

INSIDE



Franklin Jones: Roller Rink Pitchman For Public Service



*By Dustin D. Pyeatt
Office of Communications*

Franklin Jones, a Foster Care Recruitment specialist at Oklahoma County's 55-F office, knows a thing or two about traveling. And although he's had plenty of bumps in the road during his long, unusual journey, one constant has remained steady – his devotion to public service.

"This Kiwanis Club in Oklahoma City has already donated 55 pieces of luggage for our foster kids," Jones said, with a big smile, his eyes twinkling from behind thick glasses. "That's better than the garbage bags

or boxes they usually have to use. They've been taken from their homes, at least this gives them a little dignity."

At a time when most people seem to be counting the days until retirement, Jones, 64, has no plans of slowing down.

"Next year I'll be able to retire, but I probably won't," Jones said. "They'll be saying, 'Hey Jones, it's time to leave,' but I like what I do."

Jones started his path as a public servant almost by accident. Born and raised in Chicago, he was a high

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State Substance Abuse Leaders Make A Difference

William C. Moyers, vice president of external affairs for the Hazelden Foundation in Center City, Minn., recently told state leaders during a conference held in Oklahoma City that he believes "Oklahoma takes a rap for not being progressive, but you *are* progressive and this conference proves it."

Moyers, a nationally known expert on substance abuse and addiction, joined various state leaders, including Gov. Brad Henry, Lt. Gov. Mary Fallin and OKDHS Director Howard H. Hendrick, plus Terry Cline, com-

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The Chaplain's Corner

We Are All Chaplains To Our Customers

By Gene Holliman
Hughes County Director
and OKDHS Chaplain

When I was asked to write an article for this month's issue of The Chaplain's Corner, I was at first hesitant, because I am no writer. But as I thought about what to say and what it means to me to be a chaplain, my heart became heavy for Oklahomans and other states that have been devastated by the recent tornadoes. I know there are members of the OKDHS family that were affected by these storms and to them our thoughts and prayers go out.

I think the role of chaplain is being of service and just being there for someone when they are in need. Sometimes just offering a kind word or deed is all that is needed. Sometimes it is just to sit and listen, not only with your ears, but your heart. Sometimes it can be an instructional word as to how to do something.

I feel each of us who works for OKDHS are chaplains to our customers. I don't mean chaplains in the spiritual sense, but in the service to our human family sense. We have the greatest opportunity in the world to

help shape and mold some of our customers' lives. We have the opportunity to give of our "bread to those less fortunate than we." We should and do serve our fellow man, to help them have food to eat and to help take care of the medical needs and sometimes, financial needs. I think we sometimes forget just how much influence we, as OKDHS social workers, have with our customers. Often-times a simple word of encouragement is all that it takes to change one's direction in life. I dare say that none of us work for OKDHS just because of the money we make, but we work for OKDHS because we have a genuine concern for others and care about their needs.

Mother Teresa once said, "Duty is a very personal thing. It is what comes from knowing the need to take action and not just a need to urge others to do something."

It is our *duty*.



"We have the greatest opportunity in the world to help shape and mold some of our customers' lives."

— Chaplain Gene Holliman



Whirlwind Drill

On April 30, one week before the May 8-9 tornadoes cut devastating paths across Oklahoma, OKDHS Risk and Safety Management called for a tornado drill. More than 700 employees and visitors in the Sequoyah Memorial Office Building moved into the basement of the Capitol Complex in less than six minutes. Risk and Safety Administrator John Coleman said the time was good, but could be improved. "It's important for all of us to think safety at home, at work and in the community. Being alert and being prepared to act can save your life and the lives of those you love," Coleman said.

Working to Get Your Stories Told

Meet Kevan Goff-Parker: Communications Professional

The Office of Communications Team wants you to meet and know Kevan Goff-Parker, an award-winning public relations professional, editor and journalist. Kevan, as you will come to know her, came to us in May and will serve as editor-in-chief of *Inside OKDHS*, the department's employee newsletter and *Inside OKDHS Magazine* when it resumes publication. She will also handle an array of public relations and communications projects and campaigns.

