



The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma

UKB Housing Department sees growth into 2019



Housing Occupancy Specialist Amanda Mink, far left, posed with the Legg family at their new Lease to Purchase program home located in Langley, Oklahoma.

Among our most **vital programs** seeing **growth** into 2019 is the Housing Department. Several **programs** have been **added** in part to the department's creation of a **Housing Committee**. Assistance for **college student housing** was also raised from **\$1,200 to \$2,000** per semester with committee approval.

Several housing projects are currently underway in 2019. These projects include **newly acquired land parcels of 5-acres and 10-acres** to construct **new rental units for eligible tribal members**.

Additionally, Housing is in the **early stages** of work on a new **Housing warehouse** that will give the department room for **expanded offices** and to **store construction materials**.

2018 BY THE NUMBERS:

- 1** Replacement home
- 1** Lease to Purchase Program home
- 5** Storm shelters
- 8** College students given housing assistance
- 8** Major unit repairs
- 30** Emergency/minor unit repairs
- 82** Households assisted with mortgage/rental assistance

Keetoowah Strong of Sound Mind, Body, and Spirit Program

One of the Housing's most exciting developments is the **Keetoowah Strong of Sound Mind, Body and Spirit Program**.

Housing Inspector **Richard Vann**, pictured right of **Master Denise Ramos**, is coordinating the project through a housing grant. Its purpose is to **build confidence and combat bullying in schools** by sponsoring **14 Keetoowah children** with **free lessons** from Tahlequah's own **Ramos TaeKwonDo**. Partnering with Vann is Ramos and fellow business partner **Paula Thompson**.

The project has been **recognized** by the **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development** and the **Office of Native American Programs** through **FirstPic, Inc.**

"Rich would never brag on himself, but our **HUD offices in Washington D.C.**, they picked up his project that he's doing," said **Nanci McCause, UKB Housing director**. "It's part of our Safety and Crime Prevention. **They're shining a light on him and they're really interested in this.**"



\$15K to domestic violence shelters



In addition to helping tribal members with **medical bills, transportation costs and utilities assistance**, our UKB Health and Human Services department has also supported efforts to assist **domestic violence survivors and their families**.

Domestic abuse and violence is not the Keetoowah way. To show our support, in October 2018 Health and Human Services Director Jennifer Cole-Robinson donated **\$15,000** to **six area domestic violence shelters**.

EACH OF THE FOLLOWING RECEIVED \$2,500:

Family Crisis and Counseling Center, Bartlesville
Safenet Services Inc., Claremore
Community Crisis Center, Miami
Women in Safe Homes, Muskogee
Help in Crisis Inc., Tahlequah
Domestic Violence Intervention Services, Tulsa

Jennifer Cole-Robinson, pictured on the left with Help In Crisis Executive Director Mrs. Laura Kuester, presented the organization a **\$2,500 check** on behalf of **Health and Human Services**. The department is looking to **expand in 2019** with an anticipated grant from the **Office for Victims of Crime**.

Title VI celebrates 10 years at Jim Proctor Elder and Nutrition Center



The UKB's Title VI Program, which **feeds our elders and their spouses a free lunch Monday through Friday**, celebrated its **10-year anniversary** on **May 16, 2018** at the Jim Proctor Elder and Nutrition Center.

The program is vital to our **elders aged 55 and older**, giving them a meal they can rely on each day from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The program also **delivers meals to elders** that are homebound and unable to come to the center. Guests of elders can also eat for a small fee.

At the center elders also have a space with which to socialize. **Computers, book and movie rentals and bingo** are just a few of the activities available to elders daily during operational hours.

The program is still **going strong in its 11th year** and more vital than ever to those in our Keetoowah communities.

BY THE NUMBERS FROM 17-18:

27,796 Meals served at Jim Proctor

3,828 Meals delivered to elder homes

26 elders receiving Title VI Caregiver support services

EVENTS: REACHING THE COMMUNITY THROUGH "KEETOOWAH STRONG"

On July 21, 2018, the Housing Department rallied together all UKB departments for a day centered on **benefiting Keetoowah members**, with an **emphasis on youth**.

