

## A Note From Davette

The short days and dark skies of January can make for a long season for many people. As we've passed the joy and activities of the holidays, we often find ourselves less motivated and disengaged from everyday life.

For some people, it's the winter blues and for others, it might be more significant.

Although I'm not a fan of winter - I much prefer the sunshine and warmer days - I know this is a season. A season that has value, despite my dislike for it. Just as winter is an important time for the earth and nature that affects our crops, animals and gardens in the spring and summer, so what we do personally during winter affects the rest of our year.

Shorter days remind us our minds and bodies need rest.

Cooler weather provides us an ideal time for more inside projects.

While embracing the season we're in isn't always easy, it's an important step in finding meaning and balance. I'm trading my sunglasses and patio chair for a nice blanket, candle and book to nurture my mind and rest this winter. Instead of growing flowers, I'll spend some time purging and organizing. Although I doubt the cabinets I clean will smell as good as fresh blooms, I'm hoping the sense of accomplishment will be similarly cathartic.

What helps you get through challenging seasons? Remember, during a tough season, it's okay to lean on the people, connections, and resources available to support you.

## Heels Together: A Decade of Transforming Lives



**Heels Together Investors gather to celebrate a decade of empowering women and girls.**

Central Kentucky Community Foundation's Heels Together program celebrated a decade of empowering women and girls in Hardin County, awarding over \$50,000 to three nonprofit organizations. Since its inception, Heels Together has exemplified the power of collective philanthropy, uniting women who are passionate about creating meaningful change.

This year's grant cycle marked a historic milestone as the program awarded the largest amount to date—to three nonprofit organizations:

- Elizabethtown Police Department Victim Services Program received \$23,014 to enhance its critical support services for victims of crime.
- Hope Academy for Kids received \$15,480 to launch bilingual support services, addressing the needs of a diverse community.
- Elizabethtown Community and Technical College received \$15,000 to assist women in re-entering the workforce, offering resources and training to foster economic independence.



**Joni Melloan, Marilyn Ford and Carol Jones enjoy catching up before hearing from the Heels Together grant finalists.**

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## Board of Directors and Staff

### 2025 Board of Directors Officers

Beth Lochmiller  
*Board Chair*

Chris Carter  
*Vice Chair & Treasurer*

Dustin Humphrey  
*Secretary*

### 2025 Board of Directors

Lindsey Alicna

Drew Ballard

John Beavin

Ann Carnes

Janna Clark

Whitney Choate

Jake Darabos

Tehmina Haider

Matt Hess

Sarah Hite

Emmet Holley

Tom Husted

Daksha Mehta

Heidi Patterson

Earl Wright

### CKCF Staff

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Erin Hahn  
*Communications & Project Coordinator*  
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## CKCF welcomes new board members

Whitney Choate and Sarah Hite were recently installed as board members at a CKCF board meeting.

CKCF Board Chairperson Beth Lochmiller said the newest members are community leaders and champions who elevate philanthropy in the region.

"Since its beginning, CKCF has had community leaders who have stepped up to guide the foundation," she said. "Our Board paves the direction of not only the foundation but also our communities we live in. We are pleased to have two new directors join us with varied personal and professional experience. Changes in leadership brings fresh ideas, renewed energy, and innovative ways for us to touch the communities we serve."

Whitney Choate is a college and career coach at Hart County High School. She serves on the board for Southcentral Workforce Development, Hart County Chamber of Commerce, and is the Hart County High School FRYSC Advisory Board Chair. She and her husband, Joe, have four children. In her spare time, Whitney enjoys sports, camping and vacations.

"I can advocate in my community the need for such giving and the needs we can serve for generations to come," said Choate.

Sarah Hite is a financial advisor at Edward Jones in Bardstown. She also serves as a board member at Guthrie Opportunity Center and the Bardstown Foundation for Excellence in Public Education. She has two children. When not working, Sarah enjoys spending time with her family, cooking, working on the farm and going to church.

