



## Four Years of Impact

The Mitchell County Food Pantry received a Pathways grant to update their facility to better serve the needs of their clients. Grant funds were used to purchase new shelving, refrigeration and a freezer unit that will increase capacity to store and distribute fresher, healthier items.

The NCK Health Collaborative is humbled to be able to invest in several of our underserved rural communities. The City of Jewell, Burr Oak, Formoso and Mankato all received placemaking grants through the Pathways initiative to support physical activity and tobacco-free spaces.

Jewell County Strong received Pathways grant funding in recognition of their work to create a community recreation facility for Jewell County. The recreation facility will be the first in Jewell County and provide physical activity exercise opportunities with an intentional focus on supporting their senior population.



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# Jewell & Mitchell Counties

The mission of the **NCK Health Collaborative** is to align efforts regionally to improve the health of our rural communities. Together through the Pathways initiative, Jewell and Mitchell County have partnered to improve access to healthy food, physical activity opportunities and educate our youth on the harmful effects of tobacco usage.



“ Thanks to the Pathways grant, our food pantry is better positioned to serve our community and donors are already purchasing healthier items for our shelves!

Kathy Roberts, Food Pantry Coordinator,  
Beloit Ministerial Association

”



**Initiative Wide:**  
In general, my community has sufficient opportunities for physical activity.

**60.6%**

Strongly agree/Agree

**20.1%**

Neither agree nor disagree

**15.8%**

Strongly disagree/Disagree

Note: Results are from a survey of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas members for whom e-mail addresses were available in communities that received Pathways funding. The survey response rate was 4.7% (N = 3,354).  
Blank response = 3.5%.

## From Voices to Victories: The Impact of Community Engagement

The Mitchell County Food Pantry Hunger Relief Initiative surveyed food pantry clients around health barriers in relation to nutrition. Nearly 50% of clients reported struggling with chronic disease and many have limited access to household cooking appliances. This input provides a platform for advocating for healthier options with donors.

**11**  
Implementation  
Grants

**\$500,000**  
Total Pathways  
Funding

**14**  
Policies  
Passed

**\$293,069**  
Related  
Grant Funds