Blue Valley Community Action

Annual Report 1998-1999

Copyright 1999 © Blue Valley Community Action, Inc.

Acknowledgment Blue Valley Community Action, Inc., wishes to thank the great people of the States of Nebraska and Kansas who have made this nonprofit corporation a success. It is the support of the communities, individual, volunteers, and dedicated staff that develop and maintain our programs and services. Without your assistance and dedication, we would not have survived for 33 years. With your past support, we have grown. With your present support, we thrive. With your continued support, we go forth and meet Blue the challenge of the new year, the Valley / new decade, the new century Community Action and the new millennium.

## **BLUE VALLEY COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.**

### ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Serving the people of Southeastern Mebraska and North Central Kansas. 1966-1999

December 1999

Board of Directors 1998-1999

Executive Committee Don Deats, President John Walton, Vice President Michael Simonsen, Secretary **Ruth Miller, Treasurer** Anna Kinnison, Equal Opportunity Ed Aden, Personnel

> Additional Members William Kozisek Eunice Beran Suzanne Shaw Albert Simacek Pat Lefever Linda D'Andrea **D**wight Nichols **Rose Towndrow Ross Stepan** James Weichel Mary Campbell Fern Shamburg **Collette Barber** Gavle Barnett Lavern Wimer Willis Luedke **Bonnie Schoenbeck** Keith Bottrell Rav Naber Larry Bonner **Don** Meyers Arnold Ehlers Roberta Woolston Daryl Ream James Klute Jane Beck Smith Tom Robson Larry Kramer Sylvia Warren Cristi Higgins

### From the Board President...

Blue Valley Community Action is a private non-profit charity and is very dependent upon contributions, donations, volunteers, and the abilities of staff to do successful grant-writing. Each year costs go up, but this is not always covered by increases in grants. This is where the help of the many community supporters is so critical to the organization's success.

These supporters are the volunteers who help with center activities, clothing rooms, food pantries, commodity distributions, child care and Head Start centers, on the many advisory groups or even those volunteers who make up the governing board.

The Board of Directors tries very hard to meet the needs of each and every county served by the organization by directing the staff and volunteers to be responsive and to help those less fortunate who are trying to make a difference in their own lives and the lives of their family members.

Blue Valley Community Action has completed its thirty-third year and continues to help improve the quality of life for more than 13,000 local residents.

We don't do it alone. Others help with financial contributions; many, many volunteer hours; donations of food, clothing, household items, and personal grooming items; overnight stays at homes for domestic abuse victims, etc.

This list can go on into the hundreds of individuals from Blue Valley Community Action's area that contribute so much to our organization. We begin our thirty-fourth year with renewed enthusiasm. We appreciate all of your help and, as president of the Blue Valley Community Action Board of Directors, I wish to thank you.



**Don Deats Board President** 



**Richard Nation Executive Director** 

### ...and the Executive Director

This annual report is the last of the millennium for Blue Valley Community Action. The close of our thirty-third year closes out the last third of the twentieth century and offers us challenges for the new century, a new millennium also.

It gives us time to reflect on the past. Before Blue Valley Community Action came into existence in January of 1966, the rate of poverty in the nine counties served by the organization was in the 20-25 percent range on average. One in four or five folks was below the poverty line established by the federal government. Today, most of the area has a poverty rate of ten percent or less. While many factors contribute to this situation, one of them has surely been the influence of this organization on getting folks back on their feet when unfortunate situations have arisen to knock them down.

Poverty is a strange creature. It can afflict those with little motivation, but it can also afflict the most hard working. It can surprise you, coming as a result of ill health or injury. It can come as a result of falling grain or livestock prices. It can come from a factory closing, or from young folks moving from a hometown to the big city. An individual can fall into poverty, as can a family. However, a community can also fall into poverty. Blue Valley Community Action serves southeastern Nebraska and north central Kansas, predominantly rural areas and we work with community leaders to help communities grow and stay healthy. For strong communities, we also need strong families. Therefore, we work for families of all types, from single elderly living along to single mothers with children, to traditional families newly arrived to our area.

We try to address the causes of poverty, as well as try to help alleviate the worst parts of being in poverty. This is no narrow task. Poor health can lead to poverty, poor education, poor housing, poor nutrition, lack of work or work with low pay and few benefits can lead to poverty, abuse by a loved one can split a home and family break up can lead to poverty. Children getting into trouble can lead to lessening of opportunities and eventual poverty or worse. Therefore, our focus has always been comprehensive. You'll see us active in emergency situations, in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, comforting the sick, helping the unemployed, teaching those in need of various skills. You'll see us working to identify community needs, building or repairing housing, developing child care centers, organizing community projects, promoting the rural nature of our area, operating community centers, driving county transit buses and supporting family centers. We are your neighbors and we want what is best for our communities.

However, it is important that we all help with this fight against poverty. Not only because it is part of our religious heritage, but because poverty can be infectious. We are grateful that the poverty rates have fallen from the midtwenty's to around ten percent. However, we must recognize that the percentage of children in poverty is still higher than the general public (almost double). The time for some preventive action is now. A good approach is to have the whole community take action. This Community Action agency stands ready to help, to lead if necessary, to go the extra mile, to take the risk if necessary to get action, to create action that meets our communities mutual needs.

