



January 2016



20 Years of Community Partners

Community Partners was formed by people in the community with the same vision; to recognize health issues in the community and seek answers for how they could be addressed. This model has created a very successful nationally recognized organization. This year we will celebrate 20 years of building partnerships and



First logo, created by Denise Zwiener, approved by the board in the first recorded meeting 1996.

recognize the many people who had the future in mind to build a healthier Buffalo County.

Twenty years ago, Aug. 14, 1996, the first board meeting of the Community Partners took place. We incorporated as Buffalo County Community Health Partners, which in later years 'health' was dropped from the name and a new logo was developed to bring more 'recognition' to the partnership.

Since the first board meeting in 1996 there has been an evolution of the organization. The board started as a virtual organization as the members were not certain that the initiative would become a non-profit organization. The board took steps in 2007, to formalize the virtual organization into a non-profit corporation. Their main reason for incorporating was to leverage national grant funding for the work of the coalitions. Coalitions in the '90s were called 'goal work groups' and were led by board members.

Today the team consists of the same number of board members, relies on volunteers and is data driven, and relies on community participation, but; now it is supplemented by an executive director and six full time staff members. You could say there has been tremendous growth in 20 years.

The very first year we worked with \$0 in the budget. Today the budget runs over \$750,000 annually, with 75% of the budget derived from local, state and national grants and 25% from our donor family.

A lot of things have changed since 1996, yet one thing has remained the same, the mission of Community Partners, "to assess, strengthen, and promote health in Buffalo County."



First "Community Report" ran in the Kearney Hub October 12, 1996. The report described the beginning of the Community Partners as a group who wanted to know the health status of Buffalo County. It explained how they decided to answer the question "What are the elements needed to create a healthier Buffalo County?" We continue to work to fulfill the mission set by our leaders

Thank You to Our December Donors:

Barney Building & Land Co LLC
Richard & Kathleen Hranac Medical Development Management, LLC.
Eaton Corporation
Rosemary Northwall
Anonymous
Margaret J. Aten
Kelly Bartling
Ariane J Arensdorf
Andrea Lowe
Dora Day
Ron & Ann Tvrdik
Baldwin Foundation
Peter & Jane Kotsiopulos

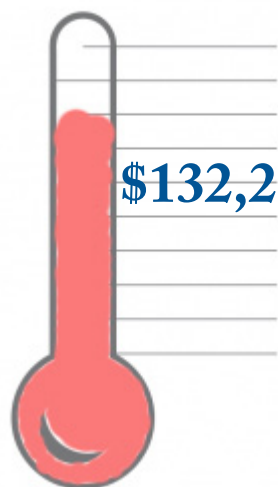
Earl and JoAnn Rademacher
Greg and Sanae Shea
Paul and Linda Younes
Susan Reiber
John H and Sharon Martin
Fritson Psychological Services

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

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

Annual Fund Thermometer



\$132,231

Our campaign goal for 2015 was set at \$155,000. A lofty goal considering the 2014 goal was \$125,000. \$132,231 has been raised so far reaching towards our goal. We appreciate everyone who has continued to support our mission.

Buffalo County Community Partners Contact Information

General Information
308-865-2284
info@bcchp.org

Denise Zwiener, Executive Director
308-865-2280
dzwiener@bcchp.org

Nikki Gausman, Board Chair
308-237-2599
nikki@safecenter.org

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

Building a Foundation

“A unique and incredibly awesome outcome that was deemed important but far reaching when Buffalo County Community Partners was formed, was creating an



Joan Lindenstein with Dr. Patch Adams in 1998. Lindenstein served as Board Chair 1996–1999 and Board Member until 2007.

those who live and work in the community. What began as a “virtual” organization of volunteer stakeholders from all facets of the community (local government, schools, human service providers, business and industry, health care organizations, civic groups and consumers) is now, 20 years later a formal, highly visible and respected pillar of the community known

BOARD OF DIRECTORS BUFFALO COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH PARTNERS July 1, 1996 – June 30, 1997

Beverly Muller
Department of Social Services
Rod Jobman
Department of Health & Human Services
Bill McMullen
Buffalo County Board of Supervisors
John Prescott
Assistant City Manager
Dick Larson
Chief Deputy Buffalo County Sheriff
Roger Jasnoch
President Kearney Chamber of Commerce
Tom Reiber
Triple R, Inc
Pat Munro
Director, United Way Of Kearney Area
Steve Bennett
DPM, Platee Valley Foot Clinic
R.C. Rosenlof
M.D.
Rick Kozin
Exec. Director, E.P.I.C.C.
Russell Sommerfeld
Sr. Pastor, Holy Cross Lutheran Church
C.C. Jones
M.D. Plains Physician Organization

Deb Quinn
Clinic Manager, Women's Health Services
Rod Horsley
Legal Assistance Coordinator
Gene Wubbels
Vice Chancellor or Academic Affairs UNK
Carol Renner
Assistant Superintendent
Kearney Public Schools
Carol Schwarz
Extension Educator
Buffalo County Extension Service
Joan Lindenstein
Administrative Director of
Special Projects/Outreach Good Sam.
Larry Butler
Sentinel Health Care
Jami Anderson
Grant Writer
Mid-Neb. Community Action Services
Beth (Holthusen) Baxter
Program Administrator
Region 3 Mental Health & Substance Abuse
Elaine Wiseman
Ex. Director, Kearney Housing Authority

for its strength and ability to bring together diverse groups and resources to achieve positive and measurable change in areas of identified community need. Led by Buffalo County residents and supported by their generous resources, Buffalo County Community Partners has achieved its far reaching goal of sustainability and is recognized locally and nationally for its work in creating a healthier community.

