I didn’t do everything I had planned in 2020. I didn’t accomplish everything on my list. The same is true for Central Kentucky Community Foundation. And maybe it is true for you too.

We didn’t take the big vacation; have the wedding my son and daughter-in-law had planned or see friends and family as much as normal.

I did things I hadn’t planned — cooked new foods, read books, explored Kentucky Lake, adopted a dog, and cleaned out my pantry. Ok, some of the items on the list are better than others. These are things I remember as they tied together important threads of life and people coping through a challenging year.

At CKCF, we didn’t see many of your faces in person as much as we like or seat scholarship donors with recipients at Celebrating Achievement. But we did enjoy hosting some friends at the Home of Philanthropy for the Fourth of July Fireworks and loved seeing the enthusiasm of our Get Ready families as they picked up their Grab Bags each week. We helped connect nonprofits who could learn from each other through our Nonprofit Roundtable Series and partnered with United Way of Central Kentucky and many of you as donors to help bring relief grants to the communities we serve. Items that weren’t on our “to do” list in January 2020, became the core of our work throughout the year to carry out our mission.

So, what about those things we know we wanted or needed to do in 2020, but plans went awry? No time like 2021. A Chinese Proverb says, “The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now.” If you want success and growth in the future, the BEST TIME to act is now.

### Heels Together grants HCS ExCEL Program

**Being a teenager is tough. Being a teenage mom is even tougher.** Hardin County Schools have tried to help support these young moms through their ExCEL program since it was established in 2001. During this year’s Heels Together investors “virtual” event, this program was awarded $20,000. ExCEL serves Hardin County students, helping them overcome the challenges that are presented with teen pregnancy. The fundamental mission of Heels Together is to harness the power of collective philanthropy to enrich the lives of women and girls in our community. This grant exemplifies that mission.

“With budget cuts the way they are in school districts, we were not real sure how we were going to expand our program. We knew that need was there,” said Carolyn Tucker, a teacher at Hardin County Schools and volunteer with the ExCEL program. “These young girls need assistance. They don’t know about prenatal care, about the dangers of smoking or drinking alcohol during pregnancy, what to expect when they get ready to deliver a baby. So, this will help us tremendously to get everything in place so that we can proceed with our goals for this program.”

Investors also considered grant projects from Communicare that presented a plan for their East Center for Women program that helps women overcome addiction. Community Health Clinic was another presenter that proposed a program to improve quality healthcare for women in the area.

The grant awards were made possible by 51 local women who make a $1,000 annual gift to support initiatives, such as the one awarded at the banquet. To date, Heels Together investors have granted $130,000 in the past six year. Members are working to recruit investors to nurture the growth of the group so they can continue providing money to improve lives in the community.

“By helping to serve these girls, these programs will not only benefit the girls receiving assistance, but help families and communities as well,” said Davette B. Swiney, president and CEO of Central Kentucky Community Foundation. “We know that when women and girls thrive, communities prosper, and that is why we are passionate about Heels Together.”

*If you are interested in learning more about being an investor, please go to ckcf4people.org or call 270-737-8393.*
Welcome new Board Members

As we welcome in 2021, we get to introduce four new members who will be valued additions to the CKCF board.

John Beavin is a graduate from Meade County High School. He attended University of Kentucky and began his career with Kentucky Farm Bureau right after graduating. In addition to working at KFB, he does a lot of work in the health insurance field and is a registered representative with LPL Financial. John has been married to his wife, Alison for over 24 years and they have three children.

Soon after Ed Durnil graduated from University of Kentucky, he started his professional career in real estate. Now 30 years into his career, he has established a reputation in the brokerage and financial community of reasonable fairness and a vast array of institutional, legal and private clientele. Ed is a Tranzon Asset Advisor and resides in Elizabethtown with his wife Barbara and they have one son.

Drew Ballard is the Vice President & Commercial Loan Officer with Wilson & Muir Bank and prior to his current position, he worked at Abound Credit Union (formally Fort Knox Credit Union) for seven years. He is a graduate of Bardstown High School and the University of Louisville’s College of Business and Public Administration. He is married to his high school sweetheart, Marci, and they have two children.

Greg Lee was born and raised in Hardin County. He is a graduate of University of Kentucky with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. He began working at Nolin REC as an intern in 2007 and became a full-time employee in 2011. His career trajectory with Nolin enabled him to become CEO in 2019. He and his wife, Erin, have three children.

There are two main reasons CKCF’s Scholarship Central has become the region’s top stop for local scholarships…over 150 scholarship opportunities available and ease of applying to them. We have several new scholarships this year, continuing our regional growth.

More than $300,000 in local scholarships, students now have assistance with the financial burden of college tuition. These scholarships could not be possible without the generosity of area donors who provide this strong financial foundation to help students continue to prosper in their academic journey.

Awarding scholarships and assisting students in their higher education endeavors is the bedrock of CKCF. 2020 changed the scholastic landscape for so many students but a constant remained has been the supportive community that has provided a nurturing promise for these students.

If you or your organization is considering starting a scholarship fund or you want your established scholarship noticed by more students, consider putting the power of Scholarship Central to work for you. Contact us to learn more about how to partner with us on your scholarship.

Become a scholarship reviewer

Looking for a way to support local students as they pursue higher education? Volunteers from a variety of backgrounds help us give a well-rounded review of applicants for the many scholarships we offer, and we could use your help. Your involvement is a great way to make a direct and positive impact on student in our region. Scholarship reviews are conducted online and can be done from the comfort of your home. All reviews are blind, so reviewers do not know the identity of applicants.

For more information about serving as a scholarship reviewer, contact us at 270-737-8393 or info@ckcf4people.org.

 Ways to Give

 Giving without Cash. There are innovative ways of charitable giving that do not necessarily mean material cash. What would be considered a non-cash gift? Non-cash contributions can include securities, real estate, retirement accounts, life insurance or agricultural products as just a few examples. Working with your financial advisor and tax professional, we can explore the tax advantages that non-cash gifts provide you.

 If you would like to learn more, please give us a call at 270-737-8393 or email us at info@ckcf4people.org to explore how this type of charitable giving fits into your plan.

These words abound as the calendar changes. Are you thinking about what you want to accomplish in 2021? Maybe financial planning and prioritizing is on your mind or updating that will and other important documents.

In the year following the death of her husband Lanny, Normaline Skees was making some of those same decisions. For her, it included a legacy for Lanny and his work in agriculture. She was referred to us for help with a scholarship. We listened to what was important to Mrs. Skees and tailored a personalized giving strategy over the years and utilized the Endow Kentucky Tax Credit. Together, we’ve been able to award scholarships to six students and this year the scholarship will begin awarding to two students annually.

Want to know more about how we can help you with your giving priorities and tax-saving strategies? There’s no better time than January to get started.