Management Team 1998-1999

Executive Director Richard D. Nation

> Comptroller Robin Mayer

Human Resources Loree Rix-Crouse

<u>Blue Valley Crisis Intervention</u> Loree Rix-Crouse, Director Carmen Grummert, Program Director

Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Crisis Intervention Public Information Coordinated Response Juvenile Diversion Program AmeriCorps

<u>Family & Community Services</u> Ardith Hoins, Director

Food Programs Health Services Networks Family Development Emergency Shelters/Services Transit Services Saline Eldercare Foster Grandparents County Coordinators and Centers Homeless Assistance

<u>Housing & Rural Development</u> Jerri Kerr, Director

Community Housing Development Weatherization and Home Rehabilitation Homeowner Assistance Services Joint Housing Authority Management

> <u>Children & Youth Services</u> Kathryn Molczyk, Director

Blue River Family Resource Center Blue River Child Development Head Start-Nebraska Head Start-Kansas Early Head Start Full Day/Full Year





### **Blue Valley Community Action, Inc. Resources & Support**

### STATE OF NEBRASKA GRANTS:

\$28,602	Cornhusker United Way	\$4,000
\$75,210*	York United Way	\$1,453
\$123,531	United Way of America	\$2,893
\$43,520	Gage County United Way	\$1,445

### **PRIVATE FOUNDATION SUPPORT:**

NE Children & Families Foundation	\$19,542
Peter Kiewitt Foundation	\$8,933
Community Training	\$7,286
Bryan LGH	\$5,000
Cable Vision	\$2,000
CAN, Inc.	\$14,216

### **PRIVATE INVESTMENT REVENUES:**

Corporate	\$46,200
Pickles	\$78,437
Administration Fees	\$39,400
Management Fees	\$65,770
Development Fees	\$7,565
Private Housing Investment	\$232,170

### **RENTAL INCOME:**

Fillmore County Units	\$44,289
HOME Rents	\$8,806
Blue River Family Resource Cen	ter\$30,430
Valley Heights	\$84,035
Other Corporate Rental Income	\$16,625

AmeriCorps	\$28,602
CSFP	\$75,210*
WIC	\$123,531
NHAP	\$43,520
HIV/AIDS	\$22,643
Immunization	\$21,150
Sexual Assault	\$17,399
Domestic Violence	\$72,577
VOCA/VAWA	\$68,587
CSBG	\$223,532
Child Care Food	\$66,642
Transitional Housing	\$28,919
Disaster Grant	\$8,558
HOME	\$142,374
Weatherization	\$169,383
САТСН	\$114,838
ESGP	\$27,202
SESAME	\$40,800
TASK	\$500
Native American Training	\$8,472
Child Abuse Prevention	\$19,157
Jefferson County Good Beginn	ings \$2,338
Turning Point	\$18,331
Sunset CROWN Project	\$9,817
Dorchester Housing Project	\$274,900
*Value of Commodities Distributed:	\$252,725

### **STATE OF KANSAS GRANTS:**

Food Programs

\$4,637

### Blue Valley Community Action, Inc. Resources & Support

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT:**

Butler County	\$4,075
2	,
Fillmore County	\$3,376
Gage County	\$10,800
Jefferson County	\$4,157
Polk County	\$2,696
Saline County	\$17,361
Seward County	\$7,320
Thayer County	\$3,147
York County	\$6,835
City of Crete	\$2,846
City of Fairbury	\$27,226
City of Lincoln	\$16,668
Villages of:	
Swanton, DeWitt, Tobias	
Western, & Dorchester	\$2,068
City of Friend	\$1,194
City of Wilber	\$1,549

### **LOCAL PRIVATE SUPPORT:**

75	Pantries	\$20,981
76	Clothing Sales	\$88,785
00	In-Kind Contributions	\$1,469,151
57	Donations	\$35,497
96	Local County Projects	\$320,393

**OTHER REVENUES:** 

Fillmore Transit	\$53,538
Butler Transit	\$28,045
York Transit	\$300
Interest Income	\$14,010

### **CONSTRUCTION ASSET FUNDING:**

Valley Heights	\$325,087
Dorchester Units	\$43,506
Corporate Financing	\$41,462

### **U.S. GOVERNMENT DIRECT GRANTS:**

Head Start	\$1,532,232
Foster Grandparents	\$184,996
CATCH Network	\$189,276
Parent Information Center	\$397,120
HUD Supportive Housing	\$24,193

### TOTAL SUPPORT FOR 1998-1999: \$7,558,616

### LOCAL CHILD CARE FEES:

Blue River Child Development	\$287,271
Other Local Fees	\$37,341

*BVCA is also the general partner in five housing partnerships not included here.* 

BVCA increased cash reserves to \$190,000.

