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*We would like to thank CHI Health
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Newsletter April 2016

Early Celebrations Alzheimer's Group & RYDE

In 1994, Community Partners conducted a survey to decide what areas of health in the community needed improvement. Thirty-one goals emerged, and they narrowed down to 15 by using two criteria 1) there had to be measurable data to support the goal area 2) there had to be broad based community interest in the goal. Alzheimer's Disease and a Transportation system were two priority focuses that emerged.

As of 1996, there were no out of home facilities in Buffalo County designated to take care of people with probable Alzheimer's Disease. In order to tackle the issue, the Alzheimer's Goal Work group formed with representation from Educational Service Unit 10, Alzheimer's Association, Good Samaritan Health Systems, Area Agency on Aging, Kearney Interfaith Caregivers, Mt. Carmel Home, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Region 3 Behavioral Health Services, and the Peterson Senior Hospitality Center. These partners were the driving forces behind getting the work done. The first goal for Alzheimer's Disease was to create the capacity for 50 specially designated Alzheimer's beds within Buffalo County by 2001, these were the events that obtained the goal.

- 1997 Community Partners granted \$10,000 to Mt. Carmel Home, who opened up 16 beds.
- 2000: Prairie View Gardens opened 28 beds and then in 2001 they reclassified 10 more.
- 2000: Community Partners granted Ravenna Good Samaritan Center \$20,000 to build 16 beds finished in 2002.

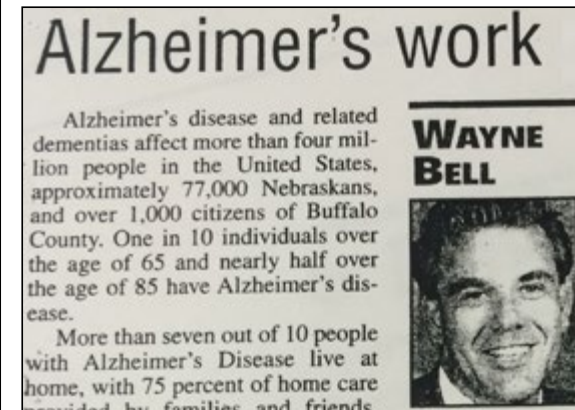
By 2000, the group had met and exceeded their goal with units continuing to be built. Once the momentum was rolling with building units, the group turned to it's second goal of community education.

The Ravenna Youth Activities with Alzheimer's Patients at Good Samaritan was granted \$5,000 to give the youth a chance to work with the Alzheimer's patients. This helped with community education for the young people and benefitted the patients even more. ...*Celebrations continued on page 2*

Then & Now

Alzheimer's Disease Work Group

"The early work of the BCCHP Alzheimer Committee was groundbreaking. There were no Alzheimer in-house care facilities in Kearney. The first goal was to provide



Kearney Hub. November 1999

50 beds in this community since families were placing loved ones far from home. Mount Carmel Home Keens Memorial was the first facility to meet the challenge and from there it has been a history of successful growth to meet this growing need."

Wayne Bell,
1996 Co-Chairman
Alzheimer's Disease
Work Group
Powered by
Community Partners
Currently:
Administrator, ESU 10



Save the Date: May 18

Walk Out On your Job
Get signed up at:

activatebuffalocounty.com/walk-2

Alzheimer's Education upcoming events

Join us at the Conference Room, West Tower
of Good Samaritan Hospital
*Lunch provided to first 40



Susie Peterson
Nebraska Alzheimer's Association

Deone Anderson
Family Practice



Tom Tye
Lawyer, The Tye Law Firm

Dr. Ken Shaffer
Retired Physician, UniNet



Kaiti George
Registered Dietician

Thank you to our March donors!

Kay Horner
Lesley LaFile
Linda Neemeyer
Anonymous Donor

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.

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...Celebrations continued from page 1

Beth Baxter, 1996 Co-chairman of the Alzheimer's Disease Work Group says, "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.



Beth Baxter 1996

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."



Beth Baxter
Currently: Administrator,
Region 3 Behavioral Health

When Transportation was named an area that needed to be addressed in the '94 Community Health Survey, a task force emerged from Community Partners. This included members from the community and from a Transportation work group at the Chamber of Commerce.

