



# Community Action Solutions

Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies  
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## CDSA Showcases 'Poverty: A-Z' Display at Non-Profit Center in Enid



**H** - Poverty is going to bed **hungry**, belly growing, because you want your children to have enough to eat.  
 Anna R

This 30 x 40 inch, framed photographic art piece mounted on a hallway wall at the Non-Profit Center in Enid is a powerful reminder of the challenges faced by people in poverty in Oklahoma. “H” is for Hunger.

Community Development Support Association (CDSA) has created an exhibit to increase awareness of poverty in northwest Oklahoma through 26 original art pieces displayed in the Center.

The art installation is the product of a creative process dedicated to redefining what it means to live in poverty through the words and stories of CDSA's clients, explained Executive Director Cheri Ezzell. Every image is a representation of a written statement provided by CDSA clients beginning with each letter of the alphabet.

CDSA's board and staff identified the need for increased awareness of poverty in communities and its impact on families. Smart Start Coordinator Renee Hoover took the lead on the project and provided logistical support.

It's all about families, Hoover said. All represent a family in the community.

Ezzell, who is an art lover and a photography hobbyist, was among ten photographers whose images were selected for the display. Other photographers who submitted images for consideration through a juried art process were John Chambers, Erin Haney, Scott Huntsberger, Riley Jantzen, Nancy Killam, Traci Layton, Michael Louthan, Penny Sweet and Curtis Tucker.

CDSA staff collected quotes from agency clients. Each photographer was provided five quotes and asked to interpret them through their photos.

Ezzell hopes the exhibit will help viewers understand poverty in new ways and motivate them to join the agency as it works alongside neighbors as they overcome poverty.

CDSA is committed to 'walking in this world' alongside families in poverty, according to Ezzell. CDSA recognizes their individuality, connects them with resources, advocate with leaders and policy makers, and help them know that they can make it through the world, she added.

The project was inspired by the Kansas Community Action Agency Association and its Poverty (A-Z) project.

The Non-Profit Center is located at 114 S. Independence.

**J** - One **job** is not enough to cover my bills so I have to get a second job.  
 Billy J



Cheri Ezzell and Renee Hoover are pictured in front of an art piece that says:

**R** - I'm stressed. I came home to an eviction notice after working full time at a minimum wage job. It just isn't enough to pay **rent** and keep utilities on.

Margarita R