



# Quarterly Connection

## COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK CELEBRATES COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH

### Our Mission

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

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### In This Issue

- 1 | Community Action Month Celebration
- 2 | BVCA's 2022 Impact Report
- 4 | BVCA Receives (NAHTF) Award
- 4 | BVCA Announces Scholarship Recipients
- 5 | BVCA Offers SSVF & SOAR
- 6 | ¼ Brief

2023 marks the 59<sup>th</sup> year since the Community Action Network was established to help American families and communities overcome obstacles to poverty. Over 1,000 agencies across the country are working every day to create opportunities and transform the lives of their neighbors making communities stronger and helping families across the U.S. thrive. This year, Blue Valley Community Action Partnership (BVCA), a proud member of the Community Action Network, will also commemorate 57 years of helping individuals and families.

“Each May, during Community Action Month, we reflect on the impact BVCA and our network has had on families,” said Shari Weber, BVCA’s CEO. “Last year alone, BVCA served over 7,000 people in our nine-county service area; and Community Action as a whole served over 15 million across the country with immediately needed services such as shelter and food as well as long-term solutions like education, long-term housing, and health services.”

Community Action Agencies serve 99% of all American counties with life-changing services to help families achieve financial stability. All agencies are locally controlled and represented by the private, public, and low-income sectors of the community. “We are proud of our communities’ participation in the development and oversight of our programs,” said Weber. “Their engagement helps us to be more effective in our approach by determining our local communities’ needs.”

To celebrate the continued success of Community Action and raise awareness throughout the counties we serve, Blue Valley Community Action Partnership will again host a virtual 10K and 2-mile walk/run event, **Spring into Action—Act, Help, Move, Inspire**. Proceeds will support our emergency assistance programs.

By participating, not only do you help BVCA continue this much-needed service, but you also get a great t-shirt, help spread awareness of BVCA, and you inspire others to get involved in their community. Here’s how to do it:

1. Register online for the virtual run/walk by visiting [www.raceentry.com](http://www.raceentry.com) and searching “Spring Into Action” or “Spring Into Action—Act, Help, Move, Inspire.” You can also scan the QR Code on the photo below. The direct link to register is: <https://www.raceentry.com/races/spring-into-action-act-help-move-inspire/2023/register>. Links to the race can also be found on our website [www.bvca.net](http://www.bvca.net) and on our Facebook event page. Cost of registration is \$25.
2. Run or walk at your convenience anywhere and anytime on Saturday, May 20, 2023.
3. Share your race photo with us on social media with the hashtag #changinglives2023. This is optional, but it is a great way to spread awareness and stay connected to other runners in your community!

If you can’t participate in the run/walk but would still like to support BVCA Partnership, please visit <https://www.raceentry.com/spring-into-action-act-help-move-inspire/race-information> and click the green “fundraise” button to make a donation. You can also access this by scanning the below QR Code. Donations can also be made via our website: [www.bvca.net](http://www.bvca.net).



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# 2022 IMPACT REPORT

*Blue Valley Community Action Partnership*

*October 1, 2021-September 30, 2022*

Blue Valley Community Action Partnership assisted **7,025** individuals by offering life-changing services that provide solutions to help build lives of stability, dignity and prosperity.

**3,160** children | **2,929** adults | **936** elderly

Of the **4,087** individuals enrolled in goal-setting programs, **3,820** achieved one or more outcomes.

## *housing*

**485** individuals obtained safe, affordable housing.

**2,222** individuals maintained independent living.

**678** elderly | **1,229** disabled | **315** chronic illness

**139** individuals received services resulting in their home being weatherized, preserved and/or otherwise improved.

**86** Weatherization | **18** Owner Occupied Rehab | **35** One-Time Needs

**161** individuals obtained safe, temporary housing, which was 91% of those enrolled.

**381** individuals avoided eviction or foreclosure.

**224** evictions prevented | **157** foreclosures prevented

**171** individuals were provided Housing Counseling, which includes homebuyer, rental and mortgage education as well as case management.

## *health & well being*

**2,568** individuals demonstrated improved health and well being.

**2,449** physical health | **119** mental and behavioral health

**1,882** children obtained age-appropriate immunizations, medical, vision and dental care.

**665** Immunization | **913** WIC | **304** Head Start

**3,501** people received nutritious food.

## *education & cognitive development*

**274** children became school ready.

**326** children improved social and emotional skills.

**537** adults and children received educational case management.

**111** youth were enrolled in after school programs and summer activities.

**339** families improved their family functioning skills.

**331** improved positive approaches toward learning.

**65** youth | **266** children age 0-5

## financial stability

**142** people increased their financial knowledge and skills.  
79 youth | 63 adults

**99** people increased their savings and assets.  
3 youth | 96 adults

**44** unemployed individuals obtained a job to improve employment skills or increase income, which is 77% of those enrolled.  
20 youth | 24 adults

## community building

**553** volunteers engaged in activities to support BVCA, themselves and the community.  
520 community volunteers | 33 foster grandparents

**14** child care centers and their staff improved their quality of care by participating in professional development training and support provided by BVCA.

