



### Our Vision:

“Building on the strengths of our communities to improve the quality of life for all people.”

320 N 5th Street, Beatrice NE 68310

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## “AT THE END OF THE DAY AND WHAT REALLY MATTERS....”

During the second week in February, I was one of approximately 1500 people attending the CADCA (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) Conference in Washington, D.C. I can say that I was a part of the worst winter they have had in D.C. since 1899. The city was paralyzed by these storms and I learned that no matter how beautiful the hotel, it's best to be snowed in at home.

While the breakouts at the conference that were available were terrific, a lot of activities – like going to Capitol Hill to meet with our Senators and Representatives – were cancelled. The resonating theme of the week was “deal with it” and “do what you need to do with what you have.” Not just with the snow and the problems with travel, but as we examined the work that we do and the challenges that we shared in working within our communities.

I heard several people, renowned in their fields, speak on leadership and service, heard about very successful programs and the wonderful things that they are doing throughout the country and participated in some valuable conversations. But it wasn't until our last day at the conference that I realized my purpose for being there and really, for doing the work that I do.

As we are writing for years 6-10 of the Drug Free

Communities grant, I sat through a five hour workshop on the technical aspects of submitting the grant. They reviewed the requirements of the many government forms, gave us the do and the do not list and if I wasn't worried about this enough, the officials reported that they expect to receive 400 requests. They will be funding approximately 150.

As we finished the long and arduous process of learning to write the grant, the presenter said something that motivates me and I hope will motivate our community. “At the end of the day and what really matters is that what we do will save kids' lives.” This government official went on to say that “cooperation and collaboration and the processes within coalitions is how we do this.”

I have to admit that this gave me chills and tears came to my eyes. For the past six months, I've been trying to explain what the coalition does through mission and vision statements, flow charts and long explanations of prevention with summaries of our goals.

Don't get me wrong, I still can't write “we save kids' lives” in the grant application and hope to be funded. Our goals will continue to be prevention of underage drinking, substance abuse and violence. We will continue to work towards a safe and healthy community in the strategies

that we have been using.

What I know is that not everyone in the community is in agreement with how we do what we do, but I hope no one can argue with the goal of “saving kids' lives.” I hope that people within the community will embrace this goal and become connected with the coalition.

There are no easy solutions. This is hard work, but well worth the effort.

I would like to hear from the community – your views on the problems within our community related to substance abuse. Our website is not finished at the time of this writing, but keep checking back. There will be a blog sight that I hope will engage some conversation, but you can become a fan of Gage County MAPS on Facebook or email me at [clyons@bpsne.org](mailto:clyons@bpsne.org).

Please look for information on Safe Homes: Parents Network on the website and check our calendar often.

Thank you in advance for you input and your support.

## UPCOMING EVENTS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### Tuesday, March 2 @ 10:30—11:30 am

Individuals, Youth and Families Task Force meeting @ One Stop Resource Center  
Interagency @ 12:00—1:00 p.m. @ One Stop Resource Center  
Lunch provided.

### Monday, March 8 @ 12:00—1:15 p.m.

PATCH meeting @ Parkview Conference Room

### Friday, March 19 @ 10:00—11:00 a.m.

Community Justice Task Force meeting @ Beatrice Police Department Conference Room

### Upcoming Events:

April 1, 2010—Census Day  
Be sure to return your census information.

April 11-13, 2010 in Philadelphia, PA  
Lifesavers Conference

May 13-14, 2010 in Kearney, NE  
Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association Conference  
“Strengths for Positive Change”

May 26, 2010 in Kearney, NE  
Asset Development Workshop