Blue Valley Community Action

Annual Report 2001-2002

Serving the People of Southeastern Nebraska and North Central Kansas. 1966-2003

December 2002

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From the Board President ...

As the 2003 President of the Governing Board of Blue Valley Community Action, I will have the opportunity to oversee the growth of an organization that has been helping the area for over thirty-five years. I thank my fellow Board Members for their confidence and look forward to an exciting year.

Blue Valley Community Action's Board consists of low-income residents elected by their peers; county board members selected by each county government; and private sector interests from religious representatives and civic organizations to business and industry leaders. Recently the Board has added a representative from the Youth Empowerment Council. This unique diversity of governing Board Members has allowed for thorough consideration when critical decisions are agreed to on the large variety of projects the organization undertakes.

Projects that are on the 2003 agenda include completing sixteen homes in Crete, expanding the offices in Fairbury, investigating expansion of the York centers, remodeling the youth center in Fairbury and beginning construction of a series of homes throughout York County. These are the building projects. The organization is also expanding programming. The new maternal and child health program and increasing minority health services will lead to expanded emphasis in that area. Juvenile Services will also be expanded, as Blue Valley Community Action participates in the new "Freedom Corps" as part of AmeriCorps and adds programming with the new youth resource center. While it may not match last year's 50% growth, it promises to be another busy year.

Blue Valley Community Action does not do all it does alone. Without the support and assistance of our neighbors and friends. within the multi-county service area, many of our efforts would not be successful. The volunteers number into the thousands, so I cannot list them here, but we very much appreciate each and every one of you. If you have not been part of our efforts, or if you haven't done so recently and wish to join us in our partnership to help people and change lives, please contact your local Blue Valley Community Action office or call the main office. If you want to know more about us, please visit our website at www.bvca.net, contact our office in your area, call the main office or read on in this annual report.



Richard Nation, Executive Director (right) and Willis Luedke, 2003 Board President

Board of Directors 2001-2002

Executive Committee Dwight Nichols, President Willis Luedke, Vice President Mary Campbell, Secretary Bonnie Schoenbeck, Treasurer James Klute, Planning Fern Shamburg, Legislative

Additional Members

George Scholz Anna Kinnison Evelyn Uphoff Albert Simacel Shirley Hall Karen Elznic Daniel Hall Harlan Hagemeier David Swavely Len Hawkins Judy Doerr James Weichel Fern Shamburg Michael Simonsen Don Schneberger Joyce Knudson Larry Barrett Punky Reisdorff Ray Naber Velma Lutz Lucinda Johnson Lawrence Traudt Daryl Ream Roberta Woolston James Klute Bob Wolfe Randy Givens Arlene Blair Larry Kramer Brock Elsen

... From the Executive Director

Regardless of whether you thought the new millennium began in 2000 or 2001, we are now definitely in the early years of the twenty-first century. Blue Valley Community Action has had to ask itself if we were ready. I think the answer is "yes" in most respects and "getting there" in some others.

Our Field Offices have now been connected electronically to the Home Office, thus cutting back on paper flow and mail costs. Many of our systems have been adjusted with newer technology. Our facilities have undergone a review to plan for future growth and modernization needs. The Home Office will see an addition completed within the year and there are initial discussions for expansions in York, Fairbury and Crete.

Blue Valley Community Action also held its first agency health fair at the end of the year. Staff were offered flu shots, blood draws, stroke assessments, bone density and education on a variety of health options and lifestyle choices. As part of the 21st Century changes going on in our area, we participated in projects that helped many new immigrant families learn of the availability of such services, which they have not always accessed or which may not have existed in their native lands. Regardless of background, most folks strive for self-reliance.

In keeping with the goal of self-sufficiency for all our clients, our organization is seeking to become more self-reliant to set the example. We already self-insure the medical needs of our employees and for several years have self-insured older vehicles. We've established reserve accounts to help with facility maintenance and vehicle repairs. Many of our programs are looking to the future with hopes of eventually being self-sustaining by utilizing revolving loan programming or investor financing.

