

45th *Anniversary*

Helping People ... Changing Lives

Serving individuals and families in the counties of Butler, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Polk, Saline, Seward, Thayer and York in Nebraska.



BLUE VALLEY COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP



ANNUAL REPORT • 2011

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Our Mission

*Overcoming Poverty by
Helping People, Improving Lives
and Strengthening Communities.*



*Tony Likens
Board President '09-'12*



*Richard Nation
Chief Executive Officer*

A Message from BVCA Partnership

Having completed our 45th year serving the Blue Valley region of Nebraska, we look at the many changes that have occurred and the many challenges we still face to strengthen the region's economy for all residents to enjoy the fruits of what we still like to refer to as the "Good Life".

Blue Valley Community Action Partnership believes strongly that success is built upon the whole community pulling together in partnership to address those actions needed to raise all residents' prospects and prosperity. Our name says it all: the Blue Valley community taking action in partnership to meet the area's needs – Blue Valley Community Action Partnership.

We hope as we move toward fifty years of service we can continue to benefit from the many volunteers, donors, local governments and local businesses that assist us, as well as the many clubs, churches and other organizations we partner with to improve our entire community.

We do face challenges: farms continue to grow with increasing mechanization producing ever more foods, but also requiring less workers and farms, which has had the impact of reducing rural populations and making local businesses struggle with a decreasing customer base. While new products help us increase production, they sometimes do that with unintended consequences for farmers' health. Between the risks of farming and the aging population in rural areas, the need for health and medical services are stretched beyond what available skilled practitioners in the area can handle. New challenges keep coming, now with the likelihood that the federal government will be reducing its contributions to the Good Life.

The Blue Valley area has known challenges before. We will meet this challenge as we have met the many we have faced before with steadfastness in the face of adversity, harder work when facing limited job opportunities, creativity in the solutions we develop and teamwork with our many partners to continue to make America, and particularly our corner of it, a better place to live.

We ask you to join us. You can help us solve problems of poverty by volunteering at one of the many Blue Valley Community Action Partnership sites within our nine-county area. We can always use someone to read to Head Start or childcare children, to help with sorting and displaying donations at our thrift stores, assisting in offices, helping with fundraisers, advocating for the less fortunate locally and at state and national government levels. We need community support to continue our operations. We have enjoyed it for over four decades and are very appreciative of the hundreds of Nebraskans who donate their time and resources. We have foundation and corporate sponsors; we have community businesses that support various efforts every year. We are in fact blessed by the good will of the communities within the region. We hope you will join them or if you are one of them that you will continue to be our partner for the good of our communities and help make the next 45 years and particularly these next five years a good time for the Good Life within Blue Valley Community Action Partnership's corner of America.

Board of Directors 2010-2011

Officers

President—Tony Likens, Jefferson County Private Sector (A)

Vice President—John Milligan, Seward County Private Sector

Treasurer—Kenny Vieselmeyer, Thayer County Low-Income Sector

Secretary—Len Hoss, Gage County Private Sector

Public Sector Representatives

Tony Krafka, Butler County

Kevin Slama, Butler County (A)

Albert Simacek, Fillmore County

Ray Capek, Fillmore County (A)

Dennis Byars, Gage County

Rex Adams, Gage County (A)

Art Craig, Jefferson County

Michael Simonsen, Polk County

Michael Smith, Polk County (A)

Willis Luedke, Saline County

Janet Henning, Saline County (A)

Larry Dedic, Seward County

Diana Garske, Seward County (A)

Chris Frye, Thayer County

Pat Bredenkamp, York County

Bill Barnesberger, York County (A)

Private Sector Representatives

Jon McQuistan, Butler County

Rene Barney, Fillmore County

Randy Williams, Fillmore County (A)

Terry Keslar, Gage County (A)

Deb Valentine, Jefferson County

Joyce Knudson, Polk County

Terrie Peirce, Saline County

Wendy Elston, Seward County (A)

Tim Goldhammer, Thayer County

Nancy Lee, York County

Dale Adams, York County (A)

Consultant

Kristi Most, Early Childhood

Education Consultant

Low-Income Sector Representatives

Judy Doerr, Gage County

Judy Feit, Gage County (A)

Sam Mishler, Jefferson County

Roger Rupp, Jefferson County (A)

Mary Blackwell, Polk County

Angelica Lara, Saline County

Susan Welander, Seward County

Paula Cobb, Seward County (A)

Pat Hergott, Thayer County (A)

James Thomas, York County

Ex-Officio Representatives

Sonia Grupe, Homeless

Hannah Taylor, Policy Council

Jordon Schafer, National Service

Jordan Scott, National Service (A)

TOP ADVOCACY ISSUES 2011
ADOPTED BY THE BVCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Promote job creation programs, policies and legislation.
- Oppose immediate removal of benefits when a person or family initially comes out of poverty on their road to self-sufficiency.
- Resist major legislative cuts in programs that impact the poor and the organization.
- Encourage favorable taxation policy towards low-income and non-profit organizations.
- Promote a living wage and minimum wage increases.
- Promote rural equity in human service opportunities.
- Support healthcare that offers affordable universal coverage.
- Support a streamlined process toward becoming a U.S. Citizen.
- Promote broader coverage of residents by human service programs by increasing the eligibility criteria whenever possible.
- Support the right of low-income to have adequate legal counsel.
- Support healthy lifestyle opportunities for low-income families and individuals.
- Oppose limitations on healthcare, whether it is pre-existing conditions, denial of benefits, reductions of benefits, restrictions on prevention, or excessive costs.



Leadership Team

Richard D. Nation
Chief Executive Officer

Heather Lytle
Administrative Director

Shari Wurtz-Miller
Children Services Director

Ardith Hoins
Family & Community Services Director

Jamie Swartz
Fiscal Director

Janie Fralin
Health Services Director

Kim Vicars
Housing Director

Kelly Davis
Weatherization Director



Our Vision

Our vision is that communities are safe and supportive; differences and traditions are respected; individuals and families are financially secure; and everyone has opportunities to develop their potential.

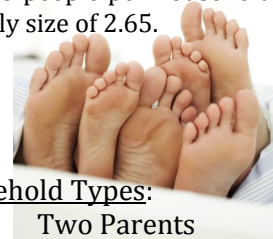
FY 2011 Client Data

Family Structure

The average community family size is 2.55 people per household compared to the average BVCA client family size of 2.65.

Family Size:

33%	One Person
20%	Two Persons
13%	Three Persons
13%	Four Persons
10%	Five Persons
5%	Six Persons
3%	Seven Persons
3%	Eight or More Persons



Household Types:

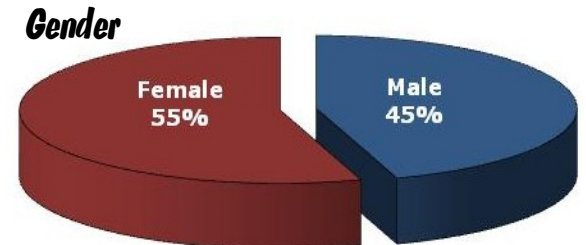
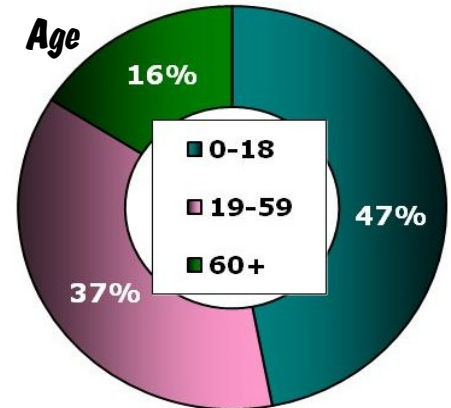
28%	Two Parents
24%	Single Parent
9%	Couple, No Children
33%	Single Persons
6%	Other

