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DENISE ZWIENER RECEIVES 2019 Imagine better health.⁵⁴ HEALTHY COMMUNITY AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP



Denise Zwiener receives 2019 Healthy Community Award for Leadership.

In the early 1990s, Denise Zwiener was just out of

college and working for the Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce. At the encouragement of Dr. Bob Rosenlof, Zwiener served as the KACC representative for a new group formed to focus on the health of the community. She said, at first, it was difficult to understand how this group could help businesses, but she soon fell in love with the work and could see it was making a difference in the community.

The timing was right in 1999 for Zwiener to make the switch from serving as a committee member to becoming the first full-time employee for the Buffalo County Community Health Partners, now Buffalo County Community Partners. The organization was one of the first projects of its kind in Nebraska, with a mission to assess, promote and strengthen the health of Buffalo County.

Under Zwiener's leadership, BCCP has grown from 1.5 employees in 1999, to 12 employees today. She'll be quick to tell you the staff don't do it alone. This past year, more than 4,000 volunteers donated 104,120 hours of their time to the projects implemented by BCCP.

For her efforts with BCCP, Denise Zwiener has been selected to receive the 2019 Healthy Community Leadership award sponsored by CHI Health Good Samaritan. The Leadership Award is presented to the group or individual who has shown outstanding leadership in the community by preventing, promoting or protecting health issues.

Some of those issues include decreasing binge drinking of alcohol in teenagers by 60 percent since 2000, and being one of the first communities in Nebraska and the nation to bend the trend of obesity downward in Buffalo County residents.

"The work we do every day wouldn't be possible without the assistance we received, especially from Good Samaritan, whose leadership was essential in helping with funding and policy creation," Zwiener said. "They have been beside us all along."

The BCCP team receives oversight from a board of directors that is comprised of a cross section of community leaders.

"Denise has an amazing ability to absorb information, identify challenges and connect with people to find solutions," said Nikki Gausman, The SAFE Center executive director and BCCP board member. "Many positive changes have occurred under her leadership including increased collaborations between community organizations, changes to local policies impacting health and the continued development of a wider focus on health that looks beyond physical health. Denise leads by example with a genuine concern for the well-being of others in Buffalo County."

The work of BCCP has affected the lives of thousands of Buffalo County residents. Zwiener often hears from citizens letting her know the work she and others are doing is making a difference. She has experienced that as well.

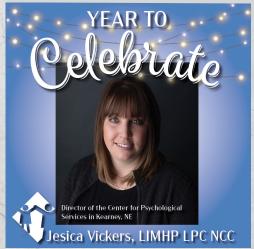
"I was born, raised and educated here. All the work we do every day has directly impacted my family," Zwiener said. "There is a reason God put me in this place."



Buffalo County Community Partners received a Kearney Area **Community Foundation** mini-grant of \$1,000 for new computers and software to run programs more efficiently and effectively. **#KACFGrants**



Amanda is a strong advocate for fresh produce and farmer's markets. She has built a great relationship between the Be Well Collaborative and the local farmers market to increase awareness and attendance at the local markets.



Jesica is a Mental Health Clinician and Director of the Center for Psychological Services in Kearney, NE. Jesica is also the facilitator for Buffalo County Partner's Healthy MINDS Collaborative. She has been devoted to serving families in a behavioral health capacity since 2006.



Linda has been invested in the "Be Safe, Be Smart" task force around Cruise Nite as well as a member of the Positive Pressure Coalition. Linda was on the developing team that started the Be Safe, Be Smart movement which has seen major progress over the years. To Linda, volunteering and being active in the Kearney community is a way for her to "do her part and make a difference."



A GOAL WORK GROUP OF BUFFALO COUNTY COMMUNITY PARTNERS®

Memory Care.

At the event, there were presentations from The Alzheimer's Association, volunteer, Lori Reiner, who presented an education piece on "Stages and Behaviors." Cassie Bailey, Walk Manager of The Alzheimer's Association explained pieces of Caring Transitions, which specializes in managing senior relocations. The services are also perfect for busy families and individuals in need of assistance. Gwen Jacobitz, Director of Homestead Assisted Living Residence shared safe, fun summer activities for those with Alzheimer's or Dementia.

A total of 33,000 Nebraska residents 65 and older live with Alzheimer's. It is the 6th leading cause of death in the state. The Community Partner's coalition aims to increase awareness of Alzheimer's and Dementia

The Buffalo County Community Partner's coalition, Alzheimer's and Dementia, in conjunction with the Alzheimer's Association, offered a free Summer Tips presentation at the Peterson Senior Activity Center in Kearney. The presentation included a dinner, graciously provided by CountryHouse Residence for



Cassie - Lori - Gwen

by building community partnerships, increasing education and heightened awareness.

