

# BLUE VALLEY COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

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*Helping People. Changing Lives.*

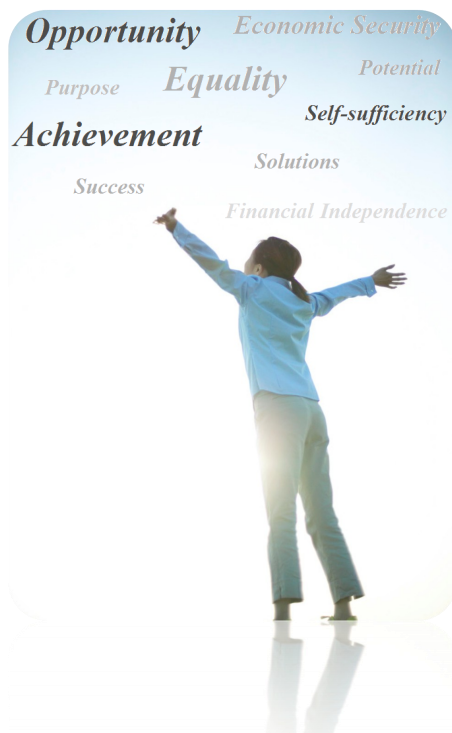


**ANNUAL REPORT • 2012**

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## Our Mission

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



*Tony Likens  
Board President  
2009-2013*



*Richard Nation  
Chief Executive Officer  
1978-2013*

# A Message from BVCA Partnership

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.

Having completed our 46<sup>th</sup> 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".

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 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 second hand stores, helping 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. At a recent volunteer recognition we even recognized an individual who had donated more the two thousand hours within a single year. 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 years ahead, and particularly these next few years, a good time for "The Good Life" within Blue Valley Community Action Partnership's corner of America.

Helping People ... Changing Lives

# Board of Directors 2011-2012

## Officers

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

**Vice President**—John Milligan, Seward County Private Sector

**Treasurer**—Terry Keslar, Gage County Private Sector

**Secretary**—Janet Henning, Saline County Public Sector (A)

## 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

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)

Deb Valentine, Jefferson County

Joyce Knudson, Polk County

Wendy Elston, Seward County (A)

Nancy Lee, York County

Dale Adams, York County (A)

## Ex-Officio Representatives

Staci Francis, Homeless

Hannah Taylor, Policy Council

Michael Springer, National Service

Angela Pratt, National Service (A)

## Low-Income Sector Representatives

Samantha Kosch, Butler

Milda Gray, Butler (A)

Betty Julson, Fillmore

Toni Verhage, Fillmore (A)

Judy Doerr, Gage County

Judy Feit, Gage County (A)

Roger Rupp, Jefferson County

Sam Mishler, Jefferson County (A)

Sandi Peters, Polk County

Mary Blackwell, Polk County (A)

Angelica Lara, Saline County

Susan Welander, Seward County

Paula Cobb, Seward County (A)

Kenny Vieselmeyer, Thayer County

Pat Hergott, Thayer County (A)

Helen Lulow, York County

James Thomas, York County (A)



## Leadership Team

**Richard D. Nation**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Heather Lytle**  
Administrative Director

**Ardith Hoins**  
Family & Community Services Director

**Shari Wurtz-Miller**  
Children Services Director

**Jamie Swartz**  
Fiscal Director

**Kelly Davis**  
Weatherization Director

**Kim Vicars**  
Housing Director

**Janie Fralin**  
Health Services Director

**Kim Robbins**  
Research & Development Officer

TOP ADVOCACY ISSUES 2012  
ADOPTED BY THE BVCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



- Promote job creation programs, policies and legislation.
- Promote a living wage and minimum wage increases.
- Resist major legislative cuts in programs that impact the poor and the organization.
- Support healthcare that offers affordable universal coverage.
- Support a streamlined process toward becoming a U.S. Citizen.
- Support public education regarding discrimination against the poor.
- Support healthy lifestyle opportunities for low-income families and individuals.
- Promote rural equity in human service opportunities.
- Encourage favorable taxation policy towards low-income organizations.
- Promote broader coverage of residents by human service programs by broadening the eligibility criteria without adversely affecting those receiving benefits.
- Oppose immediate removal of benefits when a person or family initially comes out of poverty on their road to self-sufficiency.
- Support the right of low-income to have adequate legal counsel.
- Oppose limitations on healthcare, whether it is pre-existing conditions, denial of benefits, reductions of benefits, restrictions on prevention, or excessive costs.





### 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.*

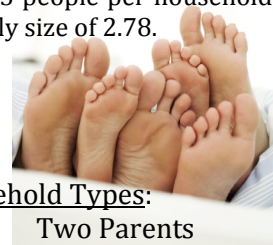
# FY 2012 Client Data

## Family Structure

The average community family size is 2.55 people per household compared to the average BVCA client family size of 2.78.

### Family Size:

42%	One Person
21%	Two Persons
13%	Three Persons
11%	Four Persons
8%	Five Persons
3%	Six Persons
1%	Seven Persons
1%	Eight or More Persons

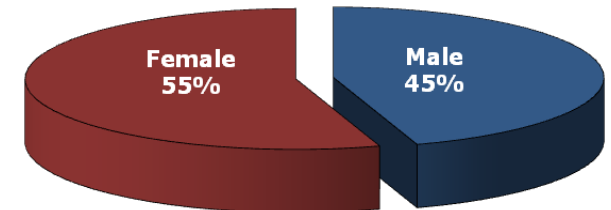


### Household Types:

30%	Two Parents
23%	Single Parent
9%	Couple, No Children
32%	Single Persons
6%	Other

