



## Staff Member Finds True Community In A Common Task

Stephanie M. Bond

Editor

OKDHS Publications

The holidays speak to relationships, get-togethers, hopes and dreams. On Thanksgiving, Linda Clark experienced all of these while eating hot dogs and hanging sheetrock. She fulfilled her own life-long dream while helping to fulfill another's.

The social services inspector IV with the Office of Client Advocacy spent Thanksgiving in Anapra, Juarez, Mexico. She, and 17 other novices from Our Lord's Community Church, built a 430-square-foot home for Pastor Juan Manuel from Nov. 23-29, 2003.

"I had no practical experience with a nail or a hammer," Clark said. "I can barely do minor repairs around my own house. There, I hung sheetrock, helped build the wooden panels and frame for the roof, tapped down chicken wire, drilled holes and helped wire the entire house. I connected all the wires to the duplex receptacle!"

The house, which has two bedrooms and a living room, appears like a mansion in the dusty, impoverished community. Cardboard, tar paper, plastic and sheets serve as building materials for most homes there. The church where Manuel serves has no floor.

Clark said she has a very strong connection to Spanish-speaking cultures. She and her family spent many Christmas Eves with friends from around the world at a Hispanic family's home.

"It was a celebration of our diverse heritages, our friendship and all the good things in life," she said. "Because of the richness of my experiences, I've always wanted to give back. I heard about this trip and I found my opportunity to join in. Building a house really was a life-long dream of mine ever since I was a little girl."

The group, whose members ranged in ages from 18 to 78, paid their own expenses and stayed in a converted medical clinic. Clark partnered with a woman in her 70s who also had no building experience. The two nailed most of the rolls of insulation into the ceiling.

"It was a lot more work than I had anticipated," she said. "I expressed interest to learn as much as I could. Those with experience gave me ample opportunities!"



Linda Clark, social services inspector IV with the Office of Client Advocacy, successfully installed a light outside the front door of the house she helped build in Anapra, Juarez, Mexico, during Thanksgiving. (Photo courtesy of Betsy Felton).

The defining moment of the trip came at the end of the busy, hectic week. Clark said the 28-year-old Mexican pastor spoke no English, but watched the group everyday. On the last day, Clark and another team member were walking through the church when they stopped to try to talk to the

# Let February Truly Be The Month Of LOVE

By David P. Hadaway  
OKDHS Chaplain  
Office of Inspector General

In this month's edition of *Inside OKDHS*, we are giving recognition to our soldiers and veterans, but this month is also known as the month of love. I was trying to figure out a way to tie the two together when I remembered a story I had heard many years ago. I would like to share it with you now ...

A story is told about a soldier who was finally coming home after having fought in Vietnam. He called his parents from San Francisco.

"Mom and Dad, I'm coming home, but I've a favor to ask," the soldier said. "I have a friend I'd like to bring home with me?"

"Sure," the mother said, "we'd love to meet him."

"There's something you should know," the son said, "he was hurt pretty badly in the fighting. He stepped on a land mine and lost an arm and leg. He has nowhere else to go, and I want him to come live with us."

"I'm sorry to hear that, Son," the father said. "Maybe we can help him find somewhere to live?"

"No, Mom and Dad, I want him to live with us," the young man replied.

"Son," the father said, "you don't know what you're asking. Someone with such a handicap would be a terrible burden on us. We have our own lives to live, and we can't let something like this interfere with our lives."

"I think you should come on home and forget about this guy. He'll find a way to live on his own."

At that point, the son hung up the phone and his parents heard nothing

more from him.

How many times do we do the same thing? We see someone in need, yet we ignore him or her. This young soldier had wounds you could see, but what about the thousands of soldiers and veterans who are walking



*David P. Hadaway*

around with the terrible wounds of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Balkans, the Gulf War and now those fighting the war on terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq? Do we just ignore them, as well? Do we tell ourselves, "They'll find a way to live on their own?"

But what happened to our young soldier and his friend?

A few days after the son called, his parents received a telephone call from the San Francisco Police Department. Their son had died after falling from a building. The police believed it was suicide. The grief-stricken parents flew to San Francisco and were taken to the city morgue to identify their son's body. They recognized him, but to their horror they also discovered something they didn't know – their son had only one arm

and one leg.

