With the new year in full swing now, I thought about taking the tried-and-true approach to this column and offering CKCF’s Top 10 events from 2018. And several things quickly came to mind for that list. However, they don’t give me enough space here to list 10. (And aren’t you glad!) But more importantly, I like to look ahead, more than I like to look back.

What I found in my fleeting moments considering a Top 10 list was commonalities amongst those events that came to mind. I choose to share those attributes with you instead of the list. Maybe it provides you some inspiration for 2019.

• Caring
• Coming together
• Generosity
• Opportunities

The events we saw come to life in 2018, did so because people who care came together and through their generosity made new opportunities available in our community. At first glance, it may be hard to see how such vastly different initiatives like scholarships, Inspire Women, the Home of Philanthropy, new funds, estate gifts and Ky Gives Day could share such a core. But at the heart of each of these, as well as many others, is what we know makes for a meaningful experience in our community: The combination of caring people coming together in generosity.

And because of this, I remain encouraged by our community and the opportunities we have the chance to embrace in 2019.

Heels Together awards $22,000 in grants

All Linda Howard wanted was to smile again.

A retiree and recent widow without the financial means to maintain her health, she was doing her best just to make ends meet. She couldn’t afford dental care required for multiple abscesses and other health problems associated with them.

As her teeth decayed, so did her self-esteem.

She was embarrassed to be seen. With each passing day, she became more and more of a shut in, not wanting to leave the house afraid of what people might think.

When she did venture out, she would cover her mouth.

After continually postponing care, she finally found help at the Community Health Clinic. There, Linda was fitted for dentures and with her new teeth, her confidence and smile returned.

Due in part to Linda’s story, now others like her will be able to receive needed medical treatment thanks to a $15,000 Heels Together grant awarded to the Community Health Clinic. The grant will fund the Women’s Health Initiative, which will help women like Linda become healthy. With health being a key to self-sufficiency, the program will address underserved women, who fall through the cracks of Medicaid and Medicare coverage. By receiving the medical care they need, the program can improve the women’s confidence, self-reliance and independence.

“This money will help tremendously, and we are so thankful to Heels Together,” said Becky Farris Allen, executive director of the Community Health Clinic. “We can make a dent in the number of women who would otherwise go without care. We will be able to help some women with dentures, mammograms and other services.”

Another grant fostering women’s independence was awarded to Warm Blessings. The $7,000 grant is for the Ride to Independence program, which helps eliminate transportation barriers for women living in poverty who have a job or are seeking employment. Through reliable transportation, women will be better equipped to support their families.

In four years, Heels Together has awarded $84,000 in grants. The grant awards are made possible by local women investors who make a $1,000 annual gift to benefit women and girls in our community.
It is hard for most of us to fathom the horrors of the Holocaust. And with each passing year, fewer people remain who were directly connected to the tragedy. This year through the Marvin and Joyce Benjamin Fund of Central Kentucky Community Foundation, our region will have a special opportunity to hear from a Holocaust Survivor and view murals created in response to the Holocaust as part of a program open to the community.

The Benjamin Fund exists to foster kindness, understanding and inclusiveness amongst the diverse people that call our community home. It has a particular emphasis on anti-Semitism that makes this exhibit and community event relevant.

Through the fund, CKCF is hosting Murals of the Holocaust, a project of Western Kentucky University’s Center for Gifted Studies, which is dedicated to raising awareness of the Holocaust by providing a memorable and accessible method of introducing young people and adults to the lessons of this difficult period in history.

The exhibit contains over 20 9-feet by 7-feet murals designed by students studying the Holocaust through WKU’s Summer Program for Verbally and Mathematically Precocious Youth. The class culminates in the students’ production of a mural depicting their response to the Holocaust. The exhibit is a collection of each class’s mural since 1992.

Local students will have an opportunity to visit the murals and lessons will incorporate the murals into Holocaust studies through classes such as English, history and art. By bringing the murals to Elizabethtown, it will allow students access to the murals they would otherwise not have the opportunity to see.

“Without the generosity of Marvin and Joyce Benjamin, this opportunity would not be available to our area and our students,” said Davette B. Swiney, CKCF president and CEO. “Tolerance and understanding others are traits of a civil society and traits we want to embody as a community. Helping our students connect the lessons of the Holocaust to today and learning to have open, respectful dialogue is a true lifelong gift from the Benjamins.”