**During FY 2012  
BVCA Partnership served  
14,650 individuals.**

### Gender

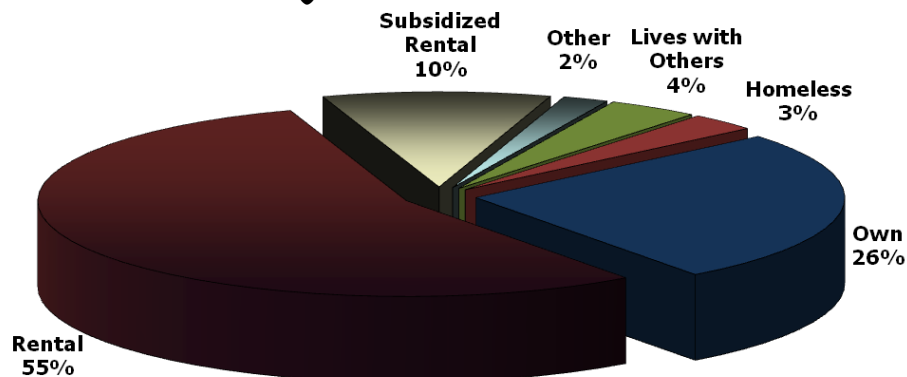


## Education

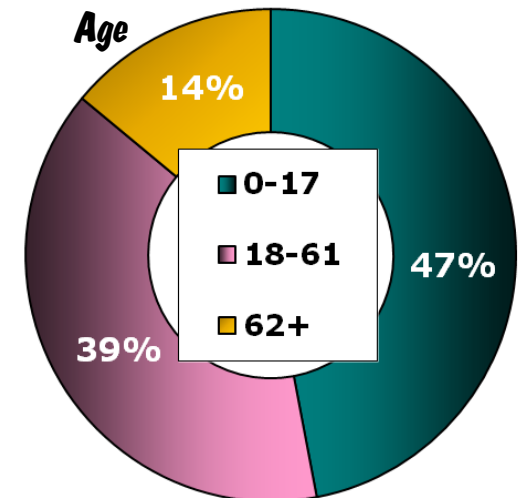
5%	College/Tech Graduates
8%	High School Graduates w/ Some College
24%	High School Graduates/GED
15%	Non-graduating Adults
24%	Current K-12 Students
24%	Preschool and Younger



## Client Shelter Arrangments



### Age



## Poverty Among BVCA's Clients' Families

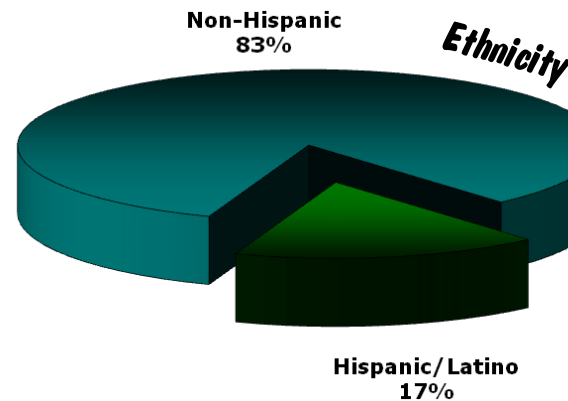
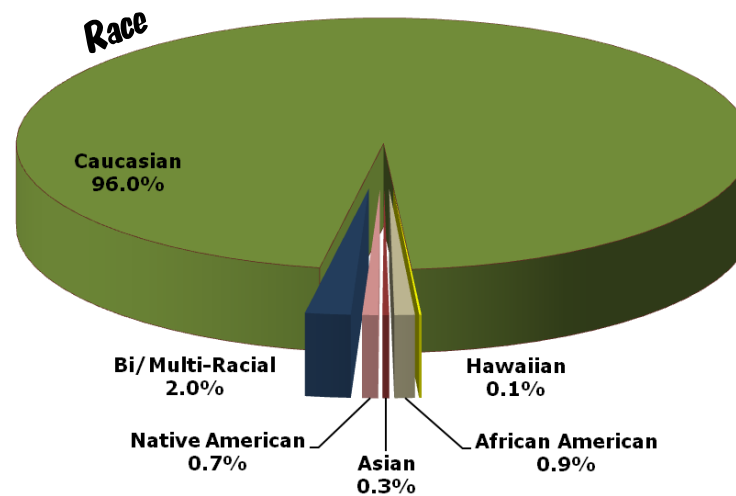
Percent of the poverty rate and percent of BVCA clients at that rate:

50% or less	26%	101%-125%	18%
51%-75%	16%	126%-150%	13%
76%-100%	<u>22%</u>	151% or higher	<u>5%</u>
	64%		36%

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

- \* 50% of poverty is \$11,525 gross
- \* 100% of poverty is \$23,050 gross
- \* 125% of poverty is \$28,812.50 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.*

<b>Insurance</b>	<b>% of Clients</b>	<b>Change From FY 2011</b>
SCHIP-Children's Health Insurance Pool	26.5%	-5.82
Medicaid	16.0%	+6.8
Medicare	4.0%	-1.74
Medicare & Medicaid	5.5%	-1.38
Medicare, Medicaid & Private	3.0%	-1.37
Native American Health	.5%	+42
Veterans Administration	1.0%	-.14
Private Coverage	16.5%	+6.32
No Insurance	27%	-3.08

# Programs—A Year In Review

FY 2012

## 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.

- 3,565 individuals received food assistance.
- 14,497 food boxes were distributed, totaling 383,755 pounds of food.
- Most food is donated, however, some items must be purchased (ie. milk, meat, paper products and hygiene products). During FY 2012, BVCA spent \$29,434 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.*

## 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 1,374 were enrolled:
  - \* 3 infants age 0-3 months
  - \* 1 infant age 4-12 months
  - \* 17 children
  - \* 48 postpartum women
  - \* 1 breastfeeding or expecting woman
  - \* 1,149 elderly individuals
- USDA value of food distributed through CSFP: \$207,691.59 or \$17,307.63/month
- Retail value of food distributed through CSFP: \$400,178.93 or \$33,348.24/month
- Average retail value of food given each participant per month: \$31.51
- 1,625 miles were driven to deliver CSFP to homebound individuals. This number does not include the numerous others driven by volunteers and partners agencies.

## CLOTHING AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS RECYCLING

*Available: Butler, Fillmore, Jefferson, Polk, Thayer and Seward Counties*

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.

- 190 persons received free clothing.



