

Blue Valley
Community Action
Annual Report
1998-1999

Acknowledgment

Blue Valley Community Action, Inc., wishes to thank the great people of the States of Nebraska and Kansas who have made this nonprofit corporation a success. It is the support of the communities, individual, volunteers, and dedicated staff that develop and maintain our programs and services. Without your assistance and dedication, we would not have survived for 33 years. With your past support, we have grown. With your present support, we thrive. With your continued support, we go forth and meet the challenge of the new year, the new decade, the new century and the new millennium.



BLUE VALLEY COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



*Serving the people of Southeastern Nebraska
and North Central Kansas.
1966-1999*

December 1999

From the Board President...

Blue Valley Community Action is a private non-profit charity and is very dependent upon contributions, donations, volunteers, and the abilities of staff to do successful grant-writing. Each year costs go up, but this is not always covered by increases in grants. This is where the help of the many community supporters is so critical to the organization's success.

These supporters are the volunteers who help with center activities, clothing rooms, food pantries, commodity distributions, child care and Head Start centers, on the many advisory groups or even those volunteers who make up the governing board.

The Board of Directors tries very hard to meet the needs of each and every county served by the organization by directing the staff and volunteers to be responsive and to help those less fortunate who are trying to make a difference in their own lives and the lives of their family members.

Blue Valley Community Action has completed its thirty-third year and continues to help improve the quality of life for more than 13,000 local residents.

We don't do it alone. Others help with financial contributions; many, many volunteer hours; donations of food, clothing, household items, and personal grooming items; overnight stays at homes for domestic abuse victims, etc.

This list can go on into the hundreds of individuals from Blue Valley Community Action's area that contribute so much to our organization. We begin our thirty-fourth year with renewed enthusiasm. We appreciate all of your help and, as president of the Blue Valley Community Action Board of Directors, I wish to thank you.

Board of Directors 1998-1999

Executive Committee

*Don Deats, President
John Walton, Vice President
Michael Simonsen, Secretary
Ruth Miller, Treasurer
Anna Kinnison, Equal Opportunity
Ed Aden, Personnel*

Additional Members

*William Kozisek
Eunice Beran
Suzanne Shaw
Albert Simacek
Pat Lefever
Linda D'Andrea
Dwight Nichols
Rose Towndrow
Ross Stepan
James Weichel
Mary Campbell
Fern Shamburg
Collette Barber
Gayle Barnett
Lavern Wimer
Willis Luedke
Bonnie Schoenbeck
Keith Bottrell
Ray Naber
Larry Bonner
Don Meyers
Arnold Ehlers
Roberta Woolston
Daryl Ream
James Klute
Jane Beck Smith
Tom Robson
Larry Kramer
Sylvia Warren
Cristi Higgins*



Don Deats
Board President



Richard Nation
Executive Director

...and the Executive Director

This annual report is the last of the millennium for Blue Valley Community Action. The close of our thirty-third year closes out the last third of the twentieth century and offers us challenges for the new century, a new millennium also.

It gives us time to reflect on the past. Before Blue Valley Community Action came into existence in January of 1966, the rate of poverty in the nine counties served by the organization was in the 20-25 percent range on average. One in four or five folks was below the poverty line established by the federal government. Today, most of the area has a poverty rate of ten percent or less. While many factors contribute to this situation, one of them has surely been the influence of this organization on getting folks back on their feet when unfortunate situations have arisen to knock them down.

Poverty is a strange creature. It can afflict those with little motivation, but it can also afflict the most hard working. It can surprise you, coming as a result of ill health or injury. It can come as a result of falling grain or livestock prices. It can come from a factory closing, or from young folks moving from a hometown to the big city. An individual can fall into poverty, as can a family. However, a community can also fall into poverty. Blue Valley Community Action serves southeastern Nebraska and north central Kansas, predominantly rural areas and we work with community leaders to help communities grow and stay healthy. For strong communities, we also need strong families. Therefore, we work for families of all types, from single elderly living along to single mothers with children, to traditional families newly arrived to our area.

We try to address the causes of poverty, as well as try to help alleviate the worst parts of being in poverty. This is no narrow task. Poor health can lead to poverty, poor education, poor housing, poor nutrition, lack of work or work with low pay and few benefits can lead to poverty, abuse by a loved one can split a home and family break up can lead to poverty. Children getting into trouble can lead to lessening of opportunities and eventual poverty or worse. Therefore, our focus has always been comprehensive. You'll see us active in emergency situations, in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, comforting the sick, helping the unemployed, teaching those in need of various skills. You'll see us working to identify community needs, building or repairing housing, developing child care centers, organizing community projects, promoting the rural nature of our area, operating community centers, driving county transit buses and supporting family centers. We are your neighbors and we want what is best for our communities.