## The Blue Valley Community Action Umbrella

#### **Collaborations and Real Estate Limited Partnerships** as of 9/30/99

COLLABORATIONS		REAL ESTATE LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS		
Partnerships	Revenues		Income	<u>Assets</u>
Southeast Service Area	¢ 40,000	East Meadows, Ltd., Crete	\$28,000	\$562,161
Membership Entity (Sesame)	\$40,800	West Meadows, Ltd., Crete	\$30,400	\$658,236
Community Access to	<b>#242</b> 004		<b>#21.2</b> 00	¢740.140
Coordinated Healthcare	\$242,094	Pinegrove, Ltd., Wymore	\$31,200	\$743,143
Community Health Partners	\$20,000	Trailview, Ltd., Hebron	\$28,320	\$791,157
"Turning Point"	\$20,000	Crestland, Ltd., Beatrice	\$69,600	\$1,967,103
Jefferson County Good Beginnings	\$12,250	Total	\$187,520	\$4,721,800
Transitional Housing	\$28,918	* BVCA is the "General Partner," however, these partnerships are not included in BVCA statements or audits.		
		**Income & Assets annualized and unaudited 1999.		



## Blue Valley Community Action, Inc.'s 1998-1999 Total Revenue: 7,558,616



# Blue Valley Community Action, Inc.'s 1998-1999 Total Expenses: \$7,291,455



### **Blue Valley Crisis Intervention**

#### History

Blue Valley Crisis Intervention was formed in 1991, and provides emergency services and emotional support to victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and their families. Emotional support, case management, and emergency services, in conjunction with an ongoing commitment to community education, are provided in an effort to reduce and prevent violence. Victims, survivors, and their families are empowered to recognize their own abilities, make informed decisions, and plan a future free from violence. In addition to crisis intervention services, during 1999, Blue Valley Crisis Intervention has expanded in the area of juvenile services, a prevention effort which gives youth the knowledge and skills to make positive life decisions.

Emergency crisis intervention services are available in Gage, Jefferson, Thayer, York, Fillmore, Seward, and Saline Counties in southeast Nebraska. A 24-hour crisis line (1-800-876-6238), transportation, temporary shelter, legal advocacy, medical advocacy, emergency financial assistance, individual and group support, and community education are available services. All services are completely confidential and free of charge to anyone who requests assistance, regardless of economic status. Juvenile services are currently available in Jefferson County.

#### **1999 Statistics**

During 1999, face-to-face crisis support was provided to 302 victims and their families (an increase of 8% from 1998). 8,338 units of crisis support were provided via face-to-face services and the 24-hour crisis line (an increase of 49% from 1998). In addition to direct crisis support, Blue Valley Crisis Intervention provided victims and their families with 976 (an increase of 22% from 1993) beds on 240 (an increase of 26%) unduplicated safe shelter nights. Outside of statistical terms these numbers indicate that 22 times on each of the 365 days in 1998, support to victims of domestic violence or sexual assault was provided by Blue Valley Crisis Intervention advocates, and every 36 hours, someone was placed in a safe, confidential shelter in order to escape violence. Enhanced advocacy and juvenile services continue to develop and succeed.



Collaboration with the Beatrice Police Department Victim Assistance Unit has been an outstanding success in 1999. Advocates and the Victim Assistance Unit have developed a support group service for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Representatives from both organizations facilitate support group services.

#### **Public Education**

In an effort to share prevention information, and thus reduce the violence, Blue Valley Crisis Intervention Advocates and the Public Information Officer gave 308 presentations to audiences of 5,115 persons. Educational programs and inservice trainings regarding domestic abuse and sexual assault, dating violence, sexual harassment, and secret touch are provided to businesses, community organizations, schools and colleges throughout the Blue Valley Crisis Intervention service area. In addition to educational programs and inservice trainings, information is provided through radio interviews and newspaper articles.



### **Blue Valley Crisis Intervention**

#### **Juvenile Services**

Blue Valley Crisis Intervention is honored to be the recipient of a Juvenile Services Grant through the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice. Pre-trial diversion programming and Outreach Services are being developed in collaboration with the Jefferson County Juvenile Justice Council. The Jefferson County Juvenile Justice Council is comprised of Jefferson County law enforcement, criminal justice officials, school officials, County Extension, Blue Valley Community Action, mental health officials, mediation professionals, and community representatives who have committed to providing youth in Jefferson County an opportunity to acquire life skills training that will promote a life free from violence and criminal activity. Referrals are being accepted for pre-trial diversion programming. Outreach Services are being developed.



#### **Saline County Coordinated Response Team**

The Saline County Coordinated Response Team (Blue Valley Crisis Council of Saline County) continues to develop. The Case Manager continues to work cooperatively with criminal justice and law enforcement officials regarding the development of policies. procedures, and protocols for all disciplines involved in services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

#### AmeriCorps

One of the greatest prevention assets offered through Blue Valley Crisis Intervention is AmeriCorps. AmeriCorps Members develop programs that focus on the prevention and reduction of youth violence by directly interacting with young persons to develop and maintain youth conflict resolution skills and student tutoring programs. With AmeriCorps Members' help, schools establish conflict resolution programs to reduce detentions and suspensions, encourage effective problem solving strategies and

improve the school climate. AmeriCorps Members were instrumental in the development and implementation of "Teens Take Charge" for 41 area schools in southeast Nebraska. A curriculum was developed regarding HIV/AIDs awareness, abstinence, and pregnancy prevention. AmeriCorps Members trained area educators on the use of the curriculum, and ensured that all area schools were provided with curriculum. A significant contribution by AmeriCorps Members was the acquisition of "Fatal Vision Goggles" for use by law enforcement and educators throughout the service area. "Fatal Vision Goggles" are goggles that, when worn, simulate an alcohol induced state. AmeriCorps Members Mary Meredith, Beth Roelfs, and Lani Trisler completed an outstanding two-year commitment.



