

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 04	Letter from the Chairman of the Board
Page 05	Letter from the Executive Director
Page 06	Board of Directors-Executive Committee
Page 07	Board of Directors
Page 08	About Us (Mission, Office Location, Programs and Services)
Page 09	Okmulgee Deep Fork Staff
Page 10	Housing Program
Page 11	Housing Program Success Story #1
Page 12	Housing Program Success Story #2
Page 13	Low Income Housing Tax Credit/Oxford Place
Page 14	Low Income Housing Tax Credit/Hadlee Manor & Lakehurst
Page 15	Self Help Housing
Page 16-17	Self Help Housing Success Story
Page 18	RX for Oklahoma
Page 19	Agee Family Trust
Page 20	Social Services
Page 21	ESG
Page 22-23	ESG-Rapid Rehousing Success Story
Page 24-25	ESG-Rapid Rehousing Success Story
Page 26-28	ESG-Rapid Rehousing Success Story
Page 29	ESG-Rapid Rehousing Success
Page 30-31	ESG-Rapid Rehousing Success Story
Page 32	ESG-Rapid Rehousing Success Story
Page 33	ESG-Rapid Rehousing Success Story
Page 34	ESG Prevention Success Story
Page 35	ESG Prevention Success Story
Page 36	CSBG/ SAF
Page 37	SAF Success Story
Page 38-39	SAF Success Story
Page 40	Work Ready Okmulgee
Page 41	Work Ready Success
Page 42	Work Ready Success
Page 43	Work Ready Success
Page 44	Work Ready Success
Page 45-46	Work Ready Photos
Page 47	Fingerprints
Page 48	Child and Adult Care Food Program
Page 49	East Central Electric/ Success Stories
Page 50-51	Food Pantry/ Clothing Closet
Page 52	Food Pantry Pictures
Page 53	Volunteers and Training
Page 54-56	Community Involvement/Conferences
Page 57	Dolly Parton Imagination Library
Page 58	Lions
Page 59	Proclamation
Page 60	Our Mission/ Back Page

Letter from the Chairman of the Board



As 2025 comes to a close and the new year begins, let's once again reflect on the achievements of this past year at Deep Fork Community Action Foundation, Inc.

Again, I was honored to serve as chairman of the board. DFCAF has strived to meet the many varied needs of our clientele. Our dedicated executive director and her staff successfully meet those needs by providing services to all who qualify and information and options to those who don't.

Every year presents new challenges, and we have faced those challenges professionally and have surpassed our goals. 2024-25 has been a dynamic year as far as change, we have closed programs, brought new programs, and applied for new foundational funding. All of these have proved that change is growth, and new partnerships provide new opportunities.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the board members who give their time voluntarily each month. As spokesman for our board, I would also like to thank our Executive Director Christie Baldrige, Kristen Keck our CFO, and our outstanding staff for their dedicated performance that keeps this foundation in compliance as they provide services to our four-county service area.

As 2026 arrives, DFCAF is dedicated to continue providing services that improve the lives of our clientele which will continue to improve and strengthen our service areas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary W. Updyke". The signature is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Gary W. Updyke, Ed.D
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Deep Fork Community Action Foundation, Inc.

Letter from the Executive Director



Deep Fork Community Action Foundation, Inc.’s Mission is: “To Improve the quality of life for those in need and strengthen communities by providing an opportunity for growth for the future.” Each year as an agency we try to evaluate our impact as it aligns with our mission and how it coordinates with our community’s top needs. Each year we face change, challenges, and opportunities. As the saying goes, “if it is not changing, it is not growing.”

Fiscal year 2025 Deep Fork Community Action Foundation, Inc. was faced with many challenges and changes. We were handed disasters, Executive Orders, fiscal uncertainty, One Big Beautiful Bill, and funding lapses. The fiscal year ended with an almost certain government shutdown. During all of that, our staff stood firm, never wavering and willing to help those in need.

As an agency it is always important to make sure we are keeping alignment with our mission. This year, unfortunately, we had to make an extremely hard decision to close the CACFP program. The board made this decision based on what was best for the agency, both fiscally and for the future of the agency.

One of our top needs has always been employment, better paying jobs and jobs with benefits. Our newest programs motto is “Find a job, get a job and keep a job.” Our Work Ready Okmulgee program was derived because of our Community Needs Assessment, to offer our community members the opportunity to have access to good jobs with benefits. This program has proved to be a game changer for not only the participants but, also our community.

As you read this report, it is my desire that you will gain the knowledge about the programs we operate and the impact they have on the communities we serve. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Deep Fork Community Action Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors, Staff, Volunteers, Funders, Community Partners, and our clients for all you do each day to help improve our communities and the lives of those we serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christie Baldrige". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being particularly prominent.

Christie Baldrige
Executive Director
Deep Fork Community Action Foundation, Inc.

Board of Directors

Executive Committee



Chairman: Gary Updyke
Public Sector,
County Commissioners, Dist. 1



Vice Chair: Dian Dawson
Private Sector
Deeres Chapel Church



Secretary/ Treasurer: Cindy Farley
Private Sector
People's National Bank

Deep Fork Community Action Foundation, Inc. (DFCAF) exists today as a direct result of the Federal Economic Act of 1964 and is a successful part of the "War on Poverty" initiated by President Lyndon Johnson.

The agency was a single county program covering Okmulgee County in January of 1966. In 1966, DFCAF grew to include McIntosh County. In 1983, Hughes and Okfuskee Counties also merged with DFCAF through the direction of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC). Hughes, McIntosh, Okfuskee, and Okmulgee Counties now form the base service area from which Deep Fork Community Action, Inc. draws its members for its Board of members and Board of Directors.

Since 1968, local community action agencies have been required to have tripartite governing boards to gain and retain designation as eligible entities and to receive CSBG funding. Effective tripartite boards reflect and promote the unique anti-poverty leadership, action, and mobilization responsibilities assigned by law to community action agencies. Boards are responsible for assuring that agencies continue to assess and respond to the causes and conditions of poverty in their community, achieve anticipated family and community outcomes, and remain administratively and fiscally sound.

Board of Directors

PUBLIC SECTOR



Kimberly Bradshaw
Okemah City Hall



Pat McKinney
Hughes County Dist. 2



Bill Byars
Okm. Co. Commissioner



Jim Lively
Hughes County, District 3



Chairman: Gary Updyke
Public Sector,
County Commissioners, Dist. 1

PRIVATE SECTOR



Rochelle Pearson
NAACP
Okmulgee County



Vice Chair: Dian Dawson
Deeres Chapel Church



Secretary/ Treasurer: Cindy Farley
People's National Bank

Hughes County
Conservation District
VACANT
Previously held by
Pat McKinney

LOW INCOME



Pat Jones
Okmulgee County



Risa Lewis
Holdenville
Housing Authority



Roberta Wilson
Okfuskee County



Sandra Golden
Okfuskee County



Linda Cope
Okmulgee County

McIntosh County
VACANT
Previously help by
Kim Woodruff

Board Composition

Members must be one-third public sector, at least one-third representatives of the low-income community and the remainder composed of representatives of the private sector.