However, it is important that we all help with this fight against poverty. Not only because it is part of our religious heritage, but because poverty can be infectious. We are grateful that the poverty rates have fallen from the mid-twenty's to around ten percent. However, we must recognize that the percentage of children in poverty is still higher than the general public (almost double). The time for some preventive action is now. A good approach is to have the whole community take action. This Community Action agency stands ready to help, to lead if necessary, to go the extra mile, to take the risk if necessary to get action, to create action that meets our communities mutual needs.

Management Team 1998-1999

Executive Director
Richard D. Nation

Comptroller
Robin Mayer

Human Resources
Loree Rix-Crouse

Blue Valley Crisis Intervention
Loree Rix-Crouse, Director
Carmen Grummert, Program Director

Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault
Crisis Intervention
Public Information
Coordinated Response
Juvenile Diversion Program
AmeriCorps

Family & Community Services
Ardith Hoins, Director

Food Programs
Health Services Networks
Family Development
Emergency Shelters/Services
Transit Services
Saline Eldercare
Foster Grandparents
County Coordinators and Centers
Homeless Assistance

Housing & Rural Development
Jerri Kerr, Director

Community Housing Development
Weatherization and Home Rehabilitation
Homeowner Assistance Services
Joint Housing Authority Management

Children & Youth Services
Kathryn Molczyk, Director

Blue River Family Resource Center
Blue River Child Development
Head Start-Nebraska
Head Start-Kansas
Early Head Start
Full Day/Full Year



1966

- * January—Local citizens begin BVCA. State approves incorporation as private non profit.
- * March—IRS approves tax exempt status of BVCA, Inc.
- * Summer—BVCA's first grant was \$15,954.
- * September—Bob Gerdes of Crete was named first Executive Director.
- * Fall—Head Start receives its first grant in the amount of \$3,298.

1967

- * C l a u d i a Robinson is named first Head Start Director.

1968

- * Head Start has two counties and 40 children.
- * Head Start receives \$50,525 grant.
- * Kathryn Molczyk joins BVCA as the first Head Start Teacher in Saline County.
- * John Kisling is named Director of Senior Citizen Programs.
- * BVCA gets two VISTA workers.

1969

- * BVCA and counties begin Food Stamp Program.

1970

- * Meals on Wheels Program begins.

1971

- * Kathryn Molczyk becomes Youth Services Director.
- * BVCA offers first home improvement loans.

1984

- * Possible budget cuts will affect Head Start; cutting sixth center in Utica.
- * BVCA helps establish Cornhusker United Way.
- * Seward and Butler County CSFP Clinics begin.
- * BVCA Pickle Card Sales begin.
- * Solar Greenhouse built with Union Pacific Foundation & other private sources.

1983

- * The first housing rehabilitation program was started by C.S.A.
- * First Commodity Supplemental Food Program Clinic opens in Polk County.

1982

- * Fillmore County Rural Transit Service begins. Serves 114 in first 6 weeks.
- * End of Community Service Administration and beginning of Community Service Block Grant—BVCA funding impacted.
- * Funding cuts cause BVCA reorganization—FCS staff go from several per county to one for every two counties.
- * Biscuits & Beans Food Co-op begins.

1981

- * B V C A celebrates 15th year.

1985

- * 130 kids are enrolled in Head Start.
- * Hallmark donates \$200,000 of merchandise.
- * Job Saving Energy Project initiated.

1986

- * First Housing Preservation Grant from Farmers Home Administration serves Gage County.
- * CSFP begins in Thayer County.
- * Seward Food Pantry begins.
- * BVCA's York Clothing Bank starts in old

1987

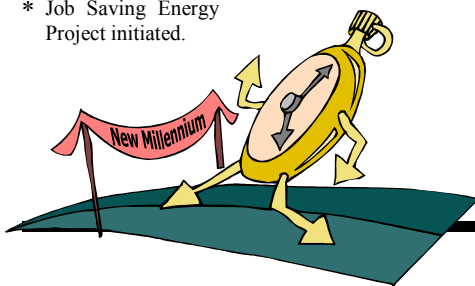
- * B V C A 's first budget year over \$1 million.

1988

- * Butler Count Transit begins.
- * First homeless shelter grant obtained in Gage County.
- * Cyndi Smith, BVCA Development Director, heads up "Get Rural" brand of BVCA volunteer crafts and popcorn sales.

1989

- * Head Start begins a Combination program in Beatrice with 30 children enrolled.
- * Thayer County Housing Preservation Grant awarded.