Education

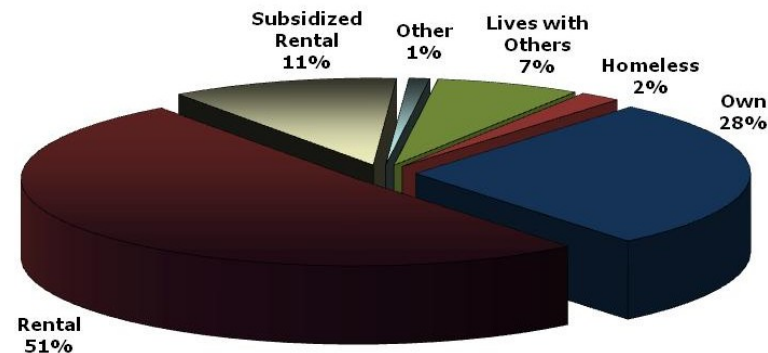
5%	College/Tech Graduates
8%	High School Graduates w/ Some College
26%	High School Graduates/GED
14%	Non-graduating Adults
28%	Current K-12 Students
19%	Preschool and Younger



*During FY 2011
BVCA Partnership served
15,622 individuals.*



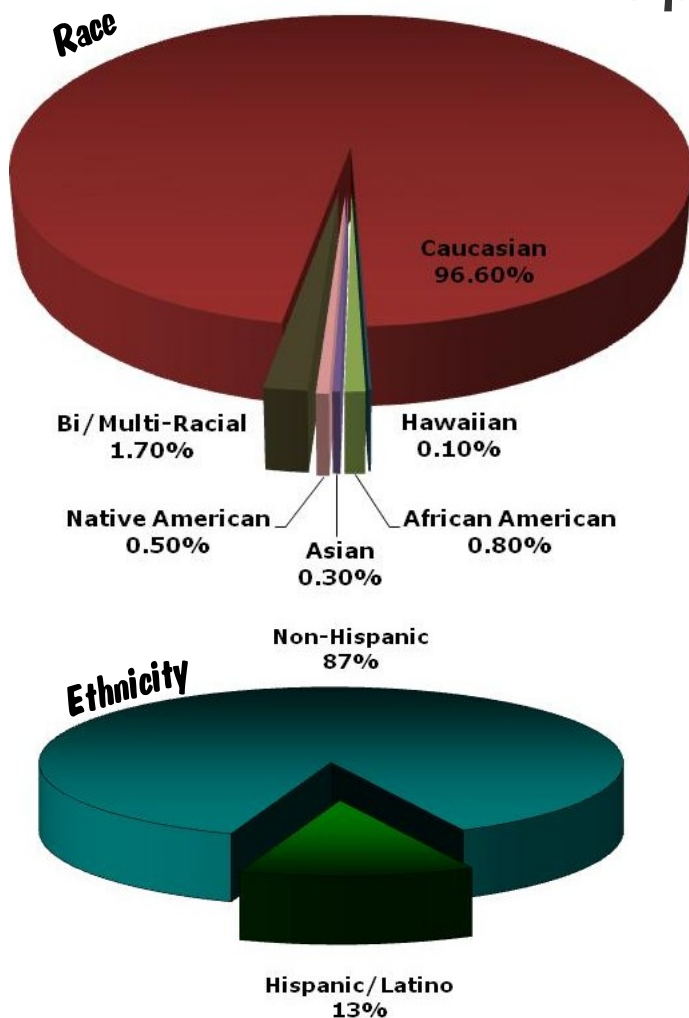
Client Shelter Arrangments



Insurance

	% of Clients	Change From FY 2010
SCHIP-Children's Health Insurance Pool	32.32%	+2.68
Medicaid	9.21%	+0.32
Medicare	5.74%	+0.64
Medicare & Medicaid	6.88%	+0.89
Medicare, Medicaid & Private	4.37%	+1.14
Native American Health	0.08%	-0.01
Veterans Administration	1.14%	+0.16
Private Coverage	10.18%	-5.26
No Insurance	30.08%	+0.44

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Poverty Among BVCA's Clients' Families

Percent of the poverty rate and percent of BVCA clients at that rate:

50% or less	27%	101%-125%	19%
51%-75%	16%	126%-150%	9%
76%-100%	<u>23%</u>	151% or higher	<u>6%</u>
	66%		34%

What does it mean in real dollars for a family of four?

- * 50% of poverty is \$11,175 gross
- * 100% of poverty is \$22,350 gross
- * 125% of poverty is \$27,937.50 gross

Current minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour or \$15,080 full-time gross, significantly below the poverty rate. Even at \$10.00 per hour, the wage for a family of four would be \$20,800 still well below the poverty rate.



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.

Five Years of Accomplishment

The following positive outcomes were documented for individuals and families served by BVCA Partnership:

EMPLOYMENT ▪ 478 individuals obtained employment ▪ 197 individuals learned new employment skills ▪ **EDUCATION** ▪ 1,643 parents improved their parenting skills ▪ 1,434 individuals received Head Start 0-5 services and education ▪ 36 individuals completed post-secondary education ▪ **FINANCES** ▪ 316 households were assisted with tax returns yielding \$334,362 in tax credits ▪ 1,048 individuals were assisted with household budgeting ▪ 350 households deposited \$170,995 in savings ▪ 3,952 households were assisted in obtaining or maintaining their housing ▪ **COMMUNITIES** ▪ 566,388 hours were donated by individuals to assist with BVCA activities and initiatives ▪ 39 households were assisted in purchasing a home ▪ 493 homes were improved through weatherization/rehabilitation ▪ An average of 390 partnerships per year were engaged to expand resources and community outcomes ▪ 327 individuals were provided safe shelter ▪



"This has helped me immensely with heating bills and I would highly recommend the program to others."

"The rehab performed on my home was well needed and the program helped ease the stress of having to acquire financing, which I would not have been able to do. The contractor was very good and efficient."

Programs—A Year In Review

FY 2011

WEATHERIZATION

Available: All Counties

The Weatherization Program was designed to make homes safer, healthier and more energy efficient. Inspections are performed on all heating systems in the home. Efficiency and safety tests are done on all furnaces and water heaters. Combustion Appliance Zone (CAZ) testing is done on all combustion appliances, including furnaces, water heaters, gas cook stoves and gas clothes dryers. Homes are also checked for moisture and mold problems. The house is checked for insulation or the lack there of in walls, attics, crawl spaces and basement areas. All windows and doors are evaluated for possible repairs or replacement. All information gathered is then entered into a computerized energy audit that indicates which improvements are cost effective and those that are not. After the audit, a work order is made and given to the contractors and crews to do the work.

- Homes were weatherized for 369 people in 143 households.
- 48 new, high efficiency furnaces were installed in homes.

DID YOU KNOW...

The Department of Energy (DOE) has tracked fuel consumption on homes that have been weatherized and have found that there is an average savings of 30% for customers in the costs of heating and cooling their homes!

A woman writes:

"I want to thank you for your weatherization program and the wonderful things you do for those who need help. I've always done for myself and wasn't sure how many of my weatherization needs you'd be able to help with, but now there is no longer a list I can't get done on my own. You have filled all those needs. I will pay each gas bill with tears of joy knowing my gas will be heating my home to such comfort and at a lower cost to me."

The crew you sent me was such a polite and hardworking crew. I could hope that others enjoy their polite and hardworking talents. They all deserved so much more than the friendly hug I gave them as they left my home. I only wish I could give them all more of a thank you which is why I'm letting you know how much I appreciated what they have done for me and ask you to tell them thank you from me!"

INCOME TAX RETURN PREPARATION

Available: All Counties

Free preparation of simple income tax returns is available to increase the access to Earned Income Tax Credits and Child Tax Credits.

- 101 participants received \$83,285 in returns.

HOUSING REHABILITATION

Available: All Counties

Low and moderate income homeowners are offered low-interest loans and/or forgivable loans to rehabilitate their homes to meet health and safety needs, limited by type of need or the extent of work needed. The program is designed to bring the eligible property owner's dwelling into compliance with locally adopted housing standards to reduce ongoing and future maintenance costs, and to preserve safe, decent and affordable housing. The Housing Rehabilitation Program also promotes revitalization of a neighborhood as well as the community.