We are, however, a charitable organization and much of what we do requires contributions and grants to pay the costs of services. As we help folks in need over the tough times, we need and generally get the support of local businesses, churches, organizations and residents—most frequently former clients. This need will likely be with us always. So we hope the support continues as well.

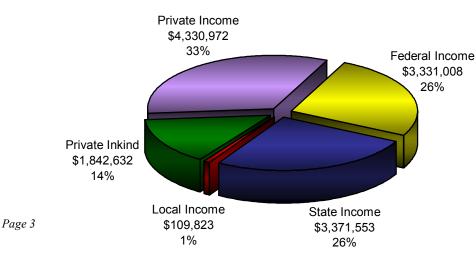
One day, our desire is that all the residents of our area will feel the dignity that comes with self-reliance. In the meantime, BVCA will continue doing what it can to smooth the path to self-sufficiency for those who face greater challenges than we fortunate ones.

We hope as you review this annual report, you'll remember the effort of our clients as they struggle to overcome adverse situations and the dedication of Blue Valley Community Action's staff, whether paid or volunteer as they offer support. We hope you are moved to contribute your part to bettering the lives of those around you and, perhaps, help us with our efforts.



Blue Valley Community Action Resources & Support

STATE OF NEBRASKA GRANTS:		STATE OF KANSAS GRANTS:
AmeriCorps	\$91,551	Food Programs \$9,507
CSFP (Commodity Distribution)	*\$80,224	
WIC (Health & Nutrition)	*\$149,708	UNITED WAY SUPPORT:
NHAP (Homeless Assistance)	\$85,694	Cornhusker United Way \$5,600
Maternal Health	\$57	Gage County United Way \$3,450
Immunization	\$27,361	York United Way \$2,538
Sexual Assault	\$28,901	United Way of America \$28,677
Domestic Violence	\$99,817	Total \$40,265
VOCA (Victims of Crime Assistance)	\$106,737	DDIVATE FOUNDATION CURPORT
CSBG (Community Services)	\$290,995	PRIVATE FOUNDATION SUPPORT:
Training Institute (Staff Developmen	nt) \$2,936	NE Children & Families Foundation \$1,584
Child Care Food	\$95,577	PRIVATE INVESTMENT REVENUES:
Hispanic Healthcare	\$75,854	Self Insurance Fund \$177,112
Juvenile Justice	\$27,481	Corporate \$38,301
SESAME	\$138,710	Pickles \$59,044
CHDO (Housing Development)	\$22,187	Administration Fees \$39,823
EBT/VITA	\$8,376	Management Fees \$141,060
ESGP (Emergency Shelter)	\$24,450	Development Fees \$4,421
FEMA	\$5,393	Revolving Loan Programs \$91,645
DOE Weatherization	\$102,385	Blue River SPRING Grant \$26,846
Parenting Education	\$18,334	Total \$578,252
Jefferson County Good Beginning	_	10tai \$378,232
LIEAP Weatherization	\$153,553	RENTAL INCOME:
Every Woman Matters	\$87,894	Corporate Rents \$106,413
Continuity (Child Education)	\$8,080	Fillmore County Units \$61,793
Homeowner Assistance	\$131,059	HOME Rents \$30,121
Respite	\$65,235	Blue River Family Resource Center \$94,050
Youth Services	\$6,848	Valley Heights \$89,972
Lead Screening	\$1,334	Diller Units \$16,769
Early Childhood Initiative	<u>\$20,776</u>	Dorchester Units \$14,766
Total	\$1,966,195	Osceola Units \$28,000
*Value of Commodities Distributed:	\$592,792	Total \$441,884