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





## 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 = 582 households/1,162 individuals
- Number of individuals receiving emergency assistance:

Rent: 251      Utility : 701      Shelter: 59      Medical Care: 14      Transportation: 53      Clothing: 190

### A woman writes:

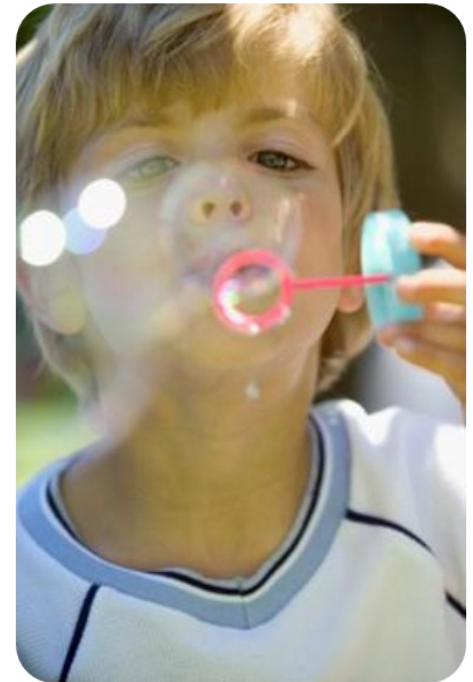
*"I have received assistance from BVCA three times. I am a single mom and it can be very hard doing everything alone. I rarely, if ever, receive child support from my daughter's father and everything rests on my shoulders, which can be very overwhelming at times. A couple of years ago, I became severely depressed. It seemed like everything was falling apart and the stress of it was too much. I felt worthless and lost all confidence in myself. I couldn't work because I felt I wasn't good enough to work. Meanwhile, the bills continued to pile up. I did a few things to lessen the burden—I turned our televisions service off and my mom offered to put my cell phone on her plan and cover the cost. Unfortunately, that was not enough. It was hard to ask for help when I wanted so badly to be strong and do it myself. I didn't think BVCA would help me, but they did. I was humbled and appreciated it so much. At that point, I don't know where we would have ended up had it not been for BVCA. Staff had suggested I apply for the Christmas Wish List Program. At that time, I didn't feel right applying because there were so many other people who needed it more. Things went okay for a while and I was doing better, gaining confidence back and working more. However, the following Christmas we were in pretty bad shape again, and it seemed we would not be having Christmas that year. I remembered the Christmas Wish List and applied. I asked only for necessities and one family item or whatever they wanted to give us. It didn't matter to me if they were able to get the things I listed on the application or not, anything would have been more than generous. BVCA made it possible for me to give my daughter Christmas that year and that was much more than I could have asked for. The last time we needed assistance again. We had taken some pretty big hits and a lot of unforeseen expenses. If it hadn't been for BVCA, I fear what would've happened. Things have been much better since then. I work at home as a medical transcriptionist and have gained my confidence back in myself and my job. I am also the office assistant and enjoy helping others in need. I am ever so grateful and humbled by the wonderful people at BVCA.*

## 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.

- 89 participants received \$147,204 in returns.



### 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.





## Helping People ... Changing Lives

### 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.

- 16 families with 54 family members (22 adults and 32 children) were served.
- Of the adults served: 9 adults came from emergency shelter, 6 were living with family/friends, 1 from transitional housing and 1 from a substance abuse treatment facility.
- Program goal results included:
  - \* Of those exiting, 63% stayed in permanent housing 3+ months after leaving FIRST.
  - \* 50% of enrollees began contributing to their escrow account after the fifth month of enrollment.
  - \* 32% increased their total income at the time of exit.
  - \* 50% increased their earned income from entry to exit.
  - \* 100% of enrollees were referred and assisted in enrolling in mainstream resources.

### 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.

- 350 children received school supplies.
- 1,462 individuals participated in various holiday events.
- 311 children participated in “Ready, Set, Go”. This program helps kids get ready for school by providing schools supplies and various health screenings.

### 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 2012	Forever
Boardings	6,610	182,048
Days of Service	248	7,482
Miles Traveled	25,319	839,246
Average Monthly Elderly Ridership	318	
Average Monthly Non-elderly Ridership	232	

ONE WAY TRIPS			
Shopping	1,244	Education	709
Medical	591	Nutrition	165
Employment	101	Social	16
Return Trips	3,787		
TOTAL: 6,610			

## 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.

- 14 families/36 individuals were assisted in purchasing their own home—Leveraging \$867,675 privately with \$142,715 in down-payment assistance.
- 5 First-Time Homebuyer Education classes were provided to 36 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 10 down payment assistance programs BVCA has participated in since 1995, 254 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.*

## LEASE PURCHASE PROGRAM

*Available: All Counties*

The Lease Purchase Program offers low and moderate income individuals and families the opportunity to overcome barriers to homeownership over a gradual period of time. Through this program, individuals and families select and live in a home they will purchase after a rental term during which they can prepare both mentally and financially for the responsibilities of homeownership.

## HOMELESS PREVENTION & RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM (HPRP)

Individuals and families were given temporary housing assistance to provide a bridge to long-term housing stability. This program was created through ARRA funding, and was offered for three years, unfortunately, this successful program is no longer supported. Three year program totals are as follows:

- 965 individuals/351 households served.
- 755 individuals/267 households received homelessness prevention.
- 210 individuals/89 households received rapid re-housing assistance.



*"We couldn't have owned our own home without BVCA's Homeownership Opportunity Program!"*



## Helping People ... Changing Lives

### 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 291 people in 114 households.
- 23 new, high efficiency furnaces were installed in homes.

#### DID YOU KNOW...

*The Department of Energy 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!*

#### ***An elderly woman writes:***

*"I want to thank everyone who came to my home and in any way helped to do so much work. It was a lot of hard and hot work to do. Each one of you were so kind and thoughtful, very friendly and took time to explain things to me. I know you take pride in your work, enjoy it and like helping people. I will never be able to thank you enough!"*

### OWNER-OCCUPIED 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 Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program also promotes revitalization of a neighborhood as well as the community.