The parents in this story are like many of us. We find it easy to love those who are good-looking or fun to have around, but we don't always like people who inconvenience us or make us feel uncomfortable. Many of us would rather stay away from people who aren't as healthy, beautiful or smart as we are.

How many of us would be where we are if we had not been loved unconditionally? What happens when we learn to love as we should? We want to give it away because it will fill us to overflowing, and we can't contain it. If we try to keep all the love to ourselves it withers and dies. What kind of love am I talking about?

I'm talking about that unconditional love that goes beyond our comprehension. I'm talking about the love that is patient, kind, not jealous and doesn't brag on itself. The love that doesn't want things "its way" – that doesn't get easily provoked at others and doesn't remember the wrongs that others have done against it. Love that rejoices in the truth, bears and endures all things without complaining, believes all things for the good of all and hopes all things for everyone's good. The kind of love that never fails.

Don't judge me by one bad sermon, when I lose my temper, when I'm not as loving or understanding as I should be, but judge me by what is left when I'm gone from you. Love will cause you to love beyond yourself to all who need love and are the hardest to love ... and remember ... a stranger is only a friend you haven't met yet. Let this truly be the month of LOVE.

# Character First ... Put Your Character First

We are a month into the New Year and we have all made promises to ourselves and to others that we have broken. That's when our Best Foot Forward could have used a little work because such behavior was not the best part of our character. For nearly four years, many of us across the organization have read the "Character First" bulletins in which each month a positive character trait is highlighted. The bulletins are designed to illustrate the importance of good character in all that we do daily in our personal and professional lives.

Character First Institute founder Tom Hill of Oklahoma City found that recognizing character in a person has a more long-lasting effect on personal development and professional outcomes than most other forms of recognition.

Once, I asked a senior-level administrator for a character reference when I was planning to make a

career move. Without looking up from his work he said, "Brother Johnson, I'll be glad to tell anyone you're a character!" He knew me quite well and on most days, I am a character.

The word character has many

## Best Foot Forward



uses and definitions in our language; however, we are focusing on those definitions that relate to the human emotions of self-worth and moral value.

The New World Dictionary, Second College Edition states: "[Character is] the pattern of behavior or personality found in an individual or group; a distinctive trait, quality or attribute; one of moral constitution, moral strength, self-discipline and

fortitude."

Roget's II The New Thesaurus states: "[Character is] the combination of emotional, intellectual and moral qualities that distinguishes an individual; a distinctive element; moral or ethical strength."

When we look at our family members, friends and co-workers, do we look to the heart of their character, or do we just stay on the surface of our feelings? Finding the true essence of one's character requires more than quick judgments. It requires thought and effort to make real evaluations – first of ourselves and then of the other person.

Here's hope from the heart that you will put your Best Foot Forward this year in ways that will show self-discipline, fortitude, moral and ethical strength and good character – first for yourself and then for all those you influence.

– George Earl Johnson Jr.

**U.S. Navy Yeoman  
Chief Petty Officer  
Colleen Whipple**

Remembering Our Military

Please remember our OKDHS co-workers and their loved ones serving in the U.S. Military. Our hearts and prayers are with you and we appreciate your continued sacrifice to protect the freedoms we enjoy. Bless you!

# Clark Honored With ‘Gerald D. Wilkins Good Works Award’

By Kevan Goff-Parker  
Inside OKDHS Editor

Although some say “good work is its own reward,” when an employee’s accomplishments are recognized for outstanding achievement – all employees walk away winners.

That’s why Pamela Clark, state nursing director for Developmental Disabilities Services Division and a recent Certified Public Manager (CPM) graduate, is considered tops when it comes to innovative ways to improve processes. She was recently honored with the “Gerald D. Wilkins Good Works Award” for her top-notch work improving the “DDSD’s Medication Administration” for OKDHS.

The DDSD Administration project outlined how Clark worked with a committee of her peers within OKDHS and community representatives to create a system of guidelines on how to administer medications to individuals that OKDHS serves in the community.

Clark said she was surprised to be nominated for the award and is delighted to graduate from the CPM program. Her award-winning project entry earned a perfect score from judges.