We are very blessed to have Kevan's energy, talents and abilities added to the OKDHS team. She's here to put her **BEST FOOT FORWARD** for you. She has taken off at full speed, which is characteristic of her personality and professionalism. Kevan will add value to any project she works on. She's already in the middle of a dozen different stories, a HIPAA educational campaign with Family Support Services Division staff and is working with the Human Resources Management Division's Employee Services staff on promoting a Web-based employee wellness program.

Kevan has worked as a journalist, editor and corporate communications professional for such diverse industries as high-tech manufacturing, public utilities and education, as well as public rela-

tions, marketing and print media. Prior to her most recent work as features editor for *The St. Kitts-Nevis Observer* in the West Indies,



Best Foot Forward



she served as manager of Corporate Communications for Seagate Technology in Oklahoma City and Reynosa, Mexico. Previous employers include OGE Energy Corp., Hays & Associates, Oklahoma City Public Schools and *The Daily Oklahoman*.

Kevan has earned 43 top communications awards in regional and national competitions through various organizations, including the Oklahoma City Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America, the Oklahoma Chapter for the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJOK) and the Oklahoma City Chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators, as well as the Oklahoma City Chapter of the Association of Women in Communications.

She served as this year's publicity chair for SPJ's Region 8 Conference held at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, served as president of PRSA OKC in 2000-01 and has served as an officer and committee member for various civic boards, non-profit and professional organizations.

When you're working hard to make things happen in Oklahoma Human Services, your phone may ring or your e-mail pop up saying, "Hey! It's me, Kevan! What's good happening out there?" It will be Kevan Goff-Parker, and she'll want to communicate something positive about what you're doing to put your **BEST FOOT FORWARD** for the OKDHS mission.

— George Earl Johnson, Jr.

Relay For Life: A Race For More Than Just Time

By Kevan Goff-Parker
Editor Inside OKDHS

OKDHS is partnering with the American Cancer Society for this year's Relay for Life – the society's signature fundraising activity that offers communities the opportunity to participate in the fight against cancer, while empowering cancer survivors.

A Friday eve through Saturday morning event, the relay begins at 7 p.m. June 20 in Stars and Stripes Park at Lake Hefner in Oklahoma City. The relay is scheduled to end at 7 a.m. June 21. Participating teams camp out and take turns walking or running around the track. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times.

Participants will receive an official Relay for Life T-shirt for a commitment of \$10. Food, entertainment and games will be offered for children and adults to enjoy. Funds raised from this event are used for research, education and advocacy, plus other services to help make the cancer experience a little easier.

OKDHS' Karen Jacobs, volunteer coordinator, Office of Volunteerism, said that one of the most moving moments at Relay for Life is the Luminaria Ceremony.

"Small bags with lit candles can be purchased in honor or memory of anyone who has battled cancer," Jacobs said. "The names of the honorees are written on the outside of the bags and serve as a reminder of why we are committed to the fight against cancer."

She said all cancer survivors are also invited to participate in a special ceremony at 7 p.m. June 20 where they will walk the first triumphant lap around the track.

Several fundraisers will be launched in the upcoming weeks to promote awareness and collect funds



As a part of the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, Karen Jacobs, volunteer coordinator, Office of Volunteerism, arranges moons and stars on a bulletin board located in the Sequoyah Memorial Building's lobby. Aimed at raising funds for the society, moons and stars can be purchased for \$1. Stars signify "In Memory Of" a person who has died from cancer, while moons are purchased "In Honor Of" a loved one who has survived cancer. Luminaria bags can be purchased for \$5. For more information, contact Jacobs at (405) 522-2528.

to fight against the disease.

