

# Celebrating 20 years



Community  
Partnerships



Buffalo County  
**COMMUNITY  
PARTNERS®**  
BUILDING A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY



# Dear Buffalo County Residents:

Add your strengths to our partnership in 2016. We are celebrating our 20th Anniversary and wish to share our journey. Over 2,199 individuals and 705 organizations are working each day to Build a Healthier Buffalo County. Our organization sets the pace for the community by assessing community priorities, aligning resources, researching models to impact desired change and aiming our united efforts toward attainment of the Buffalo County 2020 Vision.

We have a fun, artistically inspired celebration to unveil this year. You will have front row seat. Activities developed by our partners to celebrate in 2016 include;

- ▲ Creating a new model to support workforce development focusing on increasing skills and knowledge for unemployed and underemployed individuals in our area, Kearney Works.
- ▲ Creating a collaborative conversation about end of life issues, working with families caring for their loved ones with Alzheimer's Disease.
- ▲ Connecting our communities' community health workers in a pilot to further integrate care.
- ▲ Inspiring youth to advocate for a healthier community through a fall Youth Summit.
- ▲ Inspiring Picturing Peace by submitting photos illustrating "Living in Harmony."
- ▲ Building on success of Be Safe Be Smart during Cruise Night to continue to build a safe community.
- ▲ Advocate for social/emotional learning curriculum for pre-school through 8th grade students.
- ▲ Expanding Safe Routes to School programs in Kearney, Ravenna and Pleasanton.
- ▲ Engaging businesses in employee wellness efforts to uncover return on investment strategies for local employers.
- ▲ Empowering youth voices through PhotoVoice project.

We invite you to join one of the many coalitions or collaboratives to aim your strengths at achieving the Buffalo County 2020 Vision. Add your strengths to our partnership, build a healthier Buffalo County together.



**Denise Zwiener,**  
**Executive Director**  
*Buffalo County Community Partners*

## Buffalo County Community Partners Staff



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*Youth Coordinator*

## Add YOUR Strengths To Our Partnerships

Community Partners mission is to assess, promote and strengthen the health of Buffalo County. We celebrate our 20th Year Anniversary by recognizing the strengths of our partners that represent education, government, youth, health care, human service, faith and businesses joining their strengths to solve local issues with local ideas.

We invite you to join our call to action to Build A Healthier Buffalo County. Please consider adopting policies or programs in your faith community, school, workplace or homes that emphasize healthy behaviors. Or, start a conversation with your family or peers about issues of importance to you. Additionally, we invite you to consider a donation of time or resources to the partnership. Every dollar donated to Buffalo County Community Partners is matched by \$6 in local, state or national grants to support your community. Donations remain in your community to support local efforts.

*Whatever action you take, we thank you for working with us to Build a Healthier Buffalo County.*

## Buffalo County Community Partners Executive Committee



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*Past Chairman  
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# Celebrate with us as we travel our timeline of accomplishments!

## 1994

Good Samaritan Health Systems commissions the first Adult Behavioral Risk Factor Survey for Buffalo County.

## 1995

Good Samaritan Health Systems invites 25 partners to the table to review assessment results. These partners continue to meet and desire to form a virtual non-profit with a mission to assess, promote and strengthen the health of Buffalo County.

## 1996

1st Board meeting of Buffalo County Community Partners.

1st Annual Building A Healthier Buffalo County Summit releases 15 community goals to be attained by 2000. These work groups organize; Worksite Wellness, Suicide Prevention, Alzheimer's Disease, Domestic Violence and Child Abuse, Transportation, Tobacco Free, Positive Pressure, Immunizations, Teen Pregnancy and more.

## 1997

Domestic Violence Goal Work Group hosts conference with goal to build a community plan to address domestic violence. Launching the Coordinated Response Team to bring law enforcement, SAFE Center and others together in a coordinated response to Domestic Violence.

Positive Pressure hosts many town hall meetings on new emerging drug – Methamphetamines.

Launched Kearney Housing Study.

Hosted 1st Annual Youth Congress.

Mt. Carmel opens 16 specially designated Alzheimer's units.