“I was shocked,” Clark said. “Winning the award was wonderful and completing the project was a load lifted off of my shoulders. With the knowledge that I have this goal accomplished, I can now proceed toward my next goal, which I’m hoping will be the continuation of learning.”

Clark said one of CPM’s concepts, known as the Quality Oklahoma Concept, encourages CPM participants to get ideas and feedback from the field.

“You get their involvement from the very beginning,” she said. “We realized we had a challenge because there were no guidelines out there on how to administer medications to the



*Certified Public Manager graduate Pamela Clark (left), state nursing director for DDSD, was recently honored with the “Gerald D. Wilkins Good Works Award” for her top-notch work improving the “DDSD’s Medication Administration” for OKDHS. Here, she poses with First Lady Kim Henry during a recent Oklahoma Commission for Human Services meeting.*

individuals that OKDHS serves. We identified that in order to establish a safe and effective way for people to get their medicines, we needed to involve people who were out there doing it already and we put together a committee.

“The project entry shows every step-by-step process (actual minutes included) on how we established what we wanted to have as a result. It was a two-year process. Although there is no monetary value associated with the new ‘Administration of Medication’ policy, the value of keeping a person safe and the protection of staff that are administering the medication are immeasurable.”

Clark said DDSD now has the proper guidelines in place.

“We also implemented a mas-

sive training program and reached 1,800 people through an interactive training video in completing this process,” she said. “Although I was in charge of the steering committee, all of the committee members deserve credit. I also want to thank my CPM assigned mentor, Paula Green. She was wonderful.”

Clark said the CPM program was similar to attending college courses with her peers from around the state.

“It wasn’t just DDSD or OKDHS; you get to work with your peers from different state offices,” she said. “Everyone brought to the table some of their wonderful own talents and expertise in their field.”

Clark started her OKDHS career at Southern Oklahoma Resource Center in Pauls Valley and worked there for 16 years. She moved to DDSD’s medical services unit at State Office eight years ago. She is married to Mark Clark and they have two children, Jennifer, 18, and Clifford, 12.

Clark said she isn’t done yet with CPM. She’s now encouraging several members of her staff to take the courses.

“I think that everything I’ve learned from CPM, I now use in my daily work,” she said. “Now, any challenge that I have or any new project or assignment that I receive, I am always able to rely back on things I’ve learned. Even if someone is not yet a candidate for CPM, I’d encourage them to take the classes on an elective basis.”

In related good news, the Oklahoma Society of Certified Public Managers (OSCPM), which administers the CPM program for all Oklahoma governmental organizations, whether city, county, state or federal, and the OKDHS CPM Steering Committee announced on Dec. 8, 2003,

*HONOR continued on page 11*

# Aging Services Captures Specialized Housing Demands

By Judy Leitner  
with George Earl Johnson Jr.

OKDHS' Aging Services Division is in the midst of a three-month telephone survey project designed to identify the specialized needs for housing faced by grandparents and other relatives raising children in Oklahoma.

OKDHS Aging Services Director Roy R. Keen said the purpose of the survey is to afford Oklahomans an opportunity to have input (and possible impact) on the design of the housing program options that will be available in the future for grandparents and other relatives providing primary care for children. The survey began in January and will be conducted through March 2004.

"I encourage those who are called to take a few minutes to participate in this important needs assessment," Keen said. "Participants will not be asked to purchase anything or contribute money. If asked to do so, the participant will know the caller is not affiliated with our survey."

Grandparents and other relatives have long been involved in child rearing; however, it was not until the 2000 U.S. Census that an organized attempt was made to identify the scope of this growing phenomenon.

"Aging network staff members have become increasingly aware that housing designed only to meet the needs of older persons does not adequately serve today's grandfamilies," Keen said. "Few model programs exist, particularly models serving rural areas or high-needs populations, such as families with children with disabilities. We wanted more specific information and input from the families so that we can design programs and options that best met actual needs."

OKDHS Aging Services has contracted with the University of



OKDHS' Judy Cooks (right), an Aging Services administrative programs officer, talks to Aging Services' Division Director Roy R. Keen (left) and Deputy Division Director Carey Garland (center) as the threesome examine changing details in a survey designed to address housing-program options.