Community Partner's Wellness Coordinator, Ashleigh Galles, says "the Summer Tips presentation was a great opportunity for all families and caregivers of those impacted by Alzheimer's and Dementia. Our coalition strives to provide as many resources as possible to help families in the community understand and learn more about the changes their loved ones are going through. The Summer can be difficult to navigate for those experiencing Alzheimer's and Dementia, and this presentation helped bring to light how to properly and effectively communicate with your loved ones during this time of year."





OVER 60? Call Sue Hutsell (308) 234-1851 to apply for vouchers from the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program

The Buffalo County Youth Advisory Board is welcoming 13 new members representing Elm Creek, Kearney Catholic, Kearney High, Shelton, Gibbon, and Ravenna. By participating in the youth advisory board, members have the opportunity to share perspectives on issues effecting youth across the county and to take action to create change.

Youth Coordinator Josh Arias explains, "I'm looking forward to working with a big group of youth this year and working in more communities in our county. This bigger board gives us a great opportu-



PICTURED ABOVE: L to R, Kara Stone, Gabie Salinas, Lainey Schmeits, Matt Smiley, Josh Arias, Brooke Anderson, Mercedes Phillips, Samantha Homan, Back: Ben Homan

New members include: Amir Saadi - Kearney Catholic, Aria Carson - Gibbon, Aspyn Wick - Ravenna, CJ McCoy - Ravenna, Claire Standage - Ravenna, Elijah Carson - Gibbon, Ella Bruggeman - Kearney Catholic, Jacob Snyder - Shelton, Jiromi Corona - Gibbon, Kelsey Borowski - Kearney Catholic, Kyleigh Seim - Kearney Catholic, Megan Warner - Elm Creek, Nikol Barroso - Kearney High

nity to listen to even more ideas and I'm looking forward to the work our board will do," Arias said.

New member orientation will be the 18th of August. Arias said, "Our first meeting creates a space for students to get to know each other and set up goals that will guide them throughout the year." For the coming year, the group will be working to mobilize community leaders, resources, and their fellow students around current issues.

YAB is a youth-based, youth-led, and youth-driven board that works cooperatively with area youth and adult policymakers to help alleviate community problems and improve the quality of life for everyone. YAB members also worked during the school year to complete the Healthy Body Healthy Mind Summit, which highlighted mental health and the stigmas of counseling.



Photo Voice

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Through PhotoVoice, Buffalo County Community Partners helps area youth develop a means of creative self-expression and constructive communication through photography. Each student selects their best photographs for an annual gallery and adds captions to communicate their own thoughts and feelings about their photos. Buffalo County Community Partners hosted the gallery reception for 14 PhotoVoice participants to showcase their photographs with the community on June 10th. They exchanged their thoughts and ideas inspired by their photographs with their peers, school board members, city council mem-

bers and other artists. By exchanging their unique perspectives captured in photography, their participants learn about their world, each other, themselves.





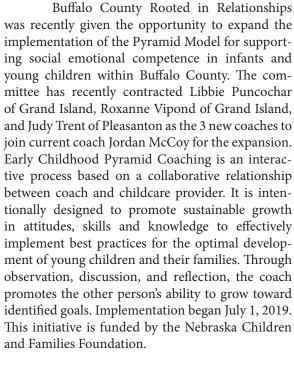


Community Partners





MEET THE COACHES





Judy

"I have had the chance to work with the pyramid model in the preschool and daycare and to see what a great model it is. I am very excited for this opportunity to work with providers in supporting the need for positive social and emotional development. Children are the future and they need us to help provide support for their social and emotional development so they can teach their own children."



Roxanne

"I'm really looking forward to using the Pyramid Model while coaching in Buffalo County. I know how effective this model can be in terms of children's social/emotional development."



Libbie

"The Pyramid Model provides a beautiful framework for supporting children with social and emotional development. I am most looking forward to building relationships with teachers who are so valuable to making a huge different in children's lives."



Jordan

"I have personally implemented the Pyramid Model and know first hand that the model works! Using the Pyramid model results in a positive, strength-based environment that supports the social emotional needs of all children. I am looking forward to partnering with, and supporting teachers as they go through their pyramid journey."



In May, approximately 20 stakeholders gathered to discuss the mental health needs of individuals in our community who are in crisis or distress. This meeting was to determine the readiness of our community to start a conversation about building a crisis center and/or improve the system of care for those in a mental health crisis. The discussion yielded a pattern of four common priorities: Prevention, Continuum of Care, Access and Education. The group will reconvene in July to narrow their focus.

Diabetes Referral Network Community Pariners

The Diabetes Referral Network is a coalition who brings local resources to community members to help them manage their diabetes. One of the strategies to connect people to local resources is bring diabetes screening fairs directly to employees at their worksites! Most recently, the Diabetes Referral Network hosted a screening fair at Kearney Public Schools. If your worksite is interested in hosting a screening and bringing resources directly to your employees please contact our Wellness Coordinator at Wellness@bcchp.org

Community Partners

Neighbor 2 Neighbor

IN TIMES OF DISTRESS WE STAND TOGETHER AND HELP OUR NEIGHBORS

Nebraska Strong: Neighbor-to-Neighbor is a new taskforce comprised of a neighborhood of 14 agri-businesses stakeholders partnering to bring local resources to the doorstep to support local farm families. "When Nebraska Extension in Buffalo County contacted us to bring partners to the table to support local farm families, we set a date, time...invited a hand full of people and had a great response," stated Buffalo County Community Partners, Executive Director, Denise Zwiener, "In 20 minutes of face-to-face conversations, they set goals, devised a plan and were ready to launch."