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



## 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.

- 234 individuals/66 families in lease-to-own homes.
- 552 individuals/155 families in rental units.



*A man writes: "I had fallen on hard times. Health issues had kept me from working and therefore caused me to become homeless. I was living temporarily with a friend, when I called BVCA desperately seeking a safe, affordable home for myself and my son. Luckily, BVCA had a two bedroom apartment available. My son and I waited patiently while the paperwork was processed. I cried when they called to tell me I was approved and we could proceed with the lease. I just want to thank you for all your help and for giving me a place I know I can finally call home."*

## RENTWISE

*Available: Gage & Jefferson Counties*

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...

*766 individuals have attended the RentWise course throughout the Nebraska network. Of those, 80% graduated by completing all six modules successfully.*

## 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.





*"WIC is awesome! I understand that WIC is just supplemental, but sometimes it's all we have."*

## Helping People ... Changing Lives

### **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.

- 1,626 individuals
  - \* 409 women
  - \* 952 children
  - \* 265 infants
- 1,077 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.

- 112 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.

- 890 infants and children received immunizations.
- 2,891 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.

- 350 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.

- 161 pregnant and post-partum women received case management.
- 933 interpreting services were provided.
- 41 were provided with transportation.
- 8 women completed healthy weight and health education classes.
- 8 participated in Community Health Education classes.

## 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.

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

## 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.

## SOAR

*Availability: All Counties, and also Saunders, Lancaster, Adams, Clay, Nuckolls, Webster, Nemaha, Cass, Otoe, Johnson, Pawnee and Richardson.*

Provides assistance in navigating through the process of applying for Supplemental Security Income and/or Social Security Disability Insurance.

- 5 applications filed; 4 applications approved for SSI/SSDI and 1 denied; 58 days average to initial decision.
- 3 appeals filed; 1 approved and 2 denied; 29 days to appeal decision.



*"WIC is a lifesaver for me and my children. Without it, I'd never be able to afford formula for my baby or food for my kids."*





*"There are not enough words to describe how grateful my family is for all the support we received during my pregnancy."*

## 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/266 families/1,067 family members were enrolled.
  - \* Waitlist totaled 151 on first day of school and 160 on last day of school.
  - \* 271 health exams were provided.
  - \* 269 dental screenings were provided.
  - \* 269 were immunized.
- Early Head Start:
  - \* 101 children/80 families/318 total members were enrolled.
  - \* 11 pregnant women were served.
  - \* Waitlist totaled 71 on first day and 109 on last day.
  - \* 94 health exams were provided.
  - \* 89 dental screenings were provided.
  - \* 95 were immunized.
- 39,807 meals and 12,550 snacks were provided.

AGES	
Prenatal	11
under age 1	39
1 year old	31
2 years old	31
3 years old	110
4 years old	169
5 years old	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>397</b>

### 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. BVCA Partnership collaborates with these school districts to expand opportunities for more preschool aged children using the quality of Head Start as a model.

- Approximately 372 children in addition to the 181 Head Start Children receive services in these communities because of the collaborations.

## BLUE RIVER CHILDCARE & PRESCHOOL

*Available: Saline County*

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

- 65 children were provided with safe and affordable childcare.
- 50 children were provided with preschool.
- 12 families have more than one child enrolled at the center.
- 27,347 meals and 10,781 snacks were provided.
- The center is open 71.5 hours per week to accommodate the needs of working parents.

### *A woman writes:*

*"My son was enrolled in the WIC Program, and later the Early Head Start Program. I was so grateful for the referral by the WIC staff to Head Start as it has helped my child with his speech issues. He now understands and uses many more words."*



### *Out of the mouths of babes...*

*Staff reminisce their favorite kid quotes:*

*"I can open my mouth so big that an alligator can come in!"*

*"I'm not driving until I'm 79."*

*I will tell you what, they didn't taste good...they are vitamins!"*

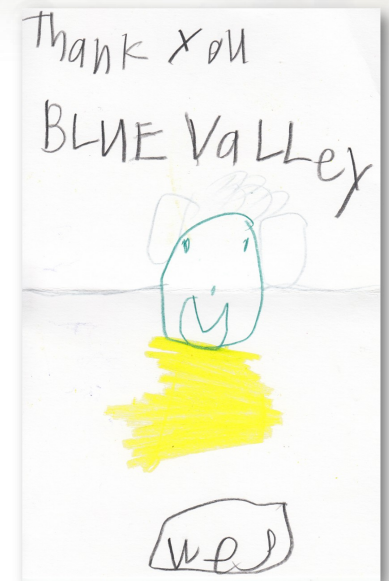


## INFANT/TODDLER QUALITY INITIATIVE PROGRAM

*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 10 providers during FY 2012: 1 from Saline County, 7 from Gage County and 2 from Jefferson County.





## 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.

- 207 children attended the center at least once during FY 2012.
- 72 children received home-work tutoring.
- 124 children were involved in community betterment activities.
- 9 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 132 pounds of canned food collected for the BVCA Food Pantry.
- FYI's signature event is "Project Santa". A total of 59 youth participated, 224 gifts were wrapped and 74 "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, and one with the Housing Department.
- AmeriCorps Members were also placed with BVCA's Juvenile Services. There were 5 AmeriCorps Members assigned to the Family & Youth Involvement Center in Fairbury. One AmeriCorps member was assigned to the 429 Factory youth center in Beatrice. Boys Hope Girls Hope National AmeriCorps program placed 3 AmeriCorps Member at the FYI Center to lead the mentoring projects. One AmeriCorps member served at Kids Connection in Fairbury.
- AmeriCorps Members placed with BVCA's Juvenile Services assisted with volunteer recruitment and management, fundraising and after-school programming. Programs such as RentWise benefited from the service of our AmeriCorps members. Members 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*

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 other special events.

- 733 individuals volunteered at BVCA’s centers, events and classrooms.
- 62,710.25 hours were donated by volunteers.
- The value of hours donated totaled \$667,864.
- Private donations totaled \$106,923.10.
- “Dollars for Difference”, our annual campaign, raised \$6,341.36.
- 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 \$98,809.98.
  - \* \$58,588.50 of donations were received in the form of food, clothing and other miscellaneous items.
  - \* Cash donations totaled \$40,221.48.

