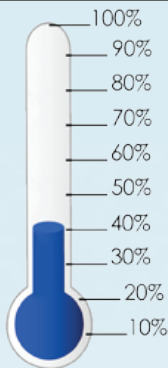


August 2013

Thanks to our July donors, we've raised over \$50,000 of our \$125,000 goal!



- Greg & Linda Barney
- Dottie Bowman
- Marian Brown
- Dr. Richard & Barbara Bush
- Dale & Elnida Chandler
- James Barth & Yvonne Deyle-Barth

in memory of loved ones

- Good Samaritan Hospital
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in memory of Mary Kay Redman & Julie Anderson

- Lee Nell Phillips
- Platte Valley State Bank
- Region 3 Behavioral Health Services
- Tom & Sue Reiber
- Drs. Michael and Carol Renner
- Rebecca Squiers

YAB Gets New Members, Coordinator

Buffalo County Youth Advisory Board (YAB) is excited to announce their newest members for the 2013-2014 school year:

- Shawna Christensen of Kearney High School, daughter of Susan Christensen

- John (Robbie) Potthoff of Kearney High School, son of Patricia Potthoff

- Rowdy Melton of Kearney Catholic High School, son of Justus and Lori Melton

- Amanda Baillie of Pleasanton High School, daughter of Tim and Angie Baillie

- Sage Williams of S-E-M High School, daughter of Bryce and Diana Williams

- Jaison Andrist of Shelton High School, son of Jai and Lisa Andrist

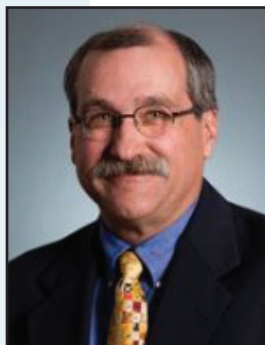
- Loudon Redinger of Shelton High school, son of Brian Redinger

- Aaron Bisbee of Gibbon High School, son of Donna Bisbee

- Cheyenne Jordan of Gibbon High School, daughter of Kelly Jordan

YAB will also be joined by Mark Foradori, who is taking the reigns as Community Partners' youth coordinator. He will be working with YAB and the PhotoVoice project.

Foradori has a B.S. in art education from Kent State University and a BBA in marketing from Cleveland State University. He was the art teacher and yearbook sponsor in Hildreth Public Schools for six years and taught classes at the Cleveland Museum of Art for two years.



*Youth Coordinator
Mark Foradori*

Foradori said, "I'm excited to

help youth discover ways to become healthy, successful adults who are able to work together to tackle the challenges of the future, and to engage youth in a critical exchange of ideas about their relationship to their community, to each other as members of the community, and to policy makers in the community."

For more information on YAB, visit bcyab.org.

Listening Sessions to Address Unmet Health Needs

Formed over a year ago by a multitude of Buffalo County healthcare organizations, the Community Access Network (CAN) Team has been developing a picture of unmet health needs in Buffalo County. Funded by an \$80,000 grant from the Sherwood Foundation and a \$15,000 pledge from Good Samaritan Hospital, they are currently in the first phase of their nine-month plan. They have begun gathering information from key stakeholders in the community and are now expanding to listening sessions with community members.

The firsthand information provided in these listening sessions will supplement some of the data already collected through Community Partners' 2012 Adult Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, which showed 20% of Buffalo County residents over the age of 19 do not have a personal doctor or primary healthcare provider. Similarly, 12.5% of residents do not have health insurance, and the percentage of residents reporting a visit to the doctor in the past year has dropped from 57.2% in 2010 to 56.8% in 2012. In the past 12 months, 11% of Buffalo County residents were unable to see a doctor due to cost issues.

The information gathered from key stakeholders and community residents will be used during the next phase of the CAN Team's planning process. They will review the information and utilize it in designing the most effective model for improving access to core medical services in Buffalo County. Once the planning phase is complete, the team will begin to develop agreements outlining the responsibilities

of different partners as to how these services will be delivered to community members. In the final phase, the CAN Team will provide our community with a plan describing how they intend to establish and sustain this effort to close the gap on unmet health needs of all Buffalo County residents.

