



October Business Spotlight

Delta Community Action Foundation, Inc. (DCAF)

Here's an organization that deserves to be in our Business Spotlight for marking its 60th year of supporting those impacted by ongoing poverty in our city and county.

DCAF serves Garvin, McClain and Stephens counties in a state with one of the highest rankings of poverty (8th) in the nation. Some 14 percent of people in Garvin County live below the poverty line, which totals 678 families (National Institutes of Health).

Poverty requires a comprehensive response and that's what Delta provides:

- **Public transportation** – Delta operates in Pauls Valley and Lindsay to get people where they need to go (scheduling required) at just \$2.50 per stop.
- **Head Start** – Head Start is a federally funded program that provides multiple services to children birth-5 years old and

their families. Head Start helps families prepare for school readiness by tailoring an individualized early learning plan focusing on a child's physical and emotional development, health, and family well-being leading to strong family outcomes. Head Start connects children and their families to services in their community, providing services to children with disabilities including materials, training, equipment, and facility adaptations. In addition, Head Start encourages family involvement through volunteering, parent engagement, and home visits.

- **Senior companionship** – Volunteers who befriend and assist those who are homebound or have difficulty with daily living tasks.
- **Foster grandparents** – Provides tutoring and mentoring to special needs children.
- **Affordable apartments** – Offering affordable living spaces for income-eligible individuals and families at the 28-unit Pleasant View Apartments, Pauls Valley.
- **Food, utility and rental assistance** – Emergency aid including a food pantry (225 W. McClure, Pauls Valley) and funds (when available) for rent and utilities.
- **Prescription assistance** – Staff members help determine eligibility for aid with medication prescriptions.
- **Home weatherization** – Assistance with making homes more energy efficient.

To fulfill this impressive mission, Delta employs 46 people in Garvin County, with 20 of those serving in Pauls Valley. Another 100 Delta employees provide similar services in McClain and Stephens

counties. Delta has a dedicated staff that are making a difference in so many lives.

In marking the organization's 60th anniversary, the Oklahoma Department of Commerce praised the vision and energy of its executive director Karen Nichols. Karen has worked at DCAF for four decades and served at the helm for 32 years.



“Karen has a true compassion for helping people with the services that DCAF directly provides and helping individuals connect with other agencies and services that might not be readily known,” said Alicia Hibbet, Community Development Director of Programs.

Discover more about DCAF at deltacaf.com.

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