If you would like to participate in the walk, purchase a luminaria bag for \$5 or purchase a star "In Memory Of" (for someone who has died from cancer) or a moon "In Honor Of" (for a cancer survivor), please contact the following persons in your divisions:

Diana Everett

Aging Services Division

Jean Watts or Melissa Beaver

Children and Family Services Division

Pam Webster

Child Support Services Division

Rosemarie James

Division of Child Care

Vareeda Fennimore or

Sherry Hillemeier

Data Services Division

Joni Burch or Gwen Peoples

Developmental Disabilities Services

Karen Jacobs

Executive Division

Jayne Schones

Family Support Services Division

Anetta Cooper

Finance Division

Merlene Williams

or **Georgette Clark** -

Human Resources Management
Division

Jacobs said the stars and moons will be displayed in the Sequoyah Building lobby until late June.

"Several areas around the state have already held local events to support this worthy cause," she said. "For those employees outside of central Oklahoma, we encourage you to check with your local American Cancer Society chapter to participate in Relay for Life efforts or to find other ways to volunteer."

State Aging Conference Proves Big Success

A visit from Gov. Brad Henry, presentations of Lifetime Achievement Awards and Achievements in Aging Awards, nationally recognized speakers in the field of aging and more than 45 workshops were part of the 2003 annual Oklahoma Conference on Aging recently held at the National Center for Employee Development in Norman.

The conference serves as cornerstone of the state's celebration of May as Older Americans Month. OKDHS Aging Services Division sponsors the annual event in conjunction with almost 20 partners, including the Oklahoma Department of Health, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the Oklahoma Develop-



mental Disabilities Council and all the state's advocacy groups for older persons and educational institutions supporting geriatric education and training programs.

Those honored this year for their lifetime achievements on behalf of older Oklahomans and their families included the late Richard Adams, former president of the Oklahoma AARP program and a former director of an area agency on aging; JoAnna Deighton, Oklahoma City, founder of OK-INCH, an advocacy group seeking improvement and change in the state's nursing care facilities; the late Hayden Donahue, M.D., former commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and long-time advocate for the state's mental health system and those it serves through its community mental health system; Gary Kodaseet, Oklahoma City, president of the National Indian Council on Aging and advocate for minority elders; Roy LeBlanc, Muskogee, aging advocate and founder of the National Black Cowboy Rodeo Association, and Robert Rawlings, Edmond, nationally recognized leader of programs for mental health and aging.

The four-day conference opened topics such as grant writing, effective board membership and depression among older persons, plus minority health disparity issues and caregiving. Ben Dickerson, Ph.D., director of the Center on Aging and Community at the University of Indianapolis, shared his vision of the future of aging in an address titled "Changing Lanes/Shifting Gears," and Deborah Kern, Ph.D., Huntsville, Ala., nationally known health scientist and leader in the women's health movement, spoke on the mind/body connection.



OKDHS Director Enters Hall of Fame

OKDHS Director Howard H. Hendrick, left, listens to former twice elected Governor and U.S. Senator Henry Bellmon, along with Anne Roberts, executive director of the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy. Hendrick and Bellmon were among public officials being inducted into the 2003 Child Advocates Hall of Fame for their work to improve the quality of life for Oklahoma's children.

Jones continued from page 1

school dropout inspecting broken television tubes at a factory when he was hired by a Catholic elementary school principal to work as a school/community representative.

“This principal was younger



Foster Care Recruiter Franklin Jones uses a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) to contact a hearing-impaired client. Jones learned sign language after being unable to communicate with a deaf family.

than me at the time and he told me, ‘Franklin, I won’t tell anyone about your education, but I’ll only be here for a few years, so I’ll help you get your GED,’ ” Jones said. “I was 32 when I finally graduated from high school.”

Jones went on to attend Malcolm X Junior College, eventually earning his bachelor’s degree in social services from Chicago State University. He was the first person in his family to earn a college degree.

“Regardless of my education, I’ve always moved ahead,” Jones said. “It seems like there’s always been someone there to help me.”

For decades, Jones has more than returned the favor. He began working in social services in 1972. He’s worked at boys’ homes, after-

school programs and Head Start. He worked for the city of Chicago’s social services for 15 years, eventually serving as the Parent/Child Center coordinator managing five facilities with more than 80 staff members

serving more than 640 children. It was at this point that Jones was presented with a new challenge.