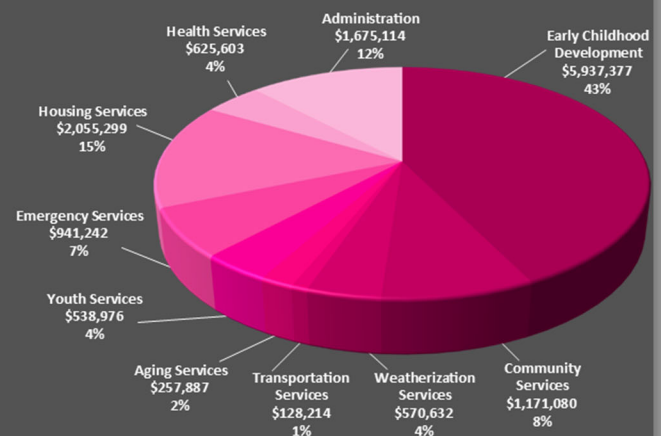
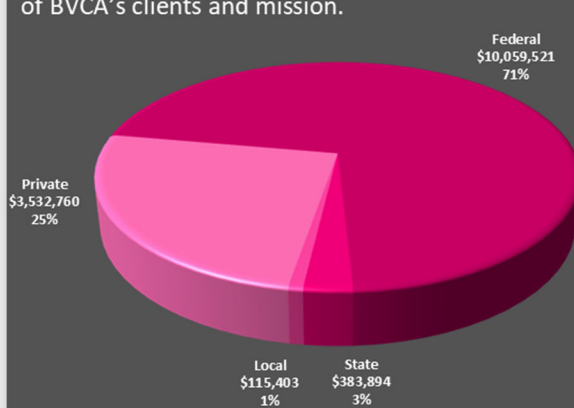
Volunteers donated **27,176** hours that were valued at **\$397,471**.

**362** low-income individuals received on the job training or work experience.  
326 volunteers | 36 Able Workers

## funding & resources

**\$14,091,578** in funding was secured FY2022. For each of those dollars, \$.88 was used to meet the needs of BVCA's clients and mission.

**\$13,901,424** was expended to provide quality service in our communities.



## human resources

Benefit value per hour is **\$5.48**  
Includes health, vision, dental, retirement, life and the Employee Assistance Program (EAP).

**188** individuals were employed by BVCA.

**134** certifications or professional credentials were held by BVCA employees.

**6,355** training hours were completed by staff to enhance their abilities to provide poverty-fighting solutions.

### 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.

Visit us at [www.bvca.net](http://www.bvca.net)

## BVCA RECEIVES NEBRASKA AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND AWARD

The Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness (NCHH) has announced the recipients of the 2023 Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund (NAHTF) Award. The annual award was established in 2018 to recognize organizations and projects that have leveraged Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Funds to create high-quality, affordable housing. This year's honorees are Blue Valley Community Action, Habitat for Humanity of Omaha, and Custer Economic Development Corporation. These organizations were honored for using State housing funds to change lives and transform communities.

"Across Nebraska, local leaders are finding innovative ways to maximize State housing funds to benefit families in their communities," said Joe Fox, Interim Director of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED). "As a department, we deeply appreciate our local housing partners. These agencies are best positioned to determine their community's needs and design solutions to housing shortages. Congratulations to this year's NAHTF award winners and thank you to the many dedicated leaders working to provide Nebraskans with access to affordable, high-quality housing."

Administered by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, the NAHTF is one of Nebraska's largest annual resources for affordable housing development. Since 1996, the program has supported the construction or rehabilitation of thousands of homes throughout the state, while assisting nonprofits and local governments in their mission to address housing needs.

DED announced the most recent round of NAHTF grants in August 2022. The agency awarded \$17.5 million to assist 40 housing projects throughout Nebraska. The funding is supporting the construction and rehabilitation of over 190 housing units and assisting 185 homebuyers to purchase a home.

This year's NAHTF awards celebrate projects undertaken from 2018 to the present. Award winners were announced during the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority housing conference in Lincoln, Nebraska. Lee Heflebower, current chair of the NCHH, was on hand to present the awards.

