

helping people

changing lives

**Blue Valley Community Action  
Partnership**



**Annual Report  
2007-2008**

# 2007-2008 Outcomes

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

### Employment

*This category reflects low-income participants in BVCA Partnership employment initiatives who got a job or became self-employed.*

- BVCA programs assisted 95 unemployed people to employment.
- 39 people obtained an increase in employment income.
- 15 people achieved “living wage” employment and benefits.



### Employment Supports

*This category reflects low-income participants for whom barriers to initial or continuous employment were reduced or eliminated through assistance from BVCA Partnership. BVCA assisted persons in acquiring and maintaining employment as follows:*

- 19 individuals obtained pre-employment skills required for employment.
- 5 individuals completed and received their ABE/GED certificate.
- 8 individuals received their post-secondary diploma.
- 4 individuals were awarded BVCA Partnership Scholarships to help them obtain college educations and acquire marketable work skills.
- 24 children were enrolled in “before” or “after” school programs.
- 102 were assisted in obtaining childcare for children or other dependents.
- 29 individuals obtained access to reliable transportation and/or a driver’s license.
- 97 individuals obtained healthcare services for themselves or a family member.
- 46 individuals obtained safe and affordable housing.
- 95 individuals obtained food assistance.



### Economic Asset Enhancement and Utilization

*This category reflects low-income households that achieve an increase in financial skills as a result of community action assistance.*

- 17 individuals obtained housing finance access.
- 14 individuals received home ownership counseling.
- 51 individuals obtained rental housing assistance.
- 113 individuals obtained rental housing subsidy.
- 102 individuals obtained housing via BVCA’s 60 rental units.
- 459 individuals were housed in 131 of our limited partnership units.
- 17 individuals received home energy conservation education.
- 67 individuals were assisted with the preparation of their tax returns to receive \$110,099 in Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).
- 218 individuals demonstrated the ability to complete and maintain a budget for over 90 days.
- 68 individuals contributed to their savings account for a total of \$35,508.48 accumulated savings.



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# A Message from BVCA Partnership...

*Two thousand and eight was a year of change. Change is good, but some change is a challenge.*

*Unfortunately, change we didn't want to see this past year was the downturn in the economy and the fact that it is now reaching Nebraska. Most of the services Blue Valley Community Action Partnership provides now have greater demands as low-income and increasing numbers of moderate-income families are stretched financially and seek our help.*

*The organization has had several tough years, with revenues declining from a high in 2002. Changes in government spending patterns including higher war related costs and lower spending on the poor, as well as government decisions to institute government operated programs rather than contracting with private non-profit charities like Blue Valley Community Action Partnership have lowered our revenues and stretched our private resources.*

*In these tough times, we have been awed at the strength and generosity of our low-income participants. Much of the private contributions Blue Valley Community Action Partnership obtains comes from contributions of these friends and neighbors, who themselves are having a tough time at present. Even in tough times though our donations are about the same as last year and it is in large part because of such local generosity.*

*There is a mood of optimism in the air. The federal government stimulus may offer some help. Change is all around us. Folks are hoping that change will include change for the moderate and lower income folks, who have struggled the longest. Blue Valley Community Action Partnership's canvassing of our communities each year, looking for support in our fight to help people and change lives, people have shown us growing support. Our friends across the religious community are stepping up by contributing more this new year. Those who have helped us to help the needy in our own communities have helped us over most of our 43 years. We thank them and the growing numbers who are new to helping us. We hope you will join them. Please join "Friends of Blue Valley," the volunteer network that is forming to help not only Blue Valley Community Action, but other charitable groups in need of volunteers. It shows the spirit of volunteerism is alive and well in Midwest. Please help us in our efforts to overcome poverty. If you haven't the time to contribute, consider a donation. If you need a reason, please view the contents of this annual report and see that, yes we can improve our communities when we all work together.*

*Community Action is all about communities acting to get things done!*



*Richard D. Nation  
Chief Executive Officer*



*Velma Lutz  
Board President 2007-2009*

# Board of Directors 2007-2008

## Officers

**President**—Velma Lutz, Seward County Low-Income Sector  
**Vice President**—Willis Luedke, Saline County Public Sector  
**Treasurer**—Albert Simacek, Fillmore County Public Sector  
**Secretary**—Len Hoss, Gage County Private Sector

