

## Our Mission

We overcome poverty by meeting basic needs, helping people to grow, and collaborating in our communities.

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## BVCA HELPS HOUSEHOLDS BEAT THE HEAT

Children running through sprinklers, ice cubes melting in a glass of lemonade, the hum of air conditioners fills the air...there's no doubt about it—summer is here! With it comes a heavy burden for many of our neighbors as they struggle to keep up with the cost of cooling their homes. Homes that are inadequately protected against the weather are not only costly, but can be dangerous for those residing within. Blue Valley Community Action Partnership (BVCA) can help eligible households save money and stay cool this summer!



BVCA's Weatherization Crews work year-round to weatherize homes in Butler, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Polk, Saline, Seward, Thayer and York Counties in Nebraska. The goal of our weatherization program is to reduce the burden of energy prices by making homes more "air-tight" and more energy efficient. Most houses have cracks and holes that can't be seen, especially around windows, doors and pipes. When you turn your air conditioner on in the summer, the cool air you're producing (and paying for) heads straight for those cracks and escapes outside. The same thing happens with your heater in the winter. Weatherizing your home stops air from escaping as well as keeps the outside elements from entering.

BVCA Partnership provides no cost weatherization of homes to income eligible individuals. With permission, weatherization can also be preformed on a home rented by an income eligible individual. Once an evaluation of the home is completed, BVCA's Weatherization Crew determines what measures can be taken to make the home more efficient. Typical measures include: installing insulation in the attic, sidewalls, basements or crawl spaces; reducing air leakage; performing installations, tune-ups and repairs to heating and cooling systems; replacing incandescent lighting with energy-efficient bulbs; weatherize, repair or replace damaged or deteriorated primary doors and windows; and other energy conservation measures to reduce energy consumption. Our Weatherization Crews also address energy-related health and safety conditions, particularly carbon monoxide and combustion safety. The benefits of weatherization include warmer homes in the winter and cooler homes in the summer; it provides for a safer living environment; and utility bills will be lower because you're not losing heated or cooled air.

Individuals interested in having their home weatherized are invited to visit [www.bvca.net](http://www.bvca.net) to apply online (select "Weatherization Assistance" from the menu of services). Applications and additional information can also be obtained from any of our local offices.

## ARE YOU A CONTRACTOR LOOKING FOR YEAR-ROUND WORK?

BVCA is currently seeking local contractors to preform weatherization on homes. If you are interested in working with BVCA, or for more information regarding the requirements for local contractors to weatherize a home, please contact Brandon Bonar at (402) 729-2278.

## BVCA OFFERS NUTRITIOUS FOOD TO SENIORS

BVCA's Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) works to improve the health of lower income elderly persons by providing nutritious supplemental food from USDA to seniors 60 years of age and older.



While CSFP does not provide all the food a person needs, it does provide supplemental food with good sources of nutrients which may be lacking in the diets of the participants. The program provides free, monthly food packages designed to cover the major food groups: grains, fruits and vegetables, meat and dairy.

Participants must meet income guidelines—household income must fall in the category of 130% of the poverty line:

- Household of 1: income equal to or less than \$1,472 a month
- Household of 2: income equal to or less than \$1,984 a month
- For each additional household member, add \$511 a month

For more information or to apply, visit [www.bvca.net](http://www.bvca.net), contact your local BVCA Office, or call Caleb Epp at (402) 587-0529.

## CAN CARE-A-VAN FIGHTS FOOD INSECURITY

BVCA Partnership would like to thank the 10/11 Can Care-A-Van who has been helping to feed Nebraskans since 1988. A representative from 10/11 stated, "While much has changed over the past three decades, hunger has persisted in our communities. That need keeps Nebraskans coming out year after year to help stock the shelves of their local food pantries." Also partnering with 10/11 this year was JBS and Black Hills Energy. The Can Care-A-Van was on the road June 6-10 and collected nearly 170,000 pounds! They made three stops in BVCA's service area and food donations totaled: 6,607 pounds in York; 4,300 pounds in Geneva; and 4,000 pounds in Crete.

BVCA Partnership is truly appreciative of everyone who donated and volunteered! Again, a special thanks to 10/11, JBS and Black Hills Energy for sponsoring the event! These donations were greatly needed. Like many food pantries across Nebraska, BVCA's pantries have been experiencing a rise in requests for assistance with food insecurity and are in need of donations. Donations are collected year-round at all of BVCA's food pantries located in David City, Geneva, Beatrice, Fairbury, Osceola, Crete, Seward, Hebron and York.