- 14 owner-occupied housing units have been rehabilitated to reduce ongoing and future maintenance needs.

DID YOU KNOW...

Lack of new construction and age of the housing stock in our service area, makes the owner-occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program needed more than ever.

AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING

Available: Butler, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Polk, Saline, Thayer & York Counties

BVCA Partnership manages 191 affordable rental units, including 60 lease-to-own homes. These rentals are designed to make safe, quality housing available to income eligible individuals and families. Funding sources included are Low Income Housing Tax Credit, USDA Rural Development and HOME assisted units.

- 247 individuals/63 families in lease-to-own homes.
- 578 individuals/208 families in rental units.

RENTWISE

Available: Gage County

RentWise provides classes to individuals who are renting a home or an apartment. Classes inform participants about communication, money management, finding the right place, the legal process of renting, the importance of a clean home and also the moving out process.

- Of the 15 individuals that attended the RentWise course, 13 completed the course successfully and 6 obtained rental insurance.

DID YOU KNOW...

1,408 individuals have attended the RentWise course throughout the Nebraska network. Of those, 88% graduated by completing all six modules successfully.



"This RentWise class has helped me learn skills to manage my money. I also learned that I deserve to have a home that is safe, clean and affordable."

"I think RentWise is great for people like me who still need a few pointers on certain life skills."



"We have been talking with lenders and realtors for over a year trying to purchase our first home. HOP made our dream of home ownership a reality."

"Even though we have full-time employment, we don't have a lot of savings. HOP helped make it possible to purchase our first home. As a pastor, individuals often come to me for assistance and I recommend this program to others that are in the same situation as I was a few months ago."

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HOMEOWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM (HOP)

Available: All Counties

The Homeownership Opportunity Program provides assistance for the purchase of existing or newly constructed single-family homes. Funds are available to assist individuals and families with closing costs, down-payment assistance and/or rehabilitation of the home. The funds are a deferred loan that does not incur interest and no payments are due during the first five years after purchase. Beginning in year six, the individual or family will begin to repay the deferred loan with an interest rate of 3% amortized over ten years.

- 8 families/23 individuals were assisted in purchasing their own home—Leveraging \$608,438 privately with \$77,000 in down-payment assistance.
- Seven First-Time Homebuyer Education classes were provided to 25 individuals.
- The HOP program allows families that normally would not qualify through a local lender to have the opportunity of achieving their goal of homeownership. Increased homeownership levels in neighborhoods leads to increased property values and neighborhood stabilization.

DID YOU KNOW...

Of the ten down payment assistance programs BVCA has participated in since 1995, 240 families have been successful in purchasing their first home. Numerous surveys have been completed over the past several years and confirm that lack of down payment and few affordable housing options are barriers that families continue to face.

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICES

Available: All Counties

Local staff provide needed information regarding services, make appropriate referrals to community organizations, agencies and other resources, and complete follow-up services.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Available: All Counties

Individuals and families are assisted with emergency requests including housing provision, transportation and various small emergencies.

- Unduplicated number for all these services = 617 households/1,368 individuals
- Number of individuals receiving emergency assistance:

Rent: 663
Medical Care: 17

Utility : 1,040
Transportation: 124

Car Related Expense: 5
Disaster Relief: 3

Shelter: 88
Clothing : 95

FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Available: All Counties

Individuals and families who are facing a shortage of food are assisted through the generosity of donations by individuals, communities and organizations.

- 3,872 individuals received food assistance.
- 15,850 food boxes were distributed.
- The value of a food box is approximately \$125 per week for a household of four.
- Most food is donated, however, some items must be purchased (ie. milk, meat, paper products and hygiene products). During FY 2011, BVCA spent \$23,931.88 on additional items.

DID YOU KNOW...

BVCA coordinates the Fairbury Farmer's Market, where homemade and homegrown products are sold by local producers during the summer and early fall. In addition, BVCA is participating in the development of the Crete Community Garden and offers scholarships for plot rentals to low-income gardeners and youth groups.

A staff member shares...

"When he called, he sounded defeated. He said he needed food, but probably didn't qualify. I asked him to come in and we could visit. When he walked through the door, I could tell he was ashamed to be here asking for help. I asked him to come into my office where I patted him on the shoulder and thanked him for coming in. He told me his story. He said that his wife left him for another man and moved over 100 miles away, taking their children with her. She left him with a mortgage (that was 3 months in arrears) and all the bills that she said she had been paying, but had not. He worked full-time at a local factory and always handed his checks over to her to "take care of things." After she left, she filed for child support and now ¾ of his check was going to child support and garnishments from those past-due bills. He let tears slide down his cheeks and quickly wiped them away in embarrassment. He said he could deal with the issue of having no money, but how was he supposed to face each day without his kids? He told me that a friend of his told him about BVCA and thought maybe we could help, so here he was. After he told his story, I told him he definitely came to the right place and there was absolutely no shame in asking for a hand when things are looking down. He was worried about his kids and didn't have money for a lawyer, so I gave him the contact information for Legal Aid. He was going to pick the kids up for a visit, but didn't have enough food for four growing children, let alone himself. So I packed a food box with enough food to last at least a few weeks and also added some hygiene items, laundry soap, paper towels and cleaning products. I then gave some information on credit repair and gave him the number to Consumer Credit Counseling for help with his past-due debts. Finally, we got him caught up on his electric bill so he would not be disconnected while he was working on all these other things. We visited for about an hour, and when he finally got up to leave he seemed "lighter." He was very grateful and told me that it was nice to have someone just to talk to about all these things because he didn't have any other family around. I told him he could come in anytime and to keep me updated on how things were going."



"I don't know what we would do without this food. It's a lifesaver."

"Thank you so much for the food that was greatly enjoyed by our family. Love and prayers."



"My family was dealt a blow when my spouse lost his job due to health problems. I've tried to work to do what I can, but it's just not enough and now we have extra medical bills. CSFP has helped relieve my worries that I wasn't feeding my children right. We receive foods in every food group and I am glad to know that I can now feed my children healthy meals. Staff referred me to other services like food stamps and kids connection and told me how to apply for those also. Hopefully with a little help, we can get back on our feet again."

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COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM (CSFP)

Available: All Counties—Sites at David City, Fairbury, York, Hebron, Beatrice, Crete & Humboldt

Government purchased surplus food commodities are distributed to eligible individuals to foster good health and nutrition. Those eligible are children to age 6, women who are pregnant, breastfeeding or have given birth within the last 12 months, and persons 60 years and older.

- A total of 12,700 were enrolled:
 - * 2 infants age 0-3 months
 - * 17 infants age 4-12 months
 - * 1,162 children
 - * 14 breastfeeding or expecting women
 - * 200 postpartum women
 - * 11,305 elderly individuals
- USDA value of food distributed through CSFP: \$217,991.94 or \$18,166/month
- Retail value of food distributed through CSFP: \$435,915.51 or \$36,326/month
- Average retail value of food given each participant per month: \$34.32
- 3,036 miles were driven to deliver CSFP to homebound individuals.

PROJECT FIRST (FAMILIES IN RESIDENCE WITH SUPPORT IN TRANSITION)

Availability: All Counties

Homeless families with children engage in the family development process to achieve self-sufficiency and permanent housing through scattered site housing in the community of their choice.

- Enrolled this year were 31 families with 110 family members.
- Entered this year were 12 families with 44 persons. Of those, 11 persons came from emergency shelter, 7 from domestic abuse situations, 12 were living with family/friends and 14 who were unable to remain or obtain rental housing.
- Program goal results included:
 - * Of those exiting, 83% stayed in permanent housing 3+ months after leaving FIRST. Two families purchased homes.
 - * 58% of enrollees began contributing to their escrow account after the fifth month of enrollment.
 - * Compared to income at time of enrollment after six months, 47.6% of enrollees increased income at 6 months, 44.4% at 12 months and 75% had increased it at 24 months.
 - * 100% of enrollees were referred and assisted in enrolling in mainstream resources for which they were eligible.
 - * 67% of enrollees reduced their debt from 25% to 100%. For example, 6 families owed \$91,636 in debts and \$53,419 was paid on their debts, a reduction of 58%, with no filing of bankruptcy!