#### **Objectives for 2000**

Blue Valley Crisis Intervention acknowledges that through ongoing public awareness and education, the need and number of services provided to victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault will continue to rise. To meet the needs of survivors and victims, goals for Blue Valley Crisis Intervention's future include development of additional funding to ensure continuation of services, enhanced education and training for



staff, continued growth of the Blue Valley Crisis Intervention Volunteer Program, acquisition of free standing shelters in service counties, and an increase of community awareness and community participation in prevention activities. While it is a challenge to acquire sufficient resources to meet the ever increasing needs of victims, Blue Valley Crisis Intervention is grateful for the funding provided by public and private resources, and looks forward to a rewarding 2000.

### **Housing & Rural Development**

BVCA recognizes the need to develop affordable housing and promote weatherization and rehabilitation for safe, decent housing in rural Nebraska communities and that economic development, family self-sufficiency and affordable housing go hand-in-hand.

#### **Rehabilitation**

BVCA continues to work with homeowners to bring housing units to prevailing health and safety standards. BVCA has maintained a revolving loan rehabilitation program and during the last fiscal year provided rehabilitation assistance to six families. This is an ongoing program, however, BVCA feels there is a need to apply for additional funds to provide rehabilitation assistance due to the constant demand from area residents.

#### **Homeownership**

BVCA received a Regional Homeownership Opportunity Program grant to assist individuals and families in purchasing homes throughout the nine county service area. The program is on-going but to date has provided assistance to twenty-seven families to move from rental housing to owning their own home. This program has exceeded its expectations primarily due to leveraging funds through the SUPER Targeted NIFA mortgage program and additional funds awarded through the Rural Home Loan Partnership Program through USDA Rural Development.

BVCA administers a Fillmore County Homeownership Opportunity Program to assist residents throughout Fillmore County with purchasing existing homes or constructing new homes. This program is ongoing and to date has provided assistance to nine families to purchase existing homes and assistance to one family to build a new home.

BVCA administers a Wymore/Blue Springs Housing Program which includes both Homeownership Opportunities and Homeowner Rehabilitation funds. This program was just funded in the fall of 1999 and is ongoing. To date, two families have participated in the Homeownership Program and purchased homes in the Wymore/Blue Springs area.

BVCA has received recognition as a Regional Homeownership Education provider through the REACH (Readiness, Education, Awareness, Collaborative for Homebuyers) program. Since the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, 57 individuals have completed the Homeownership Education Program.

BVCA participated with the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation and the Fairbury High School to construct a single family home through the Industrial Technology Class (see below). The students completed the construction of a 1100 square foot home in Fairbury and the project was sold to a first-time homebuyer.





Dorchester 4-Plex located in Dorchester, Nebraska

\$ingle Family Home located in Fairbury, Nebraska

### **Housing & Rural Development**

#### **Strategic Planning**

The Southeast Nebraska Regional Network has designed funds from the State of Nebraska to provide Strategic and Priority Planning for rural communities. BVCA anticipates participating with several communities.

#### Weatherization

The weatherization program continues to focus on strategies that will make housing affordable by reducing the cost of heating and cooling the structure. During the 1999 fiscal year, our weatherization efforts improved the housing conditions for 195 individuals and forty-seven households. In 1999, BVCA began performing HERS (Home Energy Rating System) audits thereby providing homeowners a list of energy cost saving measures that could be performed on their home. The HERS audits are conducted on weatherization homes and homes under the rehabilitation program. To date, four HERS audits have been conducted.

#### Construction

BVCA has been very successful in providing affordable rental housing opportunities throughout the service area. To date, BVCA has developed 10 units in Jefferson County, 21 units in Saline County, 15 units in Fillmore County, 34 units in Gage County and 8 units in Thayer County.

During 1999, BVCA was awarded funds through the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority, Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Funds, HOME Funds, Federal Home Loan Bank and private mortgage to developed the Sunset CROWN I Project. This is a unique project and the first project of this nature to be constructed in southeastern Nebraska. The Sunset CROWN I project consists of 17 single-family homes that will be "Lease to Own" homes. The project will be considered rental units for the first 15 years at which time, potential homebuyers may purchase the homes at reduced purchase prices. Also the individuals leasing the homes will have a portion of their rental payment escrowed for assistance to purchase a home of their own.

BVCA applied from funds from the Multi-family Housing Division in Washington, DC and has received preliminary approval of funding from the Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Loan Program through USDA Rural Development. This project will consist of scattered site duplexes in the communities of Odell, York, Henderson, Bruning and Deshler. BVCA will be working on developing this project with anticipated construction to begin the fall of 2000.

BVCA has received funding to construct a 4-plex in Diller, which will be under construction the spring of 2000.