BVCA's 2001-2002 Total Revenues: \$12,985,988

Blue Valley Community Action Resources & Support

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT:		Local Private Support:	
Butler County	\$4,366	Pantries	\$21,820
Fillmore County	\$3,287	Clothing Sales	\$103,733
Gage County	\$11,403	In-Kind Contributions	\$1,842,632
Jefferson County	\$4,161	Local Donations	\$34,527
Polk County	\$2,825	Project First	\$12,423
Saline County	\$8,994	Scholarship Fund	\$2,021
Seward County	\$8,219	Local County Projects	\$30,518
Thayer County	\$3,031	Total	\$2,047,674
York County	\$7,243		
City of Lincoln	\$47,183	OTHER REVENUES:	
Cities of Crete, Friend, & Wilber	\$6,720	Fillmore Transit	\$63,049
Communities of Swanton, DeWitt	,	Butler Transit	<u>\$970</u>
Tobias Western, & Dorchester	<u>\$2,391</u>	Total	\$64,019
Total	\$109,823		
		CONSTRUCTION/ASSET FUNDING	.* ·
U.S. GOVERNMENT DIRECT GRA	NTS:	Midtown Apartments Osceola	\$257,391
Head Start	\$1,747,237	Prairie Wood	\$1,636,254
Foster Grandparents	\$201,189	Diller 4-Plex	\$10,964
CATCH Network	\$152,764	Bar-None	\$180,699

\$699,948

\$161,211

\$10,052

\$358,607

\$3,331,008

\$1,031,161

\$208,547

\$135,810

\$3,461,486

\$660

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LOCAL FEES:

Early Head Start

Parent Information Center

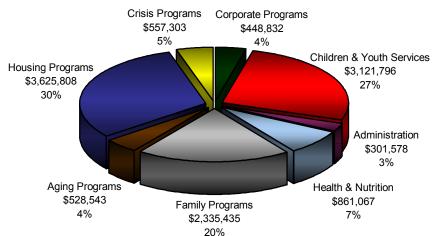
HUD Supportive Housing

Total

Rural Health Outreach

Blue River Child Development	\$335,301
Other Local Fees	<u>\$6,198</u>
Total	\$341,499

BVCA's 2001-2002 Total Expenses: \$12,759,798



Valley Heights II

Fairmont/Exeter

Other Construction

Blue Terrace CROWN

Total

^{*}BVCA is the general partner in 8 housing partnerships not included in these figures. See Page 10 for a listing.

The Promise of Community Action

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

During 2001-2002 12,979 individuals were served by BVCA.

Client Poverty

Below 185% of Poverty: 86.5%

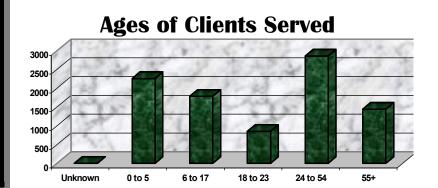
Below 80% of Poverty: 48.2%

Between 80% & 125% of Poverty: 26.9%

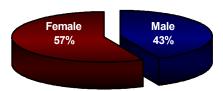
Between 125% & 185% of Poverty: 11.4%

Above 185% of Poverty: 3.8%

Unknown Income Levels: 9.7%



Gender Breakdown

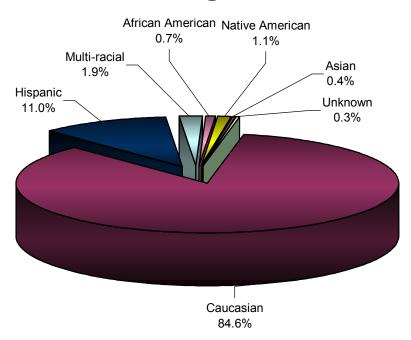


Poverty vs. Welfare

While more than 95.8%* are below 185% of poverty, only 4.9% are on welfare (TANF/AFDC)

* of those reporting income levels

Ethnic Background



Blue Valley Community Action's Mission Statement

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

Family Structure Marital Status: 51.7% Never Married 25.3% Married 7.7% Widowed 7.0% Divorced 5.7% Living Together 2.6% Separated Parental Status: 22.0% Two Parents w/ Children 8.4% Single Parent w/ Children 1.3% Non-custodial Parent 2.8% About to Become a Parent 18.4% Two Adults, No Children 47.1% Has Never Been a Parent Average Family Size: 2.6 persons

Education		
4.7%	College Graduates	
7.4 %	High School Graduates and Some College	
27 %	High School Graduate	
14.9%	Did Not Graduate High School	
23.1%	Current K-12 Student	
22.9%	Pre-School Age	

Medical Insurance

28.3%	Kids Connection
15%	Medicaid
8.4%	Medicare
.1%	Native American Health
22.4%	Private Insurance
25.8%	No Insurance

The Seven Principles of Community Action

OPENING DOORS AND LEADING THE WAY We provide access to the opportunities people need to improve their lives, to help themselves and each other.