1999

- * Funding is received for 40 children to be enrolled in Early Head Start in Gage and Saline counties.
- * BVCI begins first Juvenile Diversion program in Jefferson County.
- * Robin Mayer becomes BVCA Comptroller.
- * BVCA grantee of HUD Supportive Housing Program with Southeast NE Community Action as partner—\$567,000 for three years.
- * BVCA revenues pass \$7.5 million.

1998

- * First Full Day/Full Year Head Start center in York, Nebraska.
- * The housing department received recognition and an "Award of Excellence from the Fannie Mae Foundation. They also received the "Housing Our Community Award" from the Affordable Housing Commission.
- * Rhonda Drewes becomes Foster Grandparent Director.
- * Loree Rix-Crouse is named BVCI Director.
- * Seward FCS Center relocates
- * Eldercare relocates in Wilber to BVCA owned facility.

1997

- * Blue River Family Center-Phase II opens.
- * BVCA and CATCH Partners receive Rural Health Outreach grant for three years \$564,279 for health care access.

1972

- * BVCA starts first rural transit program, the BV Line, which later become Saline County Area Transit.
- * BVCA Budget reaches \$446,177 with 56 employees and eight directors.
- * 28% of families in four counties are below poverty.

1973

- * BVCA gets "last six months of funding."

1974

- * Neighborhood Youth Corps begin in 8 counties.
- * Meals Together program for senior citizens in full swing.
- * Ardi Hoins operates Fillmore County Program.

1975

- * Community Service Administration awards BVCA first weatherization funding \$10,000 for "Winterization."
- * Ardi Hoins becomes Family and Community Services Director. Marge Wilson takes over as Fillmore County Supervisor.

1976

- * Housing Department at BVCA begins.
- * BVCA begins Big Brothers/Big Sisters program.
- * 300 homes weatherized in an 18 month period.
- * BVCA expands from original four counties and adds Gage County. Polk County follows shortly thereafter.
- * READY (Rural Educational Alternatives for the Development of the Young) Child Development Center opens.
- * BVCA & PEP (Practical Enterprises for People) join forces in Saline County. Neva Forbes named

1980

- * Head Start Home Base program begins in Gage County with 10 children.
- * BVCA employees help out in disaster in Grand Island caused by tornado's. Dozens of staff and VISTA workers help with tree removal, roof repairs, handling forms for assistance, and clothing and food distribution.

1979

- * Seward County is added to BVCA.
- * Dental Program begins.
- * Basic Intake Form agreed to by all NE Community Action Agencies.
- * CISDA started by BVCA and area partners.
- * NEO begins funding

1978

- * Rick Nation is named Executive Director.
- * Community Food Pantries begin.
- * Butler County joins BVCA.
- * Head Start Expenditures for the fiscal year are \$123,753.
- * BVCA's budget passes a half million dollars for the first time.

1977

- * FY 1977 BVCA revenue total is \$449,033.
- * Rick Nation was named BVCA Director of Innovative Programs.
- * First Immunization Clinic held.
- * BVCA and Panhandle Community Services operate Rural Home Repair Program.

1990

- * First Rural Health Outreach Grant obtained by BVCA for People Caring for People Project in Gage County with Family Resource Center and Beatrice Community Hospital partners.
- * Young Parents Program and Jobs-In-Families Program begin. BVCA funded for WIC Program in four counties.
- * Pioneer Foster Grandparents funding switches from BSDC to BVCA.

1991

- * BVCI begins; assuming most duties previously provided by CISDA.
- * BVCA celebrates 25th year.
- * CSFP expands to Humboldt and serves four more counties.
- * Head Start now serves 9 counties with 235 kids enrolled.
- * Jerri Kerr promoted to Housing Director.

1992

- * BVCA was designated a CHDO (Community Housing Development Organization).
- * Beatrice is now serving 40 children, with 30 children in the combination program and 10 in the home base program.
- * Saline Eldercare services provided by BVCA begins from office in Wilber operated by Sunny Kontor.
- * Saline County Housing Preservation Grant awarded.
- * Old Lynch Clinic donated to BVCA to become new administrative offices.

1993

- * Wymore Head Start opens.
- * BVCA offers shelter for the homeless.
- * Seward Immunization Clinic begins.
- * BVCA and counties help family homes with disaster relief.
- * 6000th ride given by Fillmore County Rural Transit.
- * New BVCA FCS facility in York opens.

1996

- * Jerri Kerr and Faith Medina received "Housing Development Finance Professionals" from the National Development Council.
- * BVCI establishes Coordinated Response to Domestic Violence in Saline County.
- * BVCA celebrates 30th year.
- * Scholarship program begins.
- * Ten Dialogue on Poverty Forums held with 250 people participating.