North Carolina at Charlotte to perform the survey. The university was selected for its known expertise in conducting this particular type of information gathering.

Funding to underwrite the cost of the survey has been provided by the Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council, Areawide Aging Agency, Inc., Oklahoma Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Fannie Mae Oklahoma Partnership Office and Sooner Management Consultants, Inc.

Keen urged those who are called to "fully participate" in the survey so that program developers will have the most complete information possible upon which to base program design guidelines.

Grandparents and other relatives willing to take the survey may contact: Nadine Beat-Walter, Aging Services Division, at 405-522-3077. Anyone, OKDHS staff included, with questions regarding the survey is encouraged to call or e-mail Beat-Walter.



Carmen L. Hutchins

## New Leaders Grace Various Counties

### *Carmen L. Hutchins To Supervise Pottawatomie County*

By Douglas Doe and Dustin Pyeatt  
Associate Editors

Carmen L. Hutchins, a 10-year veteran of OKDHS, has assumed administration of the OKDHS office in Pottawatomie County.

Bill Wilson, Area IV director, describes Hutchins as a gifted professional with a wealth of experience.

“I am confident that she will bring a high degree of excellence to the position,” Wilson said.

Hutchins began her career with OKDHS in 1994 as a Child Welfare intake worker in Oklahoma County. She also worked as an administrative reviewer in the Office of Client Advocacy, as a Child Welfare specialist supervisor in Oklahoma County and as a Child Welfare field liaison in the Area III office. In 2001, Hutchins started work as a programs manager with the Division of Child Care, where she managed residential and child placing agency licensing.

Hutchins replaces longtime Pottawatomie county director, Joani Webster, who recently was promoted to serve as a programs administrator in the Children and Family Services Division. Hutchins said she is honored to follow in Webster’s shoes.

“Joani is a bright individual, sensible and accomplished in all that she does,” Hutchins said. “I consider it an honor to have the opportunity to continue the vision established under her leadership.”

Hutchins graduated from Chandler High School and earned a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Business Administration from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, with a major in marketing and a minor in family relations and child development. She received her Master’s of Education in psychology from the University of Central Oklahoma in 1992. Hutchins and her husband, Robert, have two daughters, Sarah, 14, and Robyn, 12.



Marie Holsten

### *Marie Holsten To Supervise Panhandle County Offices*

Marie Holsten, a 19-year veteran of OKDHS, will assume administration of the OKDHS offices in Texas, Beaver and Cimarron counties.

Brenda Hawkins, Area I director, said Holsten will be an excellent resource to assist the Panhandle counties and will help Area I to continue to build stronger families because of her wealth of experience in OKDHS’ programs.

“We look forward to working with Marie in her new role with the Area I team,” Hawkins said.

Holsten has spent her entire OKDHS career in the Garfield County office. She started with OKDHS in 1984 as a social worker with OKDHS’ medical programs. Holsten has served in numerous positions, including as a Food Stamp worker, Child Welfare worker, Family Support supervisor, Child Welfare intake supervisor and a senior supervisor.

From October 1999 to March 2003, Holsten was a county director II, serving as an assistant to Garfield County Director Don Henderson. Since March, Holsten has been the Adult Protective Services (APS) supervisor for Garfield, Alfalfa, Grant, Woods, Harper, Beaver, Cimarron and Texas counties in APS Area I Northwest.

“I have been afforded the opportunity to work in multiple program areas and acquire a lot of program expertise,” Holsten said. “I’m energized about this



Carol Wallace

LEADERS continued page 11

# State Office Celebrates Holidays

By Kevan Goff-Parker  
Inside OKDHS Editor

A joyous chorus could be heard on nearly every floor of the Sequoyah Building on Dec. 17 as OKDHS employees ate heartily, laughed merrily and shared time together during the 2003 State Office Holiday Celebration.

