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Employment, Housing, and Health Care prove to be top needs in Garfield and Grant Counties

In a recently completed a Community Needs Survey, CDSA found that the top three needs in Garfield and Grant counties are: 1. more employment opportunities, 2. more affordable and high quality housing, 3. and affordable health care options.

Surveys were collected from December 15, 2009 to January 15, 2010 through an online survey system and through paper surveys completed by people seeking services at the CDSA main office and Our Daily Bread in Enid, and by the Grant County policy advisory group in Grant County.

We offer numerous services to address community needs. CDSA seeks to increase the employability of low-income people by ensuring that we offer services to help people improve their work skills. Training takes place both on the work site and through targeted training programs such as YouthBuild, Workforce Investment Act services, and the Enid Supported Employment Program.

In addition, CDSA provides necessary support services that help people attain or maintain employment when we help people access child care, avoid foreclosure or evic-

tion or stay in their home through our emergency repair services. Programs include Child Care Resource and Referral, Parents as Teachers, Rx for Oklahoma, CDSA housing programs, North Central Oklahoma 2-1-1, staff support for the Enid Metropolitan Area Human Service Commission, and Smart Start.

As far as more affordable, quality housing, CDSA has led community efforts in this area. CDSA operates as a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) to develop new affordable housing with private developers and on our own through acquisition, rehabilitation and new construction. Over the past 10 years, CDSA has had a part in developing or rehabilitating approximately 250 units.

Finally, CDSA seeks to provide affordable health care options for our community. Rx for Oklahoma helps uninsured or underinsured individuals access pharmaceutical company assistance. In 2009, 681 clients received medications valued at \$531,664 through the CDSA program.

Did You Know?

CENSUS Facts

Every year, \$300 billion federal dollars are allocated based on census data.

For every person counted, an estimated \$750 will be returned to the state of Oklahoma.

This year's survey is the shortest questionnaire ever, 10 questions, 10 minutes.

All people should be counted, regardless of their citizenship status.

For more information about the Census contact (580) 242-6131

Energy-Efficient House Complete

CDSA has completed construction of a house insulated by Styrofoam Insulated Panels (SIPs) at the corner of 10th Street and Randolph in east Enid. The house was the first of CDSA's efforts to create energy efficient, cost efficient housing in fully developed neighborhoods in Enid.

It is now complete and ready for sale. For additional information, please contact Craig Stokes at CDSA (580) 242-6131.



Photo courtesy of Mike Biggers

North Central Oklahoma 2-1-1 End of Year Report

Last year, the 2-1-1 program continued to gain momentum, with operators reporting an increase in call volume. Calls for help attaining food stamps, finding food banks, homeless or transitional low income housing, employment, rental assistance, utility assistance, and transportation help all increased.

2-1-1 operators have also reported the top 10 referrals for north central Oklahoma, with CDSA

being at the top of the list followed by Salvation Army, Hope Outreach, and area churches. In total, there have been 5,295 calls received since North Central Oklahoma's 2-1-1 inception in April 2008.

For additional information about 2-1-1, contact Kacie Dickinson at CDSA – (580) 242-6131 or visit www.211oklahoma.org.

Vance Air Force Base Receives 2009 Spirit of the Family Award

The Spirit of the Family Award annually recognizes Enid employers for the countless ways they support employees, their families, and therefore the Enid Community. Presented by Smart Start Northwest Oklahoma, a program of CDSA, former recipients include outstanding Enid businesses that represent the best practices in family workplace policy. According to Smart Start Coordinator Paula Waters, the award emphasizes the critical role that local businesses play in strengthening and supporting employees and their families. "When our families are strong, our community is strong", Waters said.

On November 16, the 2009 Spirit of the Family Award was presented to Vance Air Force Base in honor of their commitment to individuals and families including officer and enlisted, reserve and guard component members; civilians, spouses, and children. Vance was also recognized for their volunteerism and community involvement.

