

A Note From Davette

We spend a lot of time thinking about serious things—how to increase opportunities, support local nonprofits, and steward the generosity of our donors. But sometimes we think about fun things too.

With the excitement of two Kentucky teams in the college world series, buzz about football season and a record number of applications for our Youth Sports Fund, how could we not wonder, if generosity were a sport, what would it be?

We tossed around ideas—relay race (passing the baton of impact), gymnastics (leaping toward big dreams), maybe even synchronized swimming (a beautiful, complex team effort that looks effortless from the surface). No sports analogies in Kentucky would complete with basketball. So, let's go with a slam dunk of selflessness.

It's a silly question, sure—but it reminded us of something real. Giving, at its heart, is both personal and collaborative. It takes individual heart and collective strength. And that's what makes this work so powerful.

Whether you're a fundholder, nonprofit partner, or passionate neighbor, you're part of a community that shows up—with ideas, action, and heart. I continue to believe our community excels in generosity and fostering support.

Thank you for all the ways you help build a stronger, more generous community. And if you come up with a better metaphor for generosity-as-a-sport, I'm all ears.

Exciting Enhancements to CKCF's Granted Program

We have added some exciting updates to our **Granted** program—bringing new opportunities for local nonprofits and new ways for donors to support causes they care about most. This year, we've expanded our funding categories, launched two new funds, and are continuing the strong legacy of support through the Marvin and Joyce Benjamin Fund and the Bishop Charitable Fund.

CKCF has awarded 64 grants totaling over \$360,000 to area nonprofits since 2020. Now in the fifth year, Granted continues to offer three funding categories for organizations to choose from: Capacity Building, Capital Improvement and Programming. This year we have increased the request amount so now it is up to \$10,000, the most we have ever offered to applicants.

We are proud to launch two new funding opportunities this cycle:

- **The Big Spark Grant** - This new grant opportunity is designed to support nonprofit organizations that have BIG IDEAS! This grant provides organizations with the opportunity to share with CKCF and our donors substantial projects that exceed the typical funding limits of CKCF's existing grant programs.
- **The Healthy Communities Grant** - CKCF, in conjunction with the Legacy Foundation of Kentuckiana, offers grants to improve health in Hardin and Nelson Counties.



Hope Academy for Kids enjoy a ride in their new van they were able to purchase through last year's Granted Program.

These two new funds join the long-standing Marvin and Joyce Benjamin Fund, which strives to foster kindness, understanding, and inclusiveness among the diverse people who call our community home, and the Bishop Charitable Fund, which provides support to organizations assisting low-income people in Washington County.

Applications for all Granted funding opportunities are now open and due by August 1. We encourage local nonprofits to explore how these grants can support their missions—and submit their most visionary ideas. Please contact us at 270-737-8393 or info@ckcf4people.org for more information.

As we open the door to these enhanced funding opportunities, we also invite **donors** to take a closer look. Many of these applications present the chance to support initiatives that align with your values and passions. Whether you're drawn to health, education, arts, or community development, there may be a perfect fit waiting for your support.

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Project Giveback: Next Gen leading the community

CKCF is proud to launch Project Giveback—a scholarship opportunity unlike any other. This innovative new program is more than just financial support for students. It's a movement—powered by young adults and fueled by the belief that giving back to your community can shape a brighter future for everyone.

What Makes Project Giveback Different?

Project Giveback is about more than money—it's about meaning. It's built by and for young people who know the value of education and want to pay it forward. This unique scholarship allows the community to get involved in new ways:

- **Volunteer** to help with scholarship evaluations
- **Encourage** others to support local students
- **Donate** to grow the scholarship fund

It's a way for young adults to invest in the next generation—not just financially,

but through action and influence.

Led by Young Adults, Fueled by Purpose

The heart of Project Giveback is its leadership. Young adults are taking the reins, driving awareness, shaping the vision, and inviting others to join the movement. This fresh energy brings new life to philanthropy and connects giving to the values of community, purpose, and shared success.

