

BLUE VALLEY COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

Annual Report 2004-2005



*Serving the People of Southeastern Nebraska
and North Central Kansas.
1966-2006*

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A Message from BVCA Partnership...

Blue Valley Community Action Partnership's thirty-ninth year saw many fortunes ebb and flow. We watched our Asian neighbors struggle to recover from a devastating tsunami, never dreaming our own Gulf coast would soon suffer a similar fate at the hands of Hurricane Katrina. Nationwide, health care costs continued to spiral out of control, energy costs went through the roof, and while politicians debated government's responsibility to care for our less fortunate, more and more families fell into poverty.

Yet instead of real solutions, we heard about bleeding heart liberals and uncaring conservatives, when the truth is there were also plenty of uncaring liberals and bleeding heart conservatives. Thus, to the embarrassment of the wealthiest nation on earth, most government "reforms" translated into cuts for the poor.

It is a shame that the politics of division hampers meaningful solutions to address the real problems of poverty. Perhaps, folks don't want to face the ugly truth or are overwhelmed by the magnitude of the problem. This could explain why one day a disaster rivets our attention on the issue of poverty and the next we see it easily drop from the radar of public opinion. The sad thing is that poverty won't go away if it is ignored, it will only get worse.

Within our area, a family now needs to earn \$14.00 per hour to stay above water. Yet the minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour is less than the poverty rate. Indeed while most poor folks work, some at more than one job, they cannot get ahead.

How do folks survive? They rely, quite literally, on the kindness of strangers. We encourage you to join the generous supporters of Blue Valley Community Action Partnership. Private donations will help our families through a time when costs are rising and resources are tightening. With your unselfishness, we can continue the fight to ensure our less fortunate neighbors have a place to go in their worst moments. Please help us.



Lytle Photo
Richard D. Nation
Chief Executive Officer



Lytle Photo
Willis Luedke
Board President

2004-2005 Board of Directors

Officers

President—Willis Luedke, Saline County Public Sector
Vice President—Len Hawkins, Gage County Private Sector
Treasurer—Albert Simacek, Fillmore County Public Sector
Secretary—Karen Elznic, Fillmore County Low-Income Sector

Public Sector Representatives

Larry Zadina, Butler County
Ray Capek, Fillmore County
Harlan Hagemeyer, Gage County
David Swavely, Gage County
Tony Likens, Jefferson County
Michael Simonsen, Polk County
Michael Smith, Polk County
Ray Naber, Seward County
Joe Ruzicka, Seward County
Lawrence Traudt, Thayer County
James Klute, York County
Bob Wolfe, York County

Private Sector Representatives

Anna Kinnison, Butler County
Hugh Wilkins, Fillmore County
Don Schneberger, Polk County
Wayne Nestor, Polk County
John Walton, Thayer County
Kenny Vieselmeyer, Thayer County
Cliff Bailey, Seward County
Chris Tonniges, York County
Jean Gaver, York County

Petition Ex-Officio Representatives

Jessica Daro, Head Start Policy Council

Low-Income Sector Representatives

Evelyn Uphoff, Butler County
Carol Berglund, Butler County
Daniel Hall, Fillmore County
Judy Doerr, Gage County
Connie Rieber, Gage County
Roger Rupp, Jefferson County
Sam Mishler, Jefferson County
Joyce Knudson, Polk County
Bonnie Schoenbeck, Saline County
Velma Lutz, Seward County
Lucinda Johnson, Seward County
Daryl Ream, Thayer County
Roberta Woolston, Thayer County
Rita Critel, York County



*Janis, Jerri, Rich, Kathryn, Carmen,
Ardi, Robin, Loree*

2004-2005 Management Team

Chief Executive Officer

Richard D. Nation

Chief Financial Officer

Robin Mayer

Human Resources

Loree Rix-Crouse

Family & Community Services

Ardith Hoins, Director

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

Blue Valley Crisis Intervention

Carmen Grummert, Director

Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault
Crisis Intervention
Public Information
Juvenile Services
Diversion Programs
AmeriCorps

Health Services

Janie Fralin, Program Director

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

Children & Youth Services

Kathryn Molczyk, Director

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

Housing & Rural Development

Jerri Kerr, Director

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

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.

BVCA PARTNERSHIP'S MISSION STATEMENT

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

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.

Helping People... Changing Lives

In keeping with national data collection protocol, BVCA Partnership's Annual Report this year follows the outcomes for all Community Action Agencies.

OUTCOME #1: BVCA PARTNERSHIP HELPED LOW-INCOME PEOPLE BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT.

- BVCA Partnership provides outreach services to families in need. These services include family development case management, home visitation, education, emergency services, information and referrals.
- Families in BVCA Partnership's family development projects worked to initiate positive changes in their lives. Both Project FIRST (transitioning homeless to permanent housing) and Project FOCUS (for families trying to make specific, major life direction changes) use the family development process.
- 53 persons saved \$82,354.86 by participating in Project FIRST and Lease to Own. Two families bought homes by use of this savings.
- Ten households were assisted with the preparation of their tax returns to receive \$21,039 in Earned Income Credit.
- 2004-2005 saw a 10% reduction in unemployed Head Start parents and a 6% reduction in unemployed Early Head Start parents during their one year in the program.



OUTCOME #2: BVCA PARTNERSHIP HELPED IMPROVE THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS LIVE.