“We had a deaf family come to

“Regardless of my education, I’ve always moved ahead. It seems like there’s always been someone there to help me.”

— Franklin Jones

us for services and no one knew how to communicate with them,” Jones said. “I decided to learn.”

He began attending an all-deaf Lutheran Church in Chicago.

“I joined the men’s group, and they made me the secretary,” Jones said. “I’d take notes while they would all argue in sign. When I read the

minutes I’d have to sign them.

“I’d get it all wrong and they’d patiently teach me the right way. It helped me communicate with the deaf family who came in for help. Once word got out that I knew sign language, more deaf clients started coming. When I moved to Oklahoma, I took classes to learn the regional signs.”

Jones was hired by OKDHS in December 1995 as a Permanency Planning and Treatment worker. He later worked in Independent Living before landing in his current position.

“Oklahoma County has about 1,300 children and only 140 non-kinship foster homes,” he said. “It’s a rough campaign.”

In addition to sign language, Jones has another skill that has helped him in recruiting foster parents.

“I sometimes help kids learn how to roller skate at the Rollerland Skating Rink in Bethany,” Jones said.

However, when Jones is not skating, he’s working.

“Recruiting is a 24-hour job,” he said. “I carry a display in the trunk of my car all the time. I’d set up at a street corner if there were enough people there.

“I’ll talk to anyone — churches, schools, any group I can get. And even with groups like the Kiwanis Club, I ask myself, ‘How can I get them to help me if they don’t want to become foster parents?’ Some of the groups I talk to, the youngest person is older than me, but I have to be creative and get the word out.

"I enjoy this job . . . I really do. This is a rewarding job . . . a good way to finish my career."

— Franklin Jones

"I'm also fortunate because my county director, Jeri Poplin, and my supervisor are both very supportive. They don't bother me. I couldn't ask for a better group to work with."

It seems the feeling is mutual with Jones' supervisor, Meredith King, a Child Welfare supervisor, Oklahoma County 55-F.

"Franklin is one of the superstars that every supervisor wishes for," King said. "He's enthusiastic and has a great sense of humor. His variety of experiences with child welfare gives him credibility. Prospective foster parents trust the information he provides."

In 2001, Jones started a Foster Parent Association for the 55-F office in an effort to take care of the foster parents he recruited.

"The Foster Parent Association is great because the more experienced foster parents can help the newer ones," Jones said. "Many of the foster parents know that I like pound cake, so they'll call and have some cake and coffee waiting for me, and I'll listen to their problems. That's a big part of keeping doors open because the types of children many of our foster parents deal with cause strain.

"We don't know all the problems these kids have and, sometimes, the foster parents blame us for not telling them."



Foster Care Recruiter Franklin Jones began a Foster Parent Association for the Oklahoma County 55-F office to improve communication between foster parents and OKDHS.

Jones brings creativity, passion and his gift of gab wherever he travels. His daughter, Carolyn, 26, who does marketing for a technical school in Iowa, summed it up after her dad helped her recruit potential students.

"We were at a trade show and no one would stop," Jones said. "I went and got a toy train and set it up at her booth. She didn't understand until kids started coming by to look at it and

their parents would follow.

"I'd talk to the kids while she gave her pitch to the parents. Afterward she said, 'Dad, you're amazing,' and I said 'No, I've done this before.'"

Whether he's pitching to prospective foster parents or strapping on his roller skates for another spin around the rink, Jones said he's too busy focusing on the present to sit still long.

"I enjoy this job ... I really do," Jones said. "This is a rewarding job ... a good way to finish my career."

Kay County Staff 'Taking It Off'

By Kevan Goff-Parker
Inside OKDHS Editor

It may sound a bit risqué, but 30 employees at the Kay County Office in Ponca City seem to have no qualms about participating in the "Taking It Off Challenge" – an Employee Benefit Council Wellness Program designed to encourage healthy living.

The program began May 1 and will end July 3 with a recognition and reception event. It is hoped the 30 employees will collectively lose 100 pounds. For every pound lost, the losing participant pays \$1 per pound. The \$1 is then put into a pot, allowing the person who loses the most weight to eventually win what may add up to \$100.