Valley Heights—8 Family Units located in Fairbury, Nebraska



Valley Heights—Elderly Units located in Beatrice, Nebraska

### **Family & Community Services**

#### **Community Service Centers**

BVCA is unique from other human service agencies as it is able to customize the types of programs offered to meet community and area needs. A community service center is located in each of the nine BVCA counties offering a variety of services for individuals and families. The programs offer greatly, but the one common thread is to help individuals improve their life for themselves and their families.

<u>Clothing Stores</u>, open to the public, are maintained in David City, Fairbury, Hebron, Osceola, Seward, Geneva and York through community donations of clothing and household items.

<u>Food Pantries</u> meet the emergency nutrition needs of families. Through the generous support of communities, food, paper products and personal items are acquired through community donations of products or funds. In twelve months, 1,540 households with 4,999 persons in the households were fed 36,599 days.



<u>Homeless Assistance</u> is provided to those who are homeless or near homeless. Through federal, state and local funding, staff assisted 651 persons in securing or retaining housing and other basic necessities. 1,257 nights of shelter were provided through use of the three agency-operated shelters or in motels.

<u>Information and Referral</u> services are provided to individuals, following the assessment of needs and wants, to programs and resources in the agency and to other agencies. Agency intake applications are completed for the BVCA managed program, privately or publicly funded.

Local Network Building encourages the involvement of staff in the strengthening of teams to address a variety of local and state issues, such as Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition, HIV Prevention, the Food Pantry Network, People Caring for People Project, transient assistance, Grocery Shopping Service, farmer's markets, Continuum of Care for the Homeless, Good Beginnings/Family Preservation teams, and other spontaneous local partnerships.



<u>Project FIRST</u>, Families In Residence with Support in Transition, is designed to move families from emergency shelter to transitional housing. Through the use of family development case management process, enrollees strive to obtain and retain permanent housing, increase their skills and/or income, achieve greater motivation and acquire a better life style.

<u>Project FOCUS</u>, Families Opting for Change Using Strengths, is a one-to-one family development process for families to voluntarily engage in changing their lives.

<u>Volunteer Opportunities</u> were provided in various projects, center and office activities, seasonal projects and governance roles for several community, regional and state organizations.

### **Public Transit Service**

The Fillmore County Rural Transit Service has completed its 18<sup>th</sup> year of operation. Reasonably priced transportation was given to 179 different individuals providing 4,688 one-way trips to locations within Fillmore County as well as destinations regularly scheduled outside the county.

BVCA collaborates with the Butler County Senior Service Center in providing a handivan and a driver to provide county and inter-county transportation services to all citizens. BVCA rents a van and a station wagon at minimum expense to the York Senior Services for their transit program.

### **Family & Community Services**

#### **Health & Nutrition**

<u>Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)</u> provided nutritious non-perishable food to 2,766 different women, children and elderly at seven locations covering thirteen counties. Of the 2,174 elderly, 353 were homebound and their CSFP food was delivered to their homes by staff or volunteers. The retail value of the CSFP food distributed totaled \$472,166.

<u>Community Access to Coordinated Health Care (CATCH)</u> is a collaborative effort with two other county health departments to access health rare for Medicaid eligible individuals and the unserved. Medical homes are found, emergency room follow-ups are conducted, diabetes and asthma assessments are completed, and health check visits are stressed. BVCA operates the following services in Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline and Thayer counties through this network:

- \* <u>Kid's Connection Outreach</u> has referred families with children eligible for the Nebraska's Children's Health Insurance. For those with urgent and emergent needs, staff can assess and presume their eligibility immediately.
- \* <u>CALL-CARE</u> is a telephone triage service for anyone to have a registered nurse through a computerized system to assess if symptoms indicate treatment at home, to see a doctor, or visit an emergency room.
- Every Woman Matters Outreach Program encourages women between the age of 40-64 to be screened for breast and cervical cancer. This program offers financial assistance and 28 women were enrolled. BVCA provides services in Gage and Jefferson Counties and partners with five health departments to serve seven other counties in southeast NE.

<u>Immunization Clinics</u> are offered to children 2 months to 21 years old at regular clinics in Fairbury, Friend, Crete, Seward and Wilber with additional clinics in area schools and day care centers. 7,498 immunizations were given. Interviewers, greeters and nurses volunteered 547 hours contributing to the success of the program.

<u>Women, Infants and Children (WIC)</u> served 1,119 different certified women and children at four sites during seven clinic days each month. WIC vouchers worth \$302,600 were redeemed at local businesses for specific nutritious food.

#### **Older Adult Programs**

Foster Grandparent Program has involved 60 different older adults the opportunity to work with special needs children via a stipend or non-stipend basis in Gage Jefferson, Saline, Johnson, Richardson and Nemaha Counties.

<u>Saline Eldercare</u> provides services to older adults in Saline County ranging from medication checks, center and meal program support, telephone reassurance, "Friendly Visitors," information and referral to numerous services, assessment of individual needs and other a senior opportunities and services.

<u>Other programs</u> benefiting older adults are transit services, CSFP, recycled clothing, weatherization, rental housing units, and housing rehabilitation.

### **Children & Youth Services**

1999—A year of growth and new partnerships.