OUR MISSION

To improve the quality of life for those in need and to strengthen communities by providing an opportunity for growth for the future.

OFFICE LOCATIONS

Main Office



223 W 6th St/P.O. Box 670
Okmulgee, OK 74447
P 918-756-2826
F. 918-756-5990

Work Ready

Oklahoma



100 W 7th St-2nd Floor
Okmulgee, OK 74447
P.539-286-6136
F: 539-286-6349

Child and Adult Care

Food Program



101 N 2nd/ P.O. Box 840
Morris, OK 74445
P. 918-733-2324

Self-Help Housing



501 E. 6th St.
Okmulgee, OK 74447
P. 918-756-2444
F. 918-756-2441

Programs and Services

Housing

- Community Housing Development Organization
(C.H.D.O)
- Low Income Housing Tax Credit
(L.I.H.T.C.)
- Rental Properties
- Single Family Acquisition Rehab
(S.F.A.R.)
- Single Family Renovation Rehab
(S.F.R.R.)
- Multi-Family Renovation Rehab
(M.F.R.R)
- Single Family New Construction
(S.F.N.C.)
- Rent to Own—Single Family Units
- Self-Help Housing

Social Services

- Emergency Solutions Grant
(E.S.G.)
- Community Services Block Grant
(C.S.B.G.)
- State Appropriated Funding
(S.A.F.)
- East Central Electric—RoundUp Funds
- Food Pantry
- Agee Family Trust Fund
- Rx For Oklahoma
- CVS

Employment Services

- Fingerprinting
- Work Ready Oklahoma-Okmulgee

Okmulgee Office Staff



Christie Baldrige
Executive Director



Jessie Brydges
Administrative
Assistant



Kristen Keck
Contract C.F.O.



Leola Payne
AP/AR Clerk



Terri Cole-Visser
Program Director



Renee Gustin
Housing Director



Crystal Petree
Rx-CSR/
Data Operations



Siadienia Joshua
Data Entry/
Fingerprinting



Jean Cooper
Housing Consultant



Julie Teska
NCRT/ Consultant



Housing Program



Renee Gustin, Housing Director

The Housing Program at Deep Fork Community Action Foundation, Inc. is designed to serve a variety of low-income and moderate-income housing needs throughout our four county area. DFCAF utilizes several sources of funds to provide safe and affordable housing to eligible individuals and families. DFCAF also provides a variety of housing types, including apartments, duplexes, and single family homes. These homes are provided as rental units and DFCAF provides the housing at below market cost to eligible families.



- Community Housing Development Organization (C.H.D.O.)
- Low Income Housing Tax Credit (L.I.H.T.C.)
- Rental Properties—HOME & Non-HOME Funded
- Single Family Acquisition Rehab (S.F.A.R.)
- Single Family Renovation Rehab (S.F.R.R.)
- Single Family Rent to Own
- Single Family New Constructions (S.F.N.C.)



Certified Housing Development Organization—C.H.D.O.

DFCAF is a Certified Housing Development Organization (CHDO) with the Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency (OHFA). In its role as a CHDO, DFCAF can carry out a variety of housing activities for low-income and moderate-income families in its service area. The primary activity being implemented at this time is the acquisition and rehabilitation of existing housing units. These units are then rented to eligible renters for 15 or more years. This is a great benefit to the local area because our families can live in safe and affordable housing at a rate that they can pay. DFCAF also participates with other housing developers to create tax credit activities. These projects usually involve 24 or more units and are constructed by a developer who is a partner with DFCAF.

Deep Fork serves as the developer, owner, and manager of affordable housing.

Rental Housing

DFCAF has rental units in Henryetta, Holdenville, Okmulgee and Weleetka. These are not HOME units. All clients must complete an application, credit check and background check and be income eligible.

Housing Success Story



We at Deep Fork Community Action Foundation Incorporated Inc. would love to hear how we have helped. Please fill out the following form and turn it back in to let us know how we have assisted you.

Full Name: Deborah J. CAPLE

Program you utilized: Housing

Brief description of the problems you faced and how our programs assisted you with them:

After my husband died, I moved back to Henryetta. I was so depressed AND did not know how I was going to make it. I was so desperate and ended up in living in a place that was not meant to live in. Could not really afford the heating and cooling. I fell several times because of the steps that went into the building.

Now I AM happy EVERYDAY. I have where I live!

Signature: Deborah J. Caple

Date: 7-21-2025



Housing Success Story

We at Deep Fork Community Action Foundation Incorporated Inc. would love to hear how we have helped. Please fill out the following form and turn it back in to let us know how we have assisted you.

Full Name: Brian Vance

Program you utilized: HOME

Brief description of the problems you faced and how our programs assisted you with them:

Brian was told in March that all of the residents at the Creek Nation Elderly Housing would no longer have Apartments to live in beginning March 2026. Brian is ~~not~~ not Creek Indian and has no card so he had no place to go and everywhere we applied we had no hope of vacancies and no handicapp facilities. We are very grateful for the wonderful help you were to us in finding him a place to live. We so appreciate your help. Thank-you so much.

Signature: Donna Vance (Brians Mom)

Date: 6-25-2025

Thank You

Thank you
Brian

Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC)

DFCAF partners with Low-Income Housing Tax Credit developers to construct affordable housing units for designated low-income individuals or families. DFCAF receives HOME grants from the Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency to assist in the funding of these multi-family projects through loans to the developers. The HOME funds provided by DFCAF. The agency continues to be in partnership with Lakehurst Apartments in Eufaula, OK. DFCAF has also partnered with a developer to construct duplexes for seniors in Bixby. This development, Hadlee Manor, provides 48 units of affordable housing for low income and moderate-income seniors. We are monitored by OHFA each year throughout the period of affordability, usually 20-25 years.

Oxford Place

Built in 2007, 1551 North Okmulgee Ave, Okmulgee, OK 74447—Okmulgee’s best kept secret. Oxford has 60 apartments featuring one, two, and three bedroom floor plans. The complex includes picnic areas with BBQ grills and a playground on the grounds of the property. Each home comes with utilities, including washer and dryer. We continue to be a partner with Oxford apartments, even through the loan was paid off in FY 21. We will be monitored by OHFA each year until the period of affordability is up on the project.



Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC)

Hadlee Manor

16900 South Memorial Drive, Bixby, Oklahoma 74008—Hadlee Manor has 48 two-bedroom garden style homes for senior citizens aged 62 and older. The community features a fitness room, bocce ball court, storm shelter and many more community amenities .