### DID YOU KNOW...

*Seven of our volunteers donated more than 1,000 hours during FY 2012 and 23 other volunteers donated over 500 hours!*



*Albert Simacek was recognized as BVCA’s longest serving Board Member during the Board of Directors 2012 Annual Meeting. Albert was appointed by the Fillmore County Supervisors and served as their representative for 23 years. Pictured l-r, Richard Nation, BVCA Chief Executive Officer, Tony Likens, BVCA Board President, and Albert Simacek.*

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has.”*



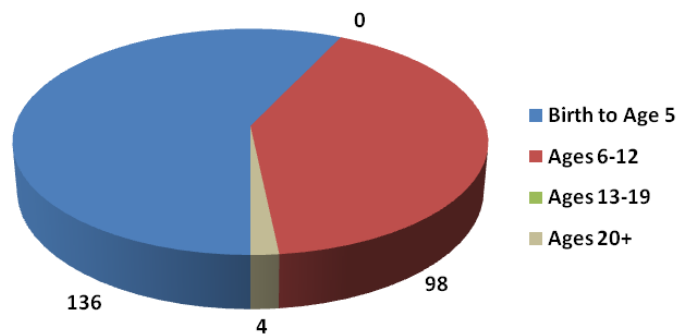
*"I really enjoy having a Foster Grandma in my classroom. Grandma does a wonderful job connecting with the students and becoming a great resource for them when they are having trouble with a concept or task."*

## FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM

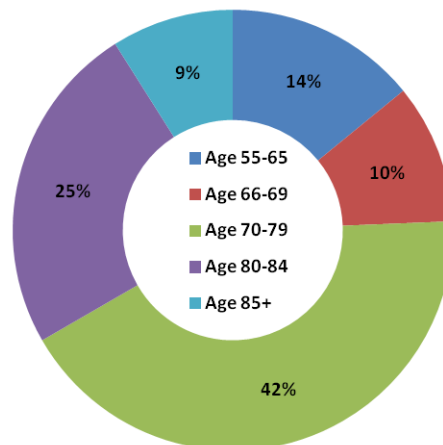
Available: Fillmore, Jefferson, Gage, Saline, Seward, Thayer, York, Gage, Otoe, Johnson, Pawnee, Nemaha & Richardson Counties  
Persons who are 55 years and older, in relatively good health, and love children volunteer at least 15 hours per week at various sites during the day to give supportive one-on-one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

- 74 Grandmas and 4 Grandpas volunteered with the Foster Grandparent Program.

**Age of Children Served**



**Age of Grandparents**



Special Needs	Children	Grandparents
Abused/Neglected Children	9	5
Development Disabilities	31	14
Emotional Disabilities	63	26
Hearing Impaired	4	3
Language Barriers	52	23
Learning Disabilities	29	12
Physical Disabilities	9	4
Significantly Medically Impaired	5	5
Visually Impaired	4	3
Teen Pregnancy/Teen Parenting	4	4
Substance Abuse	2	2



## SCHOLARSHIPS

*Competition is open to individuals in all counties.*

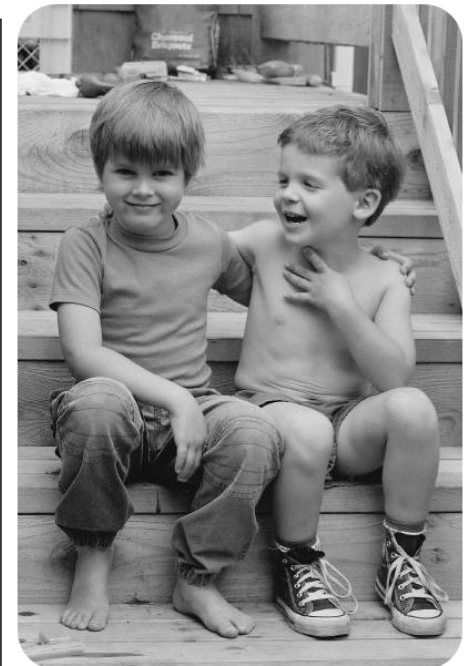
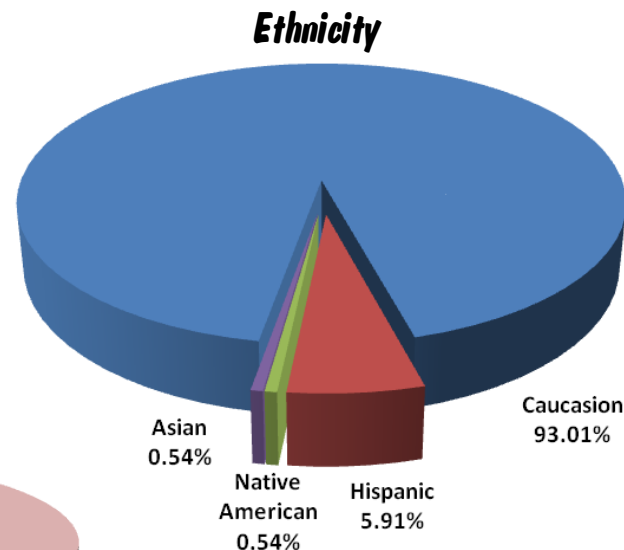
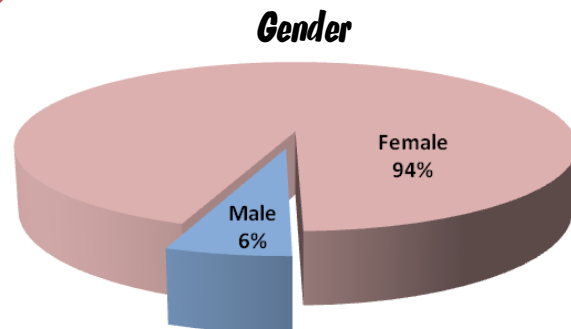
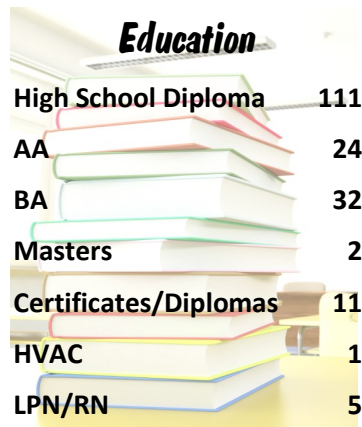
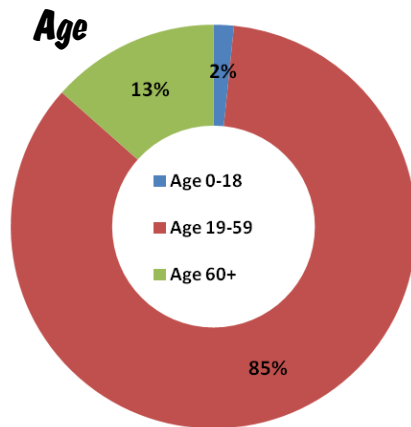
BVCA awards competitive scholarships to individuals. Financial need, volunteerism, aspirations and goals for furthering education are taken into consideration. Scholarships can be used for tuition, books and fees associated with enrollment. BVCA is currently seeking donors to help offer life changing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