HOMELESS PREVENTION & RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM (HPRP)

Availability: All Counties

Individuals and families are given temporary housing assistance to provide a bridge to long-term housing stability.

- 281 households/765 individuals were assisted.
 - * Homeless Prevention: 208 households/579 individuals
 - * Rapid Re-housing: 73 households/186 individuals
- Total Grant Expenditures as of 9/15/11: \$761,711.38
- Of 185 clients who had exited the program that were surveyed, 86% responded that the service was effective and helpful.

A woman writes:

"As a result of domestic abuse, last summer I unexpectedly found myself starting over with two children in an unfamiliar town. Without employment or the means to pay for needed medical services, I was overwhelmed by my inability to provide basic necessities for my children. An advocate from the local domestic violence center referred me to BVCA for additional assistance.

My family's journey to stability began with the support of invaluable programs offered by BVCA. It was with dignity and compassion that we were provided with food, school supplies and clothing. Enrollment into a program offering temporary financial assistance for rent and utilities allowed my family to have the security of a safe home. Within three months, my health had stabilized and I was able to obtain employment to support my family.

BVCA provided much more than a service. They provided the hope and encouragement necessary for my family to recover from a crisis and become stable. It is with gratitude that I share my personal experience with others in an effort to advocate for the collaborative programs that will further strengthen our communities."

CLOTHING AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS RECYCLING

Community donations of clothing and household items are available to the general public for a small handling fee at the BVCA Centers in David City, Geneva, Fairbury, Hebron, York, Osceola and Seward.

- 142 persons received free clothing.

DID YOU KNOW...

Because of BVCA's success with our thrift stores, the community of Crete requested our assistance with the renovation and management of "New Beginnings" thrift store. BVCA staff and volunteers spent over a month renovating the store and continues to manage the operation.



The Seven Principles of Community Action

OPENING DOORS & 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.



"Through guidance and support from BVCA's programs, I've started to turn my life around. I'm drug free, living independently, attending college, working part-time and now making a future for me and my baby!"

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WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC)

Available: Fillmore, Saline, Seward & York Counties

The Nebraska Women, Infants and Children Nutrition Program provides healthy food at no cost, in addition to breastfeeding and nutrition information to help keep pregnant women, infants and children under five, healthy and strong. After medical and nutritional screening, vouchers are given to certified individuals for food from local stores.

- 1,654 individuals/909 households were served:
 - * 416 women
 - * 977 children
 - * 261 infants
- 1,226 referrals to other services were given.

WIC PEER COUNSELOR PROGRAM

Available: Fillmore, Saline, Seward and York Counties

Provides breastfeeding education and support for pregnant and post-partum women to ensure a successful breastfeeding experience.

- 93 women received services.

IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM (IAP)

Available: Jefferson, Saline & Seward Counties

Provides free immunization to keep children and communities healthy by protecting children ages 6 weeks to 18 years old from life threatening and or debilitating diseases.

- 1,534 infants and children received immunizations.
- 4,812 vaccines were given.

EVERY WOMEN MATTERS

Available: All Counties

Provides outreach and education on Breast Cancer Awareness to women ages 40-65 who may qualify for free mammograms from the Every Woman Matters Program.

- 300 women received outreach and education.

MINORITY HEALTH CASE MANAGEMENT

Available: York & Saline Counties

Provides case management to pregnant and post-partum women and their families. Services provided include support with interpretation at WIC and Immunization Clinics, interpretation and transportation for medical appointments, and assistance with application and/or referral for other community resources.

- 447 Hispanic individuals received case management.
 - * 45 men
 - * 138 women
 - * 264 infants and children

MISSING LINK PROJECT

Available: All Counties

Provides case management, breast cancer education, free mammograms, lab work and physicals to Hispanic Women ages 40-65 who are not eligible for Every Women Matters or do not have health insurance.

- 33 women received mammograms who would not have had them without the assistance of the project.

A staff member happily reminisces...

"Two women who had abnormal results received additional case management services that resulted in additional testing and positive outcomes."

FILLMORE COUNTY RURAL TRANSIT SERVICE

Available: Fillmore County

County-wide transportation services within and out-of-the-county are available for a small fee for general public usage.

	FY 2011	Forever
Boardings	7,149	175,438
Days of Service	246	7,234
Miles Traveled	25,863	813,927
Average Monthly Elderly Ridership	383	
Average Monthly Non-elderly Ridership	210	



ONE WAY TRIPS			
Shopping	1,221	Education	1,154
Medical	567	Nutrition	279
Employment	189	Social	29
Return Trips	3,710		
TOTAL: 7,149			



"I don't know what I would do without the Fillmore County Rural Transit Service. I have ridden for the past 15 years. This is the only way I have to get to my appointments."



"My child has really learned a lot through Head Start. I enjoyed all of what they have taught her and our family."

"Thank you for the time invested and interest you showed in my child."

Helping People ... Changing Lives

HEAD START 0-5

Available: Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline, Seward, Thayer & York Counties in Nebraska and Smith County in Kansas
BVCA Partnership's Head Start 0-5 program delivers comprehensive and high quality services designed to foster healthy development in low-income and at risk children. Head Start services are responsive and appropriate to each child's and family's developmental, ethnic, cultural, and linguistic heritage and experience. Head Start provides a range of individualized services in the areas of education, special education, nutrition, social services, medical, dental and mental health.

- Head Start:
 - * 285 children/263 families/1,171 family members were enrolled.
 - * Wait List totaled 134 on first day of school and 125 on last day of school.
 - * 262 health exams were provided.
 - * 268 dental screenings were provided.
 - * 117 were immunized.
- Early Head Start:
 - * 120 children/21 adults/99 families/310 total members were enrolled.
 - * 21 pregnant women were served.
 - * Wait List totaled 58 on first day and 102 on last day.
 - * 106 health exams were provided.
 - * 102 dental screenings were provided.
 - * 273 were immunized.
- 41,021 meals and 8,327 snacks were provided.

AGES	
Prenatal	21
under age 1	47
1 year old	34
2 years old	43
3 years old	122
4 years old	155
5 years old	4
TOTAL	426

EARLY CHILDHOOD COLLABORATION

Available: Crete, Fairbury, Beatrice, Deshler, Hebron & York

The Nebraska Early Childhood Education (ECE) Grant Program for ages 3-5 is designed to award state funds to public school or Educational Service Units (ESUs) to assist in the operation of comprehensive early childhood education programs intended to support the learning and development of children who are three and four years old. The programs increase opportunities for at-risk children to participate in early childhood education program by creating new, expanded and/or combined programs funded with school district funds, federal funds, and/or parent fees, and involve collaboration with Head Start and other community programs. The purpose of the Nebraska ECE Grant Program is to provide high quality early childhood education program experiences that assist children to reach their full potential and increase the likelihood of their later success in school.

- Approximately 335 children in addition to the 181 Head Start Children receive services in these communities because of the collaborations.

BLUE RIVER CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (BRCDP)

Available: Saline County

BRCDP is a high quality, early childhood education and care program for children six weeks through twelve years of age. BRCDP provides developmentally age appropriate educational activities in all care settings and nutritionally approved meals to all children in a licensed facility.

- 191 children were provided with safe and affordable childcare.
- 21 families have more than one child enrolled at the center.
- 27,347 meals and 10,781 snacks were provided.
- BRCDP is open 70.5 hours per week to accommodate the needs of working parents.

INFANT/TODDLER QUALITY INITIATIVE PROGRAM

Available: Gage, Saline & Jefferson

The overall purpose of the Early Head Start Infant/Toddler Quality Initiative (I/TQI) is to improve the quality of infant and toddler care in Nebraska. The program: 1) provides professional development opportunities and other support to family and center-based partners; 2) assists in training and mentoring for their child care partners on infant and toddler issues and development; and 3) observes and report the best outcomes, greatest challenges for childcare partners who participated in the initiative, and measures of quality within the childcare partners' child caring environments.