"Over the years, I've learned about the work of CKCF," said Hite. "I've seen that community foundations are essential to the long-term prosperity of our region."

Central Kentucky Community Foundation, the philanthropic focal point of the region serving Breckinridge, Grayson, Hardin, Hart, LaRue, Marion, Meade, Nelson and Washington counties, recently welcomed three new members to its board of directors.

The directors on CKCF's board are all volunteers.



Whitney Choate



Sarah Hite

**LET'S DO SOME GOOD TODAY!**

Cont. from page 1.

These grants highlight Heels Together's commitment to tackling issues that directly impact the lives of women and girls, ensuring they have the tools and support to succeed.

Over the past 10 years, Heels Together has awarded over \$260,000 in grants to 16 organizations, driving impactful initiatives that address education, economic empowerment, and support services for women and girls.

The program's endowment has grown to \$500,000, reflecting the enduring commitment of

its supporters. This ensures the sustainability of Heels Together, enabling it to continue transforming lives for years to come.

Heels Together's success is a result of its over 50 Investors. Among them, 12 made the generous commitment of becoming a Lifetime Investor, a testament to their unwavering dedication to the program's mission.

The Heels Together program embodies the spirit of stepping up, proving that when women come together, they can achieve extraordinary things. Here's to the next decade of empowering lives and creating a brighter future for women and girls in Hardin County.

Each Heels Together Investor donates \$1,000 to the fund. Half of the investments are placed in an endowment to continually fund the initiative. The other half of the investments are awarded through annual grants. If you would like to learn more about how you can be a Heels Together Investor, please contact us at [info@ckcf4people.org](mailto:info@ckcf4people.org).



CKCF was gifted land from Hardin County Government on Thursday, December 5th for the opportunity to build a YMCA for Hardin County.

## SAVE THE DATE

### Scholarship Central Workshop

Monday, February 10th from 2-5 pm  
CKCF's Home of Philanthropy Community Hall

### Youth Sports Fund of Hardin County

Spring Sports Deadline Saturday, February 1st

### Youth Sports Fund of Grayson County

Spring Baseball, Soccer & Softball Deadline  
Saturday, February 15th

### Nonprofit Learn and Lead Lunch

Friday, February 14th from 12:30-2:00 pm  
St. Vincent De Paul Outreach Ministries  
118 E. Broadway, Bardstown

### Scholarship Central Application Deadline

Saturday, March 1st

### Peden Fund Application Deadline

Wednesday, March 13th

### Lahoma Rutt Scholarship Deadline

Wednesday, April 16th



## Philanthropic "Ph"ocus

### Establishing a Scholarship through CKCF

Starting a scholarship through CKCF is a powerful way to invest in the future of our community. These scholarships directly benefit local students, helping them overcome financial barriers to pursue higher education and achieve their dreams. By establishing a scholarship fund, donors foster a culture of education and opportunity, empowering the next generation. CKCF ensures that funds are managed responsibly, aligning with the unique needs and priorities of the donor. Additionally, scholarships often honor local legacies or causes, creating a lasting impact that strengthens community pride and connections. If you are interested in opening a scholarship fund, please contact us at 270-737-8393 or [info@ckcf4people.org](mailto:info@ckcf4people.org).



Let's Do Some Good Today!

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Community Foundation  
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Elizabethtown, KY 42701

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When you want your life to  
make a difference

**FOREVER,**  
you need a  
**FOREVER**  
partner.



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# CKCF News

Inspire a  
**LOVE**  
of Reading



## Universal Access to Books

Donations help cover the cost of gifting books to children from birth to age five no matter the family's situation.

## Family Bonding

Reading together provides caregivers and children valuable opportunities to strengthen emotional bonds.

## Community Empowerment

Children who develop strong reading skills early on are more likely to succeed academically and in life.

Learn how you can support early literacy in *Hardin County* by going to [www.ckcf4people.org](http://www.ckcf4people.org).