

- Serving Adair, Cherokee, Craig, Delaware, Mayes, McIntosh, Muskogee, Nowata, Okmulgee, Ottawa, Rogers, Sequoyah, Tulsa, Wagoner, and Washington counties in Northeast Oklahoma

## Stand For Children

The fifth Annual Stand for Children Day hosted by Cherokee Nation Child Care Resource Center was held on Friday, June 3 with attendance reaching approximately 500 participants. In addition to the 25 area social service organizations that provided educational materials and activities, we received in-kind donations from Little Debbie, Love Bottling, Outpost Convenience Stores, and the Tahlequah Fire Department. A live radio remote broadcast was held on KEOK radio from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Mayor Ken Purdy proclaimed June 3, 2005 as Stand for Children Day in Tahlequah.



## 4th annual Child Care Conference: “Meeting the Challenge”

The Cherokee Nation Child Care Resource Center held their fourth annual child care conference on July 9, 2005 at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Approximately 250 child care providers, public school teachers, head start teachers, and relative providers enrolled and attended a keynote presentation by Dr. Jean Feldman, and break out sessions taught by Pam Schiller, MaryAnn Kohl, Necol Whitehead, Paige BeBe and many others. The theme for this conference was Meeting the Challenge and had a Survivor TV show twist. Northeastern was decorated with an island décor and participants made immunity necklaces and team banners at lunch. Many door prizes were offered and winners were able to take away a developmentally appropriate activity for use in their classroom.

## Assisting Families

- Child care referral services help families find child care by offering information on child care options. Families also receive consultation and consumer education materials to assist them in evaluating child care programs. This year R&R helped 462 families explore the child care options available to them.
- Cherokee Nation Child Care Resource Center staff participated in Family Fun Fairs and Parent Fairs in several communities. We partnered with the Community Partnership Board of Adair and Cherokee Counties to host a Kids Day Back to School event. We also participated in Week of the Young Child activities in Cherokee, Delaware, Muskogee, Rogers and Washington counties.

**Mission: To increase the quality, affordability and availability of child care through community based resource and referral services in Northeastern Oklahoma.**

## Assisting the Community and Businesses

- Cherokee Nation Resource and Referral staff continued working with the Community Partnership Board on a Smart Start Initiative. Hard work and cooperative effort led to Kid Connections being awarded the Smart Start grant in June. Cherokee County is now one of 16 Smart Start communities in Oklahoma. Our staff also continue to be involved in the Smart Start Muskogee initiative.
- R&R staff strive to make groups aware of our services by providing presentations at area Kiwanis, Lions, Optomist, Rotary and Chamber of Commerce meetings.



The Cherokee Nation Child Care Resource Center is funded in part through a block grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, the Oklahoma Department of Human Services-Division of Child Care, and the Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Association.

**Oklahoma Child Care**  
RESOURCE & REFERRAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

## Assisting Child Care Providers

- The Cherokee Nation Child Care Resource Center opened a satellite office in Jay this past year. By providing an additional staff person housed in the Cherokee Nation Jay Sub Office we are better equipped to provide more timely services to families and providers in the northern counties of our service area.
- Resource and Referral staff worked with DHS licensing staff and OSU Extension staff in Craig, Delaware, Mayes and Ottawa counties to provide training at their annual mini child care conference. The conference was held in Vinita and was well attended.
- The Cherokee Nation Child Care Resource Center provided conference training opportunities by sponsoring child care providers. Family child care home providers were given the opportunity to attend the State Family Child Care Home conference. Relative providers were offered the opportunity to attend the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren conference.
- Sparking Connections continues to be an important and innovative initiative. It is a home-based and community-based project that helps relative providers better meet the needs of the children in their care. Areas of focus include school readiness skills, health and safety promotion, and Cherokee culture and language.
- A total of 1,904 phone calls were received from child care providers requesting assistance with information on training, STARS, CDA, lesson planning, etc.

The Child Care Resource Center received over 3,350 calls from child care providers and parents.

### Staff as of June 30, 2005

Marilyn Ballard, Early Childhood Educator

Carolyn Beavers, Data Entry Operator II

Cindy Blacksmith, Resource and Referral Specialist

Arlene Greenawalt, Grant Coordinator

Andria Hummingbird, Resource and Referral Specialist

Edna Jones, Clerk/Typist II

Gaynia Jones, Early Childhood Educator

Deanna O'Laughlin, Assistant Manager

Debbie Smith, Early Childhood Lead Educator

Tina Smith, Resource and Referral Specialist

Bridget Tobey, Manager

**Cherokee Nation Child Care  
Resource Center**

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*To increase the quality,  
affordability, and availability  
of child care*

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## **Cherokee Nation Child Care Resource Center Receives National Accreditation**

The Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Association announced that it has earned the prestigious certification of Child Care Aware—a national voluntary program designed to insure that families across the nation have access to consistent, high-quality services that help them make informed choices about child care.

Oklahoma is now only the third state to achieve this level of excellence statewide. To receive accreditation, all eight regional offices, as well as the state office in Oklahoma City, had to meet stringent criteria.

Like the other regional offices, Cherokee Nation Child Care Resource Center, located in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, is a community-based agency serving Adair, Cherokee, Craig, Delaware, McIntosh, Mayes, Muskogee, Nowata, Ottawa, Rogers, Sequoyah, Tulsa, Wagoner, Washington and Okmulgee Counties by helping parents find appropriate licensed child care that fits their needs. The free service includes information about what care is available in the community, how to evaluate available options and how to obtain public financial aid for eligible families. “We are very proud to have achieved Quality Assurance certification for our agency,” said Bridget Tobey, Child Care Resource Center Manager for the organization. “We strive to provide excellent services to child care consumers. Receiving Child Care Aware’s national seal of approval proves we are succeeding.”

Child Care Aware’s manager, Stacey Minott, explained, “The child care market is a complicated one to navigate. Families want to know what good child care looks like and how to find and pay for it. The Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Association, through its regional offices, provides families with expert help and has met national practice standards for service delivery. It is the best resource for information on local child care availability, licensing laws, quality indicators, subsidies, and other parenting resources.”

Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Association, Inc., is a private non-profit organization established in 1999 to promote child care quality, affordability and availability for all Oklahoma families. Families can link to their local services through a hotline, 1-888-458-6230 and website, [www.cherokeekids.net](http://www.cherokeekids.net).

Child Care Aware is an initiative of NACCRRRA, the nation’s network of child care resource and referral organizations.