- BVCA worked with ten providers during FY 2011. One from Saline County, seven from Gage County and two from Jefferson County.

SPECIAL EVENT PROJECTS

Available: All Counties

Time, materials, food, toys, skills and love are donated by volunteers, community groups and local businesses to low-income families through seasonal projects.

- 298 children received school supplies.
- 1,491 individuals participated in various holiday events.
- 312 children participated in "Ready, Set, Go". This program helps kids get ready for school by providing schools supplies and various health screenings.



"Head Start is an awesome program and it also gets parents involved with their child's education."



"Thank You Volunteers!!"

The key to our success rests in people like you, who embody the spirit of greatness by saying, "Yes I can and so can you!" Thanks for your inspiring dedication and tremendous example to the world!!

Helping People ... Changing Lives

FAMILY AND YOUTH INVOLVEMENT CENTER (FYI)

Available: Jefferson County & surrounding areas

Provides a safe and supervised environment during after school and out of school time. Afterschool programming includes: Homework Assistance, Fitness & Recreation, Arts & Crafts, Computer Technology, Alcohol & Substance Abuse Awareness & Prevention, Invisible Mentoring, 4-H, Community Service Projects, Juvenile Diversion Outreach, Youth Leadership Council, President's Volunteer Service Award Program and Higher Education Exploration.

- 191 children attended the center at least once during FY 2011.
- 61 children received home-work tutoring.
- 85 children were involved in community betterment activities.
- 14 children were referred from school officials for issues in school from behavior issues to drop-out/throw-outs.
- FYI's "Feed Your Neighbor" project yielded a total of 227 pounds of canned food collected for the BVCA Food Pantry.
- FYI's signature event is "Project Santa". A total of 57 youth participated, 228 gifts were wrapped and 97 "Thank You" cards were written to soldiers.

AMERICORPS

Available: Varies

AmeriCorps is an opportunity to make a difference. It's a chance to apply existing skills, learn new skills and help others while meeting critical needs in the community. AmeriCorps Members may receive the following benefits: a small living stipend, health care insurance, child care allowance, and an education award upon successful completion of their service year.

- AmeriCorps Members were placed at BVCA's Administrative Office—one with Friends of Blue Valley, one with the Housing Department and one with Health Services.
- AmeriCorps Members were also placed with BVCA's Juvenile Services. There were five AmeriCorps Members assigned to the FYI Center in Fairbury and one assigned to the 429 Factory youth center in Beatrice. Boys Hope Girls Hope National AmeriCorps program placed an AmeriCorps Member at the FYI Center to lead the mentoring projects.
 - * AmeriCorps Members placed with BVCA's Juvenile Services assisted with volunteer recruitment and management, fundraising and after-school programming. They also provided leadership and support for the Jefferson Community Coalition's Safe Homes project. Work with Safe Homes helps to provide parents, guardians and other caring adults with educational opportunities that help to build a brighter future for our youth.

FRIENDS OF BLUE VALLEY

Available: All Counties

Brief Description: Friends of Blue Valley provides volunteer opportunities to those who wish to share their time and talents helping others throughout our service area. Volunteers are recruited, trained and placed within BVCA Partnership and throughout the community. Friends of Blue Valley participates in fundraising activities, such as the annual “Dollars for Difference” campaign and special events.

- 752 individuals volunteered at BVCA’s centers, events and classrooms.
- 60,197.25 hours were donated by volunteers.
- The value of hours donated totaled \$641,100.71.
- Private donations totaled \$72,184.05.
- “Dollars for Difference”, our annual campaign, raised \$7,633.38.
- Faith Based Organizations continue to donate to our charity to assist in helping families in need. BVCA is very thankful for their generosity and support. Contributions totaled \$84,354.04.
 - * \$55,448.12 of donations were received in the form of food, clothing and other miscellaneous items.
 - * Cash donations totaled \$28,905.92.

A Volunteer writes:

“I have been volunteering for BVCA for the past five years now. When I first began, I wouldn’t say boo to a goose. Since my time working in the pantry, thrift store and with other volunteers and shoppers, I have gained a good self-esteem and the confidence to assist clients with their needs. It gives me a lot of pleasure helping people in need. It is quite an eye opener to see how many need help with electric bills, rent and food. I have now realized and seen first hand how many people need help.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Competition is open to individuals in all counties.

BVCA awards competitive scholarships to individuals. Financial need, volunteerism, aspirations and goals for furthering education are taken into consideration. Scholarships can be used for tuition, books and fees associated with enrollment. BVCA is currently seeking donors to help offer life changing opportunities through scholarships.

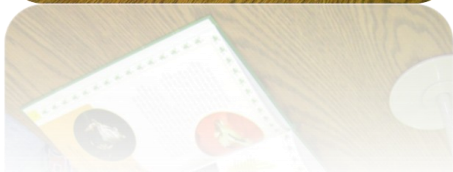
- Recipients of the \$500 BVCA Partnership Scholarships for the 2010-2011 school year were Gladis Zapata of York NE and Emily Huebert of Henderson NE.
- Recipients of the \$500 BVCA Partnership Vocational Scholarships for the 2010-2011 school year were Lydia Magnuson of Crete NE and Rhonda Meritt of Liberty NE.



DID YOU KNOW...

Seven of our volunteers donated more than 1,000 hours during FY 2011 and 11 other volunteers donated over 500 hours! A “Volunteer Recognition” was held on April 27, 2011 at Chances “R” in York to thank the many volunteers for their time.

“Without support from scholarships, attending college would not be possible for me. I am so very grateful for your contribution to my college education—thank you!!”



"That 'Hi Grandma' goes right to my heart."

"I appreciate receiving a stipend, sometimes it's just what we need to get through the month. It's definitely an important part of our budget."

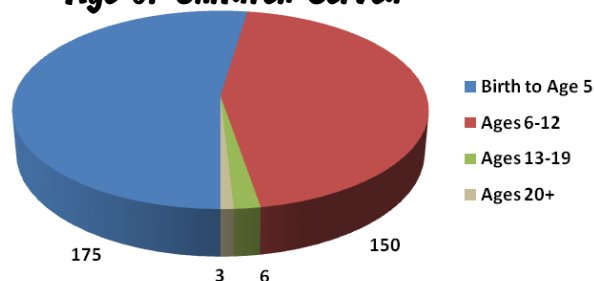
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FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM

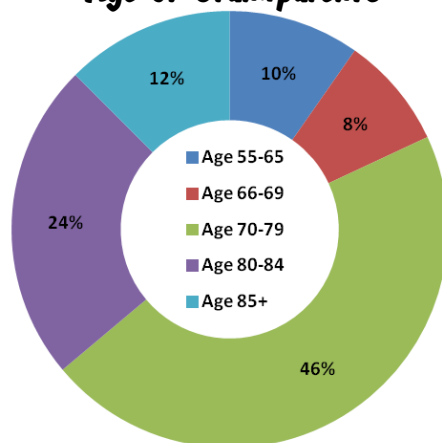
Available: Fillmore, Jefferson, Gage, Saline, Seward, Thayer, York, Gage, Otoe, Johnson, Pawnee, Nemaha & Richardson Counties
Persons who are 55 years and older, in relatively good health, and love children volunteer at least 15 hours per week at various sites during the day to give supportive one-on-one service to children who have special needs.

- 69 Grandmas and 3 Grandpas volunteered with the Foster Grandparent Program during FY 2011.

Age of Children Served



Age of Grandparents



Special Needs	Children	Grandparents
Abused/Neglected Children	3	3
Development Disabilities	18	6
Emotional Disabilities	18	6
Hearing Impaired	2	2
Language Barriers	20	8
Learning Disabilities	300	72
Physical Disabilities	18	6
Significantly Medically Impaired	18	6
Visually Impaired	3	3



Grandpa writes:

"I am writing to tell you I had to buy a belt! I went into the room to get the kids' to eat dinner and I had three kids hanging on me telling me 'I love you Grandpa' and pulling on my pants. That is a good feeling!"