"Having a nice, affordable place to live increases a family's financial flexibility. It also gives children much-needed stability," said Heflebower. "With high inflation hitting family budgets, housing affordability is an especially urgent need. Agencies across Nebraska are stepping up to meet this need—and investing an extraordinary amount of time and energy to do so. I'm grateful for the opportunity to honor three of the very best organizations working to put affordable housing within reach of Nebraska's families. They greatly deserve this recognition."

Blue Valley Community Action in Fairbury received a NAHTF grant of \$252,000 in 2018, which was supplemented by \$25,200 in cash match. The agency used the funds to rehabilitate eight single-family homes in the region. The project extended the life expectancy of each home by at least 20 years. Visit [www.bvca.net](http://www.bvca.net) to learn more about BVCA's housing programs.



*Pictured left to right: Lee Heflebower, Chair of the NCHH; Kim Clark, BVCA Housing Director; & Amy Kienzler, Department of Economic Development Southeast Program Representative*

## BVCA PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Blue Valley Community Action Partnership (BVCA) is pleased to announce the recipients of the “Blue Valley Community Action Partnership Scholarship”, the “BVCA Partnership Vocational Scholarship” and the BVCA Partnership SCC Scholarship for the 2022-2023 school year.

These scholarships are awarded to individuals with diverse backgrounds. The selection committee, which is composed of members of the BVCA Partnership Board of Directors, takes into consideration such items as financial need, volunteerism, the applicant’s aspirations and goals for furthering their education. Scholarships can be used for tuition, books, and fees associated with enrollment. All scholarships are in the amount of \$1,000.

The recipient of the “Blue Valley Community Action Partnership Scholarship” is Shelby Lawver of Friend, NE. The recipient of the “BVCA Partnership Vocational Scholarship” is Jaqueline Mullins of Liberty, NE. The recipient of the “BVCA Partnership SCC Scholarship” is McKenna Kisela of Bee, NE. Congratulations to all scholarship recipients!

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

BVCA has several positions available! 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.



## BVCA OFFERS SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VETERAN FAMILIES (SSVF) & SSI/SSDI OUTREACH, ACCESS & RECOVERY (SOAR)

Navigating the application process for VA benefits or federal assistance can be a daunting task, even if the potential applicant is eligible. If that person is experiencing struggles with addiction, mental health, or the threat of homelessness, the task may seem impossible.



Blue Valley Community Action Partnership has programs that can assist individuals and families in crisis. One program, Supportive Services for Veteran Families, is a rapid rehousing and homeless prevention program for qualifying veterans and veteran households who are either homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. Once housing stability is achieved, our case managers work to address any continuing barriers and obstacles to maintaining stability while also helping veterans apply for VA and other available resources.

SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access & Recovery) is another program that helps individuals with mental and/or physical impairments apply for SSI and/or SSDI, if they are homeless or facing the imminent risk of homelessness. Often we serve people with both mental health struggles and co-existing addiction issues.

To learn more about either of these programs, visit [www.bvca.net](http://www.bvca.net).

**Blue Valley Community Action Partnership's 2nd Quarter Outreach**

Case Management	167	Individuals
Childcare Services	13	Individuals
Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)	435	Individuals
Compassionate Projects	0	Individuals
COVID-19 Vaccines	28	Vaccinations
Digital Navigation <b>This program ended 12/31/22.</b>		
Early Head Start Child Care Partnership	38	Individuals
Early Head Start Home Based Services	73	Individuals
Early Head Start & Head Start Childcare Food Program	8942	Meals & Snacks
Emergency Assistance	50	Households
Family & Youth Involvement Center (CASTLE)	131	Individuals
Financial Coaching	63	Individuals
Food Rescue/Security	374	Households
Foster Grandparent Program	33	Individuals
Friends of Blue Valley Volunteer Program	232	Individuals
Head Start	208	Individuals
Homeownership Opportunity Program	3	Households
Housing Counseling	63	Individuals
Immunization Program	165	Shots
Infant Quality Initiative Program	12	Individuals
Lease-to-Own	55	Households
Mortgage Assistance <b>This program ended 9/30/22.</b>		
Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (Shelter)	4	Households
Opportunity Passport <b>This program ended 10/1/22.</b>		Individuals
Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation	0	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)	8	Households
Rental Apartments/Duplexes	85	Households
Rental Elderly Apartments	35	Households
Rural Southeast Nebraska Connected Youth Initiative (RSNCYI)		Individuals
SNAP Outreach (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)	12	Applications
Southeast Nebraska Collaborative Community Response		Households
SSI-SSDI Outreach, Access & Recovery (SOAR)	6	Individuals
Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)	100	Individuals
Thrift Stores	800	Individuals
Transportation	1530	Rides
Weatherization	11	Households
WIC Peer Counseling	19	Individuals
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	906	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**

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