

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Building COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Building A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

“I have lived in Buffalo County a long time and have enjoyed the results of people working together in all areas of the community to promote a healthy environment.”

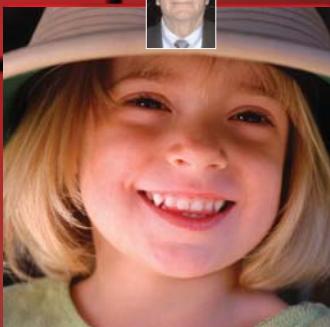


DR. JOHN MCCAMMOND,
Campaign Co-Chair

“Community Partners continues outstanding work in building community conditions to address community needs with the program to Activate Buffalo County.”



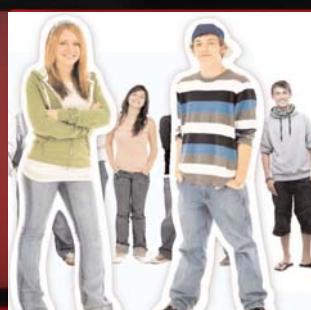
EARL RADEMACHER,
Founding Partner



“It is great to live in Buffalo County where partners work together to ensure a healthy and safe community.”



JACKIE ROSENLOF,
Founding Partner



“YAB makes a strong statement when they meet with Senators in Lincoln on Youth Day. They're well respected by Senators and are excellent advocates for youth issues.”



DR. JOEL JOHNSON,
Former Nebraska
Senator

“I choose to live in Buffalo County and have watched the partnerships in action as they identify risks to our community and work to eliminate them.”



DR. DAVID WIEBE,
Campaign Co-Chair



Our Mission

TO ASSESS, PROMOTE
AND STRENGTHEN
THE HEALTH OF
BUFFALO COUNTY.

Our Vision

Building

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Building

A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

Buffalo County Community Partners is a non-profit organization serving residents of Buffalo County. In 1995, 25 community stakeholders came to the table to discuss the development of a 'county-wide health initiative'. Today, 150 organizational stakeholders and over 1,000 volunteers work toward building a healthier community.

The partnership learned many years ago that building a healthier community is like a woven thread that connects the community in many ways. If you tug on one string it impacts the entire tapestry of the community. This report identifies 10 priority health goals that are reflected in our community tapestry.

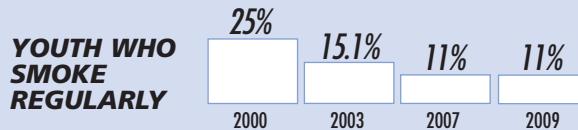
The success of each goal is based on outcome measurements to track community progress. Each goal has a team or coalition working together to develop coordinated action plans. Community Partner's staff supports community coalitions in their efforts to implement action plans.

Since 2010 marks the year for goal attainment, Community Partners has launched a county-wide reassessment to determine new goals for attainment by 2020. Issues that community members have shared with the partnership to date include: alcohol use, obesity, housing, community development, mental health, access to care, tobacco use, illegal drug use, teen sexual activity, domestic violence/child abuse, adult dementia and overall adult financial responsibility. Log on to www.bcchp.org to learn how to participate in the 2020 Vision for Buffalo County.

The vision of the Buffalo County Community Partners is that everyone from all corners of Buffalo County work together to improve the quality of life of those who live in and work in this community.

STRESS ON THE FAMILY UNIT

2010 COMMUNITY GOAL: to reduce stress on the family unit by impacting factors related to stress in the family such as substance abuse (tobacco, alcohol and other drug use) and the status of mental health.



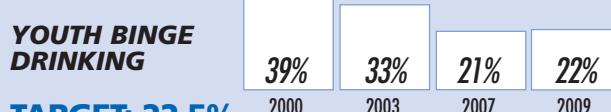
TARGET: 12%

The Buffalo County Tobacco Free Coalition accepted the challenge in 1995, to decrease youth and adult tobacco use. The last ten year focus has been on reducing secondhand smoke. Today they are focused on a reduction in vehicles and apartment units.

YOUTH MARIJUANA USE



TARGET: 5%



TARGET: 22.5%

Positive Pressure Coalition accepted the challenge in 1996, to decrease substance abuse in Buffalo County. Today their efforts have multiplied through the engagement of the Responsible Beverage Server Coalition, which provides TIPS training to employees to reduce underage drinking. Positive Pressure is currently working on a county-wide coordinated strategic plan to reduce binge drinking, drinking and driving and underage drinking.