## 1998

Conducted first retailer compliance check – 57% were found compliant. In 2016, maintained compliance of 95%.

23 businesses attend Well Workplace University.

Kearney Area Homeless and Housing Coalition voted to become part of Community Partners, renaming their effort to Affordable Housing Goal Work Group to conduct livable wage research. In 2005, this group becomes known as Community Connections.

## 1999

Assisted in the development of the Family Advocacy Network (FAN).

Worked with law enforcement to prevent a head shop from selling drug paraphernalia.

Provided grant funding to Transportation Work Group to research new rural model for Public Transportation, eventually forming R.Y.D.E.

Provided smokeless tobacco prevention programs to area little league teams.

Formed Obesity and Overweight Goal Work Group.

## 2000

Prairie View Gardens (18) and Ravenna Good Samaritan (16) open specially designated Alzheimer's units, meeting goal to build 50 units by 2000.



### Community builds 50 specially designated Alzheimer's Units

*A commitment to improving the health of our community was the driving force that brought 25 individuals from diverse backgrounds together 20 years ago to begin the process of identifying community strengths and needs. I was one of those first 25 and the Buffalo County Community Partners provided me an avenue to do something tangible and lasting for individuals and families impacted by Alzheimer's disease because it was very real to my family. Our goal was to ensure there was specialized care for individuals suffering from Alzheimer's and support for their families and friends. I'm grateful for a caring community and thank Buffalo County Community Partners for keeping the flame burning."*

Chairman



Beth Baxter, Past Board Regional Administrator, Region 3 Behavioral Health Services

# 58%

of 15 goals adopted in 1996 were attained by the community by 2000.

Significant five year trends:

Increased assisted living units, Alzheimer's units, public transportation system.

Decreased youth substance abuse, suicide, teen pregnancy, adverse drug reactions for older adults, domestic violence, child abuse.



# 2001

Met with 500 residents to develop 2010 Priority Health Goals:

## TOP 10 HEALTH GOALS

**Environment:** reduce lead levels in children, reducing second hand smoke.

**Community:** increase seat belt use, access to care, and reduce falls in older adults.

**Economy:** increase affordable housing and access to public transportation.

**Family:** decrease substance abuse, obesity, mental health, health ministry, and infant mortality.

## ACTIVITIES:

Kearney Worksite Wellness Committee creates Wellness Works Board, earn Well City USA connecting 20% of employed workforce in worksite wellness programs.

Kearney City Council adopts 'Community Standards' to support families and organizations through unified prevention of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

Buffalo County Health Ministry forms and hosts annual conferences and trainings for Parish Nurses.

Buffalo County Tobacco Free Coalition develops "I Drive, I Smoke" "I Ride, I Choke" messages in conjunction with Ravenna youth. Hosted Tri-City Storm autograph sessions "Stick Tobacco in the Penalty Box".

# 2002

Healthy Community Summit invites youth, initiating the development of Buffalo County Youth Advisory Board.

School staff trained in suicide prevention and identification.

Community advocates for smoke free workplaces and restaurants.

Partners train individuals in Tai Chi to conduct classes to reduce falls in older adults.

Comprehensive school alcohol, tobacco and other drug curriculum in all schools, later expands to University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Community Health Access Team (CHAT) forms and secures grant funds to offer dental screening in Gibbon and Kearney schools.

# 2003

Ravenna youth complete goal of building a youth center.

HOPE Support Group emerges in community and campus to support individuals.

Plans for a community clinic begin, leading to the formation of the HelpCare Clinic in 2015.

Worksites begin doing uniform health risk appraisals through Wellness Works.

# 2004

Annual Health Fairs in partnership with the Kearney Family YMCA.

Launch Buffalo County Youth Advisory Board.

Prevent Lead Poisoning in Children partners launch "Get the Lead Out".



# 2005

Youth develop Be A Responsible Parent Campaign.

Overweight and Obesity Task Force work with UNK to develop Student Health Report Cards.

Youth Advisory Board takes first trip to the state capitol to advocate for smoke free restaurants.