Members from Sooner Sensations chorus, a chapter of Sweet Adelines, proved enthusiastic carolers as they roamed the building performing holiday favorites. Meanwhile, co-workers dropped in on different floors throughout the building and dined on tasty treats. In addition to the usual cookies, cakes and

*HOLIDAY continued on page 11*



## News Briefs

### From Staff Reports



### Kirk Elected To Board of Directors

There were double blessings for OKDHS' Jean Kirk in December. Kirk, an administrative programs officer III in Office Support Services Division's Risk, Safety and Emergency Management Unit, was elected vice president of the Oklahoma Risk, Insurance Management Society Board of Directors – a job that carries with it the role of president-elect for 2005.

Kirk is the legal programs officer on Worker's Compensation Claims Management for OKDHS. Congrats!

### Van Horn Honored With Director's Award



Hats off to Jan Van Horn! OKDHS Director Howard H. Hendrick presented Van Horn, an Adult Protective Services specialist in Oklahoma County, with an OKDHS Director's

Award during the Oklahoma Commission for Human Services' Dec. 2 meeting in Oklahoma City. Van Horn was honored for her determination and perseverance in aiding law enforcement with several financial exploitation cases, one of which led to an arrest and the recovery of some of the victim's assets. According to her co-workers, Van Horn's "never-give-up" attitude and genuine compassion for people are the hallmarks of her long career in APS. In fiscal year 2003, OKDHS APS staff confirmed 9,758 reports of adult abuse in Oklahoma. Thirteen percent of these cases dealt with financial exploitation.

### Volunteers To Help Build Playground

Developmental Disabilities Council Executive Director Ann Trudgeon currently volunteers with the Junior League of Oklahoma City. The league has partnered with the Oklahoma City Zoo to build a new arts-integrated playground known as the Jungle Gym at the zoo in honor of the league's 75th anniversary and the zoo's centennial celebration. The new playground will be built with volunteer labor. Trudgeon estimates build dates to start toward the end of March or early April. If you would like to vol-

unteer, please contact the Zoo Friends Website [www.zoofriends.org](http://www.zoofriends.org) or Trudgeon at [ann.trudgeon@okdhs.org](mailto:ann.trudgeon@okdhs.org). The Developmental Disabilities Council is administered by OKDHS.

### Muskogee County Child Welfare Uses 'Buddy Meetings' For Team Building

Muskogee County Child Welfare employees dished out plenty of thanks, turkey and dressing during its Nov. Buddy Meeting. Buddy Meetings are monthly staff meetings specifically for Child Welfare workers. They are designed to encourage team building and to provide a forum where Child Welfare workers can share ideas. The November meeting was organized by OKDHS' Robin Callahan (2003 Buddy of the Year) and Nancy Obregon (2003 Assistant Buddy of the Year).

### Black Heritage Celebration Set For Feb. 27

The OKDHS Black Heritage Celebration will be held Feb. 27, 2004, at the Omniplex, located at 2100 N.E. 52nd Street in Oklahoma City. The theme for this year's event is "Remembering Our Past, Honoring Our Present and Focused on Our Future."

## February 2004 OKDHS

### Calendar Of Events

*Editor's Note: Details about these events may be found on the OKDHS InfoNet Calendar of Events. Dates are subject to change.*

### February is National African American History Month

**Feb. 17-20**

APS New Worker Academy  
County Director Academy 7

**Feb. 17**

Court Appointed Advocates for Vulnerable Adults

**Feb. 18**

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Housing Task Force

**Feb. 19**

NAPIS Task Force

**Feb. 19-20**

Partners Conference for Oklahoma Families

**Feb. 21**

Islamic New Year

**Feb. 23-25**

APS New Worker Academy

**Feb. 24**

Shrove Tuesday

**Feb. 24-27**

Experienced Supervisor Academy E

**Feb. 24**

Safetown

**Feb. 25**

Ash Wednesday

**Feb. 25-April 10**

Lent

**Feb. 25**

APS Field Liaison Meeting

FSSD Field Liaison Meeting

**Feb. 26**

Area V County Director and Field Liaison Meetings

**Feb. 27**

OKDHS Black Heritage Celebration

## Caught Working

Inside OKDHS was with Director Howard H. Hendrick when he stopped at the Stephens County office and caught the staff hard at work, as usual. Pictured here representing the Stephens County team are: from top clockwise from top far left are (L-R) Linda Callihan, administrative assistant II, and Karen Henderson, information systems network tech; Vicki Byerly, administrative tech III; Director Hendrick; Jennifer Wolston, administrative tech III; Debbie Williams, Area II director; Brenda Davis, social services specialist II; Rhonda Archer, social services specialist II and Lisa Gallaway, social services specialist IV (center).



