
Laura Fenton
Sandie Hamilton
Sandy Howard
Brent Kisling
John Little
Jane Martin

Pam McCoy
David McCune
Lavonn McKnight
Bonnie Muegge
Loretta Ore-Meredith
Jerry Shaffer
Cyndy Shepherd, APR
Leigh Vahovius
Bret Whinery

Emeritus Members

Eileen Kurtz, RN
Bob Shuttee, MD

Suellen Singer