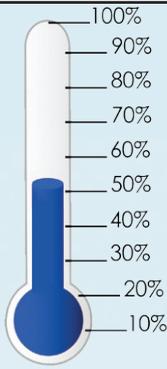


October 2013

Thanks to our donors, we're now at over \$66,000 of our \$125,000 goal! Thank you, September donors:



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Partner with us!

If you would like to partner with Community Partners through a financial donation, you may:

Contact Denise Zwiener at 308-865-2280 or dzwiener@bcchp.org

Donate on our website, bcchp.org, by clicking the blue "Donate" button.

PhotoVoice Starts, Reception Nov. 19

For the second year, Buffalo County Community Partners is working with Buffalo County Juvenile Services to engage at-risk youth with the PhotoVoice program. Based on the United Way of Tucson's healthy eating PhotoVoice model, the program aims to help youth develop a means of constructive self-expression through photography.

The group has already met for two of their seven instructional sessions, and participants have been given their cameras. They are learning about the expressive power of photography and exchanging ideas about issues directly affecting them that could inspire photographic subject matter. Guest speakers lead the group in discussions on identity, family life, school and the learning environment, and community

strengths and problem areas. Participants are then assigned to take pictures that reflect and express their personal views on those themes. At the end of the program, each student will be asked to select two of their best works for framing and exhibition.



A photo from one of this year's PhotoVoice participants.

The PhotoVoice exhibition reception will be held November 19 at 5 p.m. at the University of Nebraska Kearney Alumni House. Local and state officials will be invited to attend to see the students' work, learn about the sources of their inspiration, and discuss the issues that are important in the lives of the participants.

Nebraska Youth Academy for Democracy October 27

The Nebraska Youth Academy for Democracy is scheduled to take place on Sunday, October 27, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The goals of the event are to help youth understand the democratic

process, learn how to advocate for important issues, and give youth a chance to vocalize on issues that are important to them. The event is sponsored by the Buffalo County Youth Advisory Board (YAB), and ties in with Buffalo County Community Partners' goal to empower youth.

The event will be filled with activities and information for youth. After a keynote speech, youth will move into breakout sessions with members of Nebraska Appleseed, a nonprofit organization that fights for justice and opportunity for all Nebraskans. Then, youth will move into breakout



sessions with Nebraska senators, including Galen Hadley, Les Seiler, Mike Gloor, and John Wightman. Topics will include economic justice, immigration, health care, and child welfare.

Finally, there will be a roundtable discussion on issues that are important to the youth and what they can do to advocate for change.

Event attendance is limited to six students from Kearney High School and two students from every other Buffalo County school, six members of Tobacco-Free Hall County, and all members of YAB

and the Governor's Youth Advisory Board. If you would like to nominate a Buffalo County youth to attend, or get more information on the event, please call Mark Foradori at 308-865-2290 or email bcyab@bcchp.org.

Community Connections Unites Local Organizations

After the Family Resource Council disbanded in 2010, several community members, including LeeAnn Clouse, Nikki Gausman, and Denise Zwiener, came together and discussed ways to help community organizations continue to connect and share resources.

The decision was made to expand what was then known as the Homeless Coalition, partly because it was already comprised of a large number of emergency service providers who worked together to share resources. Three years later, the group now includes members from healthcare organizations, local government, churches, schools, non-profits, individuals, and more.

Meetings are held at Salvation Army at noon on the first Thursday of every month. The

agenda includes community announcements and updates, special presentations, and a block of time dedicated to agency sharing so people can offer resources and ideas, ask for help with their work, build partnerships, and discuss issues in the community.

Ariane Aten, Community Partners' data coordinator, and Sara Frias, the community services coordinator for Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska, facilitate the group. Frias said, "I think just coming together to share services once a month is great. We are all trying to better help individuals in need. Things change all the time so trying to get as many agencies and people to attend the meetings and be part of the email list is a great networking tool."