- Recipients of the \$500 BVCA Partnership Scholarships for the 2011-2012 school year were Chelsea Turek, of York NE, and Angelique Anderson, of Dwight NE.
- Recipients of the \$500 BVCA Partnership Vocational Scholarships for the 2011-2012 school year were Matthew Reinke, Deshler NE, and Jena Reckling, of Crete NE.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

BVCA Partnership employed a total of 186 individuals over the past fiscal year.

- 123 full-time
- 32 part-time
- 31 on-call



*DID YOU KNOW...  
BVCA's longest serving employee  
has been with our agency 45  
years!!*





Visit our website at [www.bvca.net](http://www.bvca.net) and click on "How We Help" to view the complete 2012 survey, in addition to the 2010 and 2011 Community Surveys.

# 2012 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 to randomly selected residents. The purpose of this survey was to better understand employment, as well as the extent of underemployment in Nebraska. Community Action Agencies in Nebraska will use the results to increase employment services and enhance career development programs to serve the needs of their communities. Below are some of our findings of the "2012 Community Assessment on Employment, Barriers to Employment and Training Needs."

## TOP 5 EDUCATION AND TRAINING NEEDS

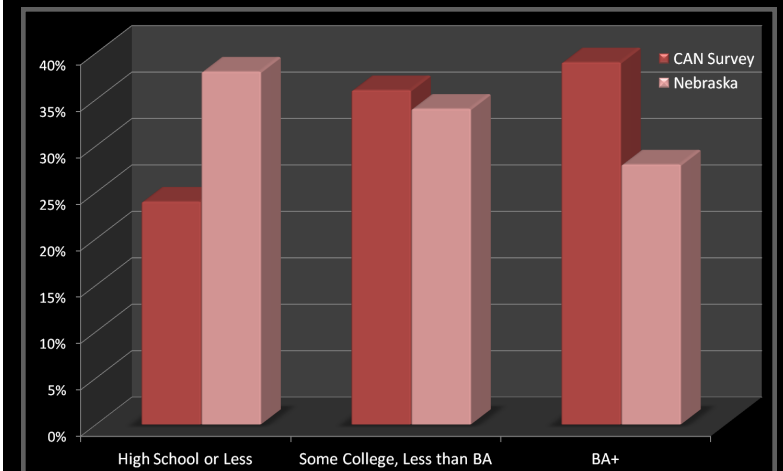
	% Statewide Respondents	% BVCA Area Respondents
Computer Skills	54%	60%
College Courses	33%	40%
Certification	27%	27%
Leadership Training	28%	24%
Advancement Skills	19%	18%

## VETERAN STATUS

According to current estimates from the U.S. Census, 10.5% of Nebraska adults indicated they were veterans. In this survey, 14.4% of respondents reported that they were veterans.

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

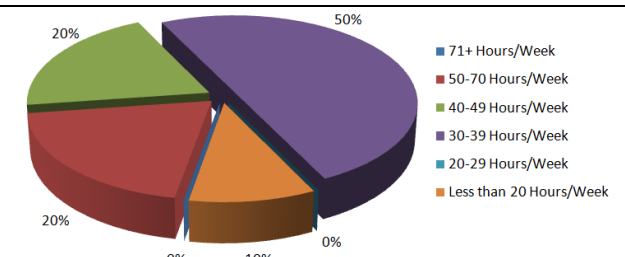
As the level of educational attainment increased, "Limited Job Opportunities" was reported more frequently from 33% to 51%.



Survey respondents were generally better educated than the general Nebraska population.

## MEETING BASIC NEEDS

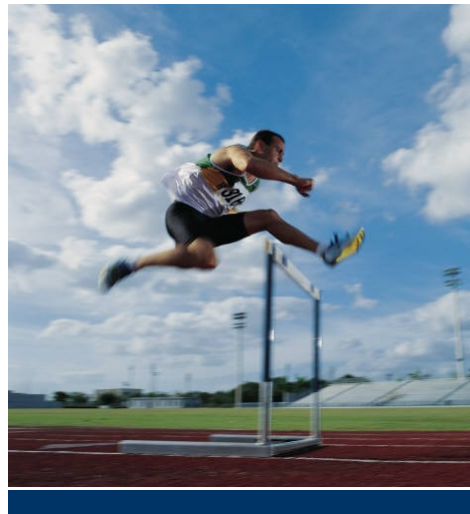
18% of all survey respondents stated that their current employment income is insufficient to meet their basic needs. Of these, 48% were working 40 or more hours per week. The chart to the right reflects the number of hours respondents in the BVCA region reported working.