Lakehurst Senior Living

1500 Lakehurst Dr. Eufaula, OK 74432—Senior Living near town with a country living atmosphere. Forty 1 & 2 BR Units total in complex. Unit includes all appliances, microwave, dishwasher, stove, refrigerator, garage disposal, washer and dryer. One car garage with opener. Must income qualify and be 62 years or older.



Self-Help Housing

Deep Fork Community Action Foundation, Inc. receives direct federal funding to operate a USDA/ RD funded mutual Self Help Housing Program. Income qualified clients (low to moderate incomes) with very good credit history can qualify for a USDA/ RD 33 to 38 year low interest mortgage to construct a new energy efficient single-family home in Creek, Haskell, Hughes, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Pottawattamie, Seminole and Wagoner Counties.



	FY24	FY25
HOMES COMPLETED	15	18
HOUSEHOLDS ASSISTED	Low & Very	Low & Very
AVERAGE SITE COST	\$15,000	\$15,000
AVERAGE COST OF HOME	\$180,000	\$190,000
AVERAGE APPRAISAL AMOUNT	190,000	200,000
AVERAGE EQUITY	30,000	30,000
AVERAGE LIVING SPACE	1480 Sq. Ft	1480 Sq. Ft
AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE	3 & 4	3 & 4

Self Help Housing Successes

Gerald Todd

Okmulgee, Ok

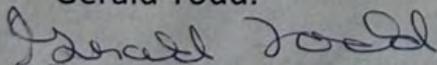
Dear Self Help Housing,

I would like to thank you and Rural Development for helping me build my own home. This has been made possible for me through the Deep Fork Self Help Housing program. It has been challenging at times with funding and everything being behind with covid. I started this process back in 11/2021. Between Keith, Kasey, Jason and myself, we are going to pour the foundation very soon.

There was never a time I thought about giving up on this, no matter the time frame. I have prayed hard for a long time and it is now paying off. I know my home is not completed yet, but I wanted to thank the wonderful people and this program for assisting me through it all and I know they will continue until they are finished and hand me my house keys.

Sincerely,

Gerald Todd.





RX For Oklahoma

Prescription Assistance Program

Region 3—Okmulgee, McIntosh & Muskogee

Region 5—Hughes and Okfuskee

RX for Oklahoma helps Oklahomans access prescription assistance programs provided by pharmaceutical manufacturing companies. Free and discounted medication assistance has proved to be a much-needed service for Oklahomans since the inception of RX for Oklahoma on December 1, 2005. RX for Oklahoma provides better healthcare, improved medication compliance and fewer medical complications for those who qualify. Oklahoma residents, regardless of age, who are uninsured or underinsured are encouraged to apply. Medicare Part D and Medicaid beneficiaries with unique circumstances may qualify.



Crystal Petree

Rx CSR/ Data Ops.

	FY24	FY24	FY25	FY25
	REG3	REG5	REG3	REG5
New Clients	13	5	15	9
# Requested Medications	84	15	46	25
Expected Savings	\$28,728	\$5,130	\$15,732	\$8,550
# Approved Medications	44	15	13	7
Total Savings	\$15,048	\$6,840	\$4,446	\$2,394
# of Requests in Process	25	0	106	46
Potential Savings	\$8,550	\$0	\$36,252	\$15,732
Combined Savings	\$52,326	\$11,970	\$56,430	\$26,676

AGEE FAMILY TRUST FUND

Deep Fork persists in partnering with the Agee Family Trust Fund and its administrators at Patrons Bank (formerly First National Bank & Trust of Okmulgee) to benefit the community members of Okmulgee County.

Through the Agee Family's generosity, we maintain the capability to provide relief with the costs of durable medical equipment. DME's such as wheelchairs, bariatric beds, power scooters, C-PAP's and Nebulizers mean community members are capable of experiencing an improved quality of life.

Alongside DME's, Deep Fork is able to ensure that community members can acquire medicines after an emergency has occurred. By providing a short-term supply of medications to combat conditions such as heart attacks, infections, diabetes, and serious allergic reactions, community members are better situated to improve their quality of life when it's most needed.

Through this valuable and greatly appreciated partnership, Deep Fork was able to assist 6 clients with medications and/ or medical equipment needs totaling \$8,251.93 in this fiscal year.



Social Services

Since 1964, Deep Fork Community Action Foundation, Inc. (DFCAF) has been serving residents of Hughes, McIntosh, Okfuskee, and Okmulgee Counties. We utilize a wide variety of community programs, initiatives, and services to help low-income families and individuals in our service area overcome life obstacles and move towards self sufficiency. DFCAF is a 501C(3) nonprofit community action agency that receives federal funds with a small portion of state appropriated funds which helps us fulfil the promise of Community Action.

“Community Action changes people’s lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people find themselves and each other.”



Terri Cole-Visser
Program Director

In addition to the programs and partners listed throughout, we also have an abundant number of resources and partners that we work with to provide the best possible help to the clients in the communities we serve. If we are unable to successfully help someone in need, we reach out to our partnerships to get clients in touch with the resources they need. The following listed are only a few of many that we work closely with to help us in providing food, utility and rental assistance, and better health needs for the members of the communities in which we are fortunate to serve.

- Local Churches
- Local Food Donation
 - If not eligible for our pantry
- Salvation Army
- Muscogee Nation
- DHS
- Private Donations
- Local Higher Education Facilities
- Volunteer Outreach



Emergency Solutions Grant

(E.S.G.)

The Emergency Solutions Grant (E.S.G.) program is a component of the State’s Continuum of Care system designed to alleviate homelessness in Oklahoma. ESG programs enable homeless individuals and families to move towards independence living by providing emergency founding, supportive services, and housing assistance. ESG funds are provided by the U.S. Department of House and Urban Development (HUD) on an annual basis and administered by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce The general goals of this funding are consistent with those established by HUD and are intended to benefit people with low to moderate income.

- Provide decent housing
- Provide a suitable living environment
- Expand economic opportunities