"We value or relationships with producers. It's about a partnership focused on the health of their operation."- Ryan Kirchhoff; Farm Credit Services of America. The task force, Nebraska Strong: Neighbor to Neighbor has determined their goals to 1) bring education and training to agribusiness representatives to empower them to be advocates of behavioral health and 2) support rural families. Resources are available at many local agribusiness locations, Farm Bureau, Farm Credit, USDA, Ag Commodities, Marshall Auction and Nebraska Extension Buffalo County. "Knowing the challenges facing our farmers and rural communities, I want to convey to them that they are not alone. We will stand with them and help them and help their families and their hometowns. We care deeply about all of them." - David Fulton; Chaplain, Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association The Neighbor-to-Neighbor task force is distributing mental health resources to agribusiness leaders where they can connect one-on-one with customers. In this process it is believed that agribusiness stakeholders will make connections with other agricultural businesses and have resources available regarding training and creating awareness for agri-business leaders. "It is truly a neighborhood grassroots effort, neighbor to neighbor conversations, where farm families

are talking about next steps and how to support each other," explained Zwiener.

All resources are available at bcchp. org/n-to-n along with downloadable flyers, posters and training information. Additionally, agribusiness-

es are asking for trainings for staff and at events, producer meetings.

"Nebraska agricultural families and communities are facing large economic challenges. Neighbor-to-Neighbor is a holistic approach for everyone to be supportive of the mental health needs of family and community members." - Kerry Elsen; Exten-

sion Educator, Nebraska Extension Buffalo County

Additionally, Region 3 Behavioral Health Services has secured funding to support a staff resource position in over 20 Nebraska counties. Caleb Davis, Disaster Recovery Coordinator is the liaison for local training and resources for producers and agribusinesses and wants to help "foster resilience in mental health to the communities." For more information on trainings contact Caleb Davis at (308) 440-5382 or cdavis@region3.net. Educational speakers have signed up to be available to speak during agribusiness staff meetings or producer membership meetings.



Caleb Davis

Disaster Coordinator Region 3 Behavioral Health Services

Phone: office (308)-440-5382 Email: cdavis@region3.net

Community Partners working on this task force are Buffalo County Farm Bureau, Nebraska Extension in Buffalo County, USDA Rural Development, Farm Credit Services, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Marshall Land Brokers and Auctioneers, Region 3 Behavioral Health Services and Buffalo County Community Partners.

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday In times of need, We stand together 2 PLUS Activities for both youth & adults! 5_{PLEASANTON} 10 6 RAVENNA **SHELTON ELM CREEK KEARNEY Public Library Community Center Community Room Buffalo Co. Ext** Village Center 324 Milan Avenue 202 Sycamore 219 C Street 1400 E 34th Street 535 W Boyd Ave 6:30 pm 6:30 pm 6:30 pm 6:30 pm 6:30 pm 12 14 15 16 17 **GIBBON AMHERST Baptist Church Community Center** 705 Court St 110 N Main St 6:30 pm 6:30 pm



NEW STAFF



Heather Gentert Marketing Coordinator

"I'm excited to be a part of this amazing organization. I'm ready to share my experiences and take the Community Partners mission to the next level. Non-profit organizations, as well as the folks who put their hearts into the mission every day, are true blessings to the communities they assist. I'm originally from Holstein, NE and a part of our family business, Gentert Packing Company, where I have over 15 years of Marketing and Graphic Design experience. In addition, I have 10 years' experience in campaigns, grants and event planning with non-profit, community foundations. Growing up in a small town, I have always been community oriented. It's where I've developed my love for helping people. Our ideas, together, will build a healthier Buffalo County and make a positive impact on the future of those we provide resources to. I love spending time with my son, Jett. I also enjoy cooking, entertaining and being outdoors."





Matt Morris Data Coordinator

"I from partially from Red Cloud, Nebraska, as well as Houston, Texas. I am studying to obtain a major in Business Administration along with a minor in Economics, which I will have in December of this year. I worked for the City of Kearney at the Public Library for the past two years, where I enjoyed working with the public of Kearney. In addition, I was a Data Analytics Intern where I assisted the Buckle in finding trends in their data, and attempting to support other teams at their offices. I am newly married as of March, and enjoy traveling, reading, lifting, and playing video games."

UPCOMING EVENTS

THANK YOU to CHI Good Samaritan Hospital for providing mailing services for our newsletter!







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- * Buffalo County

Youth Advisory Board

* Parents, Take a Stand

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