Activate Buffalo County's "Trails Tuesday" Showcases Local Trails

Buffalo County is loaded with hike/bike trails, and Activate Buffalo County's new "Trails Tuesday" monthly blog feature hopes to share every inch of paved and unpaved trails in Buffalo County with its readers.

Did you know Kearney alone has 17 miles of paved and 5 miles of unpaved trails? That's just the sort of information the "Trails Tuesday" feature aims to share with the community.

The posts will include a map, distance information, and trail history. Currently, there are only photos of the trails, but plans for "virtual rides" captured with a special helmet camera such as a GoPro are in the works if the coalition can find a



funding source for the cameras. Safe Routes to School Coordinator Dusten Vermeire said, "Through the vantage point of a helmet cam, our trails can be depicted clearly. From

exploring the challenging off-road trails to the very active rolling hike and bike trails, the audience will have the feeling as though they are the ones experiencing these enjoyable bike trails Kearney has to offer."

To catch up on "Trails Tuesday" and stay up to date on future articles, visit the Active Blog on activatebuffalocounty.com. If you are interested in donating to the coalition to help purchase these cameras, please contact staff@bcchp.org.

YAB Moves Forward with Tobacco-Free Parks Policy in Kearney

Youth Advisory Board (YAB) members met with the Kearney Park and Recreation Advisory Board at its September meeting to further discuss their proposed tobacco-free parks policy. YAB originally presented its policy to the board in July, but a vote was postponed until more research could be done on similar policies in nearby communities and community members' reactions to them.

The policy YAB proposed would discourage the use of both smoked and smokeless tobacco products on park or recreational property in Kearney and would discourage community

members from discarding tobacco products in these areas. The policy would be self-enforced, whereas park users would respect the policy and refrain from using tobacco products on park or recreational property, though police or park staff would not write citations for community members who violated the policy.

The Park and Recreation Advisory Board voted to recommend the policy to City Council, which will decide on any changes the policies may need and ultimately vote on whether or not to make the policy official.

Our Mission:

Buffalo County Community Partners is a county-wide, non-profit organization with a mission to assess, promote and strengthen the health of Buffalo County citizens. Community Partners facilitates change through the recruitment and training of volunteers and the creation of coalitions to impact priority issues that reach all corners of the county.

Buffalo County Community Partners Contact Information:

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| General Information | Denise Zwiener, Executive Director | Suzanne Brodine, Board Chair |
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| info@bcchp.org | dzwiener@bcchp.org | sbrodine@kearneygov.org |

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Calendar of Events

- **Activate Buffalo County** meets the second Tuesday of the month, 12:30 - 1 p.m., at Community Partners' offices.
For more information, contact staff@bcchp.org or visit ActivateBuffaloCounty.com.
- **Alzheimer's Coalition** meets the fourth Thursday of the month, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m., at Community Partners' offices.
For more information, contact Alexandra.dillion@alz.org.
- **Buffalo County Health Ministry Network** meets the second Thursday of the month, 12 - 1 p.m., at Good Samaritan Hospital, Telehealth, Suite 1.
For more information, call 308-865-7741.
- **Community Connections** meets the first Thursday of every month, 12 - 1 p.m., at Salvation Army.
For more information, contact admin@bcchp.org or sfrias@mnca.net.
- **Community Health Access Team (CHAT)** meets the third Thursday of the month, 12 - 1 p.m., at Community Partners' offices.
For more information, contact chathub@bcchp.org.
- **Positive Pressure Coalition** meets the first Tuesday of the month, 12 - 1 p.m., at Region 3 Conference Room.
For more information, contact positivepressure@bcchp.org or visit PositivePressure.org.
- **Violence Prevention Coalition** meets the fourth Thursday of the month, 4 - 5 p.m., at Community Partners' offices.
For more information, contact admin@bcchp.org.
- **TIPS Trainings.** For more information, contact positivepressure@bcchp.org.
- **Youth Advisory Board.** For more information, visit bcyab.org or contact bcyab@bcchp.org.