#### **Early Head Start**

BVCA's first Early Head Start Program serving 40 children and pregnant women ages birth to three years and expectant mothers began as a home base program in Saline and Gage Counties. Home visits began in October of 1999. Head Start, Early Head Start, Parents As Teachers, and the Home Health Nurse collaborate to provide comprehensive services to families.

<u>Offices</u>. A new office site was established in Wilber, Nebraska to house the Early Head Start Office serving Saline County. Renovations at the Family Resource Center in Beatrice, where Blue Valley Community Action and the Head Start program are located, made it possible to house Early Head Start and Parents As Teachers.

<u>New Staff</u>. An Early Head Start Coordinator and four home visitors were hired. A Disability Coordinator and Staff Development Coordinator, both housed at the Home Office were also hired out of the Early Head Start Grant.

### **Head Start**

Head Start had a funded enrollment of 264 children in eight counties in Nebraska and two counties in Kansas in 1999. Head Start is proud to now have five buses.

#### Center Based Programs:

<u>Butler County Head Start</u>. New to Butler County Head Start this year was the partnership with Green Thumb. The Green Thumb worker assists with center activities and rides the bus Route.

*Fillmore County Head Start*. Robin Timmerman, Supervisor, and Ginger Wilkins, Family Community Partner, are members of Good Beginnings, which sent immunization information to families on the need for child safety though immunizations. High School football players volunteered at the center. They showed safety issues in football, football gear and explained the reason for padding, and discussed various ball-handling techniques.

<u>Beatrice Head Start</u>. Beatrice has changed from a combination program to a center based program. This process took collaboration efforts between Head Start staff and administrators, the college and the Family Resource Center. The Early Risers Kiwanis, Head Start staff and parents organized a pancake feed to raise money for equipment in the newly renovated center. Lutheran Brotherhood matched \$125. The Optimist Club also donated \$500 to assist in purchasing new equipment. Beatrice Head Start has partnered with the Homestead House where the residents read to the children and do other activities. High school students from the Alternative Learning Center volunteer and do the cleaning of the center.

*Jefferson County Head Start*. Teresa Slama, Family Community Partner, solicited donations for a new computer for their office. Jimmy Montes, a Head Start parent and Maureen Roesler, community resident, have volunteered their services, 15 hours per quarter, and have designated Head Start to be the Wal-Mart "Volunteerism Always Pays" recipient. The Wal-Mart donation which was \$100 per person, per quarter. A new Foster Grandparent began her activities at the center and riding the bus route. The Fairbury High School FBLA's Literacy Project has targeted the center for their monthly visits to read to the children.







### **Children & Youth Services**

1999—A year of growth and new partnerships.

<u>Jewell County Head Start</u>. Jacque Williams, Supervisor, was asked to be a member of the new Early Childhood Interagency Cooperative Council. The Council covers three counties to get agencies to improve networking. The Burr Oak Student Council volunteers to do babysitting during the parent meetings. They are also donating time and money towards the Winter Celebration and providing gifts for the children.

<u>Seward County Head Start</u>. Wal-Mart matched parent fundraising of \$567. The parents purchased a new computer for the classroom. The Kiwanis Club worked with parents to provide a Christmas celebration for the children, including gifts for the children. Head Start received \$300 through a Wal-Mart sponsored Grandparent Grant to be used to celebrate Grandparents. Seward began transporting children by a bus this year that was purchased through program improvement dollars.

<u>Smith County Head Start</u>. The local extension office is providing nutrition education once a month with the Head Start Children.

<u>Thayer County Head Start</u>. Hebron Public Schools donated 4 Apple Computers, 3 printers, and 10 wooden chairs. New to Thayer County Head Start this year is a Green Thumb worker who assists in the classroom and rides the van route.

#### Combination Programs:

<u>Wymore Head Start</u>. The Wymore Head Start Program and parent group sponsored a CPR class in the spring of 1999. Young people and their sponsors from the United Youth Fellowship gathered together to assemble two forts, two slides, a tunnel and a swing set for the playground. Members of the Presbyterian Church maintain the playground year round. They recently built monkey bars, which were attached to one of the forts. K-Mart is sponsoring a shopping spree for Head Start children to purchase holiday gifts for their parents and siblings.

<u>York Head Start</u>. Barb Drake, Family Educator was asked to be a member of the York County Health Board. Their main focus is to make a unified effort of collaboration between all programs so the people of York County can call public Health and access services they need. Judy DeBuhr is a new member of the Good Beginnings Board this year. This is a new program to York County and is in the early planning stages. Judy is also on the steering committee of the CASA program. It is a program for children in foster care. They review their cases and advocate for them.

#### Inclusion Program:

<u>Saline County Head Start</u>. Saline County Head Start is one of the collaboration programs within Blue River Child Development Center and serves 22 children. Head Start children are assigned to each room. Each Head Start family has different needs and so some of the children are considered center based and come every day, some are considered combination and come two days a week and receive 2 home visits a month, while others are served all day, with additional funding from the Department of education. Spanish translation is provided due to the number of Spanish families in the different programs within Blue River Child Development Center. Parent meetings are held in collaboration with the Even Start Program and Early Head Start.