1995

- * Seward Head Start moves to a new location after remodeling a church basement.
- * Blue River Family Center Phase I opens.
- * East Meadows Apartments opens, BVCA is General Partner.
- * Exeter, Grafton and Geneva duplexes completed by BVCA.
- * BVCA is one partner in establishing CATCH network in SE NE to ensure health access to Medicaid and indigent population.
- * BV Joint Housing Authority formed with BVCA as administrator.
- * Fillmore Transit passes 7000 trips within a year for first time.

1994

- * The first affordable housing unit was constructed.
- * Rhonda Drewes becomes BVCI director.
- * Head Start becomes \$1 Million Program.
- * Head Start expands to two counties in Kansas and is now in 11 counties.
- * Jefferson County Head Start moves to a new location. It was the first time Head Start purchased its own facility.
- * Jodene Werner becomes Fiscal Director.
- * Home Visitation and Chore Services begin for Saline County Elderly.
- * Volunteerism and donated items top \$1.1 million.
- * Blue River Child Development Programs begin in August in several locations within Crete.
- * BVCA receives first year of funding for AmeriCorps program.

Blue Valley Community Action, Inc.

Resources & Support

STATE OF NEBRASKA GRANTS:

AmeriCorps	\$28,602
CSFP	\$75,210*
WIC	\$123,531
NHAP	\$43,520
HIV/AIDS	\$22,643
Immunization	\$21,150
Sexual Assault	\$17,399
Domestic Violence	\$72,577
VOCA/VAWA	\$68,587
CSBG	\$223,532
Child Care Food	\$66,642
Transitional Housing	\$28,919
Disaster Grant	\$8,558
HOME	\$142,374
Weatherization	\$169,383
CATCH	\$114,838
ESGP	\$27,202
SESAME	\$40,800
TASK	\$500
Native American Training	\$8,472
Child Abuse Prevention	\$19,157
Jefferson County Good Beginnings	\$2,338
Turning Point	\$18,331
Sunset CROWN Project	\$9,817
Dorchester Housing Project	\$274,900
<i>*Value of Commodities Distributed:</i>	<i>\$252,725</i>

STATE OF KANSAS GRANTS:

Food Programs	\$4,637
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UNITED WAY SUPPORT:

Cornhusker United Way	\$4,000
York United Way	\$1,453
United Way of America	\$2,893
Gage County United Way	\$1,445

PRIVATE FOUNDATION SUPPORT:

NE Children & Families Foundation	\$19,542
Peter Kiewitt Foundation	\$8,933
Community Training	\$7,286
Bryan LGH	\$5,000
Cable Vision	\$2,000
CAN, Inc.	\$14,216

PRIVATE INVESTMENT REVENUES:

Corporate	\$46,200
Pickles	\$78,437
Administration Fees	\$39,400
Management Fees	\$65,770
Development Fees	\$7,565
Private Housing Investment	\$232,170

RENTAL INCOME:

Fillmore County Units	\$44,289
HOME Rents	\$8,806
Blue River Family Resource Center	\$30,430
Valley Heights	\$84,035
Other Corporate Rental Income	\$16,625

Blue Valley Community Action, Inc.

Resources & Support

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT:

Butler County	\$4,075
Fillmore County	\$3,376
Gage County	\$10,800
Jefferson County	\$4,157
Polk County	\$2,696
Saline County	\$17,361
Seward County	\$7,320
Thayer County	\$3,147
York County	\$6,835
City of Crete	\$2,846
City of Fairbury	\$27,226
City of Lincoln	\$16,668
Villages of:	
Swanton, DeWitt, Tobias	
Western, & Dorchester	\$2,068
City of Friend	\$1,194
City of Wilber	\$1,549

U.S. GOVERNMENT DIRECT GRANTS:

Head Start	\$1,532,232
Foster Grandparents	\$184,996
CATCH Network	\$189,276
Parent Information Center	\$397,120
HUD Supportive Housing	\$24,193

LOCAL CHILD CARE FEES:

Blue River Child Development	\$287,271
Other Local Fees	\$37,341

LOCAL PRIVATE SUPPORT:

Pantries	\$20,981
Clothing Sales	\$88,785
In-Kind Contributions	\$1,469,151
Donations	\$35,497
Local County Projects	\$320,393

OTHER REVENUES:

Fillmore Transit	\$53,538
Butler Transit	\$28,045
York Transit	\$300
Interest Income	\$14,010

CONSTRUCTION ASSET FUNDING:

Valley Heights	\$325,087
Dorchester Units	\$43,506
Corporate Financing	\$41,462

TOTAL SUPPORT FOR 1998-1999:
\$7,558,616

BVCA is also the general partner in five housing partnerships not included here.

BVCA increased cash reserves to \$190,000.

Blue Valley Community Action
Umbrella