

The Believers in Boswell Community Coalition president, Marilyn Pedsworth, announced during the Boswell Family Fun Night and Fall Festival that the \$75,000 Community Development Block Grant which was applied for by the City of Boswell on behalf of the Believers In Boswell for the building of the Harbor of Hope Youth Center has been granted.

The first Harbor of Hope Chili and Dessert Cook-Off will be Saturday at the Boswell School cafeteria. The chili and dessert cook-off is open to all individuals or groups who like to "strut their stuff" as the best cooks in Choctaw County. No entry fee required. The rules are as follows: 1) Any type of chili and dessert may be submitted, 2) Chili amount should be no less than a gallon, 3) Donation of chili and dessert entries is required, 4) Entries must be checked in by 4:00 p.m. at the school cafeteria. The judging will take place at 4:30 pm. Donations of chili, chili beans, cornbread and desserts are welcomed.

A chili supper and bingo will start at 5:30 p.m. following the cook-off judging and award presentation. The Believers In Boswell would like to invite everyone out for chili and all the fixings. The supper will consist of chili, cornbread or crackers, dessert, tea or coffee at the cost of \$5 for adults and youth age 10 and up, \$3.00 for youth 5 - 10 years, children ages 4 and under are free. Proceeds from the supper and bingo will go towards the Harbor of Hope matching funds account. This event is sponsored by the Believers In Boswell, along with their supporting coalition partners, local business, churches and individuals.

The Believers In Boswell Community Coalition has been in operation since the fall of 2004 working to bring educational programs to the youth and adults of Boswell. One of their starting goals and dream was to build a community youth center.

Since that beginning, so much support has been coming in from community individuals, businesses and organizations. In the recent Fall Festival Royalty Contest, contestants raised over \$4,500 in funds of which proceeds were applied toward the Harbor of Hope's matching fund account. The Choctaw Nation donated the 52-inch wide screen television that provided the contestants the opportunity to sell tickets for the Fall Festival Royalty of a King and Queen and a Prince and Princess contest. The Believers In Boswell are striving to surpass a goal of \$25,000 to be applied to the Harbor of Hope matching fund account, of which \$25,000 will be matched through a donation by the Steve Jackson family.

The Harbor of Hope Youth Center will provide a safe environment for the community youth, by providing fellowship with one another to learn, grow and develop as individuals and to build pride in their selves and their community. The center's motto is "When we all come together, we become something bigger than us all." (Author unknown). It is the belief of the BIB members that the center will make a difference in the lives of the community and it's youth. It will help improve academics and school performances, decrease youth crime, sexual activity and drug abuse. Along with many other goals, an important goal for the center and it's volunteers is to support the dreams of our youth and help build self-esteem.