



# Quarterly Connection

## Our Mission

We overcome poverty by meeting basic needs, helping people grow, and collaborating in our communities.

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## Our Leadership Team

Shari Weber  
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## Visit Us Online

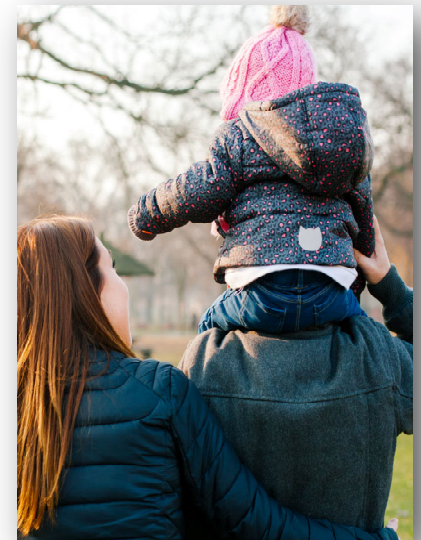
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## THANK YOU!

As BVCA Partnership enters a new calendar year and completes it's first quarter of our new fiscal year, we would like to take a moment to thank those who have so generously supported us.

Every box of food collected, every dollar donated, and each hour volunteered directly helps us help families and individuals in need in the communities which BVCA serves. We could not provide the many services and assistance to those in need without the countless contributions from you.

We are extremely grateful for your continued support of our mission. Again, thank you for "Helping People and Changing Lives."



## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE QUICKLY APPROACHING

The March 1 application deadline is quickly approaching for Blue Valley Community Action (BVCA) Partnership's 2024-2025 scholarship opportunities. All scholarships will be in the amount of \$1,000 and can be used for tuition, books and fees associated with enrollment. Three scholarships will be awarded. BVCA Partnership will offer the following scholarships this year:



- The "BVCA Partnership Scholarship" will be awarded to an individual planning to attend or currently attending a 4-year college.
- The "BVCA Partnership Vocational Scholarship" will be awarded to an individual planning to attend or currently attending a 2-year or less program at a vocational college.
- The "BVCA Partnership Southeast Community College Scholarship" will be awarded to an individual planning to attend or currently attending Southeast Community College.

Applicants must reside in BVCA Partnership's service area, which includes Butler, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Polk, Saline, Seward, Thayer and York Counties in Nebraska. Scholarship applications, guidelines and a listing of eligibility requirements may be obtained from area high school administrative or guidance counselor offices, or by contacting the BVCA Partnership Center in your area. Applications can also be downloaded from our website: [www.bvca.net](http://www.bvca.net). For more information, contact Heather Lytle, BVCA's Administrative Director, at (402) 729-2278 ext. 122. All applications must be received or postmarked on or before March 1, 2025.



## 2024 ALL STAFF MEETING & WELLNESS DAY

On October 30, 2024, 148 BVCA employees came together at the Holthus Convention Center in York for BVCA's All Staff Meeting & Wellness Day. The morning offered opportunities for staff to have blood drawn for routine lab work, receive vaccinations and boosters, and receive the flu vaccine. The afternoon began with an address from Senator Jana Hughes. Then, keynote speaker Brenda Clark Hamilton, MA E, presented "Please Don't Put Garlic Salt in My Frosting!" Strategies for Making Your Workplace Culture as "Sweet" as Possible. Brenda's presentation was lighthearted and fun. She shared five strategies for making BVCA's workplace culture as sweet as possible:

1. Be highly aware of the impact of your mood and attitude.
2. Provide excellent internal customer service.
3. Always check your interpretations for accuracy.
4. Create your own identity.
5. Live and work with Mojo!

During the day, the following employees were recognized for their years of service.



35 Years  
Kelly Davis



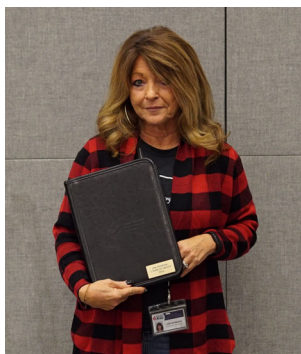
30 Years  
Shari Weber



25 Years  
Penny Thompson



20 Years  
Danik Obermier



5 Years  
Lisa Svoboda



5 Years  
Sadie Fuller



5 Years  
Lisa Minardi



5 Years  
Sonia Corral

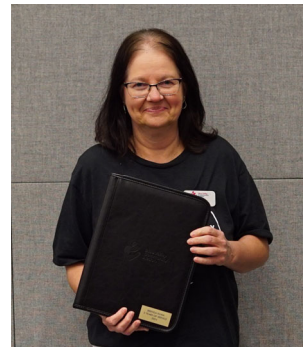
## Employee Recognitions Continued...



