Sharing success stories and struggles and learning from each other were a big part of what made Central Kentucky Community Foundation’s Nonprofit Roundtable “Convene, Connect, Collaborate” in late August a success. The one-day event attracted about 75 people from several area counties to CKCF’s Home of Philanthropy as those who took part sought ways to better their organization through speakers and breakout sessions.

“It’s always good to hear fresh ideas from someone else on the same topic whether it’s fundraising, recruiting volunteers or learning about a new grant opportunity,” said Jamie Sizemore, Executive Director at Feeding America, Kentucky’s Heartland. “I took a new idea away from every presenter.”

Among the speakers was Danielle Clore, Executive Director and CEO of the Kentucky Nonprofit Network, who not only complimented the work nonprofits do each day, but acknowledged the challenges faced.

“It’s rewarding, but it’s really, really hard work that you do,” Clore said. “It’s important to realize there is no straight path to success.”

She told attendees it’s critical to build a mission statement to define an organization’s mission to help determine “what success looks like.”

The Nonprofit Roundtable featured a keynote address from Warren Beeler, who has served as Executive Director for the Governor’s Office of Agriculture Policy under Governors Matt Bevin and Andy Beshear.

“I’m in awe of you,” said Beeler. “You are all so servant minded that you are willing to give your time, talents and abilities to folks who are maybe less fortunate than you.”

Davette B. Swiney, CKCF’s President and CEO, closed the conference offering words of encouragement that resonated with her from the day’s events.

“There’s power in a nonprofit,” Swiney said. “Important work is contagious, and you folks see it every day. We can share these experiences, we can share these tips and we can share resources with each other because we are all working for a common purpose and that’s to make our community a better place and fulfill our missions.”
Returning to an in-person Celebrating Community Philanthropy event for the first time since 2019, was important to us to connect the communities we serve with opportunities and ideas. We always love showcasing great examples of community philanthropy, and this year the connections we explored made a lasting impact.

Over the summer, the Get Ready! Camp – a community effort to strengthen and support early childhood education efforts for families – celebrated its 11th year.

It's a program Emily Hyde and her three children have been part of since the beginning.

“Get Ready! Camp empowers a parent that their job isn’t just parenting; you’re the first educator for your children,” Hyde said. “The program really wants to put the parent in that position to realize how capable and how much of a difference that you can make in your child.”

Jeremy Hinton, who along with others, created a legacy fund for their friend Aaron Reding. Hinton and Reding attended the University of Kentucky, and they became lifelong friends. Reding, fought ALS for 17 years, but he never let that define him or get him down, said Hinton.

Reding was a strong proponent for the next-generation of farming. Keeping with that passion, the Aaron Reding Memorial

Emily Hyde and her family have attended Get Ready! Camp since it began more than 10 years ago.

Saint James Catholic School Ambassadors did an excellent job serving the meal.

Jim Iacocca (left) from Knox Regional Development Alliance and Mike Bowers.

From left to right: Paige Waldron from Wesley Hilltop House, Debbie Childress from Grayson County Alliance and Iris LaRue from The Lincoln Museum share their impactful experiences from the Nonprofit Roundtable event and Granted with Davette B. Swiney (far left).
anthropy focuses on connection

Fund will support youth in various pursuits of agriculture.

The memorial fund as of late September already had received 83 donations demonstrating the power of connecting people in giving around what matters to them.

For nonprofits, the connections they have to the communities they serve are fostered by enthusiastic staff and volunteers. Their passion to carry out the organization’s mission does take some funding which can be a barrier for their projects and programs to come to fruition.

“For years we have been making grant awards from funds for their specific purposes,” said CKCF President and CEO Davette B. Swiney. “We’ve also been informally connecting nonprofit projects with donors who want to invest in seeing those efforts come to life.”

Started in 2021, Granted awarded $76,000 to 14 organizations.

As Paige Waldron, Wesley Hilltop House, their grant funding for smartboards helped students study who don’t have reliable internet access or a home environment conducive to studying, stay on track in school. It has also helped engage senior citizens with students and learn new skills through multi-generational connections.

Funding for this year will be announced Nov. 15 at CKCF’s Home of Philanthropy Community Hall as part of a weeklong celebration for Community Foundation Week.

Check out the Celebrating Community Philanthropy highlight video by going on www.ckcf4people.org.

Jeremy Hinton shared some heartfelt stories about his dear friend, Aaron Reding.

Guests enjoyed hearing inspirational stories about connection throughout the program held at Grace Heartland Church.

From left to right: Paige Waldron from Wesley Hilltop House, Debbie Childress from Grayson County Alliance and Iris LaRue from The Lincoln Museum share their impactful experiences from the Nonprofit Roundtable event and Granted with Davette B. Swiney (far left).

From left to right: Brandon and Savannah Dupris and John Anderson shared the story behind why they started Hole Lotta Love Donuts.
Community Foundation Week is all about Connections

Community Foundation Week recognizes the important work of community foundations throughout the U.S. and their collaborative and innovation approach to working with the public, private, and nonprofit sector. Annually, Community Foundation Week coincides with National Philanthropy Day on November 15th (see page 3 for Community Foundation Week scheduled events).

We care about the communities we serve and this gives us a great opportunity to celebrate the strong connections we’ve made and foster connections in the future.