#### Full Day/Full Year:

<u>York County Head Start</u>. Several young men who are affiliated with the Mormon Church in York are doing their two year mission in the classroom and ride the bus. The Retired Teachers Group of York County have volunteered in the center by reading with the children, making cookies, etc. Derrick Fairbanks from the Middle School volunteered in the center and worked with children on the computers.

### **Blue River Child Development Program**

Blue River Child Development Program (BRCDP) is a high quality early education and care facility for children from 6 weeks through 12 years. With a licensing capacity of 115 children, the center is busy. However, even with our large capacity, we continually have a waiting list. We provide infant, toddler, preschool, and school age care year round from 5:30AM to 6:00PM Monday through Friday. BRCDP also operates an evening care program primarily for children who are in the evening migrant education and adult basic education programs offered by the Crete Public Schools. BRCDP is completely integrated with Saline County Head Start. We collaboratively work to provide the highest quality of early education and care for children and their families that we can. Research has shown that children learn better and make better life choices when they are older if they have had a high quality early childhood environment. A high quality environment is one in which children are comfortable, are challenged to think, and where children have adults who love them and model appropriate ways to handle problems and work through difficult times. We work hard to provide an environment that is inviting and enriching for children. Most of all, we work to provide an environment where children are happy and can learn freely. To do this, we work to provide consistency in our staffing. Collaboration and complete integration with Saline County Head Start allows us to keep children with one set of teachers through the day and eliminate unnecessary transitions.

In February 1999, the children's programs completed the first step toward accreditation through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). This first step was an intensive self-study of all aspects of out operation. October 29, 1999, the validators from NAEYC visited the center to observe out program and record their observations. This is the second step toward accreditation. We are now awaiting the decision of the committee that makes the accreditation determination.

Our Lead School Age teacher, Teresa Walker, completed her Child Development Associate (CDA). Teresa has been working on this a long time and will now work toward a two- year degree. Cheri Chalupa, Lead Infant teacher, completed five years of service with Blue River Child Development Program.

Our long awaited infant-toddler playground was funded and completed. A grant from Cable Vision allowed us to create and furnish a separate playground specifically for out youngest children.

The Crete Public Schools and Blue River Child Development Program began collaborating on a new venture, the KAMP 21 program. This program is funded by Nebraska lottery funds and is designed for children from 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. KAMP 21 targets children who either need extra help with school subjects, or who have no child care arrangements and would otherwise be "latch key" kids. The grant began September 1, 1999 and is being directed by Julie Behrens, Blue River Child Development Program's Head Teacher.







### **Blue River Family Resource Center**

The Blue River Family Resource Center continues to provide support services to families and children in the Saline County area. Project highlights for the year include the following:

BRFRC received recognition by the Nebraska Department of Labor as an outstanding example of Workforce Investment. Celebration for this was held in September with many of the partner agencies in attendance.

The Center successfully requested a second year of funding through the Child Abuse Prevention Efforts (CAPE) grant through Health and Human Services. This grant funds several parent education presentations throughout the year, as well as a weekly support group for parents. In March, a community awareness workshop was held to promote child abuse training for child development programs.

In April, a Community Rally was held. Over 600 people attended the rally and heard Nebraska Assistant Football Coach, Ron Brown, speak on the importance of providing nurturing environments for children.

BRFRC, in partnership with Crete Public Schools, became a TeamMates Community. The TeamMates program, started by Tom Osborne and his wife, is a comprehensive mentoring program for youth in  $7^{th}$ – $12^{th}$  grade. This program is now serving approximately 10 kids in the Crete school system.

The Even Start Family Literacy program (Crete Public Schools) was asked to present information on their program throughout the United States in 1999. This program has gained national attention for the unique collaboration that happens within the Blue River Family Resource Center.

Families at Heart, a BRFRC community project sponsored several parenting education and family activities during 1999. These included:

- \* A two-part workshop on early brain development in children aged 0-3.
- \* A Fall Festival for children of trick or treat age and their families.
- \* An educational presentation on becoming an active advocate for children.
- \* A Gingerbread House workshop for the entire family.
- \* Activities to honor National Young Children's Book Week.

Other presentations for parents and childcare providers included:

- \* Read for Joy—a workshop designed to teach caregivers the importance encouraging literacy in young children.
- \* A Health and Human Services childcare grants workshop.

The Blue River Family Center continues to provide seamless support services for families and the community. The ABC Technology project continues to grow and provide computer literacy training to the entire community. One of the most heartwarming projects within the Center is the e-mail accounts and exchange letters with residents of long term care facilities. The children ask questions about what life was like years ago, learn something about the history of Crete and make new friends through this exchange.

The Immunization Clinic continues to provide all immunizations, free of charge, to Saline County residents. The clinic also provides a well baby/well child check free for charge to parents.

During 1999, the Center staff have given countless tours and presentations to groups working towards imitating the collaborative efforts for the Crete community.