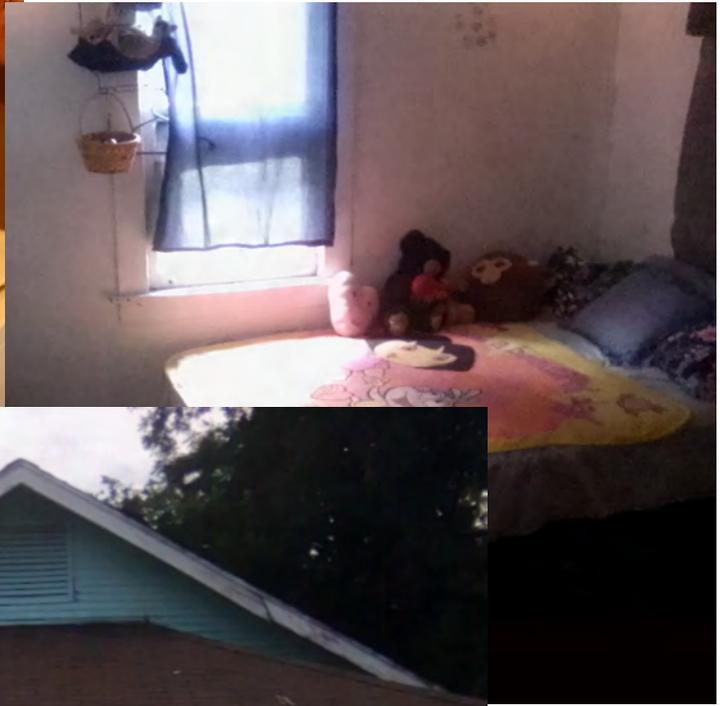
	CLIENTS	UTILITIES	RENT	Rent Deposits	TOTAL
PREVENTION	77	\$6,223.91	\$46,569.97	\$2,600.00	\$55,393.89
RAPID—REHOUSING	20	\$1,791.00	\$11,355.00	\$5,794.00	\$18,940
Shelter	176				\$24,000
TOTAL	97	\$8,013.81	\$57,924.97	\$8,394.00	\$74,333.89

ESG Rapid Re-Housing Successes

Deep fork

My name is Bobby Jones and my fiances name is Emily Chicholm we have two children Jackson 9 and Jazmine 12. We came to Okmulgee to see if the tribe would help us because where we were staying with some people in El Reno Ok the house burnt down. Unfortunately for us because we were not listed on the lease red cross would not help us. So because Emily is Creek we came here to okmulgee hoping the tribe would help us. They helped us with a motel for 45 days but nothing else. Around our 40th day at the motel we were still in a bind no jobs yet, a few days remaining at the motel, and no money for a deposit and rent to try and move in somewhere. We had located a house on West 8th but still had no way of obtaining the funds for the move in. So we reached out to Deep fork and spoke to a lady named Terry. We told her our situation. And what we were trying to accomplish. Miss Terry looked at as with a trusting and understanding face and proceeded to walk us through the paperwork and steps needed to obtain the help we needed. A few days later Miss Terry and the loving people at Deep fork decided to take a chance and help us. That was two months ago and since that day a lot has happened. We moved into the house that Deep fork gave us the money to pay the deposit and first months rent with nothing other than a few bags of clothes a piece. Now I have a full time construction job paying 18 an hour and Emily has landed a part time job herself, and as you can see in the pictures we have also acquired a lot of stuff as well. We owe it all to you all at Deep fork because without the help we would have been out on the streets with our kids.





ESG Rapid Re-Housing Successes

Success Story by Desiree Arizmendi

Through a lifetime of trials and tribulations Faith in the unseen and a heart willing to push through the pain, fears, and tears.

After the storm of a lifetime and being that I had reached my absolute bottom by the time I had arrived in Ohimulgee. With only a few bags and pairs of boots the journey began. From no home, money, or a vehical miracles abound. First having a few days living in hotels to the street and a battered womens shelter all to with the help of Deep Fork, a 1 Bedroom apartment. From the street to the sheets gifted from Terri Cole at the Deep Fork office. From no income to a wonderful job at OCHS Thrift Store.

To have arrived the ways that I had. To be positioned with a home and a job that truly feels good with my soul. Though the journey has been a rough one every step was worth it to be here now. When down and seeking I have met some wonderful souls an had some breathe taking conversations to meeting some of the most helping hands along my path. I truly with a grateful heart wanting to say Thank you to everyone for all the help and opening doors along the way to help^{ing} and everyday I am living to be a light as well to guide those going through their dark hours.

Community and helping each other to see the brighter side of life is so important. Ever grateful for all the ~~ans~~ answered and unanswered prayers that got me here

Desiree Arizmendi



ESG Rapid Re-Housing Successes

1

I'll try to keep this as short as possible. Considering our story is long so needless to say my husband and I have gone through a lot. My name is Keyly Huff and my darling husband is Joseph Huff. December 14, 2022 changed our lives forever. We suffered a house fire, no renters insurance so as you can guess everything was a complete loss. Like I said I'm going to try to make this quick but extremely long story short, after the fire went both relapsed in our drug addiction, been in 2 different homeless shelters, traveled from Saint Joseph Missouri to Okmulgee Oklahoma, over the past few years slept in at least 10 to 15 different motels, 1 abandoned house, lost our vehicles as well as sleeping in 2 different vehicles, one camper in the middle of nowhere, pushed around grocery carts

ESG Rapid Re-Housing Successes

2

full of all our belongings. Slept out at The Okmulgee Lake Red Oak Camp Site. Begged for Cigarettes and food, cleaned ourselves in restaurant and gas station Restrooms, and unfortunately a lot more that I just don't have the time to explain. My husband and I are now clean and sober, driving our new + used bought and paid for vehicle in which we drive back and forth to our new jobs cleaning the same place working the same shift and going to bed in a ^{paid} bed together at night in our apartment that we got into with all of the gracious help from Ms. Terry at Deep Fork and Community Action Programs and funding. She had asked me to write a short story about my husband and I. Apparently we have a story to tell as I do believe that as well. We are finally happy again and putting our feet on the ground in front of the other each day moving forward

ESG Rapid Re-Housing Successes

3

Boy has it been a Challenge. I can't say that when two years ago I could see the light at the end of the Tunnel. I was scared I would never be able to dig my family out of what felt like the depths of hell but with the love and support from my husband my father Travis Tipton, the family from work ready, our church family from Jubilee Christian Center, Nancy and Terry and Jesus Christ I am walking with a smile on my face with my head held high and happy! My kids are back in our lives and I couldn't feel more blessed. I am no longer a statistic, I am a daughter of God, a wife to Joseph Mather of 7, hard worker for my employer but especially, a mother survivor!!

Thank you to all who kept pushing me!

ESG Rapid Re-Housing Successes

2/27/25

PAGE
NO.

Hello! My name is Crystal Garbs. Mrs. Terri has been helping me. I come here from Africa. No one could help me with ANYTHING! But Mrs. Terri did!! She is a super sweet, super knowledgeable lady!! She has managed the IMPOSSIBLE!!

This lady is a super hero!! She is just amazing! She deserves a BIG raise!! Thank you so much for this hero of a person!! I am forever grateful!!

- Crystal Garbs

12/10/2024

Well I MADE poor choices
Then ended up homeless and I needed
to get BACK ON TRACK SO I CAME TO DEEP
FORK AND THEY HAVE HELPED ME TO DO THAT

Sammy McQueen

ESG Rapid Re-Housing Successes

I came to Okmulgee to have a new start.

It was more difficult to get a job than I thought and I found my self out of Money, ~~and~~ home jobless and then homeless -

Someone I met told me about Deep Fork.

Deep Fork changed everything for me...