A teacher writes:

"I am so thankful for our Foster Grandparent, Grandma Pearl. She greets us every morning with a warm smile. Children work with her one on one to correct work, try to understand new concepts and to practice for mastery. I have watched as she congratulates a student when they get their work correct. They beam as she hugs and encourages them. She is like a cheerleader, cheering them on to learn more and do their best. Many children do not have a 'cheerleader' and this is why a Foster Grandparent is so valuable in our classroom!"

DIVERSITY EDUCATION

Available: All Counties

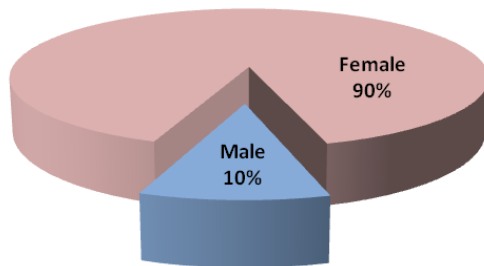
Provides diversity education and training to staff and communities. Raising awareness of cultural differences within our society. Focusing on differences in race, religion, ethnicity and socioeconomics.

HUMAN RESOURCES

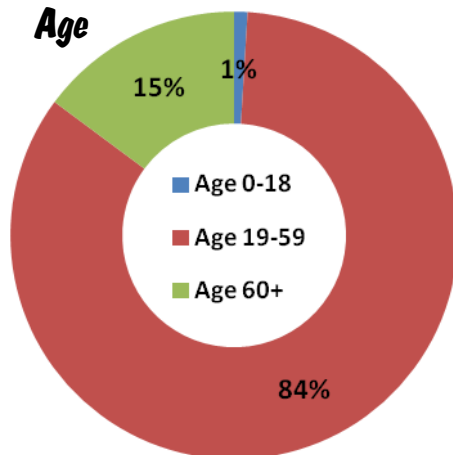
BVCA Partnership employed a total of 209 individuals over the past fiscal year.

- 135 full-time
- 32 part-time
- 42 on-call

Gender



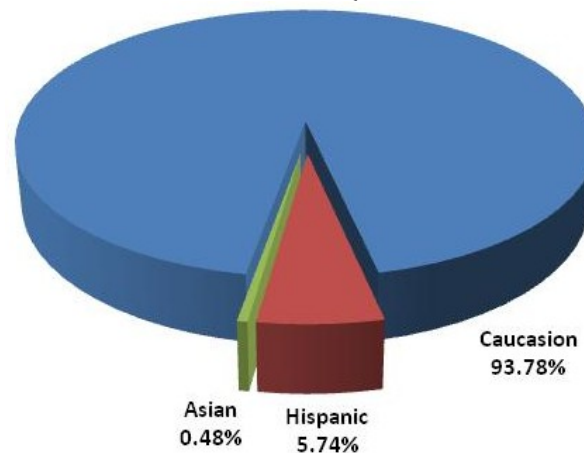
Age



Education

High School Diploma	101
AA	22
BA	23
Masters	2
Certificates/Diplomas	9
HVAC	2
LPN/RN	4

Ethnicity



*DID YOU KNOW...
BVCA's longest serving employee
has been with our agency
44 years!!!*



Households with children were more likely to write a check without sufficient funds in the account and were more likely to pay bills and installment debt late.

Visit our website at www.bvca.net and click on "How We Help" to view the complete 2010 and 2011 Community Surveys.

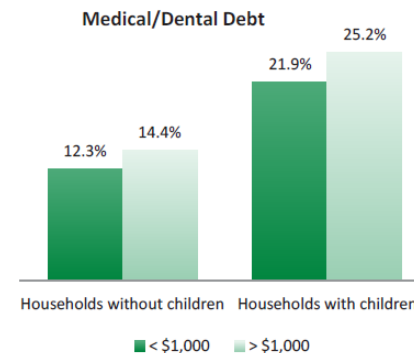
2011 Community Survey

Community Action of Nebraska (CAN) is the state association of the nine Community Action Agencies in Nebraska. Community Action distributed 10,000 surveys across Nebraska targeting adults ages 19-44. The purpose of this survey is to increase our understanding of financial decisions made by Nebraskans and to assess their knowledge and general attitudes about money. Community Action will use the results to evaluate and revise our financial literacy and educational programs to more efficiently address the needs of our communities. Below are some of our findings of the "2011 Community Assessment Survey: Focus Survey on Financial Behaviors among adults 19-44 years old."

MONEY MANAGEMENT & FINANCIAL SERVICES	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I know how to manage my money.	1.9%	11%	56.2%	30.9%
I feel able to set and achieve my financial goals.	4.1%	28.7%	51.6%	15.7%
I know about the services offered by banks and credit unions.	5.5%	26.5%	50.9%	17%
I know how to recognize and avoid dangerous loans.	2.7%	12.5%	2.7%	32%
I know how to apply for government programs and benefits for which I'm eligible.	19.4%	44.7%	28%	8%
I regularly save or put money away for the future.	15.4%	30.9%	34.5%	19.3%

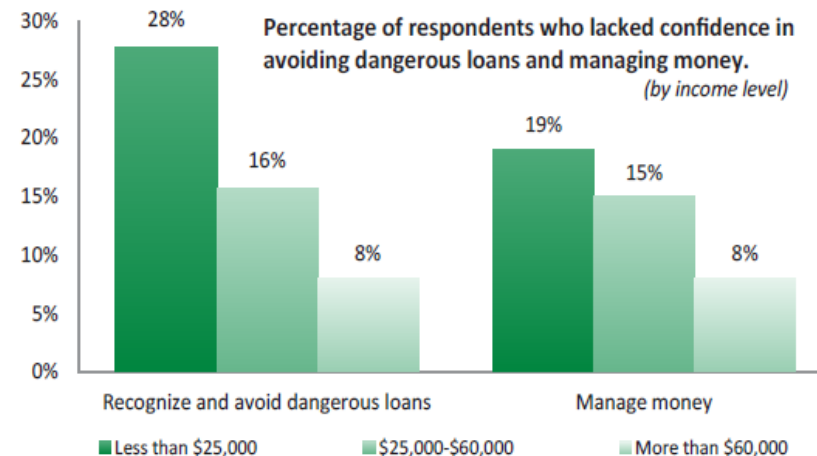
TOP FIVE BARRIERS TO GETTING AHEAD

1. Transportation
2. High Utility Bills
3. Day-to-day Family Expenses
4. Pay Off Mortgage
5. Medical Expenses



TOP FIVE SOURCES OF DEBT

1. Personal Loans—65%
2. Credit Cards—61%
3. College Loans—42%
4. Medical/Dental—40%
5. Business Loans—13%

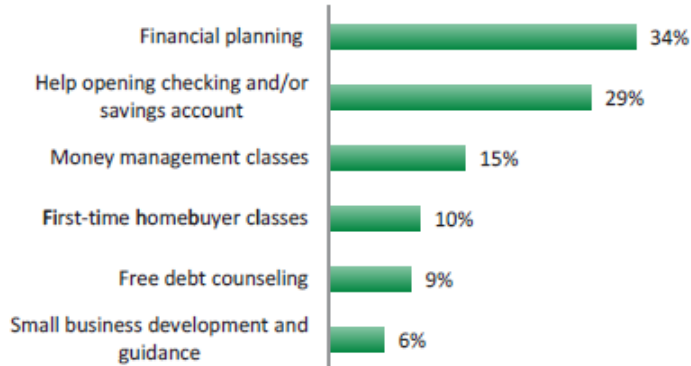


TOP FIVE RESOURCES FOR "GETTING BY"

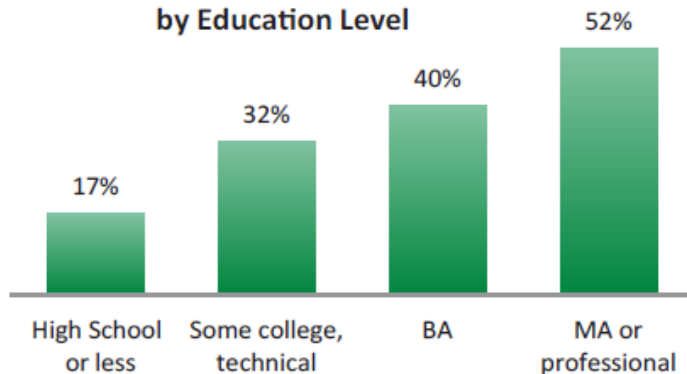
1. The most frequent strategy (54%) was to work extra hours or take a second job.
2. One-third borrowed from friends and family.
3. One in six had either received assistance for rent, food or fuel.
4. One in six used a debt repayment/consolidation plan.
5. About one in twenty households had either used a pawnshop or a payday loan.