In December 1997, Community Partners sponsored the first Transportation Strategic Planning Session. There they identified a mission: "To make mobility a reality it is our intent to create a centralized, coordinated, safe, cost efficient transportation network in Kearney, Buffalo County and beyond."

These sessions identified resources and coordinated with community members that could help in steering the committee into action.

In 1998 Community Partners gave the work group a \$5,000 grant to bring education to themselves and the community on transportation options.

Those funds helped send a work committee, comprised of seven Transportation Work group members, two from Grand Island Transportation committee, and one from the NE Department of Roads, on an educational trip to Wyoming.

They learned how the STAR Transit system ran, this gave them the insight they needed to proceed forward with their own program.

In 1999 Mid-Ne Community Action made a commitment to take the lead role in the transportation program, and later that year a Transportation Coordinator was hired.

In 2000 the program RYDE, Reach Your Destination Easily, took off, with office space donated by Mid Nebraska Community Action and operating money and vans from Good Samaritan Health Systems.

The program started with 1 bus and 3 employees. The service was going well and RYDE was selected to receive funds from Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) to be used for upgrades to the system.

In 2003, RYDE had evolved into the largest demand responsive provider of public transportation in NE, it operated 10 vehicles a day and had a staff of 28. RYDE still continues to operate today.

Strength in Partnerships

RYDE's Founding Partners

"Carl Spelts chaired the Kearney Q125 Commission in 1998. Earl Rademacher and Kent Barney co-chaired a Special Projects sub-committee. Dr. Bob Rosenlof was a member of this committee and proposed Kearney Trolleys for public transportation. A purchase agreement was made with GSH to purchase two trolleys. The Kearney Trolley Board named them Rosie and Carl.

After two years, Kearney Trolleys were no longer used for public transportation but were used for charter business. This led to the establishment of the RYDE program. The Buffalo County Community Partners has served the county well in the enhancement of health and the quality of life issues including transportation for twenty years."

Earl Rademacher
1996 Co-Chairman
Transportation Committee
Powered by
Community Partners and
Chamber of Commerce
Currently: Retired, University
of Nebraska at Kearney



Recap: Youth Summit 2016 What's your Role?

It was fun, games and leadership skills at the Youth Leadership Summit organized by the Buffalo County Youth Advisory Board. The purpose of this event was to strengthen their leadership skills.

About 100 youths from area high schools heard resource presentations, inspirational talks and two lively keynote address from Brennan Costello, senior agribusiness major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Noel Palmer, Assistant Professor of Management at UNK.

The YAB students successfully created an engaging learning environment for their peers.

"The Buffalo County Youth Leadership Summit was an awesome experience! The speakers were very engaging and inspirational. I learned a lot about how to put leadership into action versus just talking about it. Planning the summit with the Youth Advisory Board was a great learning experience, also. We really learned how to bounce ideas off of each other and then choose the ones that were best for what we were trying to accomplish.

Launch leadership also did a fantastic job with the activities. This gave students the opportunity to network with one another in a way that was fun and highly interactive. Additionally, the informative speakers were very interesting and experience oriented. Overall, the day was very worth while, and I would definitely attend again!"

---Sage Williams

Sumner Eddyville Miller YAB member



Darius Flessner and Evan Palmer take turns picking characters in a variation of the "Rock, paper, scissors game" called "Ninja, puppy, pirate." Brennan Costello brought the students various leadership and communication skills.

"The Youth Summit was focused on making sure students were empowered with information to take back to their own schools and influence their communities. We want to be able to create change.

We learned how to see characteristics in different kinds of leaders and how to deal with them. We also were shown how to take an idea and put it into action. It took a lot of time to plan, but it was definitely worth all the effort we put in. It's great to see what students can accomplish when they put their minds together!"

--Jennifer Garcia

Shelton YAB member



Students played interactive communication and team building games in which they have to work together to arrange the cards to duplicate an arrangement in another part of the room. It was led by Launch Leadership from Lincoln.



YAB leaders left to right: Brittany Zimmerman, Maria Klingelhofer, Wyatt Hubbard, Annie Trettel, Austin Jeffrey, Sage Williams, Allison Bauer and Thomas Schwarz.