The exhibit will be on display to the public Feb. 25 to April 5 at Elizabethtown Community and Technical College’s Morrison Gallery in the James S. Owen building. The community program, A Night of Understanding and Remembrance is at 6 p.m. Monday, March 25, in room 112 of the JSO building on campus.

LET’S DO SOME GOOD TODAY!
After announcing a partnership with Elizabethtown Community and Technical College in 2018, CKCF now will incorporate all ECTC scholarships with dozens of CKCF Scholarships on its online application portal, Scholarship Central.

In addition to the ECTC scholarships, CKCF has also partnered with the Nelson County Schools Community Support Foundation and the Bardstown Rotary Club to offer several more scholarships to students in Nelson County.

With these scholarships, more than $300,000 in local scholarships are now available to area students to help ease the financial burden of college tuition.

Awarding scholarships to assist students in their higher education endeavors is the bedrock of CKCF. It is why CKCF and Scholarship Central play a key role in meeting donors’ goals for scholarship funds and helping area students’ dreams of a college education come true.

With more than 160 scholarships available, CKCF has made Scholarship Central an essential part of any college-bound students’ toolkit, driving more students to apply every year.

Using the portal, which is now open, high school seniors and returning college students can apply using just one application. For a list of available scholarships and to apply, go to https://scholarships.ckcf4people.org. Deadline is March 1.

Looking for a way to support local students as they pursue higher education? We need reviewers for the many scholarships we offer. Volunteers from a variety of backgrounds help us give a well-rounded review of qualified applicants.

Your involvement is a great way to make a direct and positive impact on students in our region.

Scholarship reviews are conducted online, so you can do this from the comfort of your home. Reviewers do not know the identity of student applicants through the blind review process. For more information about serving as a scholarship reviewer, contact us at 270-737-8393 or info@ckcf4people.org.

Have you been thinking about establishing a scholarship? Create a lasting legacy by investing directly in the future of deserving students pursuing higher education.

Our scholarship funds provide an opportunity to honor loved ones, support the hard work of local students and fields of study you care about, and help the next generation of community leaders develop skills they need to be successful.

Awards range from $500 to full tuition and may be used at any accredited academic or technical institution. Most scholarship funds at CKCF are permanent endowments, allowing the scholarship award to last forever.

Establishing a fund is easy and because we are a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, you’ll qualify for the maximum income tax or estate tax deductions.

For additional information, please contact Davette B. Swiney at 270-737-8393 or by email at dswiney@ckcf4people.org.

SAVE THE DATE

Heels Together Grant Application Workshop
10 a.m. Monday, February 11
Hardin County Public Library
100 Jim Owen Drive, Elizabethtown

Investment and Economic Outlook Briefing
Wednesday, February 13
Coffee 8 a.m.; Program 8:30 a.m.
Nolin RECC, 411 Ring Road, Elizabethtown

Youth Sports Fund of Hardin County Application Deadline
Friday, February 15

Scholarship Central Application Deadline
Friday, March 1

Lahoma Routt Church Camp or Mission Trip Scholarship Applications Due
Friday, March 22

Inspire Women Conference
Saturday, March 23
Central Kentucky Community Foundation recently highlighted our collaboration for the betterment of the 10-county region we serve in celebration of Community Foundation Week. The foundation, its staff, board members, donors and supporters embodied our motto, “Let’s Do Some Good Today!” by serving at nonprofit organizations to support them in their mission.

We volunteered our time and talents at the Carl M. Brashear Radcliff Veterans Center in Radcliff by taking pictures of the veterans and providing a decorated frame for them. We helped bring some holiday cheer to the Lincoln Museum in Hodgenville by helping decorate for the holidays and their 30th anniversary.

CKCF celebrated with its business partners at the Hardin County Chamber of Commerce luncheon as a secondary sponsor. We honored our roots in education by providing support to scholarship recipients with care packages. To end the week, we joined other philanthropic organizations to celebrate National Philanthropy Day at the annual luncheon in Louisville.

Hardin County Judge-Executive Harry Berry also declared the week Community Foundation Week by signing a proclamation saying CKCF “provides beneficial grants to our community, supports critical community causes and efforts, strengthens the nonprofits in our region, and makes our community stronger.”