TURNING HOPE INTO REALITY We identify the needs of the entire community, collaborate with others in the community and take action to improve life for everyone in the community.

EMPATHIZING Our staff and volunteers are from the community they serve.

TREATING PEOPLE WITH RESPECT We treat people the way we want to be treated.

SAYING "YES" If we do not provide the needed service, we will link you to those who do.

GIVING A VOICE TO THE POOR Through our advocacy, we seek to make society more flexible and responsive to the needs of the poor.

MIRRORING THE DIVERSITY OF OUR COMMUNITIES Our local boards include low-income people, local public officials, business and community groups.

HEALTH SERVICES

BVCA operates WIC (Women, Infants and Children), EWM (Every Woman Matters), Immunizations, the many CATCH II programs and certain screenings.

- * Nurse Triage Calls: 401 (Oct 01-Sept 02), up 157% from last year.
- * 323 individuals were assisted with Respite Services.
- * 87 children were enrolled in Kids Connection.
- * 473 individuals received Nurse Case Management.
- * 1,550 women and children were examined in the WIC program.
- * Immunizations were given to 2,761 children for a grand total of 6,290 shots.
- Diabetes was found in 30 persons completing our survey.
- * EPSDT Reminders (health checks): 817 families.
- * 752 persons enrolled in Medicaid are receiving CATCH services.
- * 290 Head Start & Early Head Start children received dental screenings.
- * 141 persons without a family physician were found medical homes.
- * EWM applications (breast cancer awareness): 212; 53 women enrolled in EWM (assisted with treatment costs).
- * 1,318 PHONE (Public Health Outreach, Nursing and Education) follow-up calls.









"I have to have surgery. This

respite day gave me the

opportunity to get all my

Christmas shopping done before my surgery. This was a

great day!"—BVCA Respite

Client who provides everyday

care for a family member.

NUTRITION SERVICES

- * Head Start provided 47,480 meals and 1,525 snacks to children.
- * Commodity Supplemental Food Distribution: 1,394 families per month.
- * 69,867 days of food were provided from food pantries.
- * Pantry users in 2002 (10/01-9/02): 2,147 families.
- * Volunteer hours at commodities clinics: 1,420.5 hours.
- * Value of volunteers at commodity clinics: \$7,316.
- * 1,935 meals were provided to domestic abuse victims.
- * Blue River Family Resource Center provided 22,857 meals and 11,887 snacks to children.







HOMELESS SERVICES

"We had no where to go until we were referred to Blue Valley Community Action...they offered us all the help we had been needing..."
—BVCA Housing Client.

- Homeless Prevention: 326 families were helped with rent and/or utilities.
- * 248 homeless families were assisted with food, shelter, transportation and case management.
- * 34 families participated in Project FIRST (transitioning homeless to permanent housing).
- * 90 households (264 individuals) were provided safe lodging, food, transportation, counseling, medical and legal referrals along with case management options for a safe future.
- * Provided clothing to 153 individuals.



"There is a difference between charity and finding a great bargain. Were else can you find 50 cent shoes and a dollar sports shirt?"

—BVCA Thrift Store Shopper



FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

Thirty-four families in BVCA's family development projects worked to initiate positive changes in their lives. Both Project FIRST (dealing with homeless) and Project FOCUS (for families trying to make specific, major life direction changes) use the family development process.

"Look where I was, look where I am now!"—former BVCA Homeless Client in Project First.



Pictured above is Damarais Barney, a volunteer Spanish translator.

During the past year, the Blue River Family Resource Center provided a wide variety of services in the Crete area. Programs included education for children and adults, English as a Second Language classes, Migrant Education for both children and adults, computer literacy training, Health and Wellness programs, Hispanic Healthcare Program, community education, emergency assistance, mental health and family strengthening programs. Ten families have been given Parenting Education classes and at-home courses. An e-mail services for parenting support and a resource library is now available for parents, foster parents and childcare providers.