Lt. Governor Jari Askins was on hand to welcome over 100 Vance personnel, legislators, business leaders, and community representatives. Col. Mark C. Nowland, commander of the 71st Flying Training Wing at Vance gave the keynote address emphasizing that the key to keeping people in the Air Force is in retaining families. "When you can help people understand that the Air Force is a great place to live, work, and grow a family, you can retain them", Nowland said. Nowland credited Vance's Airman and Family Readiness Center for adapting to the Base's changing family dynamic.

Vance AFB individuals and families enrich the fabric of the Enid community in countless ways through their involvement in community life

through schools, churches, volunteer service, and business. Vance AFB has hosted the Special Olympics and Camp Tomahawk for over 30 years. They provide volunteers for Christmas in Action, Habitat for Humanity, Leonardo's, the MS Walk, the March of Dimes Walk, Relay for Life, Horn of Plenty, Adopt-A-School programs, Enid Lights Up the Plains, Red Cross Hero Campaign, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and Oklahoma Blood Drives, to name a few.

In 2009, the year of the Air Force family, Vance is increasing its focus on making Air Force life more compatible with family life and building a greater sense of community. Air Force and Vance programs and policies that support families include: Paternity leave, adoption reimbursements, youth programs, child care, spouse support groups, financial planning education, mental health counseling, career planning, resume and interview preparation for spouses, volunteer referral program, welcome packets, marriage and relationship counseling and Health and Wellness Center programs.



Photo courtesy of Paula Waters

Third Annual Walk This Way a Success

The third annual *Walk This Way* walking competition wrapped up at the City Commissioner’s meeting on December 1st with an award presentation that included a Wii Fit for under 18 winner, Kyle Wanzer. “We really tried to focus on getting more kids involved this year,” said Teresa Bailey, event co-planner. The six-week walking competition kicked off October 3 at Meadowlake Park where the first 500 participants to register received a free tee shirt. This year’s participants were also eligible for bonus points when they checked in at healthy snack stations at the Enid Farmer’s Market and Scare On the Square. With the success of the last three years, look for *Walk This Way* to become a staple on Enid’s fall event calendar!



Walk This Way Winners Photo courtesy of Teresa Bailey

The 2010 Census is Coming!



The 2010 census is fast approaching on April 1st. With congressional districting and allocation of federal funds dependent on an accurate count, the task of enumeration is as important now as it has ever been! During the last two censuses, it is estimated that the Census Bureau missed millions of people – mostly minorities and low-income peo-

ple. Undercounting certain populations may reduce federal funding for hospitals, education, childcare, disaster preparation, as well as fair representation in Congress. From January through April, census workers will reach out to the community, affirming that census participation is safe, easy and important. CDSA will serve as a *Be Counted Site* from March 19th through April 19th for those who believe they have not been included in the count.

CDSA Wins at 2009 United Way Chili Cook-Off

On October 16th, CDSA employees participated in the 22nd annual Enid United Way Chili Cook-off! The fundraiser brought out Enid residents in droves. “The turnout was tremendous,” said Sean Byrne, United Way executive director, “people were parking blocks away to get in this place.” With 41 organizations participating and just under \$15,000 raised, the event proved to be the largest and most successful ever. All proceeds from the Chili Cook-Off support the United Way and its 15 member agencies around the Enid community providing local solutions for local problems. ...Oh! And by the way, CDSA got 2nd place chili!



Photo courtesy of Kacie Dickinson



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Cheri's Corner



Around Christmas time I hoped for snow. Now it is February and I long for daffodils. I know they will come in their time, as will earlier sunrises and the Oklahoma wind. This change of seasons is one I look forward to with great anticipation. However, I don't feel that way about all change, even as I understand that change is inevitable. I only have to look in the mirror to see that I am not in control of time or change.

Our world is dynamic. In the non-profit world, or the business world, we sometimes have to amend our visions to fit a changing set of circumstances. CDSA has been good at that. We are always looking for trends in the communities we serve and trying to find new ways to positively respond to change. That is how and why new programs and services develop at our agency. If you see a need in the community, we welcome your input, and if you think we need to change something, we will discuss that too. We understand that we will not survive if we stop being valuable.

If you would attain to what you are not yet, you must always be displeased by what you are. For where you are pleased with yourself there you have remained. Keep adding, keep walking, keep advancing. ~Saint Augustine

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