5 Years  
*Makayla Sulzbach*



5 Years  
*Amy Kearney*



5 Years  
*Brenda Klima*



5 Years  
*Caitlin Hinrichs*



5 Years  
*Diane Wendelin*



5 Years  
*Janese Boosinger*



5 Years  
*Jenny James*



5 Years  
*Kaitlyn Shepardson*



5 Years  
*Nichole Naiman*



5 Years  
*Yesica Perez Mendez*

1 year: *Brandi Ackerman-Franzen, Amanda Beck, Brandy Block, Alicia Bolejack, Brianna Brandt, Stacie Bruns, Emily Burhoop, Crystal Canfield, Jaquelin Cisneros, Diane Conyers, Jenny Cook, Dawn Fulton, Kendan Garber, Amber Heinrichs, Melanie Hooper, Delorise Kearns, Marisol Lopez Adame, Mackenzie Luzum, Hannah Manalili, Angelica Panes, Heidi Rogers, Elizabeth Shipp, Taylor Steager, Veronica Tesarek, Magaly Vasquez Diaz and Kyanna Volkman (not pictured in order).*



## 2024 HOLIDAY PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

Several different Christmas projects were held by BVCA Partnership throughout our nine core counties. During the month of December, various programs and projects were held in each BVCA county. These projects ensured that every child who signed up would receive at least one gift for Christmas. BVCA's communities are very generous, and in almost all cases, children received multiple gifts. Over 400 households and 1,069 children received gifts.

Community members, civic organizations, businesses, partners, churches and other service agencies in all nine counties donated time, money, food and gifts to ensure that Christmas would be brighter for all these families. Some gifts were even delivered directly to the families at their homes.

It was a successful year and we are blessed to have such wonderful community support.



## SANTA MAKES STOPS AT BVCA'S HEAD START CENTERS

BVCA's very own Santa, Kelly Davis, brightened the day for students in BVCA's Head Start Centers during the weeks leading up to Christmas. Thank you, Kelly!



## JOIN OUR TEAM | BEGIN YOUR CAREER OF HELPING PEOPLE & CHANGING LIVES

BVCA has several positions available! Visit [www.bvca.net](http://www.bvca.net) and select "Careers" from the navigation menu to find out more about our career opportunities and benefits.



**Blue Valley Community Action Partnership's 4th Quarter Outreach**

Case Management	124	Individuals
Childcare Services	24	Individuals
Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)	273	Individuals
Compassionate Projects	1,078	Individuals
COVID-19 Vaccines	6	Vaccinations
Early Head Start Child Care Partnership	20	Individuals
Early Head Start Home Based Services	60	Individuals
Early Head Start & Head Start Childcare Food Program	13,169	Meals & Snacks
Emergency Assistance	75	Households
Financial Coaching	30	Individuals
Food Rescue/Security	401	Households
Foster Grandparent Program	32	Individuals
Friends of Blue Valley Volunteer Program	352	Individuals
Head Start	192	Individuals
Homeownership Opportunity Program	1	Households
Housing Counseling	30	Individuals
Immunization Program	273	Shots
Infant Quality Initiative Program	11	Individuals
Lease-to-Own	44	Households
Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (Shelter)	2	Households
Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation	2	Households
Project FIRST TH/RRH (Families In Residence with Support in Transition/Rapid Re-Housing)	5	Households
Project FYRES (Focused Youth on Rehousing, Empowerment & Stability)	5	Households
Rental Apartments/Duplexes	97	Households
Rental Elderly Apartments	30	Households
SNAP Outreach (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)	13	Applications
Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)	79	Individuals
Telehealth	10	Individuals
Thrift Stores	800	Individuals
Transportation	1,953	Rides
Weatherization	12	Households
WIC Peer Counseling	37	Individuals
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	998	Individuals



**WE ARE HERE TO HELP**

Visit us at [www.bvca.net](http://www.bvca.net) for more information about the programs we offer and how to apply.

**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.