# 100%

*Reducing youth and adult smoking has been a consistent effort of this partnership for over 20 years. In 2001, 45% of restaurants in Buffalo County were smoke free. By 2009, the Nebraska Unicameral passed Clean Indoor Air Act creating opportunity for Buffalo County workplaces to become became 100% smoke free.*

## YAB Makes a Strong Statement When They Meet With Senators

*"They are well respected by elected officials and are excellent advocates for youth issues."*



*Dr. Joel Johnson  
Former Senator  
2011 Fund Campaign Chair*

# 2006

Wellness Works enters PACE competition and wins \$10,000 for logging over 1.5 million steps.

Wellness Works adopts Walk Out On Your Job from Kearney Clinic.

Activate Buffalo County is launched and develops messages like Rethink Your Drink and Unplug.

# 2007

Responsible Beverage Server Coalition forms and selects unified training (TIPS).

YAB assists Shelton Youth in developing Shelton STAND.

YAB hosts first Annual Youth Summit.

# 2008

First county wide Housing Study, leading to the formation of the Buffalo County Housing Senate with all communities represented by membership.

Town Hall Meeting with First Lady Sally Ganem, to celebrate youth substance abuse reduction.

YAB develops messaging to join the majority and be alcohol free, Youth Take A Stand.

CHAT secures funding to start a diabetes pilot (Health HUB) to serve 250 individuals with diabetes.

Activate Buffalo County hosts Get Your 30 competition with worksites.

# 2009

Town Hall Meetings across the county begin developing 2020 Goals.

"Think Twice" media campaign around alcohol free graduations.

# 2010

\$568,000 in grant funds are awarded to coalitions and collaborations to meet 2010 goals. 50% of goals adopted by the community in 2001 were attained.

## SIGNIFICANT 10 YEAR TRENDS:

Decreased youth tobacco and alcohol use

Increased seat belt use, fall prevention, public transportation, health ministry

100% smoke free workplaces an Well City USA Award

## GOALS MOVING TOWARD TARGETS INCLUDE:

Lead poisoning, access to care, health disparities, youth suicide, and adult depression

## GOALS MOVING AWAY FROM TARGET INCLUDE:

Active lifestyles, healthy eating, obesity/overweight rates.

## Youth Advisory Board Launched

*In the late 90's, Community Partners Board set strategies to develop a stronger youth component to their efforts. They traveled to other states and communities to see potential models and kicked off the first Youth Summit in 2000 to begin to empower youth to create a leadership structure to support other youth. By 2003, the first meeting of the Buffalo County Youth Advisory Board was held at the Kearney Family YMCA. "I was fortunate enough to be a part of the Buffalo County Youth Advisory Board during its early years. I remember being very excited about the opportunity to serve for this organization that placed a great emphasis on youth empowerment. After being a part of numerous organizations throughout my undergraduate career and now in professional school, YAB still sticks out in my mind as one of the best extracurricular experiences. Although the Buffalo County Community Partners offer invaluable guidance and manpower, the youth on the board are the driving force behind everything the group accomplishes.*

*Not only does YAB give the youth of Buffalo County a medium to voice the issues they face, but it also gives them the means to develop unique strategies to do something about them. Furthermore, YAB instills within its members the importance of community-minded citizens and the capacity of all of its citizens to have a positive impact on the places they call home. I have a feeling Buffalo County will benefit in the years ahead as more and more youth transition from YAB members to community leaders."*



Kevin Ripp,  
Former Pleasanton Resident  
2003, Buffalo County  
Youth Advisory Board Member



*Board members attend Annual Summits*



# Our 2016 Report to the Community

## *Add Your* STRENGTHS *To Our* PARTNERSHIPS

To attain our communities' 2020 Vision many individuals and organizations come together to create a greater impact. Over the years our partners have multiplied. Our organization has become a trusted model in which the state and nation invest resources to learn how our community establishes trust, builds local capacity, connects resources and leverages change.

In celebration of our 20th Year Anniversary, we present an illustration of how each community brings unique strengths to Build A Healthier Buffalo County. Over the last year, Community Partners has Engaged 2,199 people and 705 businesses, Elevated 35 community issues, Empowered 10,500 individuals, and Evaluated progress by assessing needs of 5,000 residents annually.