Another option includes "Streetwalkers Unite" – an incentive program that encourages participants to not only lose weight, but to become more toned, stronger and raise their heart rates. Teams are organized of approximately four people who create a name for their team. Teams then compete to see who can walk the most miles during specified months.

Thursdays are weigh-in days and feature speakers from different health-related agencies. They include speakers from the Employee Benefits Council, Brown's Shoe Fit, the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, Oklahoma State University Extension, Kay County Health Department, the YMCA and more.

Early staff reports show that participating employees have shed more than 80 pounds and walked more than 472 miles!

Happy Smiles Mark 'Take Your Children To Work Day'

Robert Ball, Data Services Division, and his daughter, Samantha, 10, were all giggles and grins.



Paula Price (center), programs administrator of Commodity Distribution, proudly poses with her two adopted daughters, Julianna (left), 8, and Katie (right), 6. Price not only adopted the sisters, she also continues to open her heart and home to foster children.



Finance Division Comptroller John Guin's daughter, Kristyana, 4, snuggles up with her daddy.

Yuzhou Fan, information systems developer, Office of Planning, Policy and Research, recently gave Jessica, 3, the grand tour of the State Office.



OKDHS Director Howard H. Hendrick hugs Jayna Holzberger's son, Kalyb Parker (left) and his pal, Brianica Steenbock, during the children's afternoon reception.

The recent OKDHS “Take Your Children To Work Day” celebration featured a bevy of happy smiles by youngsters who seemed to enjoy spending a day at work with their parent or caretaker.

During the event, children met agency staff, snacked on punch and cookies and received balloon art created by “ConFewZd” the clown (a.k.a. Debbie Drain, administrative assistant, Children and Family Services Division).

“It was just a great event,” Drain said. “The children and their caretakers seemed happy and were all smiles. I really appreciate how our director, Howard H. Hendrick, took his time to get on an even level with all the children.

“He shook their hands and each one got one-on-one attention. It made them all feel special.”

Become Positive

*Today is the day you
can become the most
positive and
enthusiastic person
you know.*

— George Earl Johnson, Jr.
April 2003



OKDHS Chief Financial Officer Phil Motley, standing, reviews budget reduction figures with Budget Unit Administrator Adam Barber, left, and Budget Comptroller John Guin before making a monthly report to the Oklahoma Commission for Human Services. In the foreground, Office of Civil Rights Officer Elizabeth Fine studies Commission materials.



The 10-member OKDHS County Directors Class VI points to their model book, “First Break All the Rules.” Copies of the book were presented to the class during the academy graduation in April. They were all recognized for their class project, in which they produced a 10-minute video and a 30-second public service announcement on volunteering for the OKDHS Office of Volunteerism. Pictured from left are Choctaw and Pushmataha County Director Freda R. House, Kiowa County Director Karen Moses, Finance Division Claims Administrator Jody Smith, Carter and Love County Director Harold Douglass Jr., Seminole County Director Janis L. McElroy, Oklahoma County 55-G Assistant Director Eugene Gissandaner, Data Services Division Data Processing Administrator Susan Bohl, Cleveland County Assistant Director Gail Scribner, Area I Administrative Field Liaison Amy Whitson and Murray County Director Pat Bean. Copies of their video project have been distributed to all county offices for use in recruiting volunteers.

OKDHS Teams Win Governor's Awards



OKDHS' Child Support Enforcement Division' OCSE-157 Report/Performance Measures Team was recently honored with the Governor's "Quality Crown Award," the top Quality Team honor. Some of the members of the team accepting the award in State House Chambers included (from left) Anthony Jackson, Barbara Starz and David Gulick. (Not pictured are: Bob Charbeneau, Karla Crawley, Jim Hutchinson, Judy Johnson, Larry Kelly, Joy Laramore, Fred McCroskey, Lisa Moses, Connie Wilson, Jay Burnside, Neil Williams and Charlie Zink.)