OUTREACH SERVICES

BVCA provides outreach services to families in need. These services include family development case management, home visitation, education, information and referrals.

Family development families:

- * 92% raised their incomes after only 6 months in the project.
- * 54% raised incomes again from 6-12 months of enrollment.
- * 92% of families entering our homeless case management project have permanent housing after completion of the program.

Information and referral services: 3.806 referrals for 721 households.

A former BVCA Client after a return visit, turned and said to a staff member, "Lady, you have no idea how much you saved my life."

"...Thank you and your organization for the beautiful furnace, windows and weatherization. I am truly blessed."—BVCA Client

"I told (a former client) how glad I was about her success. She told me she could not have done it if it had not been for me and Blue Valley Crisis Intervention. This made my day!"—BVCA Staff Member





EMERGENCY SERVICES

- * Value of contributions of food, clothing and other goods: \$1,155,859.20.
- * Days of food provided from pantries: 69,867 days.
- * 19 families were provided with safe furnaces.
- 99 homes were weatherized.
- * 103 domestic abuse families were sheltered.
- * 704 shelter beds were provided for abuse victims.
- * 82 clients participated in domestic abuse case management.
- * 160 Crisis Intervention Information Presentations were given.
- 4,208 individuals attended presentations on Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault.
- * 119 families were served for miscellaneous emergencies.
- * 1,181 calls were received on the Domestic Abuse Crisis Line.
- * Domestic Abuse Awareness presentations were given at 12 schools

"Without the help of BVCA, my sons and I couldn't have escaped the domestic abuse situation we were in. God bless people like you."—BVCI Client

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

BVCA operates the Fillmore County Rural Transit Service. Rides are available, for a small fee, to the general public, with elderly and handicapped residents given priority.

Last year, 6,486 trips were made for 145 passengers.

"I don't know what I'd do without my ride."



HOUSING SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT



BVCA rents 150 housing units, which it has built over the past seven years. The organization also manages 17 units for a private developer, is currently developing sixteen units in Crete and has purchased and rehabbed eight more units in Exeter and Fairmont.

Bar-None Demonstration: Nebraska Correctional Inmates assist with area housing providing homes built near the prison. Five homes have gone to BVCA so far, with more planned.

The organization has built apartment houses, but now primarily builds individual family units via its "lease to own" projects for young families struggling to get a start in home ownership, it helps with affordable housing for senior citizens or for retired, fixed-income residents.

BVCA assisted 60 families with down payment assistance or low interest arrangements, leveraging \$3,319,410 during the year.

Forty-four families were educated on homeownership methods and responsibilities and regular counseling sessions for CROWN (lease to own) participants were held.

Thirty-three families were assisted with home purchase closings.

Housing Rehabilitation was completed on 4 homes.



"This new housing complex will greatly benefit the residents of Odell and strengthen the community."

—Senator Chuck Hagel

"I know what hard work and dedication it took to bring this project to fruition. The cooperation of community, government agencies, business and individuals is being shown at its very best... Congratulations on a job well done."

—Senator Ben Nelson

"...Blue Valley Community Action and Thayer County Bank of Hebron were able to leverage over \$900,000 in federal and state funds for the Valley Heights II elderly affordable housing project. This is an outstanding example of what can be a c c o m p l i s h e d t h r o u g h cooperation...Keep up the good work."

—Congressman Doug Bereuter

REAL ESTATE LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS

Barrier and the same of the	Income	Assets
East Meadows, Ltd., Crete	\$33,332	\$431,931
West Meadows, Ltd., Crete	\$32,204	\$467,491
Pinegrove, Ltd., Wymore	\$24,619	\$516,508
Trailview, Ltd., Hebron	\$18,480	\$546,775
Crestland, Ltd., Beatrice	\$70,766	\$1,457,169
Prairie Woods CROWN, Ltd., York	\$47,791	\$2,842,132
Sunset CROWN, Ltd., Beatrice	\$81,641	\$3,231,674
Total	\$308,833	\$9,493,680
Anticipated New Projects:		
Blue Terrace CROWN, Ltd., Crete	*\$0.00	\$208,547
Total	\$0.00	\$208,547
*Leasing begins March 1, 2003.		