### *we have* Engaged

**2199 RESIDENTS**  
**705 BUSINESSES**

*25 Worksite Wellness Members*  
*1800 Walk Out On Your Job Walkers*  
*2500 at Healthy Kids Weekend*  
*105 at Youth Summit*  
*30 Youth to State Capitol*  
*100 at Four Bike Rodeos*

### *we have* Elevated

**35 HEALTH ISSUES**

*Rethink Your Drink*  
*Alcohol Free Graduation*  
*Parents Take A Stand*  
*5 Worksite Wellness Trainings*  
*8 Village/City Resolutions*  
*for Block Parties*  
*145 photos Picturing Peace*

### *we have* Empowered

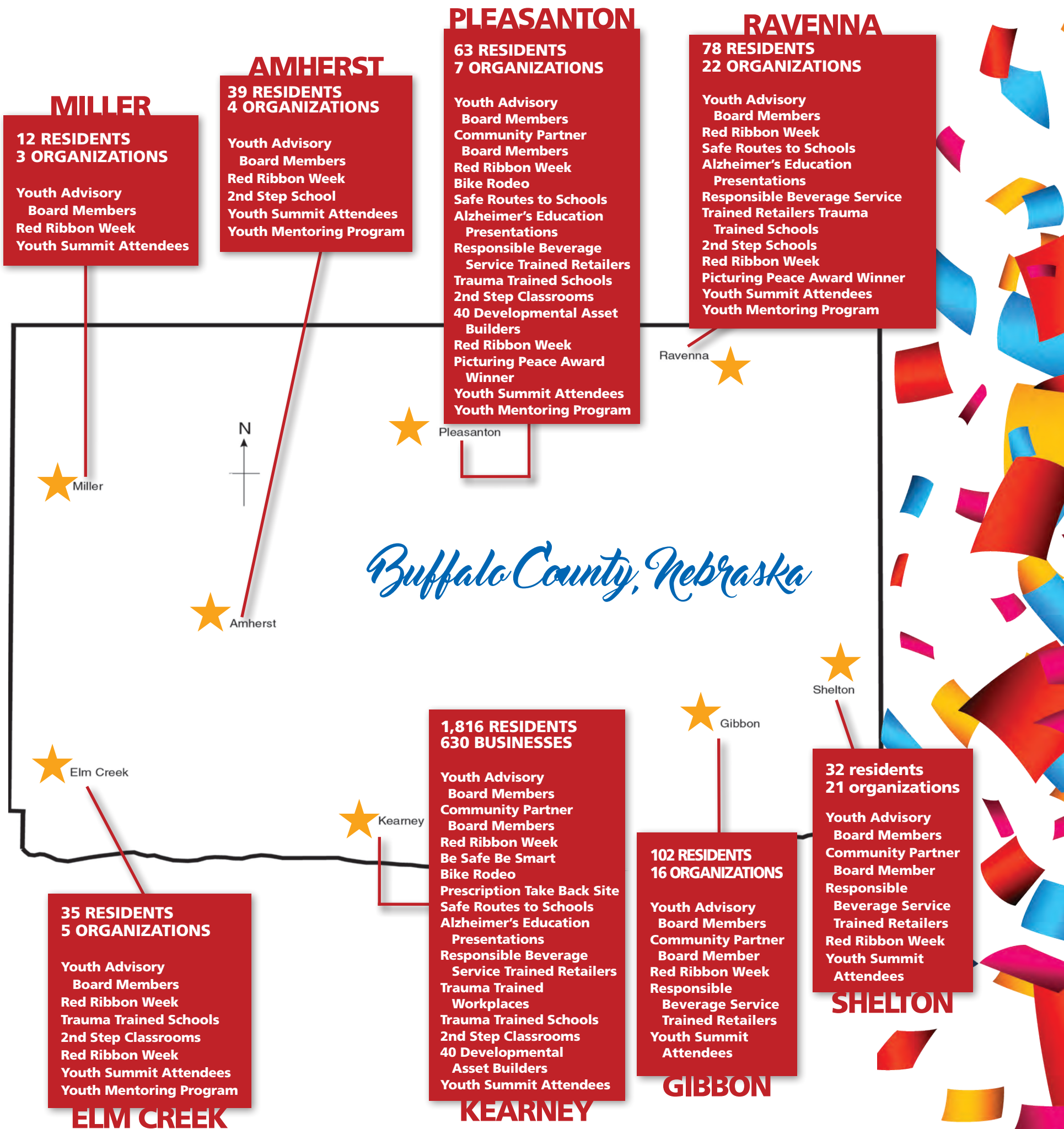
**10,500 RESIDENTS**

*1,328 retailers trained in*  
*beverage service*  
*110 Youth Advisory Board Alumni*  
*49 Trained Youth Mentors*  
*1,800 students trained in 2nd Step*  
*10 Safe Routes to School Meetings*  
*19 Photo Voice Participants*  
*100 at Alzheimer's Presentations*  
*200 individuals referred to*  
*Diabetes support*

### *we have* Evaluated

**5,000 HEALTH ISSUES**

*2500 Youth Surveyed*  
*2500 Adult Surveyed*  
*18 Community Surveys*  
*14 listening sessions and focus groups*  
*150 key informant interviews*



# 2010 • Buffalo County Launches 2020 Vision

Buffalo County Healthy Community Advisory Council forms bringing together 25 key stakeholders to adopt 2020 Vision and sign Memorandums of Understanding to work together. Five strategic directions are presented to the community for adoption. Residents begin connecting partners, mapping community assets, and designing action steps to meet outcomes. The Buffalo County Community Partners Board oversees progress, evaluation, promotion and community resources to ensure 2020 Vision success. We celebrate our success by sharing these important timeline activities with our community.

## Active Living & Healthy Eating

**2011**

Activate Buffalo County hosts workshop "Taking Steps to a Healthier Generation" with guest speaker Mark Fenton to create complete streets promoting walking and biking throughout the county.

**2012**

Designed messages to Rethink your Drink, Unplug, Lighten Up and Get Active.