"We want our **families to get stronger** and our traditions to get stronger," said Richard Vann, event organizer. "That's basically why it's named **Keetoowah Strong** and why I wanted to have this event. It's a good cultural day and a good family day all in one."

The event offered **free haircuts** from volunteers to children and **physicals** were conducted by Florida Atlantic University nurses. Additionally, the tribe distributed **\$75 school clothing vouchers** for students.

BY THE NUMBERS:

6 Hairdressers gave free haircuts

34 FAU nurses conducted physicals

177 Families assisted through the event

219 School vouchers distributed to children

219 Backpacks distributed to children



EVENTS: 68TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION - "KEETOOWAH FOREVER"



The 2018 theme was inspired by Marvel Studios' *Black Panther*.

"These people reflect the **pride** and **honor** they feel as clans and as a tribe, thus, **empowering** their generations. **Being Keetoowah feels the same way.** We are the **descendants** of a distinct group of peoples; **traditionalists, warriors**, and those seeking refuge **away** from **encroaching assimilation**. Our **ancestors banded together** to ensure our **survival** and traditions not just for tomorrow, but **forever.**"

-Travis Wolfe, Assistant to the Chief

BY THE NUMBERS:

600 Attendees

500 lbs of Hog Meat Served

7 Clothing and Art Booths

5 Cultural Exhibition Games

2 Tradition Keepers Honored

1 Stomp Dance

SUPPORTING TAHLEQUAH THROUGH LOCAL SUPPLIERS:

JD Young

Reasor's

Sand Tech

KB Signs

One Source Water

WADO TO OUR SPONSORS:

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians | JD Young | Northeastern State University | One Source | Bank of Cherokee County

United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma

What's ahead for 2019?

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS:

- On Jan. 5, 2019 the tribe welcomed in **four new councilors** and **five incumbents** after election season. These councilors have already been out in the **Keetoowah communities** and **attending hearings in Washington D.C.** as they strive to continue empowering the tribe.
- **Livestreaming** of UKB Tribal Council meetings has been implemented and viewable on our **Facebook** and with the handle **@UKBMedia on YouTube**. The **Giduwa Cherokee News** has also been writing **coverage** of each meeting, a first to provide better **transparency** to tribal members.

UPCOMING GRANTS:

- **UKB Transit Services** was awarded a **\$150,000 grant** from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration to **purchase transit vans** and **expand service** throughout our jurisdiction.





2019 UKB Opioid Healing Project

Also new in 2019 is the UKB Opioid Healing Project.

Opioid abuse is a problem in Indian Country. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration National Survey on Drug Use and Health, **5.2 percent, or 72,000, of American Indian/Alaska Natives ages 18 and older reported misusing a prescription drug in 2016.**

To combat this issue in the Keetoowah community, the UKB Opioid Healing Project will employ **holistic and Keetoowah culturally relevant methods** to handle all stages of abuse, from use to addiction. It is funded through a **two-year grant** with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and **will be overseen by Project Coordinator Dr. Steven Byers.**

SERVICES OFFERED:

- Opioid Abuse Counseling
- Mental Health Counseling
- Family Counseling
- Community Prevention Education
- Referrals

BY THE NUMBERS:

1 Mental Health Counselor
1 Mental Health Case Manager
1 Project Coordinator
2 Year program
8 to 10 Patients served at any time
60 Patients treated by end of year 2

TO SCHEDULE AN INTAKE APPOINTMENT:

Call 918-316-9584 or 918-316-9590.



Chief Joe Bunch

FEDERAL COURT CASES TO WATCH IN 2019

Cherokee Nation v. Zinke, et al

- Our **land in trust** case against the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma was heard by the **Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals** in Denver, Colorado on **May 16, 2018**. The U.S. Department of Interior argued in support of its decision to **allow us to take 76-acres of land into trust**. It also asserted it did **not need** the consent of another tribe to do so. We await their ruling and are **confident** in our position.

UKB v. FCC, et al

- On **March 15** the **U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit** heard our case against the **Federal Communications Commission**. We are listed as the **lead tribe** against the FCC, which changed the definition of a "federal undertaking" as a way to **exclude tribes from consultation requirements** before building cell towers for 5G networks. The case was heard quickly and we expect a decision is imminent.