How You Can Be Part of the Movement

Whether you recently graduated, are past Scholarship Central recipient, young professional, or just want to give back to your community, there's a place for you in Project Giveback. Make a gift. Spread the word. Give your time. Every act of support strengthens the impact—and helps students achieve their dreams while staying rooted in the community that raised them. Are you in??? Contact us at 270-737-8393 or lproctor@ckcf4people.org.



A celebratory pose from (from left to right) Krysta Souleyrette, Morgan Dalton, Eli Hill, and Hunter Hammer, at the Project Giveback Launch Party.

LET'S DO SOME GOOD TODAY!

Grits, Greens and Ghosts: An Evening with Author Crystal Wilkinson

Over 50 guests gathered at Water's Edge Winery and Bistro for an unforgettable evening of food, storytelling, and culture at Grits, Greens and Ghosts: Culinary Stories of Black Appalachia with acclaimed author Crystal Wilkinson. The event brought Wilkinson's latest work, *Praisesong for the Kitchen Ghosts*, to life through rich narratives and culinary traditions passed down through generations of black Appalachian women.

As the first Black woman to be named Kentucky Poet Laureate, Wilkinson captivated the audience with stories that blended history, heritage, and heart. Her reflections invited guests into her family's kitchen—where recipes were more than meals, they were memories.

ECTC Culinary Arts Professor, Jamie Miracle, created a tastings menu inspired by the book for guests to enjoy, creating a sensory experience that connected the storytelling to the plate. The evening was made possible through the generous support of the Marvin and Joyce Benjamin Fund, which helps bring meaningful cultural experiences to the Central Kentucky region.



Crystal Wilkinson captivated the audience with her soulful storytelling and heartfelt reflections from her book, *Praisesong for the Kitchen Ghosts*.

"The goal of bringing Crystal Wilkinson here was to unite our community through the shared language of food, Kentucky heritage, and cherished memories," said Julia Springsteen, the Marvin and Joyce Benjamin Fund Coordinator for CKCF. "Each attendee, regardless of their roots, has a 'kitchen ghost' and a dish tied to a loved one or a moment in time. We hope the legacy of the Benjamins grew a little stronger through this gathering. We are deeply grateful that Marvin and Joyce Benjamins' vision continues to inspire and make it possible to welcome esteemed guests like Ms. Wilkinson into our community."

Grits, Greens and Ghosts was a celebration of legacy, flavor, and the power of storytelling to preserve culture—and it left everyone inspired to savor their own kitchen stories a little more deeply.

SAVE THE DATE

Granted

Application deadline: Friday, August 1st

Heels Together

Application deadline: Friday, August 15th

4th Annual Nonprofit Roundtable

Thursday, August 14th

from 9 am-3:30 pm ET

CKCF's Community Hall

200 Jim Owen Drive, Elizabethtown

(see back page to purchase tickets)

Celebrating Community Philanthropy

Thursday, September 25th

from 11:30 am-1 pm ET

Grace Heartland Church

801 Pear Orchard Road, Elizabethtown

Partners in Philanthropy

Funding deadline for Granted projects:

Friday, October 3rd



Philanthropic "Ph"ocus

Elevate Your Company's Mission and Impact

Business owners and corporate leaders are great philanthropists. And they understand the value of giving their employees the opportunity to give back to their communities.

Businesses of any size can stand taller in their community with corporate charitable giving programs from Central Kentucky Community Foundation. We offer an array of services, and expertise on how to multiply your local impact. We would love to talk with you more about corporate giving. Give us a call 270-737-8393.



Let's Do Some Good Today!

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When you want your life to
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FOREVER,
you need a
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CKCFNews



Get Ready! Camp

Get Ready! Camp was a
great experience for kids and
parents to explore the world
of learning.



More than **330** kids and **225** adults took part in
this year's event, diving into hands-on
learning and meaningful experiences!



Have you reserved your
SPOT?

Don't delay, seating is limited.



Tickets are \$35