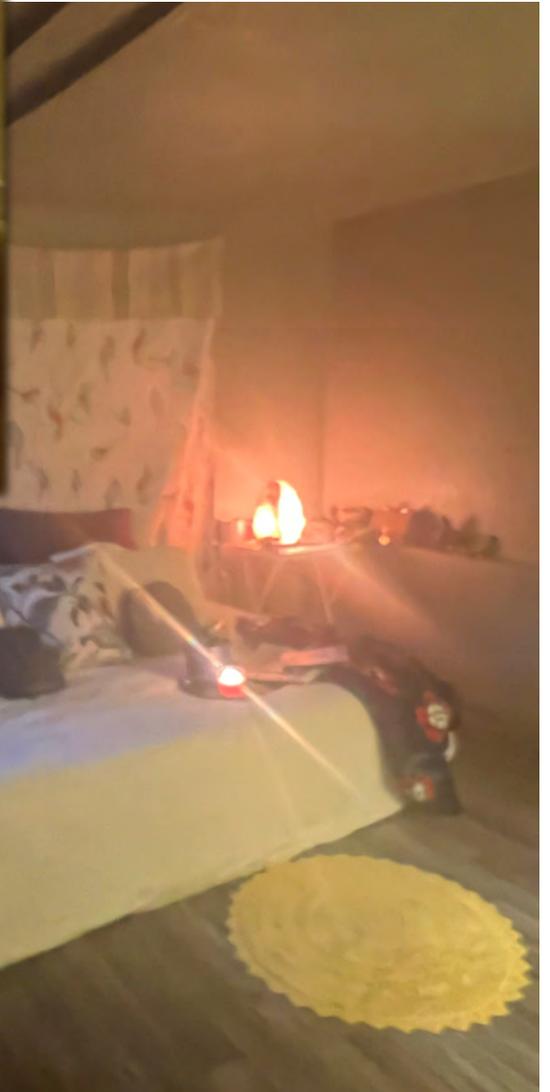
They helped me get into an appt. apartment, helped with house hold items - and they even gave me a bed to sleep on!

Words can not express my gratitude for Ms Terri for all her help.

May God bless you and Deep Fork. And Okmulgee of course
Thank You Dawn

ESG Rapid Re-Housing Successes

Dawns
New
Home



ESG Rapid Re-Housing Successes

Nov. 16, 2023 I was renting a house in Tulsa, stuck in a relationship of 3 years. I left there and was homeless because Bobby was very physically + verbally + mentally abusive. After such a bad beating the 16th I came to ^{was unconscious for not} sure how long. I was bleeding + he had left me for dead. I walk to get help at the fire station down the road + I never went back. I've been place to place trying to find a place cheap enough like room for rent, halfway house or shelter but I felt scared too much in Tulsa. I moved to Okmulgee back in Nov of last year and ~~then~~ ended up staying with a guy friend until he started being hateful + threatening, he said I thought we would end up dating ~~one~~ after some time and since we weren't he tried throwing me out in the middle of the night. I just want my own place somewhere I don't have to be abused, scared, and away from all the awful kinds of men out there. All my life I've suffered all types of abuse from them ages 1 to 43 ranging from molestation, rape, felony physical abuse also verbal + mental. I make enough to pay rent but so far saving for deposit + utilities has really made me feel hopeless, I couldn't have gotten this place without Deep Fork, anyway this is such an unbelievably huge blessing I am without words completely!

I believe things are gonna be great again one day + I'm gonna be happy, not lost, or homeless + somebody truly cared enough to save me. Thank you so very much! God still sees me + cares, I pray all God blesses you big in turn.

Thank you all

C. Fives

ESG Rapid Re-Housing Successes

The help that Terri has given me @ deep fork has made a huge impact on my life in such a positive way. I have been in my car for 6 weeks now and was losing hope trying to save money and live. I am so very grateful for the help I'm getting today
Thank You
Dun Hawkey

ESG Prevention Success Stories

215/25

1001
SU.

Well in the middle of December my workplace started talking about transferring some of us to other contracts. The next thing I know the contract I was working ended and I was told employer has 60 days to transfer or terminate. It is coming up on the 60 days & there has not been any attempt to transfer to a new contract. Well, they have not placed me to any new positions so I am searching for new job. I am working with Workready to find a new position. Looking for permanent full time ~~to~~ job right now.

Receiving help for the rent will help me get back on my feet and I won't be homeless. Thank you Deep Fark and special thank you to Terri De

William Maris

ESG Prevention Success Stories

My name is Tina Shaw. I have had a couple major back surgeries over the last 9 months and my short-term disability ended after 6 months. I found myself 3 months behind on my rent and was being evicted, and I was 2 months behind on my electric. I raised my daughter alone and I have been a hard worker all my life. I was very independent and never had to ask for help.

When I came to deep fork for assistance I felt very embarrassed and humiliated. The person who assisted me was Terry Cole. She treated me with kindness and compassion. She talked to me while she asked the questions that I needed for assistance and made me feel very comfortable. She treated me with respect. When I left her office I was not only grateful for the assistance but also that I was lucky enough to be assisted by Terry Cole.

Thank you deep fork for helping me during my time of need and thank you Terry Cole for being such a lovely soul.

Tina Shaw

Tina Shaw

I am forever grateful for Deep Fork and the help they have given me this allows a break for the anxiety I've experienced due to being behind on everything and this gives me a chance to breathe again.

Thanks.

Shellie Jones

Community Services Block Grant

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) is a locally-led approach that receives limited federal investment and helps hard-working American families achieve economic independence while ensuring taxpayer dollars are put to good use. Managed by State and Community Action Agencies (CAAs), CSBG empowers local communities by cutting red tape, reducing government dependency, and driving private-sector job creation. With strong accountability and a commitment to financial prudence, CSBG delivers measurable results, keeping decisions in local hands where they belong.

We offer a variety of services ranging from CACFP, Section 8 (we provide office space & application assistance), EEO application assistance, Social Services, Rx for Oklahoma, Self-Help Housing, SFAR, MFAR, NHTF, Employment Assistance (fingerprinting, job fairs, & job printouts), ESG, Financial Education, Eastern OK Food Bank Pantry Assistance, Clothing Pantry, Work Ready Oklahoma, and much more. CSBG is the umbrella grant that allows for all these programs to be possible, it provides the support needed.

State Appropriated Funds

Funding for this program is awarded by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC). This program is to assist individuals who have had an emergency and are unable to pay rent, utility, or prescriptions. This grant was effective on July 1, 2024 and has served a total of 46 households. This grant is used to serve Hughes, McIntosh, Okfuskee and Okmulgee counties. Assistance limits vary by county and are limited to a one time use in a 12-month period per household.