YOUTH WITH THOUGHTS OF SUICIDE



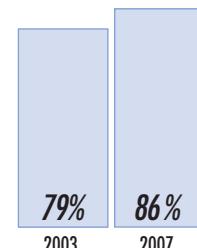
TARGET: 5%

The Mental Health Coalition is currently engaging public health departments and providers in the central region of Nebraska to develop a strategy to increase mental health services in rural areas and strengthen existing resources to meet the many needs of the ever growing population. Also, ESU10 and the University of Nebraska at Kearney have partnered to bring suicide prevention programs to high schools.

HEALTH & SPIRITUALITY

2010 COMMUNITY GOAL: to increase awareness of spirituality's effect on health and healing.

Residents Report
Spirituality Impacts Health



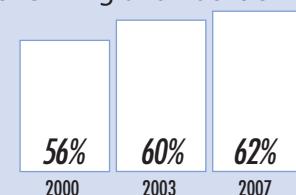
TARGET: Increase

Formed in 2000, the Buffalo County Health Ministry Network meets monthly to discuss and share ideas of integrating health and spirituality by ministry to body, mind and spirit. Faith communities hope to impact the overall health of those in their faith community and the wider community they serve. Meetings are open to the public.

REDUCING OBESITY

2010 COMMUNITY GOAL: to reduce obesity and overweight by increasing positive health behaviors relative to active living and nutrition.

OVERWEIGHT ADULTS
(BMI greater than 25)



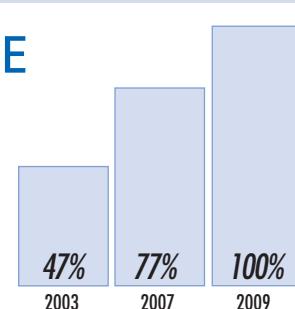
TARGET: 30%

In 2008, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska invested in Buffalo County to assist Community Partners in developing a 'social marketing' campaign to get residents 'On The Move'. Activate Buffalo County Coalition was formed to reduce overall obesity through active living and healthy eating. For more information on current programs to 'Get Your 30' minutes of exercise per day, log onto www.ActivateBuffaloCounty.org.

SMOKE FREE

2010 COMMUNITY GOAL:

to increase the percent of smoke free restaurants and businesses to 100%.



The Nebraska Unicameral passed legislation that enabled Buffalo County to reach its overall goal. States who have passed similar legislation are documenting decreases in heart disease and cancer. The Buffalo County Youth Advisory Board took a serious role in developing relationships with state senators to discuss the impact of this legislation in Buffalo County.

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

2010 COMMUNITY GOAL: to provide 100% access to health care for residents in Buffalo County. Access to quality care is important to eliminate health disparities and increase the quality and years of healthy life for all Americans.

Minority Reporting Health Insurance Coverage



TARGET: 0%

The Community Health Access Team (CHAT) successfully launched a sustainable childhood dental program for schools in Buffalo County. Today they are building a community wide 'pathway' model for at risk residents in Buffalo County to reduce barriers and increase access care. Important to note a decreasing number of residents reporting health insurance coverage, dropping from 90% in 2000 to 86% in 2007.

SAFETY

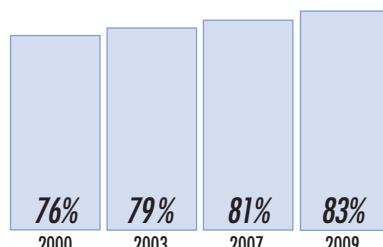
SEAT BELT USE

2010 COMMUNITY GOAL:

to increase seat belt use to 80% of Buffalo County youth actively using their seat belts.

TARGET: 80%

Buffalo County youth are actively using their seat belts. A trend is beginning to emerge showing that our community is on the right track in providing programs that encourage youth seat belt use.



