

**Blue Valley
Community Action**
Annual Report
2001-2002

*Serving the People of Southeastern Nebraska
and North Central Kansas.
1966-2003*

December 2002

Table of Contents

Letter from the BVCA Board President.....	1
2001-2002 Board of Directors	1
Letter from the BVCA Executive Director.....	2
Management Team.....	2
Resources and Support.....	3-4
Revenue.....	3
Expenses	4
Those BVCA Has Helped.....	5-6
The Promise of Community Action.....	5
Our Mission Statement	5
The Seven Principles of Community Action	6
How BVCA Has Changed Lives	7-12
Health Services	7
Nutrition Services	7
Homeless Services	8
Family Development.....	8
Outreach Services	9
Emergency Services.....	9
Transportation Services	9
Housing Services and Development	10
Children Services.....	11
Youth Services.....	11
Volunteer Opportunities.....	12
Blue Valley Community Action Sites.....	13
Acknowledgment.....	14



Board of Directors 2001-2002

Executive Committee

Dwight Nichols, President
Willis Luedke, Vice President
Mary Campbell, Secretary
Bonnie Schoenbeck, Treasurer
James Klute, Planning
Fern Shamburg, Legislative

Additional Members

George Scholz
Anna Kinnison
Evelyn Uphoff
Albert Simacek
Shirley Hall
Karen Elznic
Daniel Hall
Harlan Hagemeier
David Swavely
Len Hawkins
Judy Doerr
James Weichel
Fern Shamburg
Michael Simonsen
Don Schneberger
Joyce Knudson
Larry Barrett
Punky Reisdorff
Ray Naber
Velma Lutz
Lucinda Johnson
Lawrence Traudt
Daryl Ream
Roberta Woolston
James Klute
Bob Wolfe
Randy Givens
Arlene Blair
Larry Kramer
Brock Elsen

From the Board President...

As the 2003 President of the Governing Board of Blue Valley Community Action, I will have the opportunity to oversee the growth of an organization that has been helping the area for over thirty-five years. I thank my fellow Board Members for their confidence and look forward to an exciting year.

Blue Valley Community Action's Board consists of low-income residents elected by their peers; county board members selected by each county government; and private sector interests from religious representatives and civic organizations to business and industry leaders. Recently the Board has added a representative from the Youth Empowerment Council. This unique diversity of governing Board Members has allowed for thorough consideration when critical decisions are agreed to on the large variety of projects the organization undertakes.

Projects that are on the 2003 agenda include completing sixteen homes in Crete, expanding the offices in Fairbury, investigating expansion of the York centers, remodeling the youth center in Fairbury and beginning construction of a series of homes throughout York County. These are the building projects. The organization is also expanding programming. The new maternal and child health program and increasing minority health services will lead to expanded emphasis in that area. Juvenile Services will also be expanded, as Blue Valley Community Action participates in the new "Freedom Corps" as part of AmeriCorps and adds programming with the new youth resource center. While it may not match last year's 50% growth, it promises to be another busy year.

Blue Valley Community Action does not do all it does alone. Without the support and assistance of our neighbors and friends, within the multi-county service area, many of our efforts would not be successful. The volunteers number into the thousands, so I cannot list them here, but we very much appreciate each and every one of you. If you have not been part of our efforts, or if you haven't done so recently and wish to join us in our partnership to help people and change lives, please contact your local Blue Valley Community Action office or call the main office. If you want to know more about us, please visit our website at www.bvca.net, contact our office in your area, call the main office or read on in this annual report.



*Richard Nation, Executive Director (right)
and Willis Luedke, 2003 Board President*

... From the Executive Director

Regardless of whether you thought the new millennium began in 2000 or 2001, we are now definitely in the early years of the twenty-first century. Blue Valley Community Action has had to ask itself if we were ready. I think the answer is “yes” in most respects and “getting there” in some others.

Our Field Offices have now been connected electronically to the Home Office, thus cutting back on paper flow and mail costs. Many of our systems have been adjusted with newer technology. Our facilities have undergone a review to plan for future growth and modernization needs. The Home Office will see an addition completed within the year and there are initial discussions for expansions in York, Fairbury and Crete.

Blue Valley Community Action also held its first agency health fair at the end of the year. Staff were offered flu shots, blood draws, stroke assessments, bone density and education on a variety of health options and lifestyle choices. As part of the 21st Century changes going on in our area, we participated in projects that helped many new immigrant families learn of the availability of such services, which they have not always accessed or which may not have existed in their native lands. Regardless of background, most folks strive for self-reliance.

In keeping with the goal of self-sufficiency for all our clients, our organization is seeking to become more self-reliant to set the example. We already self-insure the medical needs of our employees and for several years have self-insured older vehicles. We've established reserve accounts to help with facility maintenance and vehicle repairs. Many of our programs are looking to the future with hopes of eventually being self-sustaining by utilizing revolving loan programming or investor financing.

We are, however, a charitable organization and much of what we do requires contributions and grants to pay the costs of services. As we help folks in need over the tough times, we need and generally get the support of local businesses, churches, organizations and residents—most frequently former clients. This need will likely be with us always. So we hope the support continues as well.

One day, our desire is that all the residents of our area will feel the dignity that comes with self-reliance. In the meantime, BVCA will continue doing what it can to smooth the path to self-sufficiency for those who face greater challenges than we fortunate ones.

We hope as you review this annual report, you'll remember the effort of our clients as they struggle to overcome adverse situations and the dedication of Blue Valley Community Action's staff, whether paid or volunteer as they offer support. We hope you are moved to contribute your part to bettering the lives of those around you and, perhaps, help us with our efforts.

Management Team 2001-2002

Executive Director-Richard D. Nation

Comptroller-Robin Mayer

Human Resources-Loree Rix-Crouse

Research & Planning-Jamie Swartz

Blue Valley Crisis Intervention
Carmen Grummert, Director

*Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault
Crisis Intervention
Public Information
Juvenile Diversion Program
AmeriCorps/NE Reads*

Family & Community Services
Ardith Hoins, Director

*Food Programs
Family Development
Emergency Shelters/Services
Transit Services
Saline Eldercare
Foster Grandparents
County BVCA Centers
Homeless/Near-Homeless Assistance*

Health Services
Janie Fralin, Director

*Women, Infants & Children
Immunizations
Hispanic Health Services
Every Woman Matters
Community Access to Coordinated Healthcare
Respite*

Housing & Rural Development
Jerri Kerr, Director

*Community Housing Development
Weatherization & Home Rehabilitation
Housing Rentals
Homeowner Assistance Services*

Children & Youth Services
Kathryn Molezyk, Director

*Blue River Family Resource Center
Blue River Child Development
Head Start
Early Head Start*

Blue Valley Community Action Resources & Support

STATE OF NEBRASKA GRANTS:

AmeriCorps	\$91,551
CSFP (Commodity Distribution)	*\$80,224
WIC (Health & Nutrition)	*\$149,708
NHAP (Homeless Assistance)	\$85,694
Maternal Health	\$57
Immunization	\$27,361
Sexual Assault	\$28,901
Domestic Violence	\$99,817
VOCA (Victims of Crime Assistance)	\$106,737
CSBG (Community Services)	\$290,995
Training Institute (Staff Development)	\$2,936
Child Care Food	\$95,577
Hispanic Healthcare	\$75,854
Juvenile Justice	\$27,481
SESAME	\$138,710
CHDO (Housing Development)	\$22,187
EBT/VITA	\$8,376
ESGP (Emergency Shelter)	\$24,450
FEMA	\$5,393
DOE Weatherization	\$102,385
Parenting Education	\$18,334
Jefferson County Good Beginnings	\$8,688
LIEAP Weatherization	\$153,553
Every Woman Matters	\$87,894
Continuity (Child Education)	\$8,080
Homeowner Assistance	\$131,059
Respite	\$65,235
Youth Services	\$6,848
Lead Screening	\$1,334
Early Childhood Initiative	<u>\$20,776</u>
Total	\$1,966,195

*Value of Commodities Distributed: \$592,792

STATE OF KANSAS GRANTS:

Food Programs	\$9,507
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UNITED WAY SUPPORT:

Cornhusker United Way	\$5,600
Gage County United Way	\$3,450
York United Way	\$2,538
United Way of America	<u>\$28,677</u>
Total	\$40,265

PRIVATE FOUNDATION SUPPORT:

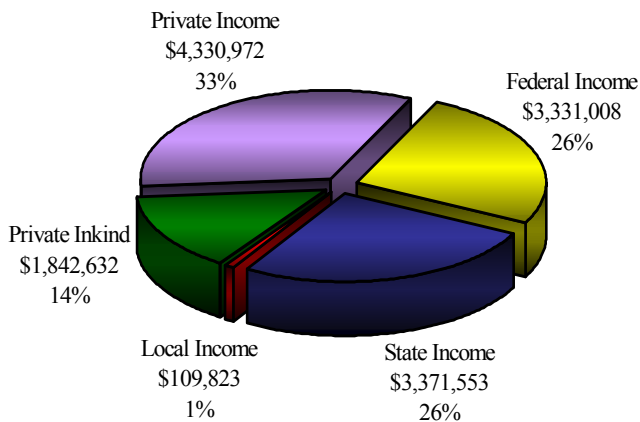
NE Children & Families Foundation	\$1,584
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PRIVATE INVESTMENT REVENUES:

Self Insurance Fund	\$177,112
Corporate	\$38,301
Pickles	\$59,044
Administration Fees	\$39,823
Management Fees	\$141,060
Development Fees	\$4,421
Revolving Loan Programs	\$91,645
Blue River SPRING Grant	<u>\$26,846</u>
Total	\$578,252

RENTAL INCOME:

Corporate Rents	\$106,413
Fillmore County Units	\$61,793
HOME Rents	\$30,121
Blue River Family Resource Center	\$94,050
Valley Heights	\$89,972
Diller Units	\$16,769
Dorchester Units	\$14,766
Osceola Units	<u>\$28,000</u>
Total	\$441,884



**BVCA's
2001-2002
Total Revenues:
\$12,985,988**

Blue Valley Community Action Resources & Support

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT:

Butler County	\$4,366
Fillmore County	\$3,287
Gage County	\$11,403
Jefferson County	\$4,161
Polk County	\$2,825
Saline County	\$8,994
Seward County	\$8,219
Thayer County	\$3,031
York County	\$7,243
City of Lincoln	\$47,183
Cities of Crete, Friend, & Wilber	\$6,720
Communities of Swanton, DeWitt, Tobias Western, & Dorchester	<u>\$2,391</u>
Total	\$109,823

U.S. GOVERNMENT DIRECT GRANTS:

Head Start	\$1,747,237
Foster Grandparents	\$201,189
CATCH Network	\$152,764
Parent Information Center	\$699,948
HUD Supportive Housing	\$161,211
Rural Health Outreach	\$10,052
Early Head Start	<u>\$358,607</u>
Total	\$3,331,008

LOCAL FEES:

Blue River Child Development	\$335,301
Other Local Fees	<u>\$6,198</u>
Total	\$341,499

LOCAL PRIVATE SUPPORT:

Pantries	\$21,820
Clothing Sales	\$103,733
In-Kind Contributions	\$1,842,632
Local Donations	\$34,527
Project First	\$12,423
Scholarship Fund	\$2,021
Local County Projects	<u>\$30,518</u>
Total	\$2,047,674

OTHER REVENUES:

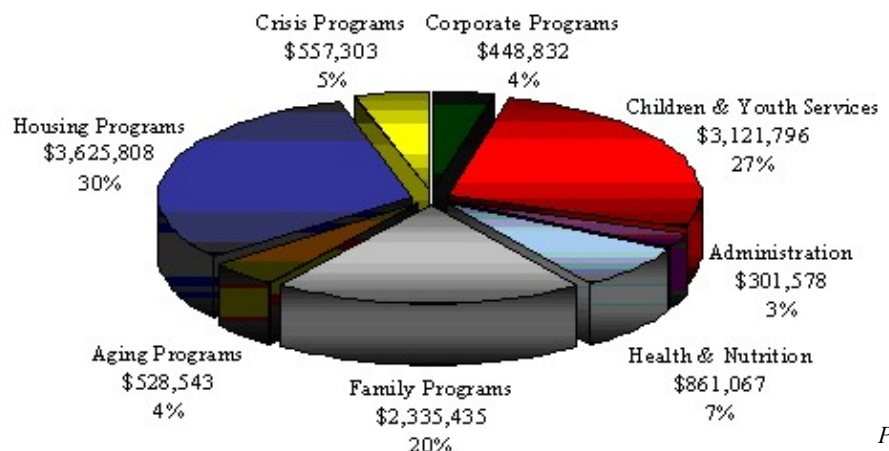
Fillmore Transit	\$63,049
Butler Transit	<u>\$970</u>
Total	\$64,019

CONSTRUCTION/ASSET FUNDING:*

Midtown Apartments Osceola	\$257,391
Prairie Wood	\$1,636,254
Diller 4-Plex	\$10,964
Bar-None	\$180,699
Valley Heights II	\$1,031,161
Blue Terrace CROWN	\$208,547
Fairmont/Exeter	\$660
Other Construction	<u>\$135,810</u>
Total	\$3,461,486

**BVCA is the general partner in 8 housing partnerships not included in these figures. See Page 10 for a listing.*

**BVCA's
2001-2002
Total Expenses:
\$12,759,798**



The Promise of Community Action

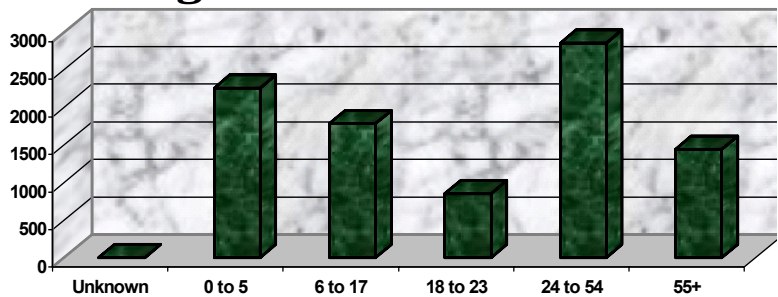
Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

During 2001-2002 12,979 individuals were served by BVCA.