## Helping Hands



Eva Grant (standing), a 23-year OKDHS veteran and switchboard operator in Oklahoma County 55-B, works with Annie Weaver (seated), a Work Experience Program participant, on computer system details needed to respond to the more than 400 phone calls received at the human services center each day. Grant said she has helped a number of clients over the years learn new communications skills to help them prepare for competitive employment. "It makes you feel real good when you see young people leaving here able to do better for themselves and their families," Grant said. "Ms. Grant has been good for me," said Weaver. "She's a good mentor. She helped me through the days when clients with serious problems would call and take their frustrations out on me (the operator) before I could get their calls routed to someone in Family Support who could actually help. At first when I would have to excuse myself from the switchboard, but Ms. Grant would say when I got back, 'Annie! The phone is still going to ring. Pull yourself together and get back in the game ... and Girl, smile!'" Smiling, Grant added, "In this life, we can all use helping hands ..." — GEJ

### News Briefs

#### Sign Up For 'Partners Conference For Oklahoma Families'

Don't forget to register for the "Ninth Annual Partners Conference for Oklahoma Families" scheduled Feb. 19-20, 2004, at the Clarion Meridian Hotel and Convention Center, located at 737 S. Meridian Ave. in Oklahoma City.

The conference showcases some of Oklahoma's best examples of

coordinating services and collaborating resources. The mission statement for the 2004 conference is to "Provide a foundation for sharing, strengthening and stimulating partnerships across Oklahoma."

The early bird registration period runs until Jan. 15, 2004. The fee is \$90. Attendees who register prior to Jan. 15th will also be eligible for a \$50 cash prize. For more information about the 2004 conference, please

click on the Web site <http://www.okdhs.org/partnersconference>, or contact Lynn Childers, county director, OKDHS Bryan County by e-mail, [lynn.childers@okdhs.org](mailto:lynn.childers@okdhs.org), or call (580) 924-1866. You may also contact Lou Hargrave, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families coordinator, Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education, by e-mail at [louhargrave@okcareertech.org](mailto:louhargrave@okcareertech.org) or call (405) 743-5128.

## Congratulations And Best Wishes To Our Retirees!

December

### Bryan County

Donna Kay Bowen, 27 years

### Carter County

William Gary Graham, 20 years

### Cherokee County

Betty L. McHolland, 21 years

### Jefferson County

May B. Walker, 27 years

### McCurtain County

Sharon Anita Helms, 34 years

### Muskogee County

Joseph M. Hannah, 26 years

### Okfuskee County

Linda Gray, 21 years

### Oklahoma County 55-C

Tauda W. Harland, 31 years

Ruth G. Johnson, 22 years

### Oklahoma County 55-D

Clydene R. Brandt, 10 years

### Osage County

Robert L. Corley, 9 years

### Pontotoc County

Gloria F. Brown, 29 years

### Tulsa 72-B

James William Beck, 24 years

### Tulsa 72-W

Wanda M. Stevens, 18 years

### Children and Family

#### Services Division

James O. Denham, 21 years

Janice Freeman, 18 years

Merle L. Kitchen, 19 years

Norma Gene Watts, 16 years

### Child Support

#### Enforcement Division

Pamela K. Padley, 27 years

### Data Services Division

Sherry Jean Flint, 26 years

Roy F. Sword, 26 years

### Field Operations Division

#### — Area III

Marjorie Kay Anderson, 12 years

Jo Ellen Gamble, 32 years

### NORCE

Nodie M. Mitchell, 32 years

Nancy V. Pecha, 29 years

### Office of Finance Division

Carolyn S. Neal, 22 years

## **Community** continued from page 1

pastor. With bits of Spanish from each American, they carried on a conversation. The pastor showed the two a rudimentary schematic he'd penciled on one of the walls of the church. It illustrated his dream of expanding the church, as well as having a house where he could welcome other families and minister to them.

"At that point it all made sense to me," said Clark. "Our dreams had intertwined."