Of note is that two of the founding Board members, Carol Renner, Associate Superintendent of Kearney Public Schools and Carol Schwarz, Extension Educator at Buffalo County Extension Service have been members of the Board since its formation. Denise Zwiener, the first Executive Director hired by Community Partners in 1999 has been serving for the past 16 years. They, and multiple other dedicated community volunteers continue to work together to attain the vision of Community Partners.”

--Joan Lindenstein, Community Partners first Board Chair



Board member, Carol Renner, in 1998 with Dr. Patch Adams. Renner is still serving on the board today.



Carol Schwarz with Howie Halperin, Wellness Council of the Midlands, at the 1996 Building a Healthier Community Summit.



Board members, Russell Sommerfeld, Rod Horsley, Robyn Jackson, and Larry Butler receiving award by Board Chairman, Steve Bennett, at 1998 Building a Healthier community Summit.

Five New Members Join ‘16 Board

Community Partners welcomes five new board members this January. Filling the Church, Civic, and Consumer positions are Mike Tye, Tye Law Firm, Peggy O’Dea, retired teacher, and Leslie Martin Education and Agriculture Representative. The Business and Industry position is being filled by Monte Dakan, President Viaero Events Center, while the Government position will be



Bob Lamars, Monte Dakan, Mike Tye, Peggy O’Dea, Leslie Martin New Board members elected in 2016.

filled by City of Kearney Council member Bob Lammers. “Volunteering is important to me and I have been interested in the work that Community Partners is doing for our community. I am looking forward to learning more about this organization and where my strengths can contribute most,” said O’Dea. Martin said, “I am very excited to be joining the Community Partners board.

I have lived in Buffalo County for over 25 years and have seen many great changes taking place in our communities. I want to be a part of improving peoples lives through healthy living.”

The board’s role is to advise, govern, oversee policy and direction, and assist with the leadership and general promotion of Buffalo County Community Partners (Community Partners) so as to support the organization’s mission, vision and goals. Community Partners has been blessed with community members that are active and who want to make a difference in the community by serving on the board.

The board welcomes the 2016 Executive Committee; Chairman – Nikki Gausman, Executive Director, SAFE Center; Vice Chairman – Crystal Winfield, Executive Director, UniNet, Local Chapter; past chair – Lisa Reese Parish; Treasurer - Megan Loomis, Probation Officer, State of Nebraska Buffalo County; and Secretary – Andrea Rabe, APRN Central Health Services.

“To be honest, until I was approached about joining the board I didn’t know anything about Community Partners, however I thought that it would be a great opportunity to get to know and become active in the communities in which I work and live. Stepping into a leadership role is an honor and something that I think will make me a more active and successful board member,” said Secretary, Loomis. The board is looking forward to celebrating the 20 year anniversary of Community Partners by making the vision and mission known to the community.

Our Mission is to assess, strengthen, and promote the health of Buffalo County. We are accomplishing this mission by focusing on the 2020 vision to impact these areas:

- 1)Active Living and Healthy Eating
- 2) High Impact Prevention Services
- 3) Eliminate Health Disparities
- 4) Healthy Homes and Sustainable Communities
- 5) Injury Free Living

Current Board Members

Dr. Ken Shaffer, MD
[UniNet-Kearney Chapter](#)
Andrea Rabe (Secretary)
[APRN, Central Health Services](#)
Jeremy Eschliman
[Director Two Rivers Public Health Department](#)
Mike Schnieders
[President CHI Health – Good Samaritan](#)
Crystal Winfield (Vice-Chairman)
[Executive Director UniNet, Local Chapter](#)
Dr. Carol Renner
[Associate Superintendent](#)
[Kearney Public Schools](#)
Kelly Bartling
[Assistant Vice Chancellor, Communications and Community Relations UNK](#)
Carol Schwarz
[Extension Educator](#)
[Buffalo County Extension Service](#)
Michelle Sawicki
[VP/Mortgage Loan Officer, Five Points Bank](#)
Lisa Reese Parish (Past Chairman)
[KPS Foundation](#)
Mike Tye
[Attorney, The Tye Law Firm, P.C.](#)
Peggy O’Dea
[Retired Teacher](#)
Kathy Gosch
[Parish Nurse](#)
Monique Pohlman
[Nurse Buffalo County](#)
Eileen Dakan
[Executive Director](#)
[Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska](#)
Nikki Gausman (Chairman)
[Executive Director, SAFE Center](#)
Leslie Martin
[Education & Agriculture Representative](#)
Buss Biehl
[Board of Supervisors](#)
Bob Lammers
[City Councilmen, City of Kearney](#)
Jade Meads
[Recreation Superintendent City of Kearney](#)
Megan Loomis (Treasurer)
[Probation Officer](#)
[State of Nebraska – Buffalo County](#)
Marion McDermott
[Executive Director,](#)
[Kearney Chamber of Commerce](#)
Monte Dakan
[President, Viaero Events Center](#)
Kati Carlson
[HyVee Manager of Perishables](#)
Sue Reiber
[Area Representative](#)