FALL PREVENTION IN OLDER ADULTS

2010 COMMUNITY GOAL:

to reduce falls in older adults.
(60+ YEAR OLDS ADMITTED TO GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL FOR FALLS PER 1,000)



TARGET: Decrease

The number one trauma admission in Buffalo County is falls in people over the age of 65 years. 50% of the people hospitalized for a fall do not recover. Studies show that a woman who has fallen twice and does not exercise is more likely to fall again compared to a woman who has fallen twice, but begins exercising. Her risk of falling is decreased by almost half. Tai Chi, a martial arts form that enhances balance and body awareness through slow, graceful, and precise body movements, can significantly decrease the risk of falls among older people. Buffalo County residents have launched a community-wide Tai Chi program to get older adults 'on the move'.

LEAD

2010 COMMUNITY GOAL:

to decrease the percent of children exposed to lead to 0%.



TARGET: 0%

The Lead Prevention in Children Coalition began a county-wide study to determine if homes built before 1977 contained lead. Through this project the Coalition worked with local agencies to identify lead hazards in homes and educate residents on how to best remove lead.

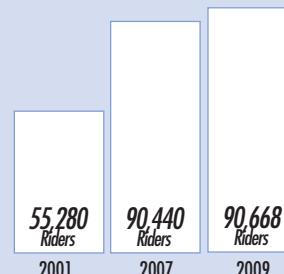
AFFORDABLE HOUSING

2010 COMMUNITY GOAL: to increase the number of affordable housing units.

In 2007, Buffalo County launched the first county-wide housing study that encouraged residents to band together and form a Buffalo County Housing Senate. The Senate's role is to define 'affordability' in Buffalo County, track outcomes, work toward increasing housing opportunities and removing vacant/dilapidated homes in Buffalo County.

TRANSPORTATION

2010 COMMUNITY GOAL:
expand affordable public transportation services, i.e. R.Y.D.E., to meet the unmet needs of Buffalo County residents.



As a community, we need to address this important issue to enhance health and quality of life. Community Partners is currently asking residents to come together to develop a plan to assist in developing strategies to meet the unmet transportation needs in our community.

INFANT MORTALITY

2010 COMMUNITY GOAL:

to reduce infant mortality and post neonatal infant mortality.



TARGET: 4.5/1000 Live Births Resulting in Infant Mortality

No formal coalition in Buffalo County has been working on this issue. Infant death is an important measure of a community's health and a worldwide indicator of health status and social well-being. In the past decade, critical measures of increased risk of infant death, such as new cases of low birth weight and very low birth weight, have increased in the United States. In Buffalo County we started at a higher rate than the U.S. rate with white infant mortality at a higher rate than specific racial or ethnic groups.

DATA SOURCES: Buffalo County Youth, Adult and Minority Behavioral Risk Factor Surveys available at www.bcchp.org



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Elaine Wiseman, Executive Director, Kearney Housing Agency

Beth Baxter (Advisory Member), Program Administrator, Region 3 Behavioral Health Service

Terry Krohn (Advisory Member), Executive Director, Two Rivers Public Health Department

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Robert C. Rosenlof Foundation

*Jackie Rosenlof **

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2010 Grants Available

**\$516,000 Awarded
to 109 Coalitions**

Community Partners has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Simple Grants. To secure grant applications and guidelines, go to www.bcchp.org under Community Grants. Grant funding is awarded based on applicant's collaboration and the project's impact on or more of the top 10 priority health goals in Buffalo County.



Buffalo County Youth Advisory Board

Buffalo County Youth Advisory Board (YAB) is a program and a philosophy that recognizes youth as valuable resources in their community and empowers them as equal community partners to bring about positive change. Buffalo County YAB is governed by a board of 30 youth and five adult mentors. YAB is hosted by Community Partners. YAB provides grants to youth-initiated and youth-led community projects. They also tackle a range of social problems that concern them from the economy to safety, tobacco, alcohol and illegal drugs. Recently YAB launched a community-wide campaign to reduce under age drinking – Take A Stand. They will be hosting their annual youth summit on November 6, 2010 in Kearney, Ne. To learn more about YAB, log on to www.bcyab.org.



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COALITION COORDINATOR



MEGAN BEBB
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*denotes multi year donation + denotes in-kind donor We extend our most sincere apology if a name has been omitted from our donor list. We also want to thank the many individuals and businesses who have supported Community Partner's special events and other activities.

This document was prepared by the Buffalo County Community Partners as a 2009 report to the community.

For more information regarding this document and to learn how to donate, please contact the staff at the Partner office: