



Third Quarter | Fiscal Year 2024

Quarterly Connection

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Our Mission

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

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In This Issue

- 1 | Community Action Month Proclamation Signing
- 2 | Community Action Month-Making A Difference
- 2 | Join Our Team
- 3 | Seward County Gives
- 3 | Week Of The Young Child
- 4 | 2024 Foster Grandparent Recognition
- 5 | ¼ Brief

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COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH PROCLAMATION SIGNING

Community Action officials joined together with Governor Pillen on May 20, 2024, as he signed a proclamation declaring May to be Community Action Month.

The nation's 1000-plus Community Action Agencies are a robust, state and local force—reaching children and families in 99% of America's counties with lifechanging services that create pathways to prosperity. Community Action agencies connect individuals and families to approaches that help them succeed, promote communitywide solutions to difficult challenges, and share expertise with national, state, and local leaders looking to promote greater economic opportunity for all.

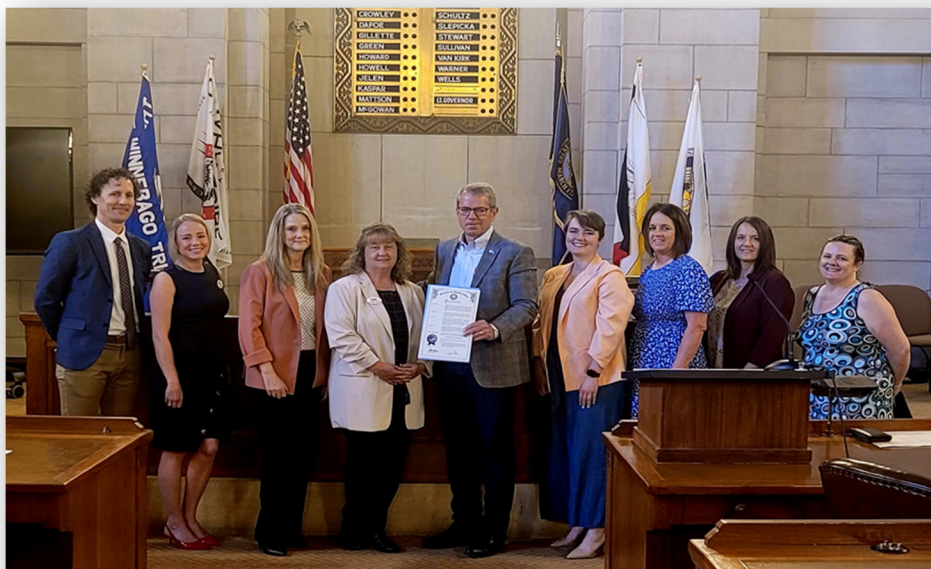
Community Action of Nebraska's Executive Director, Tina Rockenbach, thanked Governor Pillen and delivered the following remarks: "This year marks 60 years of Community Action. Sixty years ago, President Johnson signed the War on Poverty creating our ability to offer our programs. We are a nationwide network that exists to provide resources to help individuals and families move out of economic instability and into economic mobility.

Our programs provide a structure that includes case management, goals, client accountability, and education.

Among the more than 341 programs that are offered by our agencies, we are proud to serve more than 2,000 children ages birth through 5 years in our Early Head Start and Head Start programs. We are honored to provide programs to our veterans and their families located all over the state.

We have partnered with Congressman Flood and several other statewide agencies to improve housing stock through our weatherized programs.

Additionally, we provide more than 1,300 jobs. Our economic impact to that state in FY 2022 was \$95 million."



COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH – “MAKING A DIFFERENCE”

2024 marks 60 years of Community Action. For six decades, our network has been helping people find pathways to opportunity all across America and building strength and resilience in the communities that we serve.

BVCA kicked off Community Action Month with a celebration on May 1, 2024, in Fairbury on the Courthouse lawn. A free lunch, educational booths and an advocacy walk was offered to the community. Despite the damp weather, BVCA still had a great turnout providing approximately 170 meals to clients, community partners, and BVCA employees.

The following businesses were corporate sponsors for BVCA’s “Making A Difference” event: Bukaty Companies, Reinke Manufacturing Co., Bruning Bank, Beatrice Community Hospital, City Bank & Trust Co., and UNICO. Other sponsors included Van Borkum Co., Drake Refrigeration, Lichti’s Inc., Kiwanis Foundation, and Fairbury Housing Authority. With the help of our sponsors BVCA was able to raise almost \$7,500.



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

BVCA has several positions available! Visit www.bvca.net and select “Careers” from the navigation menu to find out more about our career opportunities and benefits.



SEWARD COUNTY GIVES

Blue Valley Community Action Partnership participated in Seward County Gives in May. This was BVCA’s second year being involved with Seward County Gives. This year’s project was raising funds for emergency services through the Family and Community Services Department. BVCA’s emergency services helps families find or remain in stable, safe housing, as well as assisting with things like utility payments and other expenses. With matching funds, BVCA raised over \$700.



In addition, Seward-ish Giving Tree raised nearly \$1,000 to help Seward County veterans with unexpected expenses. BVCA will administer these funds through the One-Time Needs program.

BVCA is grateful to the organizers for putting on a great event. Staff members Deb Aegerter and Ben Schwartz had a table set up during Lunch on the Lawn, an opportunity for the public to meet representatives from participating non-profits and make in-person donations.

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

The Week of the Young Child (WOTYC) is an annual celebration in April that recognizes children (birth through 8) and their families. WOTYC is a fun filled week that engages the children in hands-on activities to encourage movement and healthy lifestyles through music, food, and art. Each day of the week has a special theme that follow to provide nutritious snacks and fun activities.

The week was kicked off with Music Monday. Music helps children learn early literacy skills while encouraging movement. Children were able to have a jam session after making their own instruments and others learned about rhythm while following along to a video.

For Tasty Tuesday one center invited their families to join for a luau party and to enjoy a tropical fruit snack with the children and staff for the afternoon. Cooking encourages skills such as literacy, math, science and more! So, one site had the children make tasty treats to enjoy as an afternoon snack.

A western theme was added to Work Together Wednesday. Working together is important whether it is in the classroom or on the playground. Our friends played a game that required teamwork to find the missing treasure that was taken by bandits!

The kids had a blast for Artsy Thursday painting emotions from music while using nature as a paintbrush. The children used their imagination, creativity, and fine motor skills to determine how to make these pictures so beautiful. Local businesses got involved and put their paintings on display so that the kids and parents go looking for where there's ended up!

Our BVCA families and children are the heart of our program. We wrapped up the week doing what we love most... spending time with loved ones for Family Friday. Sites that are not open on Fridays celebrated by sending home fun activities to do together at home!



2024 FOSTER GRANDPARENT RECOGNITION | GIVE. GAIN. GROW.

In April, individuals serving in BVCA Partnership's AmeriCorps Seniors Pioneer Foster Grandparent Program were honored at a Recognition Luncheon.

A Foster Grandparent's service to their community is like no other and the impact is truly priceless. The time given to help children is an act of kindness and love. The impact that the Grandmas and Grandpas make is unmatched. Not only does volunteering spread goodness to the entire community, but everyone feels better when helping each other be better.

Foster Grandparent Volunteers **GIVE** of their time, **GAIN** a purpose for everyday, and **GROW** love and kindness.

Thank you to all our Grandmas and Grandpas who volunteer. Thank you to our Volunteer Stations for allowing us to serve. Thank you administrators/teachers/program directors for supporting the volunteers. Together, we are making a difference!



Blue Valley Community Action Partnership's 3rd Quarter Outreach

Case Management	154 Individuals
Childcare Services	21 Individuals
Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)	273 Individuals
Compassionate Projects	0 Individuals
COVID-19 Vaccines	3 Vaccinations
Early Head Start Child Care Partnership	36 Individuals
Early Head Start Home Based Services	73 Individuals
Early Head Start & Head Start Childcare Food Program	8,263 Meals & Snacks
Emergency Assistance	59 Households
Financial Coaching	41 Individuals
Food Rescue/Security	455 Households
Foster Grandparent Program	29 Individuals
Friends of Blue Valley Volunteer Program	335 Individuals
Head Start	198 Individuals
Homeownership Opportunity Program	0 Households
Housing Counseling	41 Individuals
Immunization Program	247 Shots
Infant Quality Initiative Program	9 Individuals
Lease-to-Own	48 Households
Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (Shelter)	0 Households
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)	10 Households
Rental Apartments/Duplexes	97 Households
Rental Elderly Apartments	28 Households
SNAP Outreach (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)	10 Applications
SSI-SSDI Outreach, Access & Recovery (SOAR)	2 Individuals
Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) PROGRAM ENDED 6/30/24	87 Individuals
Telehealth	2 Individuals
Thrift Stores	800 Individuals
Transportation	1,370 Rides
Weatherization	11 Households
WIC Peer Counseling	26 Individuals
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	1,077 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.