



Quarterly Connection

Volume 8, Issue 5

GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION HELD FOR NEW HEAD START FACILITY

Celebrating 60 Years of Helping People & Changing Lives

Our Mission

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

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On November 14, 2025, BVCA proudly celebrated the grand opening of its new Head Start facility in Wymore, Nebraska. The event marked an exciting milestone for early childhood services in the community and highlighted BVCA's long-standing commitment to supporting children and families.

BVCA was awarded \$1,615,640 for the development of the new early childhood building, designed to enhance Head Start preschool services in Wymore. The facility includes two classrooms, each with direct access to a secure, fenced playground, providing a safe and engaging learning environment.

The building also features a state-of-the-art kitchen to support nutrition services and a concrete conference room that serves multiple purposes, including functioning as a safe space for children during severe weather. Off-street parking was incorporated into the design to ensure safe and convenient drop-off and pick-up for families.

For 31 years prior to the new construction, BVCA operated its Head Start program in the basement of the United Presbyterian Church in Wymore. BVCA extends sincere appreciation to the church for its long-standing partnership and support, which made it possible to serve generations of children and families in the community.

The new facility was built with the vision of future expansion of services. Should funding opportunities arise, BVCA hopes to expand programming to serve children ages 0–3, further meeting the needs of families in Wymore and surrounding areas.

As BVCA continues to invest in early childhood education, we remain committed to helping children grow, learn, and succeed. By creating safe, supportive environment and partnering with families and communicates, we are building a strong foundation for children – because their success shapes our future.



2025 ALL STAFF MEETING & WELLNESS DAY

On October 29, 2025, BVCA employees gathered at the Holthus Convention Center in York for BVCA's All Staff Meeting & Wellness Day. The morning focused on employee wellness, with opportunities for routine lab work, vaccinations and boosters. Staff also heard a presentation on naloxone (Narcan) from the Four Corners Health Department.

In the afternoon, keynote speaker Tom Krause presented *"You Make a Difference,"* a message centered on appreciation, motivation, and recognizing the meaningful impact individuals have on others. A former educator with 31 years in the Missouri public school system, Krause has spoken at more than 300 conferences nationwide and is a frequent contributor to the *"Chicken Soup for the Soul"* book series.

During the day, the following employees were recognized for their years of service:



30 Years
Sonja Workman



25 Years
Ryan Bailey



20 Years
Lisa Epp



15 Years
Brenda Sherwin



15 Years
Kathy Fritch



15 Years
Tracy Dye



15 Years
Jamie Vyhnalek



15 Years
Lisa Lyons



15 Years
Tiffany Schonerd



15 Years
Carla Walters



15 Years
Alicia Dirks



10 Years
Cynthia Callenius

Employee Recognitions Continued...



10 Years
Maria Hernandez



5 Years
Caleb Epp



5 Years
Brandon Bonar



5 Years
Linda Zitek



5 Years
Kasey Norder



5 Years
Amy Kemerling



5 Years
Stacy Shipps



5 Years
Callie Campbell



1 year (pictured left to right): Madison Bennett, Karen Pack, Jazlin Paling, Juliette Castanon, Kysa Lauer, Gayla Mellen, Cathy Gibbs; (not pictured) Lisa Calabria, Amber Kotas, Kalyn Kuznichenko, Meriha McNutt, Denise Saatmann, Adrianna Waddell.

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.



SPREADING HOLIDAY JOY ACROSS ALL NINE COUNTIES

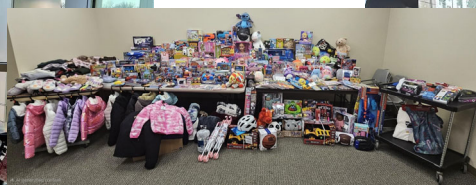
This Christmas season, BVCA proudly hosted holiday gift projects in all nine counties we serve. While each county organized its efforts a bit differently, the shared goal remained the same: ensuring that every child had at least one gift to open on Christmas morning.

These projects were made possible through the generous support of many local partners, including community-based organizations, faith-based groups, businesses, and individual donors. Their willingness to give time, resources, and compassion played a vital role in bringing these efforts together. We truly could not do this work without them.

The Christmas season was a great success. Every child who participated in BVCA toy workshops or our Wishlist/Adopt-A-Family projects received gifts, bringing joy and hope to families across our service area.

This success also reflects the dedication of BVCA staff, who invested countless hours coordinating logistics, working with partners, and ensuring each detail was handled with care. Their commitment, along with the support of our sponsors and community partners, helped make the holiday season brighter for so many children and families.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who helped make these Christmas projects possible.

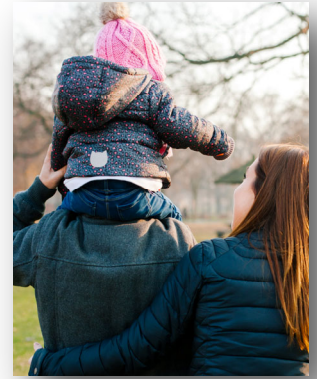


THANK YOU!

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."



¼ BRIEF FY 2026 | October, November, December (1st Quarter)

Blue Valley Community Action Partnership's Outreach

Case Management	135	Individuals
Childcare Services	24	Individuals
Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)	290	Individuals
Compassionate Projects	883	Individuals
COVID-19 Vaccines		Vaccinations
Early Head Start Child Care Partnership	20	Individuals
Early Head Start Home Based Services	50	Individuals
Early Head Start & Head Start Childcare Food Program	11,582	Meals & Snacks
Emergency Assistance	30	Households
Financial Coaching	22	Individuals
Food Rescue/Security	468	Households
Foster Grandparent Program	37	Individuals
Friends of Blue Valley Volunteer Program	267	Individuals
Head Start	187	Individuals
Homeownership Opportunity Program	0	Households
Housing Counseling	22	Individuals
Immunization Program	148	Shots
Infant Quality Initiative Program	12	Individuals
Lease-to-Own	41	Households
Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (Shelter)	3	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)	9	Households
Rental Apartments/Duplexes	96	Households
Rental Elderly Apartments	28	Households
SNAP Outreach (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)	7	Applications
Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)	50	Individuals
Telehealth	15	Individuals
Thrift Stores	800	Individuals
Transportation	1050	Rides
Weatherization	12	Households
WIC Peer Counseling	42	Individuals
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	993	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.