



Quarterly Connection

Our Mission

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

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Visit Us Online

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Community Action, 60 Years Strong

Inspiring Hope
and Advancing
Opportunity



Sixty years ago, President Johnson reported to Congress on the State of the Union. As part of that historic speech, the president declared an unconditional war on poverty, stating, “many Americans live on the outskirts of hope—some because of their poverty, and some because of their color, and all too many because of both. Our task is to help replace their despair with opportunity.” From that declaration grew not just the original Community Action Program, but many of the programs that are still a part of our movement today, including Head Start, weatherization, SNAP, utility assistance, VISTA, and Job Corps.

For 60 years, the nation's Community Action Network has inspired a spirit of hope, helped millions of people each year change their lives, and improved communities all across America. This year, BVCA Partnership celebrates 58 years of providing services to individuals and families in Southeast Nebraska. Our vision remains clear—we believe in a nation that creates opportunities for all people to thrive, builds strong, resilient communities, and ensures a more equitable society.

THANK YOU!

As BVCA Partnership enters a new calendar year and completes it's first quarter of our new fiscal year, we would like to take a moment to thank those who have so generously supported us.

Every box of food collected, every dollar donated, and each hour volunteered directly helps us help families and individuals in need in the communities which BVCA serves. We could not provide the many services and assistance to those in need without the countless contributions from you.

We are extremely grateful for your continued support of our mission. Again, thank you for “Helping People and Changing Lives.”





COLD HOUSE? HIGH UTILITY BILL?

When the temperatures drop, the heating bill goes up. That's a fact of life most households must contend with every year. What some of those households may not know, however, is that there is a program available in their area that can dramatically reduce their heating bill at no cost to them.

Whether you own or rent, Blue Valley Community Action's Weatherization Program can make your home safer, healthier, and more comfortable while saving you thousands of dollars in heating and cooling bills over ten years. BVCA is currently accepting applications for individuals residing in our service area, which includes Butler, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Polk, Saline, Seward, Thayer and York Counties in Nebraska. For more information or to find out if you qualify, call Brandon Bonar or Erica Troxel at (402) 729-2278.

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

BVCA has several positions available! Visit www.bvca.net and select "Careers" to find out more about our career opportunities and benefits. Visit <https://bvca.hireclick.com/jobboard> to apply.



SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE QUICKLY APPROACHING

The March 1 application deadline is quickly approaching for Blue Valley Community Action (BVCA) Partnership's 2023-2024 scholarship opportunities. All scholarships will be in the amount of \$1,000 and can be used for tuition, books and fees associated with enrollment. Three scholarships will be awarded. BVCA Partnership will offer the following scholarships this year:



- The "BVCA Partnership Scholarship" will be awarded to an individual planning to attend or currently attending a 4-year college.
- The "BVCA Partnership Vocational Scholarship" will be awarded to an individual planning to attend or currently attending a 2-year or less program at a vocational college.
- The "BVCA Partnership Southeast Community College Scholarship" will be awarded to an individual planning to attend or currently attending Southeast Community College.

Applicants must reside in BVCA Partnership's service area, which includes Butler, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Polk, Saline, Seward, Thayer and York Counties in Nebraska. Scholarship applications, guidelines and a listing of eligibility requirements may be obtained from area high school administrative or guidance counselor offices, or by contacting the BVCA Partnership Center in your area. Applications can also be downloaded from our website: www.bvca.net. For more information, contact Heather Lytle, BVCA's Administrative Director, at (402) 729-2278 ext. 122. All applications must be received or postmarked on or before March 1, 2024.

Individuals or businesses wishing to donate to BVCA's Scholarship Fund are asked to contact Shari Weber, BVCA's CEO.

ENROLL IN HEAD START TODAY!



Head Start programs support children's growth from birth to age 5 through a variety of services, including early learning and development, health, and family well-being. Some Head Start preschool programs only serve families with children ages 3 to 5. Early Head Start programs serve families with children ages birth to 3, and many also serve expectant families. Our programs help children get ready to succeed in school and in life through learning experiences tailored to their current needs and abilities. All Head Start programs serve families from diverse cultural backgrounds and who speak different languages.

Children's Services

Early Learning and Development

- *We build strong relationships as the foundation of early learning.*
- *We support learning through play, creative expression, and guided activities.*
- *We support children's social and emotional development.*
- *We promote early math and science concepts in children's home languages and in English.*
- *We promote language and literacy development in children's home languages and in English.*

Health and Wellness

- *We promote physical development, both indoors and outdoors.*
- *We serve breakfast, lunch, and healthy snacks.*
- *We provide medical, dental, hearing, vision, and behavioral screening.*

Family Partnership and Well-being

- *We provide parent and family services.*
- *We help families find assistance in challenging times.*
- *We help families identify and reach their goals, including goals related to housing, employment, education, and parenting.*
- *We invite parents to share information and insights about their child.*
- *We invite parents to offer ways to improve children and families' experience in the program.*

Disability Services

- *We build on children's strengths.*
- *We individualize experiences to meet the needs of each child.*
- *We collaborate with parents and community agencies when further assessment is needed.*

Mental Health Services

- *We help families understand and support their child's needs.*
- *We can assist with mental health services for children and families, if needed.*

Visit www.bvca.net to learn more.

Blue Valley Community Action Partnership's 1st Quarter Outreach

Case Management	177	Individuals
Childcare Services	15	Individuals
Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)	403	Individuals
Compassionate Projects	653	Individuals
COVID-19 Vaccines	8	Vaccinations
Early Head Start Child Care Partnership	38	Individuals
Early Head Start Home Based Services	76	Individuals
Early Head Start & Head Start Childcare Food Program	12,587	Meals & Snacks
Emergency Assistance	66	Households
Financial Coaching	40	Individuals
Food Rescue/Security	389	Households
Foster Grandparent Program	27	Individuals
Friends of Blue Valley Volunteer Program	311	Individuals
Head Start	193	Individuals
Homeownership Opportunity Program	0	Households
Housing Counseling	40	Individuals
Immunization Program	208	Shots
Infant Quality Initiative Program	9	Individuals
Lease-to-Own	46	Households
Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (Shelter)	8	Households
Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation	0	Households
Project FIRST TH/RRH (Families In Residence with Support in Transition/Rapid Re-Housing)	5	Households
Project FYRES (Focused Youth on Rehousing, Empowerment & Stability)	11	Households
Rental Apartments/Duplexes	92	Households
Rental Elderly Apartments	28	Households
SNAP Outreach (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)	18	Applications
SSI-SSDI Outreach, Access & Recovery (SOAR)	6	Individuals
Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)	87	Individuals
Telehealth	3	Individuals
Thrift Stores	800	Individuals
Transportation	1,626	Rides
Weatherization	9	Households
WIC Peer Counseling	19	Individuals
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	1,021	Individuals



WE ARE HERE TO HELP

Visit us at 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.