



PO Box 1466  
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*We would like to thank CHI Health Good Samaritan for providing mailing services for our newsletter.*

Newsletter July 2016

## T-shirt Wrapping & Kids activities at the Block Party

A Bounce House, trees wrapped in t-shirts, smoothies and snacks, tug of war, painting, kayaks, and yoga were some of the activities that took place at the Block Party 2016.

We saw 215 people add their strength to our partnership by bringing a t-shirt to tie around the trees in Harmon Park. The goal of our t-shirt wrapping was to bring an activity to the community to give a visual of how our organization works.

The t-shirt represents the strength of each individual in the community. The color and design represents our community values. The tree is a symbol of life with branches reaching new opportunities and the roots grounding our work. The process of wrapping a tree with a colored ribbon builds a culture of awareness of a cause(s). When they come together in one park and one tree it unifies us under one vision to Build a Healthier Community.

“We wanted to visually communicate what our organization does. Wrapping the trees showed how Community Partners brings people together to create a healthier Buffalo County,” said Michelle Toukan, event director.

“What an amazing event put on for the community. Seeing all the children having fun was worth all the work that went into this event,” said Cindy Casper, campaign co-chair.

The event wouldn't have been successful without our sponsors and partners:

- HyVee
- First National Bank
- CHI Health Good Samaritan
- YMCA
- Kearney Whitewater
- Safe Kids
- Grace Fellowship
- Kearney Parks and Rec
- Kearney Crossfit



Denise Zwiener, executive director, and husband, Shayne, start from the top of the tree and wrap the shirts down and around the trunk.



Cindy Casper, campaign co-chair, Sage Williams, YAB Member, and Bob Lammers, Community Partners Board member help at the T-shirt tying table.

## Happy Fourth Of July FROM COMMUNITY PARTNERS STAFF



Mural downtown Kearney painted by Josh Arias, Youth Coordinator, Katherine Arias, local artist, and Derek Rush, art teacher at YRTC.



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### Buffalo County Community Partners Contact Information

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Visit [bcchp.org/board](http://bcchp.org/board) for complete board member listing or [bcchp.org/contact](http://bcchp.org/contact) for complete staff listing and contact form.

## Block Party Fun



Kids enjoy the painting mural hosted by Community Partners United Against Violence Coalition.



Ray Longoria, YMCA, leads the kids in a Tug-of-War challenge.



Community members took turns spinning up smoothies for everyone on the Bike Blender. Smoothie ingredients were donated by First National Bank.

“The block party was a hit! It was so much fun to get to meet new people in the community and spread the message about the annual campaign to such a variety of people. There was such a variety in the shirts that people brought to show their individual strengths in the community. And it was so pretty to see all the color and variety spread out in the trees of Harmon.”

~Madi Casper, Campaign Co Chair

### Thank you to our June donors!

Tim and Peggy O'Dea  
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Denise & Shayne Zwiener  
Farmers Merchant Bank  
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### 2016 Annual Fund Thermometer

These funds will help achieve the 2020 vision.

Add your strength to our partnership and help us reach our goal of \$140,000.

Visit: [bcchp.org/donate](http://bcchp.org/donate)

\$140,000

\$53,170.62



If you would like to partner with us through a financial donation, you may:  
Contact Denise Zwiener at 308-865-2280 or [dzwiener@bcchp.org](mailto:dzwiener@bcchp.org)  
Donate on our website, [bcchp.org](http://bcchp.org), by clicking the "Donate" button

## PhotoVoice Reception

Family and friends of our young photographers and community members gathered at an exhibition to hear the stories behind the photographs which focused on everything from scenes of downtown Kearney, to landscapes, to photos of graffiti art. The photos from the 2015-2016 Photovoice classes were displayed.

The PhotoVoice project gives Buffalo County youth an opportunity to learn about their community, each other and themselves, by taking photographs and sharing the creative ideas that go into making them and the process of selecting their favorite photos for exhibition.

“Every PhotoVoice participant has their own story to tell,” says Mark Foradori, United Against Violence Coordinator who organizes the PhotoVoice Project. “The more pictures they take, the more their story and their personal point of view comes through.”

When participants add their voices in the form of captions for the photos, they often share unique and thoughtful perspectives on their photo's subjects.

Some of the Photovoice students with their chosen pictures displayed at the reception.



## Cruise Nite Preparation

The Be Safe, Be Smart Task Force started campaign planning in May. The group will be:

- 1) promoting the open container policy and additional safe tips to Kearney and surrounding communities
- 2) empowering landlords to “Be Present” by roping off property and being aware of their neighborhood surroundings
- 3) engaging landlords and property managers by sharing resources for tenant policies

A new strategy the group is using is a letter to retailers to *reduce or omit the sale of glass bottles* to promote the Be Safe, Be Smart campaign in their store for the Cruise Nite weekend. The letter was signed by Mayor Stan Clouse, Chief of Police Dan Lynch and City Councilman Jonathan Nikkila. Following Cruise Nite, the City of Kearney is going to recognize businesses who participated in these recommendations via a City Council meeting.



Chief Lynch discusses last year's tactics for making Cruise Nite safe and fun.