The CAN Team is powered by Buffalo County Community Partners and includes stakeholders from Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska, Family Practice Associates, Good Samaritan Hospital, Kearney Clinic, Kearney eFree Church,

Platte Valley Medical Group, Region 3 Behavioral Health Services, Sentinel Health Care, United Way of the Kearney Area, and others.

The CAN Team has enlisted the help of Mark Rukavina of Community Health Advisors to guide them through each phase of the project. Rukavina is a recognized expert on health access and affordability issues and has worked extensively on similar efforts across

the nation. He has testified before US Congress and published research and policy briefs on healthcare cost access issues. In March of this year, Mark was invited to join the Healthcare Financial Management Association's Medical Debt Advisory Task Force as a founding member.

"I am excited to build on the impressive work of Buffalo County Community Partners," Rukavina said. "They have convened all the necessary partners needed for this type of effort to be successful, and I am confident that through this effort the health needs of all Buffalo County residents will be addressed."

Anyone interested in making a donation in support of the CAN Team's work, or interested in being involved with this effort, can visit bcchp.org/donate or call 308-865-2284.



Community members share healthcare barriers in a listening session conducted by the Health HUB.

Know something we don't? Submit your newsletter stories to staff@bcchp.org.

Activate Buffalo County Launches 2013 ReThink Your Drink

July marks the beginning of Activate Buffalo County's second ReThink Your Drink campaign, which promotes choosing water over sugary beverages like pop, sweetened tea, and sports drinks. The campaign incorporates a travelling ReThink Your Drink display, online resources and information, and a media campaign in order to promote healthful choices to Buffalo County community members and assist them in making those choices.

The ReThink Your Drink display has travelled across the state, showing up at health fairs, businesses, schools, and more. The display includes statistics on sugary drink consumption, example drinks and their sugar content, a model of 5 lbs. of fat, and an interactive challenge to match sugar amounts with their respective beverages. The display was funded by a grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield and the University of Nebraska at Kearney's Human Performance Lab.



Coalition Coordinator Holden Armstrong and intern Shelby Zimmerman discuss the sugar content of sports drinks in the ReThink Your Drink public service announcement.

On ActivateBuffaloCounty.com, community members can find information and statistics on sugary drink consumption, resources to help reduce the consumption of sugary drinks, posters and other shareable media, monthly challenges related to rethinking their drinks, and an active blog with current info, fun facts, and motivational posts.

The coalition's ReThink Your Drink video has already started playing at local movie theaters and is available to watch on their website and YouTube channel. It is accompanied by public service announcements on radio and television, billboard messages, online messages, and more.

Activate Buffalo County seeks to create awareness, advocacy, and excitement about physical activity and the importance of designing our community for active and healthy lifestyles. For more information, visit ActivateBuffaloCounty.com.

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:

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Suzanne Brodine, Board Chair
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sbrodine@kearneygov.org

Visit bcchp.org/board for complete board member listing. Visit bcchp.org/contact for complete staff listing.

You can subscribe to the email version of this newsletter by visiting bcchp.org/newsletter.



PO Box 1466
Kearney, NE 68848
bcchp.org

Join us in building a HEALTHIER
Buffalo County. Donate today!

Calendar of Events

- **Activate Buffalo County** meets the fourth Wednesday of the month, 10-11 a.m., 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 a.m., Community Partners offices.
For more information, contact Alexandra Dillion at Alexandra.dillion@alz.org.
- **Buffalo County Health Ministry Network** meets the second Thursday of the month, 12-1 p.m., Good Samaritan Hospital, Telehealth, Suite 1.
For more information, call 308-865-7741.
- **Community Health Access Team (CHAT)** meets the third Thursday of the month, 12-1 p.m., Community Partners offices.
For more information, contact chathub@bcchp.org.
- **Positive Pressure Coalition** meets the first Tuesday of the month, 12-1 p.m., Region 3 Conference Room.
For more information, contact positivepressure@bcchp.org or visit PositivePressure.org.
- **Violence Prevention Coalition** meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, 4 p.m., 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.