## Public Sector Representatives

Larry Zadina, Butler County  
Ray Capek, Fillmore County  
Harlan Hagemeyer, Gage County  
Shirley Gronewold, Gage County  
Tony Likens, Jefferson County  
Michael Simonsen, Polk County  
Michael Smith, Polk County  
Willis Luedke, Saline County  
Larry Dedic, Seward County  
Dave Bruning, Thayer County  
Eugene Bergen, York County  
Bob Wolfe, York County

## Private Sector Representatives

Mark Schutt, Butler County  
Hugh Wilkins, Fillmore County  
Terry Keslar, Jefferson County  
Wayne Nestor, Polk County  
Joyce Knudson, Polk County  
Linda Kalbach, Saline County  
Jean Gaver, York County  
Chris Tonniges, York County

## Low-Income Sector Representatives

Audrey Skretta, Butler County  
Samantha Kosch, Butler County  
Connie Reiber, Gage County  
Judy Doerr, Gage County  
Roger Rupp, Jefferson County  
Sam Mishler, Jefferson County  
Joyce Knudson, Polk County  
Mary Ewing, Polk County  
Anna Gray, Polk County  
Kim Myers, Saline County  
Lucinda Johnson, Seward County  
Kenny Vieselmeyer, Thayer County  
Janis Banks, Thayer County  
Rita Critel, York County

## Ex-Officio Representatives

Darci Shibley, National Service  
Christina Auman, Head Start Policy Council

# Leadership Team



## Chief Executive Officer

Richard D. Nation

## Administrative Assistant

Heather Lytle

## Fiscal Manager

Jamie Swartz

## Housing & Rural Development

Kelly Davis, Weatherization/Housing Rehab Manager  
Kim Vicars, Housing Development & Ownership Manager

## Family & Community Services

Ardith Hoins, Director

## Children & Youth Services

Shari Wurtz-Miller, Director

## Health Services

Janie Fralin, Program Director

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

**Civic Investment**

*This category reflects the number of volunteer hours donated to BVCA Partnership.*  
 The total number of hours volunteered were 104,536.29 for a total value of \$1,240,544.43.



Head Start—3,580 hours	Early Head Start—1,864 hours
FCS—22,687.75 hours	CSFP—1,117.5 hours
Immunization—238 hours	FGP—58,779.04 hours
AmeriCorps—7,630 hours	VISTA—8,640 hours

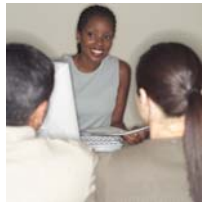
*Thank you!*

Low-income individuals, community representatives and public officials also contributed to dozens of community and Board of Directors meetings throughout the year.

**Community Empowerment Through Maximum Feasible Participation**

*This category reflects the number of low-income people mobilized as a direct result of BVCA Partnership's initiative to engage in activities that support and promote their own well-being and that of the community.*

- 47 individuals participated in BVCA Boards, Councils and Advisory Groups.
- 214 individuals engaged in non-governance community activities/groups created or supported by BVCA.
- 9 individuals acquired businesses in their community.
- 17 individuals purchased their own home in their community—leveraging \$965,424 privately with \$148,200 in down-payment assistance. Homebuyer Education was also provided.



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

**Expanding Opportunities Through Community-Wide Partnerships**



*This category reflects the number of organizations, both public and private, BVCA Partnership actively works with to expand resources and opportunities in order to achieve family and community outcomes.*

- BVCA collaborated with 349 organizations to promote family and community outcomes.
- BVCA collaborated with 12 organizations to improve services for ethnic, diverse and refugee populations.
- BVCA programs provided 29 various Community Education presentation to 561 participants.

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

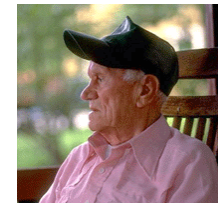
**Broadening the Resource Base**

*This category reflects the number of dollars mobilized by BVCA Partnership.*

- BVCA Partnership's core funding is the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). \$276,164 was granted last year, which is 2.7% of BVCA's budget.
  - For every dollar of CSBG over \$37 were leveraged.
  - Over \$20,000 of gaming revenue was generated.
  - Volunteers donated enough time to relieve the organization from expending \$463,500 on personnel costs. These funds were not available, so the donated hours increased the organization's capacity significantly.
  - Value of contributions of clothing and other goods to thrift stores totaled \$1,657,316.