The Northern Oklahoma Resource Center of Enid (NORCE) was recently honored during the Governor's Quality Awards with "Employee Empowerment Award" for implementing "The Caring Committee." Prior to the awards ceremony, some members of the team joined others from state agencies and hosted a booth in the Capitol's rotunda. They included: (From left) Mitch Buckminster, Shirleen Emick, Sandi Brown, Jann Ensz and Janie Ball. (Not pictured are Jan Cook, Shelia Johnston, Linda Kimmel, Joanne Carrube, Kevin Aebi and John Barton.)



Alfalfa County APS worker Maggie Koppenaar credits her dog with helping her to find an unconscious elderly woman last winter.

Maggie Koppenaar Receives Certificate of Commendation

The Oklahoma Commission for Human Services awarded Adult Protective Services Specialist Maggie Koppenaar a Certificate of Commendation for aiding a disoriented elderly woman.

In January, Koppenaar, who works at the OKDHS Alfalfa County office, found the elderly woman lying unconscious near Koppenaar's home. The woman was dressed only in a nightgown, her hands and feet were bloody and her hands were covering her face. Koppenaar recognized her as a former APS client. She called 911, covered the woman with a blanket and stayed with her until an ambulance arrived.

Emergency personnel said the woman was fortunate that Koppenaar found her when she did.

The woman has since made a full recovery. Koppenaar was instrumental in helping to find safe care for the woman.



(From left) Lynda Fox with the Center for Alcohol and Substance Abuse, Columbia University, New York, visits with OKDHS' Kyle McGraw and William C. Moyers just prior to Moyers delivering a speech to state alcohol and substance abuse professionals at the Governor's Mansion Phillips Pavilion.

missioner, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, during the "Great Awakening ... An Invitation to Make a Difference Substance Abuse Conference" held at the Governor's Mansion Phillips Pavilion.

The national drug problem has not changed since he was last in Oklahoma in 1999, Moyers said.

"Today, there are people getting addicted to man-made drugs that didn't even exist then."

Speaking to the nearly 200 substance abuse and addiction counselors, human services professionals and elected officials from across the state, Moyers discussed his key initiative of "carrying the message" about addiction and recovery into the public arena. He used his own personal experiences to highlight the power of addiction and the power of recovery. Moyers also challenged the audience to put a face on recovery.

According to Moyers, everyone has a story to tell because everyone

has been touched by someone who has had or presently struggles with substance abuse.

"I was once part of the problem," Moyers said. "I'm an alcoholic and a drug addict. I started with casual marijuana use — this led to alcohol and other harder drugs, and I eventually found myself living in a crack house in Harlem.

"I went through recovery three times. I'm no longer part of the problem — I'm part of the solution. Our nation is fixated on the problem and not the solution.

"We're not in a war on drugs, but a war on people. When people stop demanding drugs, the supply goes away."

Moyers has appeared on Larry King Live, the Oprah Winfrey Show and the Today Show. His work has also been featured in *The New York Times* and *Newsweek Magazine*. Moyers is the son of Bill Moyers, a well-known author, television personality and native Oklahoman.

OKDHS Mission
The mission of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services is to help individuals and families in need help themselves lead safer, healthier, more independent and productive lives.

OKLAHOMA OKDHS EXCELLENCE
OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

OKDHS Values and Guiding Principles

Respect
We believe in the human dignity of every person and that each person has a purpose for living. We will treat all people with dignity, promote mutual respect and maximize the personal potential of each person we serve.

Family
We believe the family unit is the basic foundation of our society. We will strengthen each family we serve.

Accountability
We believe responsible actions enhance all relationships. We will be fiscally responsible in the administration of public resources and hold ourselves to high moral and ethical standards.

Stronger Families Grow Brighter Futures



Inside OKDHS July 2003 Issue Highlights!

Here is just a glimpse of some of the many colorful articles we'll feature in the upcoming July 2003 issue of *Inside OKDHS*. We promise fun and games, exploration and education and plenty of stories designed to keep you informed on OKDHS' latest initiatives and events.

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