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Financial Services Used



Use of Financial Planning Services by Education Level



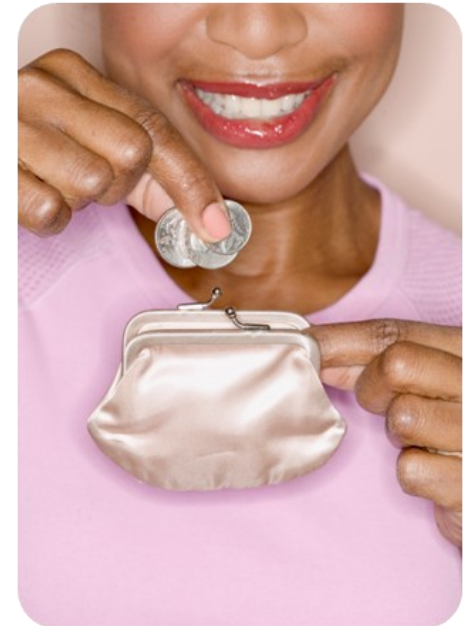
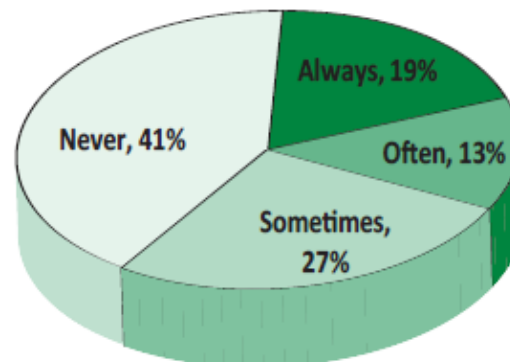
Respondents were asked about how often they engaged in specific behaviors. The top seven are ranked in order below:

1. Felt emotionally stressed about money.
2. Spends too much money.
3. Ran out of money.
4. Repaid installment debts on time.
5. Worried about the security of one's job.
6. Reached the maximum limit on a credit card.
7. Received overdue notices.

A significant portion of Nebraskans were struggling to achieve financial goals.

- About three in four (76%) respondents reported having a savings account, while 24% did not.
- Of those earning less than \$25,000, nearly half (47%) did not have a savings account.
- Nearly half (46%) did not regularly save or put money away for the future.
- For respondents with a bachelor's degree, 32% were unable to save, that increased to 54% for respondents with some college, and to 62% for those with a High School diploma or less.
- For those that earned less than \$25,000, two thirds (69%) were unable to save regularly, which decreases to 26% for those that earn more than \$60,000.
- Only one third (32%) of those that earned less than \$25,000 had a retirement account, compared to 71% of those that earned \$25,000-\$60,000 and 90% of those that earned more than \$60,000.
- 31% said they were not confident in their knowledge of services offered by banks.

How often does your household have a low or non-existent emergency fund?



Three of five households (59%) have emergency funds that are low to non-existent.

When asked "What debt is giving you the most trouble?" the top three responses in both 2010 and 2011 were: Medical, Credit Cards and Utility Bills.



BVCA's 2010-2011 Assets

Beginning of the Year Net Assets:
\$5,387,437.44

End of the Year Net Assets:
\$6,312,081.36

Financial Revenues & Expenses

PRIVATE REVENUES:

In-kind Matching Donations	\$696,791.04
Cash Donations	\$102,254.78
United Way Awards	\$15,820.92
Foundation Awards	\$16,737.02
Local Projects	\$280,860.12
Contracts	\$84,950.61
Fees	\$593,943.09
Rents	\$541,929.28
Corporate Investments	<u>\$240,244.88</u>
TOTAL:	<u>\$2,573,531.74</u>

FEDERAL DIRECT:

USDA CSFP Commodities Value	\$217,991.94
CNCs Foster Grandparents	\$265,754.59
HHS Head Start	\$1,947,727.90
HHS Early Head Start	\$561,054.18
HHS Head Start ARRA	\$1,234.74
HHS Early Head Start ARRA	\$619,745.19
HUD Supportive Housing	\$199,407.01
HUD HMIS	<u>\$28,065.83</u>
TOTAL:	<u>\$3,840,981.38</u>

STATE REVENUES:

NE Housing Trust Fund (HTF) Regional Rehab	\$291,274.30
NE HTF Home Ownership Program	\$102,182.68
NE Homeless Assistance Trust Fund	<u>\$57,874.72</u>
TOTAL:	<u>\$451,331.70</u>

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT:

County Support	\$63,323.00
Juvenile Services Aid	<u>\$9,706.00</u>
TOTAL:	<u>\$73,029.00</u>

FEDERAL VIA STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

HHS via:

Region V Systems	\$19,193.10
Region V-SPF/SIG	\$5,666.48
DHHS Community Health	\$450.76
DHHS Minority Health	\$24,318.10
DHHS Immunization Action	\$33,961.09
DHHS CSBG	\$305,279.49
DHHS NEO Weatherization	\$189,353.74
DHHS ITQI ARRA	\$3,824.86
DHHS ACF Play Space	\$5,000.00
NDE Early Childhood Initiative	\$31,569.62

SSA via:

DHHS Soar	\$4,213.84
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DOE via:

NEO Weatherization	\$93,365.81
NEO Weatherization ARRA	\$825,357.60

USDA via:

NDE Childhood & Adult Food	\$118,175.54
DHHS WIC	\$787,469.00
DHHS CSFP (except for commodities)	\$106,495.22

HUD via:

DED Emergency Shelter Grant Program	\$42,909.78
DHHS-HPRP ARRA	\$365,658.03

DOT via:

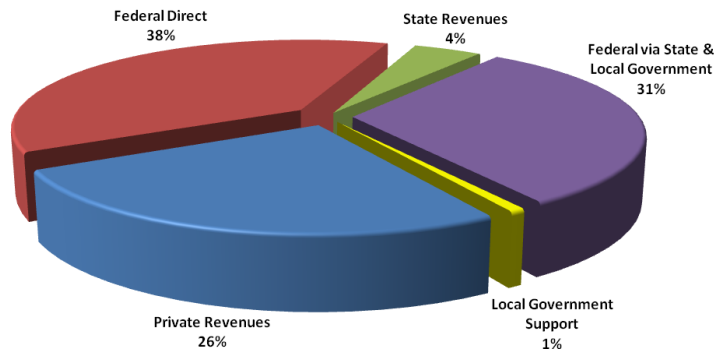
NDOR Fillmore County Rural Transit	\$70,840.03
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CNCs via:

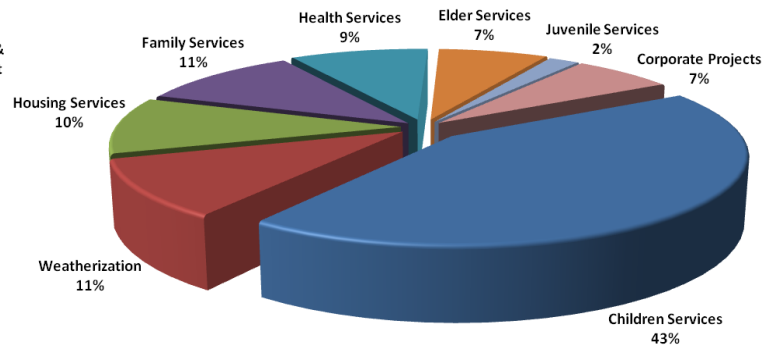
ServeNebraska	\$66,926.96
Boys Hope Girls Hope AmeriCorps	<u>\$3,614.01</u>
TOTAL:	<u>\$3,103,643.06</u>

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BVCA'S FY 2011 TOTAL REVENUES: \$10,042,516.88



BVCA'S FY 2011 TOTAL EXPENSES: \$9,923,039.98



BVCA PARTNERSHIP ACTS AS THE GENERAL PARTNER IN NINE LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS WITH PRIVATE INVESTORS. (SEE CHART BELOW.)