## **Holiday** continued from page 7

candies that are traditional during the holiday season, many floors also featured heart-healthy fare as OKDHS employees showed off their culinary cleverness.

Many OKDHS employees brought unwrapped toys and new clothing to give to the children OKDHS serves and two large boxes of canned and packaged foods were also donated to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma.

Casey Harvey, administrative assistant II, Office of Communications, served as a team leader for the celebra-

tion. She said OKDHS employees seemed full of the spirit of the season during the event.

"Our employees were so generous and giving," Harvey said. "It is important to celebrate the Agency's successes and those of the people that you work with. We would like to thank our employees for their participation and for the kind words spoken to one another as they visited each floor."

"Because of their generous support, more gifts were provided to the Office of Volunteerism to distribute to the children and families we serve."

## **Leaders** continued from page 6

tion. She said OKDHS employees seemed full of the spirit of the season during the event.

position and really looking forward to being involved with the community." Holsten graduated from West Monroe High School in West Monroe, La., and earned a Bachelor's of Social Work degree from Northeast Louisiana University in Monroe, La., in 1972. She has a daughter, Asia, 21, and a son, Taylor, 15.

### *Carrol Wallace Named Murray County Director*

Carrol Wallace, a 27-year veteran of OKDHS, has been named the new director of the OKDHS Human Services Center in Murray County.

"I'm very pleased to welcome Carrol to the Area II management

team," OKDHS Area II Director Debbie Williams said. "She brings with her a wealth of experience in OKDHS programs and in serving the people of southern Oklahoma."

Wallace began her OKDHS career as a social worker in Carter County before moving to Love County. In 1994, Wallace left OKDHS to finish her bachelor's degree. She returned to OKDHS in 1997 as an Adult Protective Services worker in Marshall County. She later served as a social worker in Pontotoc County before settling back in Marshall County as a social services supervisor.

"I'm looking forward to taking on this new position," Wallace said.

## **Honor** continued from 4

that the following OKDHS employees and CPM graduates have been elected to prominent state offices in OSCPM:

- Kay Hagerman, Custer and Dewey counties director, is president.
- Paula Green, programs field representative, Developmental Disabilities Services Community Services programs field representative, is president-elect.
- Pat Bean, Grady County director, is secretary.
- Norma Goff, Aging Services programs administrator for Nursing Services, is a board member.

OKDHS also congratulates Jean Kirk, an administrative programs officer III in Risk & Safety Management Unit, Office Support Services Division, for being the recipient of the OSCPM 2004 \$500 scholarship.

Questions about the Certified Public Manager Program may be directed to HRMD's Joe Kirk through e-mail or call (405) 522-2088.

"I'm also excited about getting to know the staff and the people of Murray County. Building relationships and informing the public about OKDHS' programs and services will be a top priority."

Wallace graduated from Dickson High School in Ardmore and earned her Bachelor's of Science degree in Social Gerontology from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant. She earned her Master's Degree in Human Resources Administration from East Central University in Ada.

When not at the office, Wallace has a full schedule with five children, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



On the night of Dec. 9, 2003, the State Capitol jingled with activity as hundreds of school children and their families gathered for the lighting of the official State Holiday Tree. Some very special ambassadors helped (back row) Gov. Brad Henry, First Lady Kim Henry and daughter Baylee Henry throw the switch this year. Jeremy, Rico, Davon, Malik and Jeremiah represented the 1,600 children awaiting adoption through OKDHS Swift Adoption Services.

# Happy Valentine's Day

## Feb. 14, 2004

Oklahoma Department of  
Human Services  
P.O. Box 25352  
Oklahoma City, OK 73125

**Inside OKDHS** is published for employees and retirees of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services as a joint effort of the Office of Communications, the Publications Section and the Print Shop.

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OKDHS S04002 Issued 02/2004  
Publication of *Inside OKDHS* is authorized by the Oklahoma Commission for Human Services in accordance with state and federal regulations and printed by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services at a cost of \$2,419.80 for 4,033 copies. Copies have been deposited with the Oklahoma Department of Libraries Publications Clearinghouse. Contents are not copyrighted and may be freely quoted unless otherwise noted.

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