	Rent	Utilities	Emergency Rx	Total
HouseHolds	11	40	2	53
Amount	\$4,409	\$10,925.99	\$136.50	\$15,470.99

State Appropriated Funds Success Stories

○	
	<p>11-9-2023 My husband has cancer this man has worked all of his life and now that he has lung cancer and bone cancer and he has had a kidney removed we've ask several places to help us. We've been without any kind of income we've struggled me and Rick and kids have stuck together threw it all now we've been approved for SST. We</p>
○	<p>just stuck together thank the lord above in Jesus name amen.</p>
	<p>Thank You Stacey LaBelle</p>



State Appropriated Funds Successes

Dear; Deep Fork Community Action.

I came to you by this letter to let you to know. First I thank's God for those how support financially and pray to keep going to be able help the need break through in some situation when people cry out for help. Again God bless plentifully and extensively those support you Deep For Community Action. According the Bible verse: Luk 6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, it will be measured to you?"

Deep Fork Community Action God Bless you all the workers, especially with all my respect of Madam Terri Cole who received me in her office like I was her family with compassion.

"She's of one example all anuplace office need!"

My gas was ~~cut~~ turn off three month before and I was depended on my electric because my sickness push me to lost my job No income support.

I was in food stamp. thank food stamp.

I lost my mind with all emotion and depression my health cause me. My health situation push me to a retirement early with my diploma certified of auto technician with my age 57 old.

Before I receive my first check ^{of} social security to be able to pay my bills, the electric bill final notice warning to turn off my light is at front me. No family or friends to help, No hope. My emotion and the depression arrival low my mind, then saying to me. Do you know what to do now? I say, according my Bible Luk 1:37. "For nothing is impossible with God?" Mark 11:22. Have faith in God?" My emotion and depression keep tel me.

State Appropriated Funds Success Stories

You're sick, your back hurt you, you're live by yourself and you no have gas now the electric is about to be turn off soon and you no have anyone to call for help, but you say, you ~~th~~ trust in God. The emotion and depression saying we want to see, if God you trust ^{can} came down from heaven to help you right now. Because I know it emotion ~~is~~ and depression is the voice demons use to destroy humans then I tell to my mind shut off you demon, I rebuk you demon in the name Jesus Christ. I am child of God, my Father God will do it. Then I go to DHS office but, no program this time for electric now. At the office of DHS, someone suggest me to Deep Fork Community Action where I never been before. Glory Hallehujah the workers are very nice, so kindness and friendly. They received me like a family member specially Madam Terri Cole who call me the next day and received me in her office. The turn off ~~aday~~ was March 20/2025.

After I share with her about my situation what I going through with my health, she was full of compassion with a heart of Love immediately she call PSO company and my problem was absolutely resolve. I thank's those by the resource provide to support of Deep Fork Community Action. I thank you the workers specially Madam Terri Cole.

God BLESS all and yours family with abundance health. My electric bill was pay. Now with my retirement money I can taker myself. Deep Fork Community Action Again thank you. You're my dear darling sisters in our Lord Christ Jesus. Again God BLESS.

Sincerely
Redmond Samy

Redmond Samson





Deep Fork Community Action Foundation Inc. joined forces with DHS and filled a need for better paying jobs by applying for and being awarded the contract through DHS to work with Work Ready Oklahoma.

“WRO strives to strengthen families by helping low-income individuals obtain livable wages from stable, quality employment, leading to financial stability, family stability, and improved quality of life. This methodology also strengthens communities by developing good jobs where people want to live, work, and raise their families. This adds to community economic growth, vitality, and stability by having a more resilient, well-trained local workforce, inclusive of low-income families.”

Oklahoma Human Services partners with WRO Suppliers throughout the state to support the following WRO Priorities:

- Equip vulnerable Oklahomans to achieve self sufficiency with information, coaching, and connections.
- Help low income Oklahomans fine and retain constant gainful employment in their communities.
- Connect Oklahomans to a pipeline of jobs that pay a livable wage.
- Introduce Oklahomans to training opportunities and other employment initiatives that will improve self-sufficiency.
- Ensure resources from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and other funded employment programs are available to low-income families.



Barbara Lane-Program Manager, Ashley Bruner-Program Support, Rebecca Greenwood–Job Coach, and Tony York-Program Director

WRO Success Story

How has your life changed since completing the program?



What's next for you on your journey?



Kyley and Joseph are two of the Work Ready Graduates who sat down after the program to record their thoughts on the skills they have earned and the goals they now have for their lives going forward.

Each graduate is giving the opportunity to record a video covering their own journey with the program.

Before joining the Work Ready Okmulgee program, Kyley and Joseph were 'homeless and looking for change'. During the week long program both of them found jobs and remain with their employer still. They both credit WRO with giving them the confidence to recognize their own skill sets and talents and present themselves in a way that will seem attractive to prospective employers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Hubbs", written over a horizontal line.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyley Huff", written over a horizontal line.

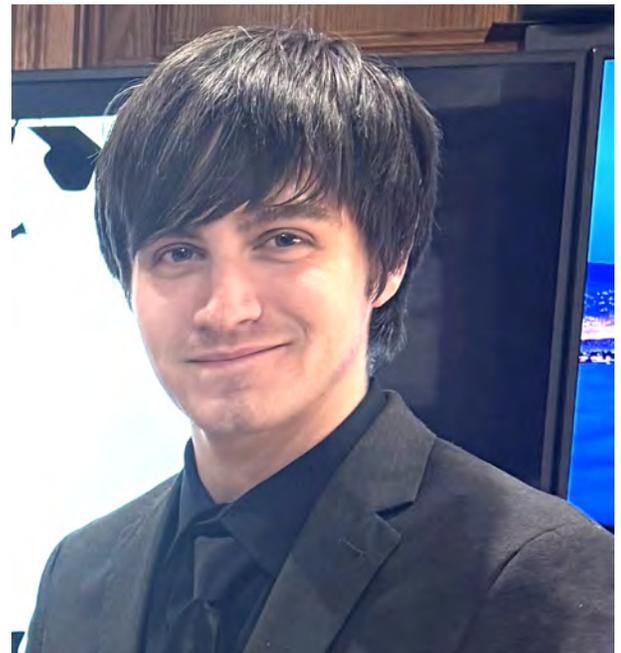
WRO Success Story

Ben and Chloe are a young couple with a four month old baby. After attending the Work Forward workshop they both secured remote jobs. Chloe was hired first and co-worked from the Okmulgee employment center until she could obtain an apartment and internet service. Ben was hired a couple weeks later. Okmulgee WRO helped them with daycare and fuel expenses and they have since found their own apartment, continue to be gainfully employed, and are expecting their second child.

Chloe Vick



Benjamin Thompson



What was life like for you before you joined Work Ready?



What's something you learned at Work Ready that made a difference?





WPRO Success Story

Jacob Hart

1. What was life like for you before you joined Work Ready?

My life Before Work Ready Was a bunch of Bouncing around and not have a place to Call My own and it still is that way but without The bouncing.

2. What's something you learned at Work Ready that made a difference?

Interviewing skill and how to take a interview into my hands and get hired.

