

## New (and Old) Faces at Community Partners

### Wellness Coordinator

Kendra Hansen has joined the team as the Wellness Coordinator here at Community Partners. She will work with Be Well Buffalo County, Activate Buffalo County and the Diabetes Referral Network.

"I am very excited to be a part of the Community Partners team," Kendra said. "I'm looking forward to working collaboratively with other organizations that are passionate about creating an environment that encourages and supports healthy lifestyles."

Prior to joining the team, Kendra was a volunteer with Be Well. She worked as a Health Educator and Accreditation Coordinator at Two Rivers Public Health Department.



Kendra (middle) attending a Be Well meeting.

Kendra earned her bachelor's degree from Chadron State College in family and consumer sciences. In 2015, she earned her Master of Public Health in health promotion sciences from the University of Oklahoma.

### Behavioral Health Coordinator Assistant

Maggie Lesiak is now our Behavioral Health Coordinator Assistant. She has taken on some new responsibilities within her work with HealthyMINDS:

- The collaborative's monthly newsletter
- Management of the Second Step curriculum
- General help with all of our work groups focused on mental and behavioral health



Maggie (middle) working with the Youth Advisory Board.

Maggie worked here as an intern in her last semester at UNK. Upon graduating, she began her role full-time.

### Marketing Coordinator

Becky Squiers is now the Marketing Coordinator. As the marketing coordinator, Becky is tasked with communicating our work to the community.

Becky will also assist with fundraising and development, and communication with our current volunteers and coalition members.

Becky has worked as the wellness coordinator since 2016.

Prior to her work with Community Partners, she served in a variety of communication roles.



Becky facilitating a Be Well meeting.

### Buffalo County Community Partners Contact Information

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Visit [bcchp.org/board](http://bcchp.org/board) for complete board member listing or [bcchp.org/contact](http://bcchp.org/contact) for complete staff listing and contact form.

## Second Step Curriculum Yields Excellent Initial Results

Since the fall of 2014, Buffalo County schools and childcare facilities have been implementing a social emotional learning curriculum called Second Step.

This curriculum gives students the tools to excel in and out of the classroom by challenging them in emotion management, situational awareness and academic achievement.

**Buffalo County students showed an overall improvement of 37% on all 11 key social emotional learning measures.**

There are currently 109 Second Step kits being utilized in our county. Thirty-six different schools and childcare facilities have implemented the curriculum. It is used in classrooms from early learning through grade five. Second Step is made possible through funding from the CHI Violence Prevention Grant.

A part of this curriculum includes having an educator complete a survey for each student who participated in Second Step before and after implementation of the program. These surveys help us evaluate how the Second Step program is working to better students' skills in 11 key social emotional areas.

Through the use of the Second Step curriculum, Buffalo County students in preschool through grade 1 showed an overall improvement of 37% in all 11 key social emotional learning areas.

### 11 Social Emotional Measures of Second Step

- Use good listening skills
- Able to focus and follow directions
- Able to ask for wants or needs
- Use of problem-solving skills
- Offers help to others
- Shares readily with others
- Makes and keeps friends
- Shows care and concern for others
- Able to express feelings in a healthy manner
- Able to understand and calm down strong feelings
- Shows age appropriate social/emotional development

## Diabetes Referral Network Partners with UNMC Students



At their September coalition meeting, the Diabetes Referral Network (DRN) met the students from UNMC's Population Health class who will be helping them with their worksite screening this fall. All eight students working with DRN are in their senior year of nursing school.

DRN has enlisted the help of nursing students with their community-wide diabetes fair in the past. This year, they plan to work with the students to provide a similar fair on a smaller scale. The coalition—with their UNMC helpers—will set up a worksite screening event at Eaton in November.

The students working with DRN will help with administering screenings and blood tests, and providing diabetes education to Eaton's employees. They will also be in charge of following up with those at risk for diabetes after the event to learn what actions they've taken and how DRN might further assist them.

If you know of an organization interested in bring DRN and their UNMC partners into their workplace for a diabetes screening this fall, please contact Kendra Hansen at [Wellness@BCCHP.org](mailto:Wellness@BCCHP.org).

## Board Honors HealthyMINDS Facilitator

At their September meeting, the Board of Directors took some time to honor Jessica Vickers for her service with the HealthyMINDS collaborative. Jessica is a licensed mental health practitioner contracted by Community Partners to facilitate the work of HealthyMINDS.

Jessica has worked tirelessly with our behavioral health team to help launch the collaborative over the last year.

"Jessica has truly been an asset for the HealthyMINDS collaborative," said Tana Miller, behavioral health coordinator. "Her expertise not only as a provider, but as a partner within our local behavioral health system has been invaluable to the work we've done so far."