# Thank You

Blue Valley Community Action Partnership would like to thank the businesses who sponsored our 2022 Annual Campaign and/or our "Spring Into Action" virtual run/walk.



## OTHER SPONSORS INCLUDE:

FPM Metals, Globe Rexall Drug Store, Van Borkum Co., Drake Refrigeration, and City Bank & Trust of Crete.

In addition, we'd also like to extend our thanks to the individuals who participated in our "Spring Into Action" virtual run as well as to those who have personally donated to our Annual Campaign. Your contribution will help those struggling to maintain economic stability.



## BVCA'S SEWARD OFFICE CELEBRATES NEW LOCATION

On Friday, June 24, 2022, BVCA Partnership celebrated its new location in Seward with an Open House and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Members of the community were able to tour BVCA's new office, food pantry and thrift store; meet BVCA's Team; and enjoy refreshments. BVCA is grateful to the donors and partners that made our new facility possible. BVCA extends a special thanks to The Rock Lutheran Church. BVCA's Seward County Office is now located at 237 South 3rd Street in Seward (located near the south entrance of The Rock).



### RFP

BVCA is requesting proposals from qualified individuals/firms to prepare and develop its Community Needs Assessment by May 1, 2023. To be considered, proposals must be emailed to [smiller@bvca.net](mailto:smiller@bvca.net). Proposals must be received by 4:00pm on July 25, 2022. BVCA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted.

## JOIN OUR TEAM | START YOUR CAREER OF HELPING PEOPLE & CHANGING LIVES

BVCA has several positions available! Current opportunities include: Preschool Teacher in Crete; Teacher Aides in Crete, Geneva, Seward; Childcare Coordinators in Crete & Beatrice; Infant/Toddler Teacher in Crete; Weatherization Crew Specialist in Fairbury; Maintenance Specialist in Fairbury; Family Advocate in Crete; On-call Transit Driver in Geneva; and a Store Aide in Seward. Visit [www.bvca.net](http://www.bvca.net) and select "Careers" to find out more about our career opportunities and benefits. Visit <https://bvca.hireclick.com/jobboard> to apply.



**Blue Valley Community Action Partnership's 3rd Quarter Outreach**

Case Management	200 Individuals
Childcare Services	13 Individuals
Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)	398 Individuals
Compassionate Projects	0 Individuals
COVID-19 Vaccines	73 Vaccinations
Digital Navigation	59 Individuals
Early Head Start Child Care Partnership	34 Individuals
Early Head Start Home Based Services	91 Individuals
Early Head Start & Head Start Childcare Food Program	6,281 Meals & Snacks
Emergency Assistance	130 Households
Family & Youth Involvement Center (CASTLE)	102 Individuals
Financial Coaching	51 Individuals
Food Rescue/Security	481 Households
Foster Grandparent Program	44 Individuals
Friends of Blue Valley Volunteer Program	298 Individuals
Head Start	229 Individuals
Homeownership Opportunity Program	2 Households
Housing Counseling	60 Individuals
Immunization Program	231 Shots
Infant Quality Initiative Program	12 Individuals
Lease to Own	55 Households
Mortgage Assistance	10 Households
Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (Shelter)	1 Households
Opportunity Passport	88 Individuals
Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation	2 Households
Project FIRST TH/RRH (Families In Residence with Support in Transition/Rapid Re-Housing)	7 Households
Project FYRES (Focused Youth on Rehousing, Empowerment & Stability)	12 Households
Rental Apartments/Duplexes	94 Households
Rental Elderly Apartments	28 Households
Rural Southeast Nebraska Connected Youth Initiative (RSNCYI)	79 Individuals
SNAP Outreach (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)	16 Applications
Southeast Nebraska Collaborative Community Response	33 Households
SSI-SSDI Outreach, Access & Recovery (SOAR)	9 Individuals
Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)	82 Individuals
Thrift Stores	775 Individuals
Transportation	1297 Rides
Weatherization	16 Households
WIC Peer Counseling	14 Individuals
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	864 Individuals



**WE ARE HERE TO HELP**

Visit us at [www.bvca.net](http://www.bvca.net) for more information about the programs we offer and how to apply.

**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.