3. How has your life changed since completing the program?

It has made my life better because I got a job, have help with many other things with work Ready.

4. What would you say to someone out there who's job searching right now?

I would recommend Work Ready because I wouldn't have the appropriate answer to there question. But work ready would help with that.

5. What's something you're most proud of since completing Work Ready?

Getting a job, work ready helped me learn skills that help me interview better.

6. What's next for you on your journey?

Next is getting a car and a home to bring my son home with me and his mom.

Jacob Hart

Jim Sawyer

WRO Success Story

1. What was life like for you before you joined Work Ready?

I Feel like before work Ready Oklahoma became a thing, some of these job force places lie and hide jobs from a person like myself who is emigrating from one State to the next. I love the people here at work Ready! You get out of the program what you put into it!

2. What's something you learned at Work Ready that made a difference?

How to keep myself mentally prepared for the workplace drama that never leaves. I also have learned to walk away when I feel disrespected.

3. How has your life changed since completing the program?

I Feel like work Ready's resources and partnership has helped me tremendously.

4. What would you say to someone out there who's job searching right now?

give up hope. Evolution is a daily thing. You can't

5. What's something you're most proud of since completing Work Ready?

Meeting the work Ready staff

6. What's next for you on your journey?

Continuously elevating on every level YAH allows me to







What would you say to someone out there who's job searching right now?



EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE—FINGERPRINTS

DFCAF, Inc, contracts with Idemia by Identogo to process digital fingerprinting. Idemia holds contracts with the following:

- Oklahoma State Department of Health (home health and nursing homes)
- Board of Education
- Board of Nursing
- Department of Human Services (adoption, foster parenting, reunification)

Once participants are processed, their information connects to their OSBI background check information. By providing fingerprinting services, we are able to help people to gain employment, start new careers, advance their lives and reunite families. DFCAF and Idemia cover all of Oklahoma and beyond in order to provide service for all those who may need it.

During the last fiscal year we provided fingerprinting services to persons from:

- 731 from Okmulgee County
- 157 from Okfuskee County
- 190 from McIntosh County
- 44 from Hughes County
- 484 from other counties.

All together that's **1606** people who are now able to gain employment, advance careers, succeed in life and start on the journey of fostering and adoption thanks to the collaboration of IDEMIA and DFCAF.

Child & Adult Care Food Program



CACFP Staff: Tami Alvarez,

Jeffrey Sprouse (Director), & Leola Payne

CACFP provides reimbursement for well-balanced nutritious meals served to individuals enrolled in our contracted Family Day Care Homes (FDCH). Funding is provided to us by Oklahoma State Department of Agriculture (USDA) based on claims submitted by program participants. The CACFP staff holds annual trainings each year to educate the providers as well as educating the providers throughout the year during their monitoring visits.

	FY24	FY25
Average # of Homes enrolled per month	116	107
Average # of Children enrolled per month	771	689
Average # of Breakfasts served per month	15,890	12,908
Average # of AM Snacks served per month	5,850	3,983
Average # of Lunches served per month	16,934	12,159
Average # of PM Snacks served per month	15,950	13,619
Average # of Dinners served per month	8,175	7,133
Average # of Evening Snacks served per month	2,763	1,685
Average # of Meals served per month	66,562	48,117
Total # of Meals served per year	798,744	96,234

Note: Due to changes to the program, CACFP was only able to run for two months (November and December) during FY25.



Throughout the year DFCAF applies for operation roundup funds through East Central Electric

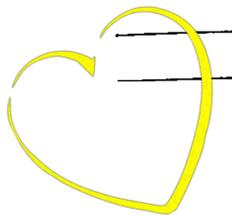
This program is used to assist with emergency Rx, utility cutoff, ejection assistance.

Co-op members make a voluntary contribution each month by rounding up the change at the end of their bill. That change funds Operation Round Up, a program to support local charitable organizations, civic groups, youth programs, community services, and needy families.

Terri Cole did a great job, she was
fast and friendly, great prof. Very
nice, polite, very helpful, she did a
amazing job,
Mary Taylor



Terri was so helpful. She told me of ways to help lower
my bills. She was amazing!!
Laura Ford



This will help me out more
than you know. I really need
this to catch me up I been in
the hospital the last 3 months off on
I thank you
Cathie Murphy



I am so blessed to get assistance from DFCAF
because without assistance from your kind,
attentive, knowledgeable and friendly staff we
would be facing homelessness. Thank you,
Sara Kistner

Deep Fork Community Action Foundation, Inc.

223 W 6th Street
Okmulgee, OK 74447
918-756-2826



Serving residents of Okmulgee, Okfuskee, Hughes, & McIntosh Counties



Food Pantry & Clothing Closet Assistance



When: Tuesdays & Wednesday

Hours: 10:00 am - 2:00 p.m.

You must provide the following documents for the entire household.....

Photo Identification

Social Security Cards

Proof of Residency

**Attestation that household income does not exceed Federal Poverty
Guidelines (FPL) for household size**

Clothing Closet

Deep Fork Community Action Foundation, Inc. currently operates a clothing closet. Our volunteers sort, laundry, and organize the clothing so that our clients can have a variety of choices in a safe and confidential environment or order to preserve their dignity. Our closet can clothe individuals from newborns to the Seniors and no one is left out. We assist individuals in our four county service area with clothing for a variety of needs from going to a job interview to satisfying their basic daily needs.

Food Pantry

Deep Fork Community Action Foundation, Inc food pantry is operated by volunteers. Our pantry is supported by Eastern Oklahoma Food Bank, and donations from local businesses, churches and individuals.

DFCAF applied for and was awarded a one time food insecurity grant through the Oklahoma Department of Human Services to assist food programs and non profits across the state. groups with the expansion of their food distribution and storage. DFCAF used the grant funds to purchase two industrial refrigerators and two industrial freezers to be used by the food bank.

The appliances were delivered in 2025 and are being put to good use in the food pantry.