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



**Independent Living**

*This category reflects the number of vulnerable individuals receiving services from community action that maintain an independent living situation as a result of BVCA Partnership's services.*

- 1,479 senior citizens are able to continue living independently
- 1,151 individuals with disabilities are able to live independently

**Emergency Assistance**

*This category reflects the number of low-income individuals or families that sought and received emergency assistance from BVCA Partnership.*

- Food pantries served 2,418 individuals.
- 63 households received clothing and household goods.
- 279 households were assisted with vendor payments including Fuel/energy bills and rent & mortgage payments.
  - 22 households received rent/deposit assistance to secure housing.
  - 64 households received rent/mortgage assistance to avoid eviction.
- 13 households received emergency medical care.
- 28 households were provided with transportation.
- 37 households were provided with temporary shelter.
- 2 households were provided disaster relief from house fires and extreme weather conditions.



**OUTCOME #6  
CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT CONTINUED...**

**Child and Family Development**

*This category reflects the number of infants, children, youth, parents and other adults participating in developmental or enrichment programs that achieve program goals.*

- 388 parents and other adults improved their parenting skills.
- 378 parents and other adults improved their family functioning skills.
- 1,338 received items from special event donations.
- 1,631 individuals were provided with information and referral.
- Support transportation was provided to 76 individuals.
- 90 individuals were provided with interpretation services.



**Nutrition**



- 1,523 infants and children's health and physical development are improved as a result of adequate nutrition via the CSFP and WIC programs.
- 1,434 individuals were enrolled in the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). This included 1,174 elderly individuals, 74 women and 186 children.
- Head Start provided 40,667 meals and 2,743 snacks to children.
- Blue River Child Development Program provided 25,929 meals and 13,139 snacks to children.

- 1,310 infants and children obtained age appropriate immunizations, medical and dental care.
  - 298 Head Start and Early Head Start children received medical exams.
  - 289 Head Start and Early Head Start children received dental exams.
  - 318 Head Start and Early Head Start children received immunizations.
  - 992 other children received immunizations for a total of 6,630 shots.
  - 49 infants in Early Head Start received dental screenings.
- 550 women were examined in the WIC Program.
- 1,337 children were examined in the WIC Program.
- 158 women participated in the Healthy Weight in Women program.
- 90 individuals were enrolled in the Hispanic Healthcare Project.
- 3 women received mammograms.
- 2 individuals were provided with testing/treatment.
- 330 youth improved their physical health & development via the immunization program.

**Health Services**



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

**Community Improvement and Revitalization**

*This category reflects an increase in, or safeguarding of threatened opportunities and community resources or services for low-income people in the community as a result of BVCA Partnership's projects/initiatives or advocacy with other public and private agencies.*

- 91 safe and affordable housing units in the community were preserved or improved through construction, weatherization or rehabilitation.
  - 27 families were assisted with housing rehabilitation.
  - 52 homes were weatherized, assisting 102 individuals with more efficient energy use within their homes.
  - 12 families were provided with safe furnaces.
- Accessible and affordable health care services for low-income people were created or maintained—1,385 received services via immunization clinics.
- 152 received “before” and “after” school program placement opportunities at the FYI (Fairbury Youth Involvement) Center.
- 187 received safe and affordable childcare or child development opportunities at Blue River Child Development Program (BRCDP).
- 166 individuals were provided transportation via Fillmore County Rural Transit Service. A total of 8,152 trips were provided during 228 days of service; 29,596 miles were driven, which brings the grand total of miles to 725,808!
- 3 individuals participating in Project FIRST received their GED.



**Community Quality of Life and Assets**

*The quality of life and assets in low-income neighborhoods are improved by BVCA Partnership's initiative or advocacy.*

- BVCA Partnership increased or preserved the neighborhood quality-of-life resources.
  - 9 individuals participated in Crete's Landlord Tenant Advocacy Project.
  - 20 participated in Youth As Resources and SE NE Youth Empowerment Council sponsored activities for the community.



# 2007-2008 Client

## 2WT 9KUKQP

Blue Valley CommunityAction Partnership's vision is that communities are safe and supportive; differences and traditions are respected; individuals and families are financially secure; and everyone has opportunities to develop their potential.

In the Fiscal Year of 2007-2008 BVCA Partnership served over 11,000 individuals.