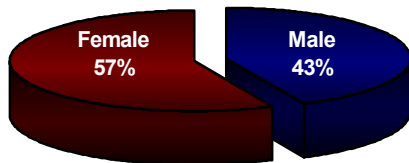
Client Poverty

Below 185% of Poverty: 86.5%
Below 80% of Poverty: 48.2%
Between 80% & 125% of Poverty: 26.9%
Between 125% & 185% of Poverty: 11.4%
Above 185% of Poverty: 3.8%
Unknown Income Levels: 9.7%

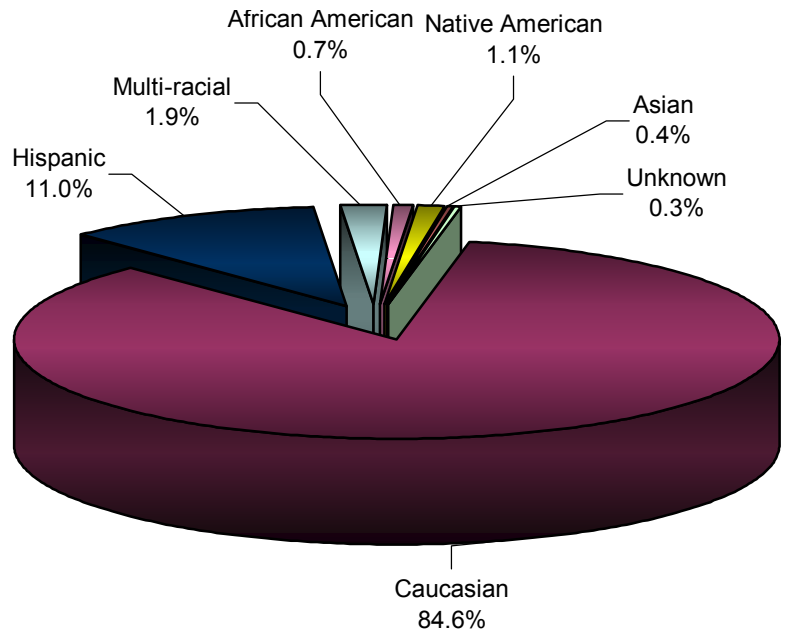
Ages of Clients Served



Gender Breakdown



Ethnic Background



Poverty vs. Welfare

While more than 95.8%* are below 185% of poverty, only 4.9% are on welfare (TANF/AFDC)

** of those reporting income levels*

Blue Valley Community Action's Mission Statement

To build upon strengths by providing diverse and innovative opportunities to impact personal responsibility, family well-being, and community development.

Family Structure

Marital Status:

51.7% Never Married
25.3% Married
7.7% Widowed
7.0% Divorced
5.7% Living Together
2.6% Separated

Parental Status:

22.0% Two Parents w/ Children
8.4% Single Parent w/ Children
1.3% Non-custodial Parent
2.8% About to Become a Parent
18.4% Two Adults, No Children
47.1% Has Never Been a Parent

Average Family Size: 2.6 persons



Education

4.7% College Graduates
7.4% High School Graduates and Some College
27% High School Graduate
14.9% Did Not Graduate High School
23.1% Current K-12 Student
22.9% Pre-School Age

Medical Insurance

28.3% Kids Connection

15% Medicaid

8.4% Medicare

.1% Native American Health

22.4% Private Insurance

25.8% No Insurance

The Seven Principles of Community Action

OPENING DOORS AND LEADING THE WAY We provide access to the opportunities people need to improve their lives, to help themselves and each other.

TURNING HOPE INTO REALITY We identify the needs of the entire community, collaborate with others in the community and take action to improve life for everyone in the community.

EMPATHIZING Our staff and volunteers are from the community they serve.

TREATING PEOPLE WITH RESPECT We treat people the way we want to be treated.

SAYING "YES" If we do not provide the needed service, we will link you to those who do.

GIVING A VOICE TO THE POOR Through our advocacy, we seek to make society more flexible and responsive to the needs of the poor.

MIRRORING THE DIVERSITY OF OUR COMMUNITIES Our local boards include low-income people, local public officials, business and community groups.