REAL ESTATE LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS*	Income	Assets
East Meadows, Ltd., Crete	\$32,494	\$356,849
West Meadows, Ltd., Crete	\$34,075	\$335,257
Pinegrove, Ltd., Wymore	\$22,720	\$322,826
Trailview, Ltd., Hebron	\$18,791	\$348,078
New Horizon, Ltd., Beatrice	\$57,942	\$793,391
Prairie Woods CROWN, Ltd., York & Geneva	\$75,447	\$1,151,369
Blue Terrace CROWN, Ltd., Crete	\$86,028	\$1,635,769
Sunset CROWN, Ltd., Beatrice	\$84,252	\$1,034,703
York CROWN, Ltd., York	\$67,555	\$1,531,319
<i>*Not included in BVCA audit, as each is a separate company.</i>	\$479,304	\$7,509,561

BVCA PARTNERSHIP LEVERAGE

- BVCA's core funding is the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). \$322,828 was granted last year, which is 3% of BVCA's budget. For every dollar of CSBG, over \$32.99 was leveraged.
- For every \$1.00 of county support, BVCA leveraged \$158.60 of support from outside sources.
- Almost \$23,000 of gaming revenue was generated.
- Volunteers donated 60,197 hours which relieved the organization of the need to raise \$641,101 additional dollars or hiring 28.94 FTE's for each month of the fiscal year.
- Value of contributions of clothing and other goods to thrift stores totaled \$2,984,121.



DID YOU KNOW...

In 1966, BVCA began with a Head Start Grant and a Community Action Grant totaling \$28,000. Assets totaled \$0.00.

BVCA Partnership Offices

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES OF BVCA PARTNERSHIP

620 5TH STREET, P.O. BOX 273, FAIRBURY, NE 68352

PHONE: (402) 729-2278 FAX: (402) 729-2801

WEBSITE: www.bvca.net E-MAIL: changinglives@bvca.net



CHILDREN SERVICES FIELD OFFICES

FILLMORE COUNTY HEAD START 0-5

1600 I STREET

GENEVA, NE 68361

PHONE: (402) 759-3699

fillmorehs@bvca.net

GAGE COUNTY HEAD START 3-5

WYMORE CENTER

517 NORTH 12TH STREET

WYMORE, NE 68466

PHONE: (402) 645-3441

wymorehs@bvca.net

SMITH COUNTY HEAD START 3-5

221½ MAIN STREET

SMITH CENTER, KS 66967

PHONE: (785) 282-6011

smithhs@bvca.net

RIISING STARS

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

THAYER COUNTY 3-5

335 EADS AVENUE

HEBRON, NE 68370

PHONE: (402) 768-6727

thayerhs@bvca.net

GAGE COUNTY HEAD START 0-5

BEATRICE CENTER

5109 WEST SCOTT RD.,

SUITE 412

BEATRICE, NE 68310

HEAD START:

(402) 223-6035

beatricehs@bvca.net

Early Head Start:

(402) 223-6056

beatriceehs@bvca.net

BLUE RIVER CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

325 EAST 9TH STREET

P.O. BOX 304

CRETE, NE 68333

PHONE: (402) 826-4216

blueriver@bvca.net

STEP AHEAD

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

JEFFERSON COUNTY 0-5

1303 B STREET · P.O. BOX 403

FAIRBURY, NE 68352

PHONE: (402) 729-2161

jeffersonhs@bvca.net

SALINE COUNTY HEAD START 0-5

Head Start:

325 EAST 9TH STREET

CRETE, NE 68333

402) 826-5221

salinehs@bvca.net

Early Head Start:

1540 Grove Street, PO Box 352

Crete, NE 68333

(402) 381-0057

salineehs@bvca.net

SEWARD COUNTY HEAD START 3-5

412 FAITH LANE, P.O. BOX 53

SEWARD, NE 68434

PHONE: (402) 643-6272

sewardhs@bvca.net

PRESCHOOL ACADEMY OF YORK

P.L.A.Y.

YORK COUNTY 0-5

225 WEST 5TH STREET

YORK, NE 68467

PHONE: (402) 362-4299

yorkhs@bvca.net

FAMILY & YOUTH INVOLVEMENT CENTER—FYI

FYI CENTER
514 “D” STREET, P.O. BOX 352
FAIRBURY, NE 68352
(402) 729-6510

FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES FIELD OFFICES

BUTLER COUNTY

416 E STREET
DAVID CITY, NE 68632
PHONE (402) 367-4347
butlerfcs@bvca.net

JEFFERSON COUNTY FCS

624 5TH STREET
FAIRBURY, NE 68352
PHONE (402) 729-5568
jeffersonfcs@bvca.net

SEWARD COUNTY FCS

640 SEWARD STREET, P.O. BOX 342
SEWARD, NE 68434
PHONE (402) 643-6425
sewardfcs@bvca.net

FOSTER GRANDPARENTS PROGRAM

BEATRICE OFFICE
5109 WEST SCOTT RD STE 415
BEATRICE, NE 68310
PHONE (402) 223-6036
pioneer-fgp@bvca.net

FILLMORE COUNTY FCS

130 SOUTH 8TH STREET
GENEVA, NE 68361
PHONE (402) 759-3564
fillmorefcs@bvca.net

POLK COUNTY FCS

440 NEBRASKA AVENUE
P.O. BOX 63
OSCEOLA, NE 68651
PHONE (402) 747-2102

THAYER COUNTY FCS

135 NORTH 4TH STREET
HEBRON, NE 68370
PHONE (402) 768-6704
thayerfcs@bvca.net

GAGE COUNTY FCS

5109 WEST SCOTT RD, STE 402
BEATRICE, NE 68310
PHONE (402) 223-6034
gagefcs@bvca.net

SALINE COUNTY FCS

245 EAST 9TH STREET
SUITE 1
CRETE, NE 68333
PHONE (402) 826-2376

YORK COUNTY FCS

3401 NORTH LINCOLN AVENUE
YORK, NE 68467
PHONE (402) 362-3516
yorkfcs@bvca.net

FILLMORE COUNTY TRANSIT

1120 F STREET
GENEVA, NE 68361
PHONE (402) 759-3345
fct@bvca.net





Acknowledgement

Blue Valley Community Action Partnership would like to thank the counties, communities, agencies, businesses, partners and dedicated individuals who make the work of our organization successful and positive for those we assist. Our private non-profit charitable corporation has become a major community resource for those in need throughout the area, as well as local governments. It would not have happened without dedicated staff, community support and the hundreds of volunteers who assist us every year. As we enter our 46th year, we sincerely thank and acknowledge the generosity and community spirit of the people of Nebraska and Kansas who are our fantastic neighbors and friends.

Helping People  Changing Lives

BVCA Partnership would like to extend a special “thank you” to those generous individuals, corporations, foundations, civic clubs, congregations and governmental entities who help make our mission of “Helping People, Changing Lives” a reality. Although this space does not allow us to recognize each donor; every gift—large and small, monetary and inkind—is deeply appreciated.

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