#### **BLUE VALLEY COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.**

THE HOME OFFICE 620 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET • P.O. BOX 273 • FAIRBURY, NE 68352 PHONE: (402) 729-2278 • FAX: (402) 729-2801 E-MAIL: bvca@alltel.net

BUTLER COUNTY HEAD START 284  $1/2 9^{TH}$  STREET DAVID CITY NE 68632 PHONE: (402) 367-6037

FILLMORE COUNTY HEAD START 130 SOUTH 8<sup>th</sup> Street Geneva NE 68361 Phone: (402) 759-3699

GAGE COUNTY HEAD START 5109 WEST SCOTT RD., SUITE 412 BEATRICE NE 68310 PHONE: (402) 223-6035

JEFFERSON COUNTY HEAD START 1303 B STREET FAIRBURY NE 68352 PHONE: (402) 729-2161

JEWELL COUNTY HEAD START 303 N WEST STREET MANKATO KS 66956 PHONE: (785) 378-3344

SALINE COUNTY HEAD START 325 EAST  $9^{TH}$  STREET CRETE NE 68333 PHONE: (402) 826-5221

SEWARD COUNTY HEAD START 201 SOUTH  $11^{TH}$  STREET, P.O. BOX 53 SEWARD NE 68434 PHONE: (402) 643-6272

SMITH COUNTY HEAD START 221<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> S Main Street, P.O. Box 282 SMITH CENTER KS 66967 PHONE: (785) 282-6011

THAYER COUNTY HEAD START 335 EADS AVENUE HEBRON, NE 68370 PHONE: (402) 768-6727

YORK COUNTY HEAD START 414 DELAWARE AVENUE YORK NE 68467 PHONE: (402) 362-4299

Wymore Head Start 517 North  $12^{TH}$  Street Wymore NE 68466 Phone: (402) 645-3441

EARLY HEAD START, GAGE COUNTY 5109 WEST SCOTT ROAD, SUITE 412 BEATRICE NE 68310 PHONE: (402) 223-6056

EARLY HEAD START, SALINE COUNTY 214 WEST 3<sup>RD</sup> STREET, BOX 723 WILBER NE 68465 (402) 821-2335

BLUE RIVER FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER 325 EAST 9<sup>th</sup> Street, P.O. Box 304 CRETE NE 68333 PHONE: (402) 826-4216

BUTLER COUNTY FCS 416 E STREET, P.O. BOX 22 DAVID CITY NE 68632 PHONE: (402) 367-4347

FILLMORE COUNTY FCS 130 South  $8^{TH}$  Street Geneva NE 68361 Phone: (402) 759-3564

GAGE COUNTY FCS 5109 WEST SCOTT RD STE 402 BEATRICE NE 68310 PHONE: (402) 223-6034

JEFFERSON COUNTY FCS 608 14<sup>th</sup> Street Fairbury NE 68352 Phone: (402) 729-5568

POLK COUNTY FCS 460 NEBRASKA AVENUE, P.O. BOX 63 OSCEOLA NE 68651 PHONE: (402) 747-2102

Saline County FCS 245 East  $9^{TH}$  Street Suite 1 Crete NE 68333 Phone: (402) 826-2376

SEWARD COUNTY FCS 640 SEWARD STREET, P.O. BOX 342 SEWARD NE 68434 PHONE: (402) 643-6425

THAYER COUNTY FCS 135 NORTH  $4^{TH}$  STREET, P.O. Box 264 Hebron NE 68370 Phone: (402) 768-6704

YORK COUNTY FCS 3401 NORTH LINCOLN AVENUE YORK NE 68467 PHONE: (402) 362-3516

BUTLER COUNTY TRANSIT 592 D STREET DAVID CITY NE 68632 PHONE: (402) 367-6131

FILLMORE COUNTY TRANSIT 1120 F STREET GENEVA NE 68361 PHONE: (402) 759-3345

FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM 5109 WEST SCOTT RD STE 415 BEATRICE NE 68310 PHONE: (402) 223-6036

SALINE COUNTY ELDERCARE 109 WEST 3<sup>RD</sup> STREET, P.O. BOX 812 WILBER NE 68465 PHONE: (402) 821-3330

BLUE VALLEY CRISIS INTERVENTION SALINE OFFICE P.O. BOX 371 CRETE NE 68333 PHONE: (402) 826-5835

HOUSING & RURAL DEVELOPMENT SITES:

CRESTLAND, LTD., Beatrice, Nebraska EAST MEADOWS, LTD., Crete, Nebraska WEST MEADOWS, LTD., Crete, Nebraska TRAILVIEW, LTD., Hebron, Nebraska PINE GROVE, LTD., Wymore, Nebraska VALLEY HEIGHTS, LTD., Fairbury and Beatrice, Nebraska

DORCHESTER 4-PLEX, Dorchester, Nebraska

DUPLEXES LOCATED IN: Geneva, Nebraska (3) Grafton, Nebraska Fairmont, Nebraska Exeter, Nebraska Ohiowa, Nebraska

SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES LOCATED IN: Fairbury, Nebraska Milligan, Nebraska Crete, Nebraska









# Mission Statement

To build upon strengths by providing diverse and innovative opportunities to impact personal responsibility, family well-being, and community development.













### Credits

Editor: Heather Noell

Narratives & Statistics Assembled By: Richard Nation Don Deats Kathryn Molczyk Anita Schmidt Jerri Kerr Robin Mayer Ardith Hoins Loree Rix-Crouse Faith Medina Kim Buser Melody Hobson