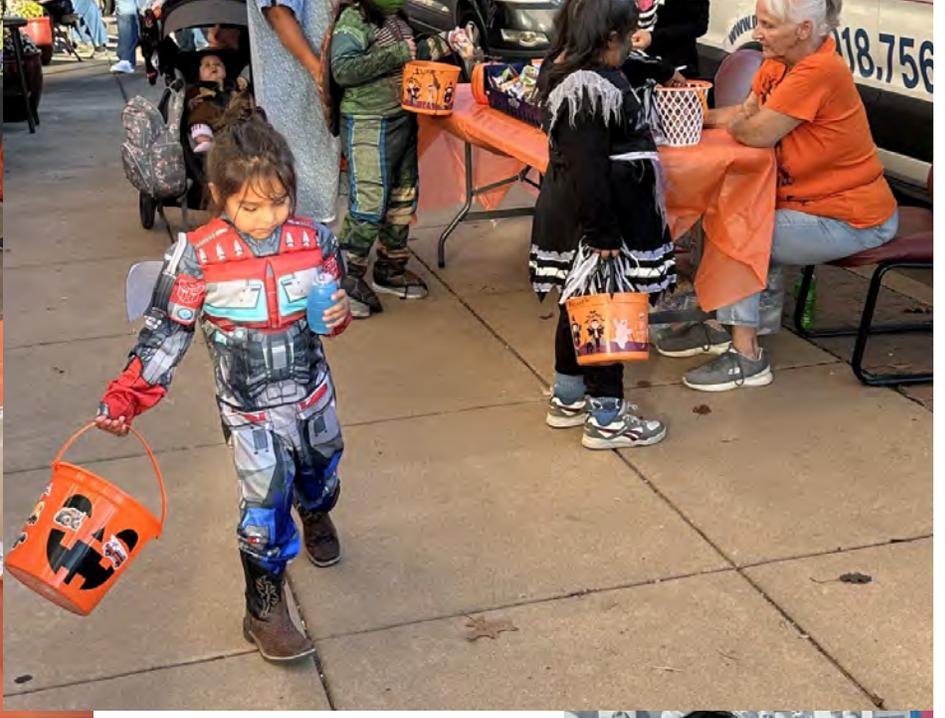
Pictured above is one of the new refrigerators being used by the DFCAF food bank.

HOUSEHOLDS—302
INDIVIDUALS—353
SENIOR BOXES----324
CLOTHES CLOSET----14

Holiday Boxes

Throughout the year, our pantry volunteers are planning and gathering special items that will be assembled into DFCAF, Inc. Holiday Food Boxes.

This is a yearly tradition that all Volunteer's and Staff participate to ensure it is successful. This year our goal is to hand out many Holiday Boxes to income qualifies individuals and/ or families.



DFCAF, Inc Volunteer's

Volunteers are vital to the success of Deep Fork Community Action Foundation, Inc. This fiscal year we averaged three individuals per month who volunteered their time to assist Deep Fork. Our Food Pantry, operated by volunteers, assists members in our four-county service area due to three sisters whose passion is to address food insecurity in their community. They volunteer countless hours picking up donations, maintaining the pantry, and assisting clients. We also have local athletes, leadership clubs, and other volunteers who assist in helping unload the many donations received from the community as well as monthly orders that we receive from the food bank.

The volunteers are vital and assist us with receptionist, janitorial, administrative, and other projects that cannot normally be completed by DFCAF, Inc. during the fiscal year.

Program volunteers are individuals from specific programs such as Empower, TANF, and/or drug court. These volunteers usually work an assigned schedule that is tailored to satisfy the needs and requirements of the specific program they represent.

This is the second year we have utilized Year-round Summer Youth. These are individuals who will volunteer 40 hours a week, even after summer has ended. These individuals are vital to the success and future of Deep Fork Community Action Foundation, Inc. to ensure that we can continually serve Hughes, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, and McIntosh counties.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF DEEP FORK COMMUNITY ACTION FOUNDATION, INC.
VOLUNTEERS!

FY 25 TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS= 1946.25

Training and Education

- Deep Fork was able to enhance employee education and further training by providing them with the opportunity to attend on and off-site classes, conferences, seminars, and webinars. We had a total of **226.5** extended training hours totaled for our staff members.
- Once monthly, excluding October and December, we hold a Board of Directors meeting. We can also further their education and training per each one of those meetings. This FY, our BOD was able to complete **266.25** of volunteer hours (training including) .

Community Involvement

Christie Baldridge, Executive Director of Deep Fork Community Action Foundation, Inc. actively holds seats on local, state, regional and national boards. Her continued involvement and leadership demonstrates her commitment to the Promise of Community Action and beyond. Some examples of committees & boards she actively participates on include but not limited to are:

- Okmulgee Main Street: Board of Directors
- Okmulgee Lions Club: Site Conservation Chair
- Okmulgee Area Development Corp.: Board of Directors, Secretary/Treasurer
- OKACAA (Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies): Past President
- Region VI: Board of Directors, Treasurer
- Federal Home Loan Bank– AHAC Committee
- Oklahoma Coalition for Affordable Housing Conference Committee
- Okmulgee Elks Lodge
- Okmulgee and Henryetta Chamber of Commerce







Familyhood
Statewide Training
2024





In 2025, Deep Fork Community Action Foundation Inc. partnered with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to bring the gift of reading to the children of Okmulgee and Okfuskee County.

Dolly Parton Imagination Library gifts books free of charge to children from birth to five years of age.

The program was inspired by Dolly's own father, who could not read nor write while she was growing up.

Today, the program spans five countries and gifts millions of free books each month to children around the world. So far, they have donated over 301,076,331 books.

Applications can be found at [ImaginationLibrary.com](https://www.ImaginationLibrary.com)





Deep Fork partners with the Okmulgee Lions Club to provide the opportunity to those who may not be able to afford their prescription eyewear. In addition to being a drop off site for donated eyewear, we also provide applications for low-income participants who may qualify for a voucher for up to \$125.00 towards their eye glass purchase. This year DFCAF donated a whopping 856 pairs of eye glasses, 634 cases and 80 ink cartridges to the International Lions Association.

These glasses will be recycled and used for those who need them in the community.

Community Action Month

PROCLAMATION

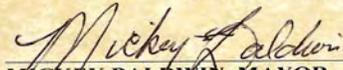
- WHEREAS,** Community Action creates pathways to prosperity by helping hardworking families achieve economic independence rather than keeping them reliant on government assistance; and
- WHEREAS,** Community Action is built on innovative, responsive, and efficient programs that are uniquely tailored to meet local needs; and
- WHEREAS,** Community Action delivers high-impact, cost-effective results that generate a significant return on investment for local communities; and
- WHEREAS,** Community Action invests in private-sector job creation and career training, ensuring that communities grow through free-market solutions; and
- WHEREAS,** Community Action Agencies are trusted pillars of the community that engage volunteers who donate their time to advance local progress, support working families, and contribute to lasting community success; and
- WHEREAS,** Community Action programs are both necessary and popular – delivering effective, high-quality assistance that strengthens community resilience and fosters local prosperity; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mickey Baldwin, Mayor of the City of Okmulgee, Oklahoma, do hereby proclaim the month of May, 2025, as

COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH

in the City of Okmulgee, Oklahoma and urge all officials and the general public to recognize the hard work and dedication of Deep Fork Community Action Foundation, Inc.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Okmulgee, Oklahoma to be affixed this 20th day of May, 2025.


MICKEY BALDWIN, MAYOR


RONNIA ANDREWS, CITY CLERK



OUR MISSION

*To improve the quality of life for
Those in need and to strengthen
Communities by providing an
Opportunity for growth for the
future.*

Deep Fork Community Action
Foundation, Inc.