Jessica is also the director, owner, and a mental health practitioner at Center for Psychological Services. She spoke with the board about her work in the realm of behavioral health in education.

The board presented Jessica with a "mindfulness kit" filled with goodies to maintain her own mental health.



Jessica accepts her gift from Board Chairman, Crystal Winfield and Executive Director, Denise Zwiener.



Jessica pictured with Behavioral Health Coordinator, Tana Miller.

## Fall PhotoVoice Session Begins

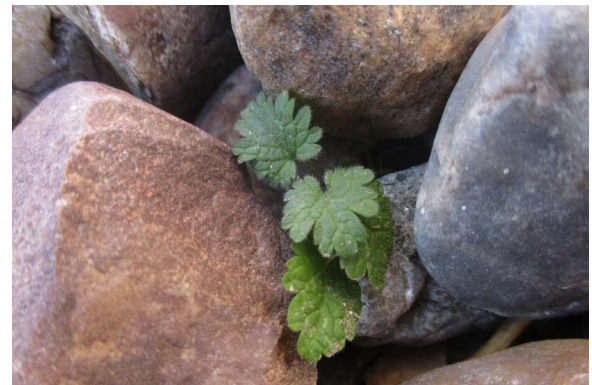
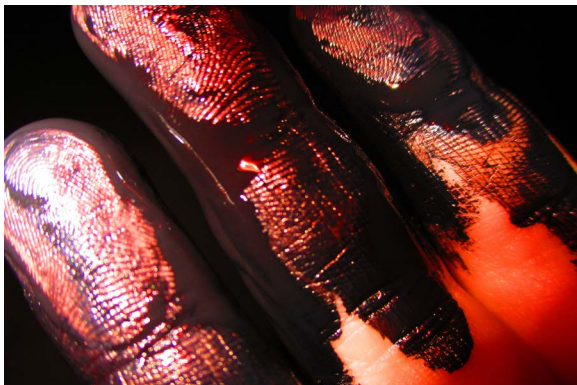
The PhotoVoice Fall 2017 session kicked off Tuesday, September 26th at Community Partners. The class will consist of four youth from 5th grade up to high school age. It will run for 8 weeks ending November 14th.

"I'm excited to kick this new class off," said PhotoVoice Coordinator Josh Arias. "It's always interesting to get a new group of kids and slowly watch them learn how to express themselves through photography."

This session will consist of education for the youth on how to use a digital camera and how to use photography as a tool for self-expression. Weekly classes will see guests coming in to talk about school policies, writing, poetry and professional photography. Participants will also have the opportunity to explore the city and find new locations to take pictures during our photo-walk field trip during the third week.

"I am thrilled to work with the PhotoVoice program again this fall," added intern Ashleigh Galles. "It's a great opportunity for Buffalo County to see the community through our youth's eyes."

## PhotoVoice Images Winter and Spring 2017





PO Box 1466  
Kearney, NE 68848

*We would like to thank CHI Health  
Good Samaritan for providing mailing  
services for our newsletter.*

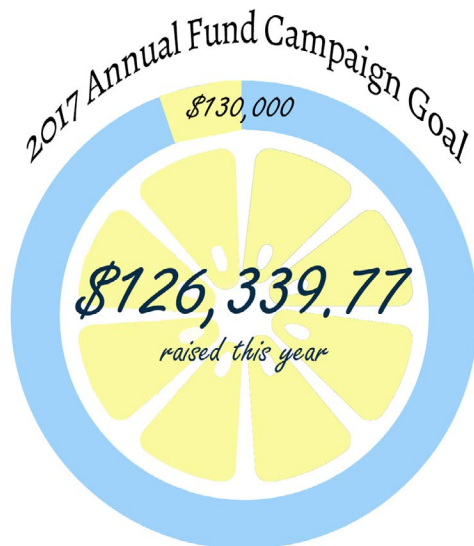
## Thank You to Our August Donors

Dr. Steven C. Baker

Matt and Grace Mims

Michael and Diane Schnieders

Anonymous



## Give S'more!

Save the date for our

### Give Where You Live

celebration event!

Join our Community Partners family at  
Chapman Swifts Coffee House on  
**Thursday, December 7th from 4 to 6 p.m.**

We'll be enjoying coffee and s'mores together  
around the fire pit. We hope to see you there!

If you would like to partner with us through  
a financial donation, you can:

Contact 308-865-2280 or [dzwiener@bcchp.org](mailto:dzwiener@bcchp.org)

Or donate on our website, [BCCHP.org/Donate](http://BCCHP.org/Donate)



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