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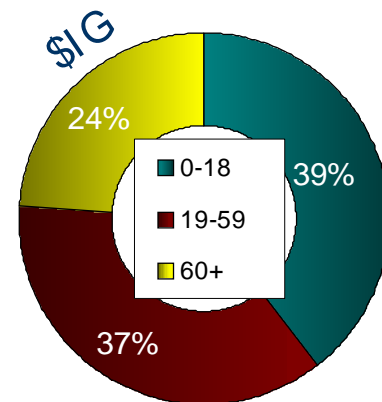
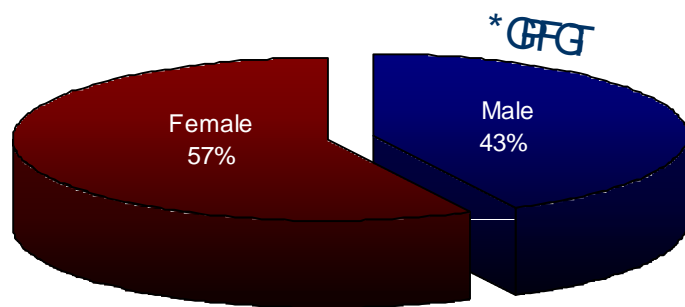
The average community family size is 2.55 people per household compared to the average BVCA client family size of 2.54.

### Family Size:

- 41% One Person
- 18% Two Persons
- 11% Three Persons
- 12% Four Persons
- 9% Five Persons
- 5% Six Persons
- 2% Seven Persons
- 2% Eight or More Persons

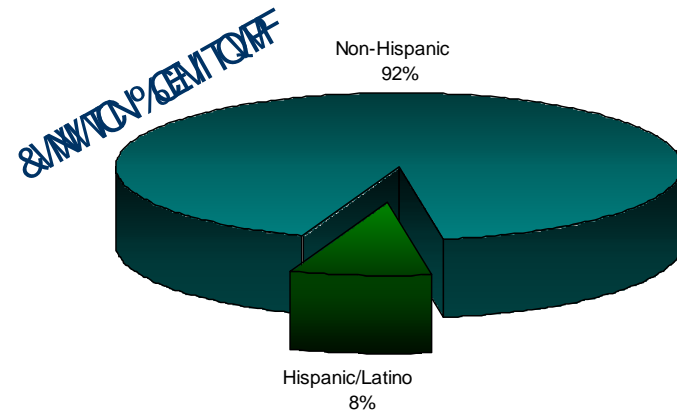
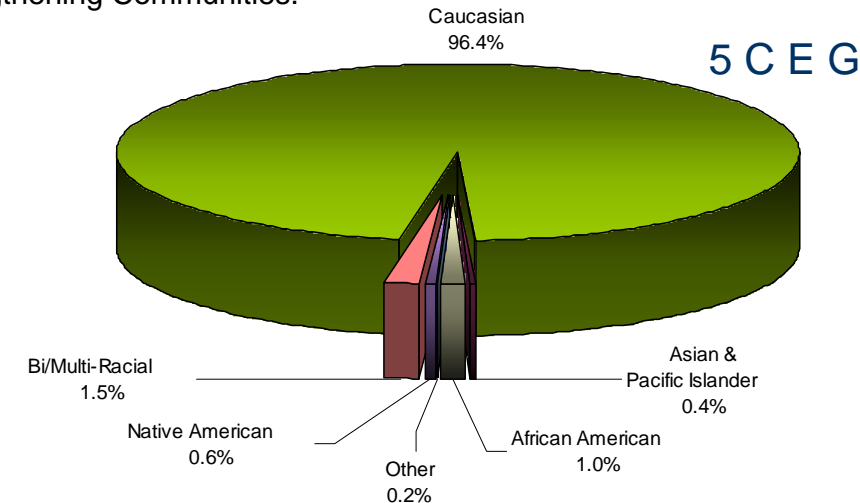
### Household Types:

- 24% Two Parents
- 19% Single Parent
- 10% Couple, No Children
- 41% Single Persons
- 6% Other



## 2WT 0KUUKQP

Overcoming Poverty by Helping People, Improving Lives and Strengthening Communities.



## 2WT &QTG 9CNWGU

- INTEGRITY** Demonstrate the highest standards of professionalism and personal ethics.
- DEDICATION** We are committed to conducting business in an accountable and responsible manner.
- CARING** Treating people with compassion and empathy.
- RESPECTFUL** Valuing the inherent worth of all people. Creating an environment free of prejudice and discrimination.
- VISIONARY** Using futuristic approaches to arrive at innovative and creative solutions.