

Activities & Lemonade Help with Summer Campaign

We just celebrated with the community at our annual Block Party at the end of June. We set up at Harmon Park right before the closing ceremony for the Community Olympics. Our partners, First National Bank, Kearney Parks and Recreation, Nebraska Sports Council, Impact Art, CHI Health Wellness Center, Kearney Whitewater Association, Chapman Swifts Coffee House, National Guard, Nebraska Total Care, Nebraska WellCare, and Community Partners Coalitions came to provide activities for kids.

Impact Art, a new community nonprofit, came and taught kids how to spray paint. The kids sprayed onto a big mural that the artist tuned into the word Refresh at the end. Other activities included a bounce house, the bike blender, kids yoga, various yard games, kayaks, and the lemonade stand. The Youth Advisory Board students ran the lemonade stand to raise awareness of our summer campaign to "Refresh Your Community."

Matt Mims, Campaign Co-Chair, helped with the lemonade stand. Mims said, "We are inviting the community to help us support mental and physical wellness. Community Partners has prioritized these areas to work on this year."

Our coalitions are implementing plans to prevent suicide and increase our community's mental wellness. We are engaging parents in a community wide program to grow early childhood development and reduce bullying, violence, alcohol and marijuana use. Other coalitions are focused on physical wellness by engaging worksites in community wellness and researching ways to provide access to more fresh fruits and vegetables.

Support this work by giving at bcchp.org/donate

Top Right: Impact Art taught kids how to spray paint. The kids helped create a mural.

Middle Right: Healthy-MINDS helped kids create mindfulness bottles. This is a tool to remind kids to stop and think before they act.

Bottom Left: We served lemonade and asked people who donated to write their name on the board.

Bottom Right: First National Bank provided smoothie ingredients for the bike blender.



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PhotoVoice Reception

We celebrated the 2016 -2017 PhotoVoice participants with a reception at CHI Health Good Samaritan. The participants picked their top two photos to be displayed in the walkway of the North Tower. The PhotoVoice program is an eight week program consisting of lessons once a week. The participant is given a camera to use for the class and at the end gets to keep the camera. This program is designed to teach the participants to view life from a new perspective.

Participant, Angel Kouma, talked about perspective in one of her photos. "I took this photo of a cigarette. Cigarettes are something people get addicted to, sometimes people get over it, and sometimes they don't. I tried to use the perspective of the photo to tell that story."

Participant, Maria Buck, talked about one of her photos. "I jumped over a fence and looked down. All the leafs were cracked, but one looked perfect. When I looked closer there was one crack in the leaf. I took a photo of the leaf, and titled the picture *you don't always see the cracks at first glance*. Photovoice taught me to stop and look."

Making friends with common interest is another aspect of the class. Participant, Matt Smiley said, "Photovoice has helped me in a lot of ways, like mentally. I have also made friends with the group and still keep in touch with them."

The participants spend time learning about creative writing as well as photography. They do sessions working on poems. "I love to see the creativity of the participants grow through the classes. They all impress me at the end by just how much they have learned," said Josh Arias, director of the PhotoVoice program.

The photos will be on display at the CHI West Tower Walkway through August 31. To find more information including next available classes see: bcchp.org/photovoice.



Participant Angel Kouma with one of her pictures at the walkway gallery.



Community members were encouraged to talk to the participants and ask them the stories behind their photos.



Each participant receives a photo book with all the images of the participants from the year. The books are some of the participants favorite part of the program.



Participants from the spring 2016-2017 class.

New Data Coordinator

Emily Baughman has joined the Buffalo County Community Partners staff as the Data Coordinator.

Baughman will be in charge of managing the data collection process that Community Partners conducts. Data collection is important. She will work to help the coalitions find data for their logic models to support current and future work.

Baughman was most recently with the Nebraska Crime Commission where she processed and analyzed crime data for the FBI's Uniform Crime Report. Prior to that, she worked with child and family services and at CEDARS as a Juvenile Diversion Officer. "This work at Community Partners meshes the two parts of my last jobs that I really loved to do. I didn't think I would be able to find a job to work with

data. I enjoy looking at social trends. I am excited to be able to use my position to help the coalitions at Community Partners," Baughman said.

Baughman graduated from UNK in 2009 with a degree in psychology and criminal justice. She then moved to Lincoln and is happy now to be back home in Kearney. "I was really excited to be working back in Kearney for family reasons. I want to raise my two children in Kearney," Baughman said.

The first task Baughman will accomplish is reporting to the community on the Youth and Adult 2016 Behavioral Risk Factor surveys. We are excited to release the new data, because it works cohesively with coalition's goals



Emily Baughman hired as new Data Coordinator.

Youth Advisory Board Summer Retreat

The Youth Advisory Board had a chance to practice their team work skills, get to know new members, and enjoy each other's company at their summer retreat. The retreat was at Team Concepts in Kearney. Josh Erickson, taught them about how to be leaders of a team. Erickson said, "The most effective under utilized skill is knowing how to help people in their engagement cycle." Erickson taught the youth how to help people see they are disengaged, and how to bring them to be an engaged part of the team.

Sage Williams, Sumner-Eddyville-Miller, said,

"Team Concepts offered a completely new perspective on leadership and teamwork. It really made me think of how I can improve upon the way I work with others and sustain a strong team. The concepts and skills that Josh taught the group are so valuable and will be very beneficial for my future."

"I liked the Team Concepts training because it opened my eyes to the different types of leadership... it made me realize how important each person is on a team, no matter what their leadership style may be," said Claire Homan, Kearney Catholic.



The youth practiced what they learned about teamwork through a hands on activity. They had to work to put each person through one of the bungee sections in the cube.



Josh Erickson explained the teamwork game of getting the tennis balls from one side of the tarp to the other. The youth had to avoid the "traps" and eventually got 14 balls at once from one side of the tarp to the other.



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Good Samaritan for providing mailing
services for our newsletter.*

Refresh Your Community

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are making an impact in
your community.

Our coalitions are:

- 1) Elevating MENTAL
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- 2) Engaging the
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PHYSICAL WELLNESS
- 3) Empowering PARENTS AND YOUTH



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