## BARRIERS TO IMPROVING EMPLOYMENT STATUS

STATEWIDE RESPONDENTS	
Barriers	% of Respondents
Limited Job Opportunities	40.3%
Education Level	28.3%
Physical Health Issues	27.4%
Cost of Training	24.2%
Disability—Unable to Work	15.3%
Work Experience	14.4%
Reading Skill Level	10.9%
Mental Health Issues	9.4%
No High School Diploma or GED	8.1%
Required Tools/Equipment	7.4%
Lack of Child Care	7.4%
Fear of Losing Public Benefits	6.7%
Transportation	5.2%
Citizenship Status	3.3%
Criminal History	3.1%
Lack of Elder Care	3.1%

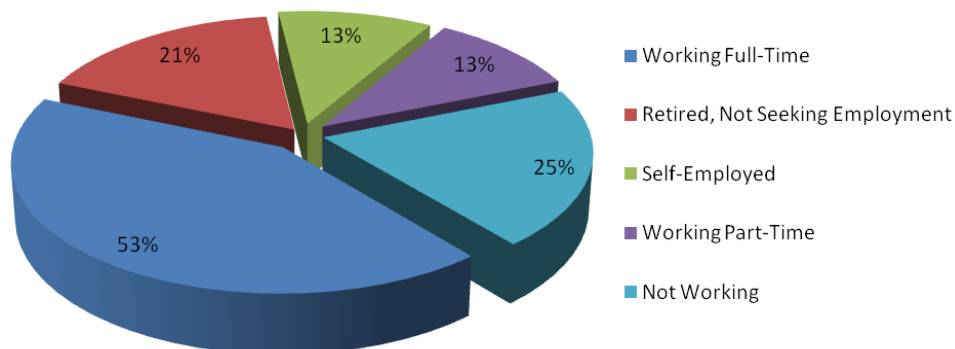
BVCA AREA RESPONDENTS	
Rank	Barriers
# 1	Limited Job Opportunities
# 2	Physical Health Issues
# 3	Disability—Unable to Work
# 4	Education Level
# 5	Cost of Training



*Survey respondents identified “Limit Job Opportunities” as the top barrier for obtaining employment or improving their current employment situation.*

*48% were not satisfied with their current job, while 52% were.*

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS**  
Statewide respondents reported:





## **BVCA's 2011-2012 Assets**

*Beginning of the Year Net Assets:*  
\$6,312,081

*End of the Year Net Assets:*  
\$6,507,721

# Financial Revenues & Expenses

## **PRIVATE REVENUES:**

In-kind Matching Donations	\$726,443.00
Cash Donations	\$119,765.00
United Way Awards	\$29,879.00
Foundation Awards	\$29,890.00
Local Projects	\$110,482.00
Contracts	\$91,265.00
Fees	\$666,505.00
Rents	\$577,010.00
Corporate Investments	<u>\$325,103.00</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b><u>\$2,676,342.00</u></b>

## **FEDERAL DIRECT:**

USDA CSFP Commodities Value	\$207,692.00
CNCS Foster Grandparents	\$279,475.00
HHS Head Start	\$1,887,402.00
HHS Early Head Start	\$1,079,589.00
HUD Supportive Housing	\$188,281.00
HUD HMIS	<u>\$17,326.00</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b><u>\$3,659,765.00</u></b>

## **STATE REVENUES:**

NE Housing Trust Fund (HTF) Regional Rehab	\$48,720.00
NE HTF Home Ownership Program	\$232,769.00
NE Affordable Housing Trust Fund	\$8,492.00
NE Homeless Assistance Trust Fund	<u>\$35,596.00</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b><u>\$325,577.00</u></b>

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT:**

County Support	\$64,335.00
Juvenile Services Aid	<u>\$9,706.00</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b><u>\$74,041.00</u></b>

## **FEDERAL VIA STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT:**

### *HHS via:*

Region V Systems	\$11,567.00
Region V-SPF/SIG	\$4,967.00
DHHS Community Health	\$9,610.00
DHHS Minority Health	\$38,602.00
DHHS Immunization Action	\$27,137.00
DHHS CSBG	\$265,470.00
DHHS NEO Weatherization LIHEAP	\$96,812.00
DHHS ITQI ARRA	\$2,175.00
NDE Early Childhood Initiative	\$30,037.00

### *SSA via:*

DHHS Soar	\$40,551.00
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### *DOE via:*

NEO Weatherization	\$1,621.00
NEO Weatherization ARRA	\$839,271.00

### *USDA via:*

NDE Childhood & Adult Food	\$156,612.00
DHHS WIC	\$796,351.00
DHHS CSFP (except for commodities)	\$104,841.00

### *HUD via:*

DED Emergency Shelter Grant Program	\$41,373.00
DED CHDO Operating Funds	\$19,947.00
DHHS-HPRP ARRA	\$197,089.00

### *DOT via:*

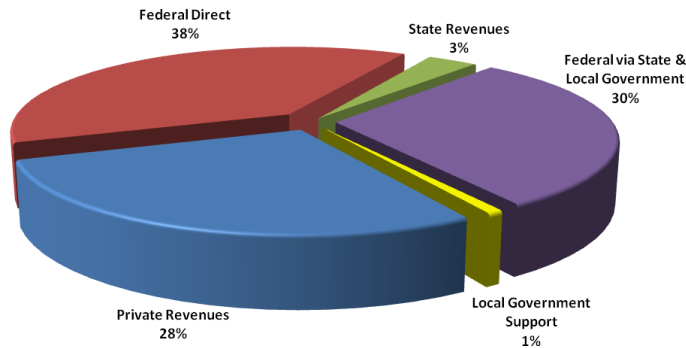
NDor Fillmore County Rural Transit	\$69,111.00
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### *CNCS via:*