**2014**

Secure funding for Safe Routes to School. Host Healthy Kids Weekend. Wellness Works dissolves and joins Activate Buffalo County Coalition.

**2015**

Bike Blender is created by the Bike Shed and travels throughout the county creating healthy smoothies.

Parents complete surveys to assist Safe Routes to School to plan safe routes within ½ mile from schools. Host Bike Rodeos in Pleasanton, Ravenna and Kearney.

*Continue to support Safe Routes to School strategies in Pleasanton, Ravenna and Kearney.  
www.bcchp.org/activatebuffalocounty*

*Building a new wellness initiative, Be Well Buffalo County.  
www.bcchp.org/bewell*

*Surveying employers to research impact of worksite wellness programs on overall employee health, health insurance costs and participant satisfaction.*

Today:

## Eliminate Health Disparities

**2011**

Community Health Access Team received \$540,987 to develop a Health HUB to serve 250 individuals with diabetes by connecting health providers and service providers through a community health worker.

**2012**

Fifty clients are enrolled in the Health HUB, documenting uninsured medical debt of \$500,000. This identified need leads community members to seek solutions.

**2013**

Physicians invite Community Partners to work with community to develop a model of care to support uninsured residents in Buffalo County.

**2014**

Health HUB pilot program is complete, of the 250 clients connected to a community health worker the program documented a 4:1 return on investment.

HelpCare Clinic Board launched to run a very successful community program to meet a need defined by the community.

Community Health Access Team dissolves; they completed their mission of 100% access to care.

Providers of Diabetes support unite to create the Diabetes Referral Network.

Behavioral health providers unite to create the Behavioral Health Integration Partnership.

**2015**

First Diabetes Referral Information Fair is hosted at the Kearney Family YMCA.

HelpCare Clinic opens their doors and invite Health HUB 250 clients to be first patients.