- 125 homes were weatherized, assisting 295 individuals with more efficient energy use within their homes.
- Fourteen families were provided with safe furnaces.
- Twenty families were assisted with housing rehabilitation.
- BVCA Partnership rents 191 housing units to provide safe and affordable housing for individuals, families and senior citizens with fixed-incomes. 167 of those 191 units have been built by BVCA Partnership since 1995. In 2005, 12 single family units were built. Rental housing was provided to 497 individuals in 190 families.
- In addition, BVCA Partnership acts as the general partner in nine limited partnerships with private investors:



REAL ESTATE LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS*	Income	Assets
East Meadows, Ltd., Crete	\$23,316	\$382,638
West Meadows, Ltd., Crete	\$24,305	\$410,441
Pinegrove, Ltd., Wymore	\$27,949	\$451,047
Trailview, Ltd., Hebron	\$11,428	\$427,861
Crestland, Ltd., Beatrice	\$59,860	\$1,074,907
Prairie Woods CROWN, Ltd., York & Geneva	\$71,977	\$2,373,887
Blue Terrace CROWN, Ltd., Crete	\$79,714	\$1,879,486
Sunset CROWN, Ltd., Beatrice	\$79,465	\$2,546,070
York CROWN, LTD., York (Lease up started 9/30/05)	\$5,213	\$2,447,040
Total	\$383,227	\$11,993,377

**Not included in BVCA audit, as each is a separate company.*

OUTCOME #3: BVCA PARTNERSHIP ENCOURAGED LOW-INCOME PEOPLE TO HAVE A STAKE IN THEIR COMMUNITY.

- The organization primarily builds individual family units via its “Lease-to-Own” projects for young families struggling to get a start in home ownership.
- Fourteen families were assisted in purchasing homes in local communities—leveraging \$721,000 privately with \$104,213 in down payment assistance. These families were also provided with Homebuyer Education.
- BVCA Partnership provided numerous volunteer opportunities including volunteering in clothing rooms and food pantries, at commodity distribution sites, as classroom aides, as a Foster Grandparent, with Youth As Resources, AmeriCorps or assisting with holiday projects. Volunteers can also serve on local County Advisory Boards, Head Start Policy Council or the BVCA Partnership Board of Directors.
- Sixteen youth are currently involved in the SE Nebraska Youth Empowerment Council.
- 52 volunteers were involved with seven AmeriCorps members in community projects.



Volunteer hours at commodities clinics totaled 1,171 hours, a total value of \$8,809.

Value of contributions of clothing and other goods to thrift stores totaled \$1,314,966.

Family & Community Services volunteers donated 17,301 hours.

Health Services volunteers donated 251 hours.

Children & Youth Services volunteers donated 21,127 hours.

Blue Valley Crisis Intervention volunteers donated 105 hours.

OUTCOME #4: BVCA PARTNERSHIP PARTNERS WITH LOCAL AND STATEWIDE SUPPORTERS AND PROVIDERS OF SERVICES TO LOW-INCOME PEOPLE.

- x BVCA Partnership collaborates with hundreds of other community groups: sororities, church clubs, civic organizations, business groups, scouts and other youth groups, school clubs, college students, town and village governments, county governments, chambers of commerce, development corporations, banks, hundreds of individuals clients and community leaders. The success of these partnerships can be measured in dollars and cents.
- x Over 40,000 hours of volunteer time was donated in the last year. More than half of the organizations total budget (50.9%) came from private sources.
- x BVCA Partnership's Head Start works closely with public schools and other childcare providers throughout the area. Head Start families visit schools and school personnel present at Head Start Parent meetings. BRCDP partners with Crete Public Schools in several ways including integration with English Language Learner classes, Even Start and Migrant Even Start. It also offers space for the Crete Public Schools' CIRCLE preschool program and provides childcare for Crete Public Schools' English classes.



OUTCOME #5: BVCA PARTNERSHIP INCREASED ITS CAPACITY TO ACHIEVE RESULTS BY BROADENING ITS RESOURCE BASE.

- x For the first time in over 40 years of the organization's history, private resources were greater than government resources.
- x For every dollar of core funding (Community Services Block Grant) over \$46 were leveraged. This includes over \$23.50 of private resources or 50.9% of the total budget.
- x Administrative costs were decreased to 6.25%.

OUTCOME #6: BVCA PARTNERSHIP ASSISTED VULNERABLE POPULATIONS IN ACHIEVING POTENTIAL BY STRENGTHENING FAMILY AND OTHER SUPPORTING ENVIRONMENTS.

Nutrition



- x Commodity Supplemental Food Distribution (CSFP) enrolled 1,465 individuals. (1,176 elderly individuals, 67 women and 222 children.)
- x Food Pantries provided a total of 63,601 days of food.
- x 8,320 meals were provided to domestic abuse victims. (3,048 meals were provided to adults and 5,272 meals were provided to children).
- x Head Start provided 46,780 meals and 1,505 snacks to children.
- x Blue River Family Resource Center provided 26,843 meals and 11,660 snacks to children.

Transportation Services

BVCA operates the Fillmore County Rural Transit Service. Rides are available, for a small fee, to the general public, with elderly and handicapped residents given priority. Last year, 6,542 trips were made. 28,790 miles were driven this year, which brings the grand total of miles to 630,345.



Emergency Assistance

- x 2,012 calls were received on the Domestic Abuse Crisis Line.
- x 143 individuals of domestic violence were assisted with information and/or services not including shelter.
- x 48 adults and 68 children of domestic violence were sheltered.
- x Three clients participated in domestic abuse case management.
- x 286 Crisis Intervention information presentations were given, with 6,799 individuals in attendance.
- x Families received assistance for rent and/or utilities, effectively preventing homelessness.
- x Individuals were provided safe lodging, food, transportation, counseling, medical and/or legal referrals along with case management options for a safe future.

