Fund brings needed relief

Central Kentucky Cares and you care in a BIG way! With your help and through your generosity, nearly $38,000 in grants have been distributed from our Central Kentucky Cares disaster relief fund to aid our neighbors who have been directly affected by the COVID-19 crisis.

Along with our partner, United Way of Central Kentucky, the grants were distributed to 13 nonprofit organizations in our nine-county service region working to alleviate the burden families face because of the disaster.

“Grants like this have been able to help us sustain,” said Claudia Anderson, manager of the Bread for Life Community Food Pantry, part of the St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Ministries serving Nelson and LaRue counties. “As a result of the COVID crisis, in the month of April we had 90 new families apply.” The pantry normally serves between 1,100 to 1,200 people a month.

Helping Hand of Hope Executive Director Hope Burke said the organization’s grant will go toward food and hygiene products for those in need.

“This money helps us say, ‘We’re here to help you,’” she said. “It continues to help us serve and is a true blessing for us right now.”

This is the first time the fund, which was established in 1995, has been activated. When CKCF’s board established the disaster relief fund, it was in the hopes that it would never be used. Thankfully, in this time of crisis and through generous donations from the community, we were able to use it to support our neighbors in need. But the crisis is not over. Many of our neighbors are still in need, and we continue to receive and consider disaster relief grant requests. To give to the Central Kentucky Cares Fund, go to ckcf4people.org and click on the Donate button. To read more about the fund and to see photos of our grant recipients, go to our website.
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Scholarship program able to continue amid COVID-19

Each year, scholarship recipients are honored during Celebrating Achievement. Traditionally, this in-person event recognizes the collective academic success of students in the region. The event not only affords the opportunity to celebrate CKCF scholarship winners, but it also allows our scholarship donors to meet the student who will benefit from their generosity.

The annual event is held at the end of April, but with COVID-19, plans for this year’s event had to be altered. Regardless of the circumstance, it was important to showcase how the 170 scholarships, which totaled nearly $322,000, from our donors make a difference in the lives of the 145 student recipients.

“It is one of our favorite nights of the year,” CKCF President and CEO Davette B. Swiney said. “We knew cancelling wasn’t an option, so we had to get creative and develop a meaningful way to announce our scholarship winners and give our donors a chance to see the impact their scholarship has on local students.”

With Scholarship Central being entirely online, COVID-19 meant little change for our scholarship application and selection process, but the large, in-person celebration wasn’t going to be an option. We had to plan and execute a virtual celebration and had a little more than two weeks to do it.

Through an online event, aired on Facebook and YouTube and produced by our partners at Heartland Communications, we were able to celebrate the achievements of our scholarship recipients in a new and exciting way. The awards program was viewed more than 5,500 times.

The event allowed recipients, donors and their families, near and far, to connect online and join in the celebration.

“Our family appreciates the Virtual Celebrating Achievement night so much,” said Kirsten Lindner, whose family established the Obliviously Analiese Scholarship. “Since we have family all over the country, it was nice for us to all part in celebrating my sister’s scholarship together. It meant so much to me that my sister’s honor could

Give5 allows our gifts to have lasting impact

Together, communities provide services, infrastructure, amenities, and education. Individually, it would be hard for us to provide any one of these items for a community or even just our family.

The same is true with our giving. When we all give some, we can make a lasting impact for our community.

That’s what Give5 is all about. Consider a plan to Give 5% of your estate and imagine what could happen in our communities. Together, we could send every child to college or career training, increase access to health and human services, vitalize and energize rural areas and downtowns, expand our parks and outdoor recreation.

LET’S DO SOME GOOD TODAY!
amidst COVID-19

still be celebrated with everything else going on in the world. Additionally, it was so wonderful to connect with the scholarship recipient and celebrate alongside her.”

The event also was the first of its kind in the area, according to Greg Milby of Heartland Communications. “Celebrating Achievement was a special production for our team,” he said. “COVID-19 forced us to get creative in making this event possible virtually. We were able to use cutting edge software and a few tricks to video, edit and produce the scholarship program using nothing but two cellphones and a tablet from a remote studio. Creating this program in a short window tested our processes and has allowed us to expand the service to other clients. This was truly a groundbreaking project.”

Celebrating Achievement can be viewed on our website or YouTube channel. To learn more about our scholarship program or to start a scholarship, go to ckcf4people.org.

Nonprofits benefit from Ky. Gives Day

In a day built for social distancing, people took to the internet on Ky. Gives Day to support our region’s nonprofit organizations in a powerful day of online giving. Our region united in their giving raising $137,570, including $69,257 in online gifts on May 12, to support 21 nonprofit organizations in our region. For the third year in a row St. James Catholic School led the state in giving. In online gifts on Ky. Gives Day, St. James raised $14,417 to lead the state and regional leaderboard. They also raised $16,332 in matching gifts and other online gifts since April 1 to bring their total to $30,749. “Ky. Gives Day is a great opportunity for nonprofit organizations to garner financial support throughout a 24-hour period and raise funds that will impact their organization,” said Jennifer Moran, director of mission advancement at St. James Catholic School. “Saint James Catholic School is always excited to be involved and we use the day to not only raise funds for an important initiative, but also garner school spirit among our families and the broader community.”

2020 was the eighth annual statewide event and the fifth year CKCF facilitated a regional effort. For more on the online giving event and to see photos from our Ky. Gives Day prize winners and Nonprofit Parade, go to ckcf4people.org.
Get Ready! Camp a ‘virtual’ hit with families

In our eighth year of Get Ready! Camp, children and adults were treated to the first virtual camp experience. Using Facebook and YouTube, campers were able to sing and dance and learn through play along with our teachers in camp activities each weekday in June.

Get Ready! Camp provided each participant a free Grab Bag of supplies needed for the week’s activities. Teachers prepared the lessons and the supplies for up to 350 preschool-aged children each week. Using the virtual format, participation increased this year with more than 225 families served over the course of the month-long camp for early childhood learning.

“Get Ready! Camp was a great tool to prepare JB for preschool,” Laura Simpson of Vine Grove said about participating with son JB, who is 5. “The more experience he has with the skills he will need should better prepare him for a positive experience. Get Ready! Camp taught him so many things through activities and songs and it taught me a variety of methods to keep him entertained and learning at the same time.”

Along with the early childhood learning benefits, many adults also enjoyed the flexibility the Virtual Get Ready! Camp provided.

“It’s convenient being able to do it online,” said Caitlyn Black, whose daughter, Alenea, 5, participated. “We didn’t have to rush to eat breakfast and get out the door to get to camp. It also allowed her to take breaks when she needed them because at this age, sitting down for a couple hours is hard for them. We could start a session, take a break and come finish it when she was ready.”

For more on Get Ready! Camp, go to ckcf4people.org or follow Get Ready on Facebook and Instagram.