



# BLUE VALLEY COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

*40 Years of  
BVCA  
Helping People... Changing Lives*

Annual Report  
2005-2006

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## A Message from BVCA Partnership...

Forty years of service was celebrated this past year. During the years we have seen many changes, several of them coming this year. Kathryn Molczyk retired as Children and Youth Services Director after 38 years, Robin Mayer, CFO, left after six years, Willis Luedke moved to immediate past president of the Board after four years as BVCA's president.

Organizationally, we have gotten leaner. Fewer staff have had an impact on our ability to raise funds and, for the first time in decades, local volunteerism is down. We had 41,277 hours donated during this past year, some 2,249 hours down from last year. We hope some new initiatives will turn this around. We are very pleased that "Friends of Blue Valley" has formed to assist with these endeavors. These individuals volunteer to carry on the day to day support role for the many community projects, events, programs and advocacy needed to truly reduce the impact of poverty and need in our area. Also a major effort is being undertaken to access AmeriCorps and VISTA service members to help with this effort.



*Richard D. Nation  
Chief Executive Officer*

It wasn't just personnel that changed. The organization instituted a new financial system and a new client database system. It embarked upon an ambitious strategic planning process and the national Pathways to Excellence campaign, which is based upon the Malcolm Baldrige Award of Excellence process.

The challenges for next year are great. That, in itself, is nothing new. The volunteers, community partners, board members and staff have dedicated themselves to making America a better place to live for all residents regardless of their economic status or their accumulation of assets.



*Cliff Bailey  
Board President 2006-2007*

As always, we thank the community for its continuous support. Without the volunteers and community donations throughout the Kansas and Nebraska service area, the accomplishments revealed in this annual report would trifle by comparison to the work we are able to do together.

## 2005-2006 Board of Directors

### Officers

**President**—Willis Luedke, Saline County Public Sector  
**Vice President**—Velma Lutz, Seward County Low-Income Sector  
**Treasurer**—Albert Simacek, Fillmore County Public Sector  
**Secretary**—Cliff Bailey, Seward County Private 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  
 Kenny Vieselmeier, Thayer County  
 Chris Tonniges, York County  
 Jean Gaver, York County

### Low-Income Sector Representatives

Evelyn Uphoff, Butler County  
 Carol Berglund, Butler County  
 Karen Elznic, Fillmore County  
 Judy Doerr, Gage County  
 Connie Reiber, Gage County  
 Roger Rupp, Jefferson County  
 Debra Anno, Jefferson County  
 Joyce Knudson, Polk County  
 Bonnie Schoenbeck, Saline County  
 Lucinda Johnson, Seward County  
 Daryl Ream, Thayer County  
 Rita Critel, York County



## Management Team

*Loree, Ardi, Shari, Jerri, Janie,  
Carmen, Kathryn, Rick and Carlos*

### Chief Executive Officer

Richard D. Nation

### Chief Financial Officer

Carlos Sandoval

### 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*

### Hope Crisis Center

Carmen Grummert, Director

*Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault  
 Crisis Intervention  
 Public Information  
 Juvenile Services  
 AmeriCorps/VISTA*

### Health Services

Janie Fralin, Program Director

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

### Children & Youth Services

Shari Wurtz-Miller, 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 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.
- 75 persons saved \$40,743 by participating in Project FIRST and Lease to Own. Two families bought homes by use of this savings.
- 87 households were assisted with the preparation of their tax returns to receive \$76,449 in Earned Income Credit and Child Tax Credit.
- Three students were awarded Blue Valley Community Action Scholarships and three other students were awarded BVCA Vocational Scholarships to help them obtain college educations and acquire more marketable skills in their work lives.
- Ninety-eight unemployed people were assisted to employment, more than twice the estimated goal for the year.



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

- 51 homes were weatherized, assisting 101 individuals with more efficient energy use within their homes.
- Eleven families were provided with safe furnaces.
- Fourteen families were assisted with housing rehabilitation.
- Four families were provided reconstruction or rehabilitation in homes affected by the tornado disasters.
- BVCA Partnership rents 191 housing units to provide safe and affordable housing for individuals, families and senior citizens with fixed-incomes. During last year, 428 individuals were housed.
- In addition, BVCA Partnership acts as the general partner in nine limited partnerships with private investors. (see chart below.)



<u>REAL ESTATE LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS*</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Assets</u>
East Meadows, Ltd., Crete	\$23,344	\$352,089
West Meadows, Ltd., Crete	\$22,492	\$384,375
Pinegrove, Ltd., Wymore	\$18,626	\$427,207
Trailview, Ltd., Hebron	\$13,651	\$437,589
New Horizon, Ltd., Beatrice	\$36,838	\$984,187
Prairie Woods CROWN, Ltd., York & Geneva	\$87,397	\$2,187,538
Blue Terrace CROWN, Ltd., Crete	\$83,017	\$2,285,239
Sunset CROWN, Ltd., Beatrice	\$85,055	\$2,283,822
York CROWN, LTD., York	\$64,765	\$2,393,757
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$435,185</b>	<b>\$11,735,803</b>

*\*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.
- Twelve families were assisted in purchasing homes in local communities—leveraging \$682,752 privately with \$92,985 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.
- 48 volunteers were involved in the President's Volunteer Service Award program providing the community with over 350 hours of service.



**Volunteer hours at commodities clinics totaled 1,039.5 hours, a total value of \$7,494.31.**

**Value of contributions of clothing and other goods to thrift stores totaled \$1,107,984.90.**

**Family & Community Services volunteers donated 18,869.25 hours.**

**Health Services volunteers donated 205 hours.**

**Children & Youth Services volunteers donated 21,154.55 hours.**

**AmeriCorps members provided over 8500 hours of service to the community.**

**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.
- x Over 41,277 hours of volunteer time was donated in the last year.
- 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. Blue River Child Development Program 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.

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

- x For every dollar of core funding (Community Services Block Grant) over \$41 were leveraged. This includes over \$18.86 of private resources or 46% of the total budget.
- x BVCA's Board of Directors established an irrevocable trust or permanent endowment to build capacity for the future.
- x Volunteers donated enough time to relieve the organization from expending \$627,299 on personnel costs. These funds were not available, so the donated hours increased the organization's capacity significantly.
- x BVCA became the administrator for Regional Owner Occupied Rehabilitation, expanding the capacity of the organization to serve beyond our geographic service area.

**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 1,366 individuals. (1,020 elderly individuals, 156 women and 190 children.)
- x Food Pantries provided a total of 72,751 days of food for 2,460 households (7,206 persons).
- x 5,559 meals were provided to domestic abuse victims. (2,154 meals were provided to adults and 3,405 meals were provided to children).
- x Head Start provided 43,214 meals and 2,601 snacks to children.
- x Blue River Family Resource Center provided 26,441 meals and 10,567 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, 8,034 trips were made. 30,297 miles were driven, which brings the grand total of miles to 660,642.



Emergency Assistance

- x 1,880 calls were received on the Domestic Abuse Crisis Line.
- x 109 individuals of domestic violence were assisted with information and/or services not including shelter.
- x 39 adults and 56 children of domestic violence were sheltered for a total of 1905 beds.
- x 176 Crisis Intervention information presentations were given, with 4,449 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.