Today:

*Diabetes Referral Network is publishing list of diabetes support resources in Buffalo County. More information on this project [www.bcchp.org/DRN](http://www.bcchp.org/DRN)*

*Community health workers are uniting to assist community decision makers in creating a sustainable funding to continue return on investment practices. [www.bcchp.org/chat](http://www.bcchp.org/chat)*

*Behavioral health advocates are examining models for 24 hour crisis support, technology and school support strategies.*



# High Impact Prevention

2010

Train 150 school teachers in Search Institute 40 Developmental Asset model.

University of Nebraska at Kearney embraces responsible beverage service and begin on-campus trainings.

City of Kearney and County Commissioners adopt resolutions to establish policy for recommendations for liquor licensing. First Prescription Drug Take Back Event.

2011

First meeting of Alzheimer's and Dementia Coalition.

Kearney Elks Lodge supports Red Ribbon Week awareness in schools.

2012

Chuck Matson presents emerging drug trends to teachers, law enforcement, probation and Game and Parks.

Positive Pressure supports United Way funded program, Friends, to grow youth mentoring in rural communities.

2013

Retailers take a stand on after Cruise Nite Activities by removing glass bottles from shelves during event.

Alzheimer's Coalition works with Alzheimer's Association to train a community educator to assist in hosting community education sessions.

2014

Tony Coder presents "Legal Implications of Marijuana" at community town hall.

Landlords and property owners on 25th Street in Kearney unite as Be Safe Be Smart aiming at after Cruise Nite activities.

2015

City of Kearney supports Be Safe Be Smart campaign and passes an open container policy resulting in significant changes in after Cruise Nite activities.

Today:

Continuing Be Safe Be Smart, Parents Take a Stand, Prescription Take Back, Responsible Beverage Server Training and Alzheimer's education for families. More information on these programs at [www.bcchp.org/positivepressure](http://www.bcchp.org/positivepressure) or [www.bcchp.org/alz](http://www.bcchp.org/alz)

# Injury Free Living

2012

First PhotoVoice class.

2014

United Against Violence Coalition is formed after a community visioning session with 60 attendees to define violence. Youth violence emerges as the community priority.

2015

United Against Violence Coalition selects Second Step curriculum for all pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade classes in the county, supporting social and emotional learning.

Picturing Peace launches with 140 photo submissions and awards ceremony.

Today:

Picturing Peace accepting photos for "Living in Harmony". Photos will be selected by PhotoVoice participants and shared on International Peace Day September 21, 2016 at Merryman Performing Arts Center.

More information on this program and other coalition activities at [www.bcchp.org/unitedagainstviolence](http://www.bcchp.org/unitedagainstviolence)

# Healthy Homes & Sustainable Communities

2012

Partners come together to host Bridges Out of Poverty Workshop to develop strategies to eliminate community poverty.

2014

Kearney joins America's Best Community competition to find solutions for workforce development, housing, transportation.

2015

America's Best Community committee creates a community plan to build a workforce development program, Kearney Works. Did not win award but work will continue.

Today:

Developing the Kearney Works Board of Directors, programs and sustainability.

[www.bcchp.org/kearneyworks](http://www.bcchp.org/kearneyworks)



# 2016 COMMUNITY PARTNERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Past Chair** - Lisa Reese Parish, Executive Director, Kearney Public Schools Foundation

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## Our Philosophy

*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 community change. Buffalo County YAB, governed by a board of youth and adults and supported by local funders, provides grants for youth-initiated and youth-led community projects. Youth tackle a range of social problems that concern them from our economy and environment to safety, tobacco, alcohol, and illegal drugs.*

## Our Mission

*Buffalo County Youth Advisory Board (YAB) is a youth-based, youth-led, youth-driven board that provides grant funds to youth organizations for the betterment of Buffalo County communities.*



# Buffalo County Community Partners would like to thank our donors for their support in building a healthier Buffalo County

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Kearney Clinic  
Kearney Elks Lodge  
Kearney Family YMCA  
Kearney Hub  
Kearney Library  
Kearney Park and Rec  
Kearney Public Schools  
Kearney Regional Medical Center  
Merryman Performing Arts Center  
Nebraska Applesseed  
Nebraska Children and Families  
Foundation  
NRG Media  
Platte River Radio  
Platte Valley Medical Group  
Region 3 Behavioral Health Services  
Richard Young Hospital  
S.A.F.E. Center  
Schools in Buffalo County  
Two Rivers Public Health Dept.  
UniNet  
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*We would like to thank our anonymous donors. Our donors are the foundation of our work, we value the gifts they share with our community to support Building a Healthier Buffalo County.*