*Leasing begins March 1, 2003.

CHILDREN SERVICES

Head Start and Early Head Start programs served 383 children and their families. The main components of the programs are: Early Childhood Development and Health Services; Family and Community Partnerships; and Program Design and Management. Comprehensive child development includes health, nutrition, social interactions, parent involvement, education and caring, dedicated teachers. This is why Head Start shines within the early childhood development field.











Blue Valley Community Action's Children & Youth Services Department offers training to daycare home providers and other childcare centers via a variety of training venues, including three BVCA satellite locations within the area. Training includes topics such as Building Teacher Assets, Heads Up Reading, Winning Teams, Guiding Behaviors, Developmental Continuum, Building Teacher Skills in Child Assessment, etc.



"I would highly recommend this center for anyone looking for exceptional child care."



The Blue River Child Development Program (BRCDP) serves families with infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school aged children with a wide range of child development and family services. BRCDP served 230 children last year.

Last April the remodeled playground was dedicated with dignitaries from around the state participating including Nebraska Senator Jeanne Combs.

YOUTH SERVICES

Juvenile Diversion:

- * Twenty teenagers graduated from the program.
- * Forty-one additional references were received.
- * 1,053 kids were helped by BVCA's Outreach Education Program.
- * Educational Outreach: staff support at risk youth not yet within the justice system.
- * Twelve youth are currently involved in the SE Nebraska Youth Empowerment Council; one youth also serves on BVCA's Governing Board of Directors.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

BVCA provides several volunteer opportunities. This includes such opportunities as volunteering in clothing rooms and food pantries, at commodity distribution sites, as classroom aides, as a Foster Grandparent, with Youth As Resources, AmeriCorps/NE Reads or assisting with holiday projects. Volunteers can also serve on local County Advisory Boards, Policy Council or the BVCA Board of Directors.

- * 609 lower-income individuals serve on 37 boards, councils and committees within BVCA.
- * 850 volunteers helped out at Head Start and Early Head Start Centers.
- * Volunteers accounted for 23% of the commodity program hours.
- * AmeriCorps and Nebraska Reads are national service initiatives through which individuals provide service to their community. Members provide conflict resolution skills, one-on-one tutoring, literacy activities, and enhancement programming to aid at risk youth. Nine schools were given presentations on drug and alcohol prevention by AmeriCorps members.
- * The Foster Grandparent Program offers lower-income seniors a chance to pass on skills to needy youngsters. BVCA's program has 60 grandparents working 20 hours per week at 21 sites in 7 counties serving 289 needy children. Our Foster Grandparents have 60-91 years of experience.

"I watched a family who was struggling and hopeless become self-sufficient and optimistic about the future...I feel very fortunate to be a part of an agency that makes a difference in so many people's lives."—BVCA Volunteer



"...Please know if ever in your life you made a big difference, know you made that difference for my children and myself. I thank you. God bless you!"—Grateful Client

Blue Valley Community Action

THE BVCA HOME OFFICE

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FILLMORE COUNTY HEAD START 1600 I 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 301 NORTH WEST STREET, P.O. BOX 392 MANKATO, KS 66956 PHONE: (785) 378-3344

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SEWARD COUNTY HEAD START 412 FAITH LANE, P.O. BOX 53 SEWARD, NE 68434 PHONE: (402) 643-6272

SMITH COUNTY HEAD START 221½ 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 12th Street Wymore, NE 68466 Phone: (402) 645-3441

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BVCA HOUSING OFFICE 1009½ MERIWETHER STREET, P.O. BOX 656 BEATRICE, NE 68310 PHONE: (402) 223-4221





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 with the support of communities, individuals, volunteers, and dedicated staff that we develop and maintain our programs and services. Without your assistance and dedication, we would not have survived for 36 years. With your past support, we have grown. With your present support, we thrive. With your continued support, we go forth and meet the challenge of the future.









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