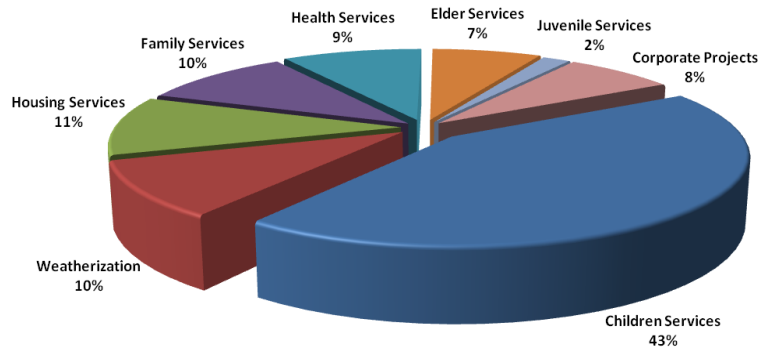
ServeNebraska	\$61,929.00
Boys Hope Girls Hope AmeriCorps	<u>\$22,315.00</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b><u>\$2,837,388.00</u></b>



**BVCA'S FY 2012 TOTAL REVENUES:  
\$9,573,113**



**BVCA'S FY 2012 TOTAL EXPENSES:  
\$9,665,296**



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

<u>REAL ESTATE LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS*</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Assets</u>
Prairie Woods CROWN, Ltd., York & Geneva	\$78,582	\$994,604
Blue Terrace CROWN, Ltd., Crete	\$88,017	\$1,544,930
Sunset CROWN, Ltd., Beatrice	\$93,224	\$1,017,381
York CROWN, Ltd., York	<u>\$71,013</u>	<u>\$1,347,136</u>
<i>*Not included in BVCA audit, as each is a separate company.</i>	\$330,836	\$4,904,051

**BVCA PARTNERSHIP LEVERAGE**

- BVCA's core funding is the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). \$247,920 was granted last year, which is 2.6% of BVCA's budget. For every dollar of CSBG, over \$38.61 was leveraged.
- For every \$1.00 of county support, BVCA leveraged \$148.80 of support from outside sources.
- \$24,401 of gaming revenue was generated.
- Volunteers donated 62,710.25 hours which relieved the organization of the need to raise \$667,864 additional dollars or hiring 30 FTE's for each month of the fiscal year.
- Value of contributions of clothing and other goods to thrift stores totaled \$1,694,814.



***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 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET, P.O. BOX 273, FAIRBURY, NE 68352

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

WEBSITE: [www.bvca.net](http://www.bvca.net) E-MAIL: [changinglives@bvca.net](mailto: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](mailto:fillmorehs@bvca.net)

### GAGE COUNTY HEAD START 3-5

WYMORE CENTER

517 NORTH 12<sup>TH</sup> STREET

WYMORE, NE 68466

PHONE: (402) 645-3441

[wymorehs@bvca.net](mailto:wymorehs@bvca.net)

### SMITH COUNTY HEAD START 3-5

221½ MAIN STREET

SMITH CENTER, KS 66967

PHONE: (785) 282-6011

[smithhs@bvca.net](mailto:smithhs@bvca.net)

### RIISING STARS

#### PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

THAYER COUNTY 3-5

335 EADS AVENUE

HEBRON, NE 68370

PHONE: (402) 768-6727

[thayerhs@bvca.net](mailto: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](mailto:beatricehs@bvca.net)

Early Head Start:

(402) 223-6056

[beatriceehs@bvca.net](mailto:beatriceehs@bvca.net)

### BLUE RIVER CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

325 EAST 9<sup>TH</sup> STREET

P.O. BOX 304

CRETE, NE 68333

PHONE: (402) 826-4216

[blueriver@bvca.net](mailto: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](mailto:jeffersonhs@bvca.net)

### SALINE COUNTY HEAD START 0-5

Head Start:

325 EAST 9<sup>TH</sup> STREET

CRETE, NE 68333

402) 826-5221

[salinehs@bvca.net](mailto:salinehs@bvca.net)

Early Head Start:

1540 Grove Street, PO Box 352

Crete, NE 68333

(402) 381-0057

[salineehs@bvca.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:butlerfcs@bvca.net)

### **JEFFERSON COUNTY FCS**

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

### **SEWARD COUNTY FCS**

640 SEWARD STREET, P.O. BOX 342  
SEWARD, NE 68434  
PHONE (402) 643-6425  
[sewardfcs@bvca.net](mailto: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](mailto:pioneer-fgp@bvca.net)

### **FILLMORE COUNTY FCS**

130 SOUTH 8<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
GENEVA, NE 68361  
PHONE (402) 759-3564  
[fillmorefcs@bvca.net](mailto: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 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
HEBRON, NE 68370  
PHONE (402) 768-6704  
[thayerfcs@bvca.net](mailto:thayerfcs@bvca.net)

### **GAGE COUNTY FCS**

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

### **SALINE COUNTY FCS**

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

### **YORK COUNTY FCS**

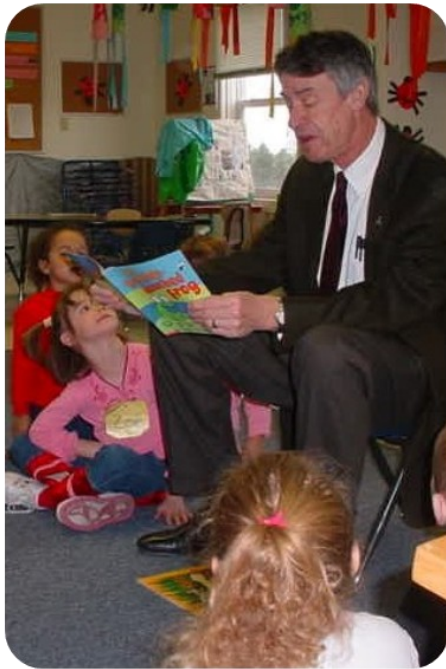
3401 NORTH LINCOLN AVENUE  
YORK, NE 68467  
PHONE (402) 362-3516  
[yorkfcs@bvca.net](mailto:yorkfcs@bvca.net)

### **FILLMORE COUNTY TRANSIT**

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







### ***“Thank You!”***

*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!!*

# 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 47<sup>th</sup> year, we sincerely thank and acknowledge the generosity and community spirit of the people of Nebraska and Kansas who are our fantastic neighbors, friends and supporters.

## 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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