## 2016 ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN

## YES! I want to build a healthier Buffalo County!

*Please complete the following information as you wish to be listed in donor recognition.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ I (We) wish to remain anonymous

☐ My (our) gift is in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

☐ \$1,000

☐ \$750

☐ \$500

☐ \$250

☐ \$100

☐ \$50

☐ \$ \_\_\_\_\_



**Make donations payable to :** Buffalo County Community Partners  
PO Box 1466, Kearney NE 68847

**I wish to donate by credit card:**  
2.9% Credit card fee assessed.

☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ DISCOVER

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

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(308) 865-2284 | info@bcchp.org | bcchp.org

Buffalo County Community Partners is a non-profit 501 (c)3

This document was prepared by the Buffalo County Community Partners as a 2016 report to the community.

For more information regarding this document and to learn how to donate, please contact the staff at the Partner office at 308-865-2284 or info@bcchp.org



**Block Party**  
 Sunday, June 26  
 4-5pm  
 Harmon Park, Kearney, NE  
 FOR MORE INFORMATION  
[www.bcchp.org](http://www.bcchp.org)

## Our Coalitions

### Activate Buffalo County

Our mission is to create awareness, advocacy, and excitement about physical activity and the importance of designing our community for active and healthy lifestyles. We're expanding our efforts to include an employee wellness membership program to help promote healthy living. For more information, visit [ActivateBuffaloCounty.com](http://ActivateBuffaloCounty.com) or contact Kate at 308-865-2286 or [wellness@bccp.org](mailto:wellness@bccp.org).

### Alzheimer's & Dementia Coalition

Our mission is to increase the community's knowledge of dementias, including Alzheimer's disease.

### Positive Pressure

The vision of Positive Pressure Coalition is to improve the health and quality of life in Buffalo County by reducing substance abuse through collaboration, planning, and programming. For more information, visit [positivepressure.org](http://positivepressure.org) or contact Tana Miller at 308-865-2283 or [positivepressure@bccp.org](mailto:positivepressure@bccp.org).

### United Against Violence

Our mission is to prevent violence in Buffalo County through community involvement in consistent and safe early prevention. Build community accountability and understanding. Focus on building hope for our future emphasizing no more violence. For more information, contact Mark Foradori at 308-865-2290 or [uav@bccp.org](mailto:uav@bccp.org).

### 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. For more information, contact Josh Arias at 308-865-2290 or [youth@bccp.org](mailto:youth@bccp.org).

## Our Collaboratives

### Be Safe, Be Smart

Landlords, property owners, and other community members are meeting to generate solutions and change the culture surrounding after-Cruise Nite activities

### Behavioral Health Integration Partnership

Our vision is for each individual to have access to interdisciplinary team-based care where integration is the expectation and the community understands that behavioral/mental health is an essential element of health and wellness. Our mission is founded in the understanding that health is the integration of physical, mental and spiritual health and that behavioral/mental health is integrated into person-centered care. Facilitation of team-based care with primary care providers, behavioral/mental health providers, community health workers and community services will enhance prevention, early identification, treatment, and the coordination of care. Creating cultural transformation that eliminates the stigma of behavioral/mental health care through the acceptance of health care and behavioral/mental health as a natural integration of health and wellness.

### Central Nebraska Diabetes Referral Network

Our vision is to promote healthy lifestyles by encouraging self-management with support through the collaboration of prevention and disease management programs that empower community members to control and maintain their diabetes

### Be Well

Our vision is to build a culture of well-living where community support leads to unconscious lifestyle changes. Our mission is to advocate for a healthy community culture through infrastructure, education, and programs to support healthy choices.

Buffalo County Community Partners  
 PO Box 1466 • Kearney, Nebraska, 68848  
 308-865-2284



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