

A PROFILE IN GIVING

# Angel Levas: A Legacy of Service and Giving

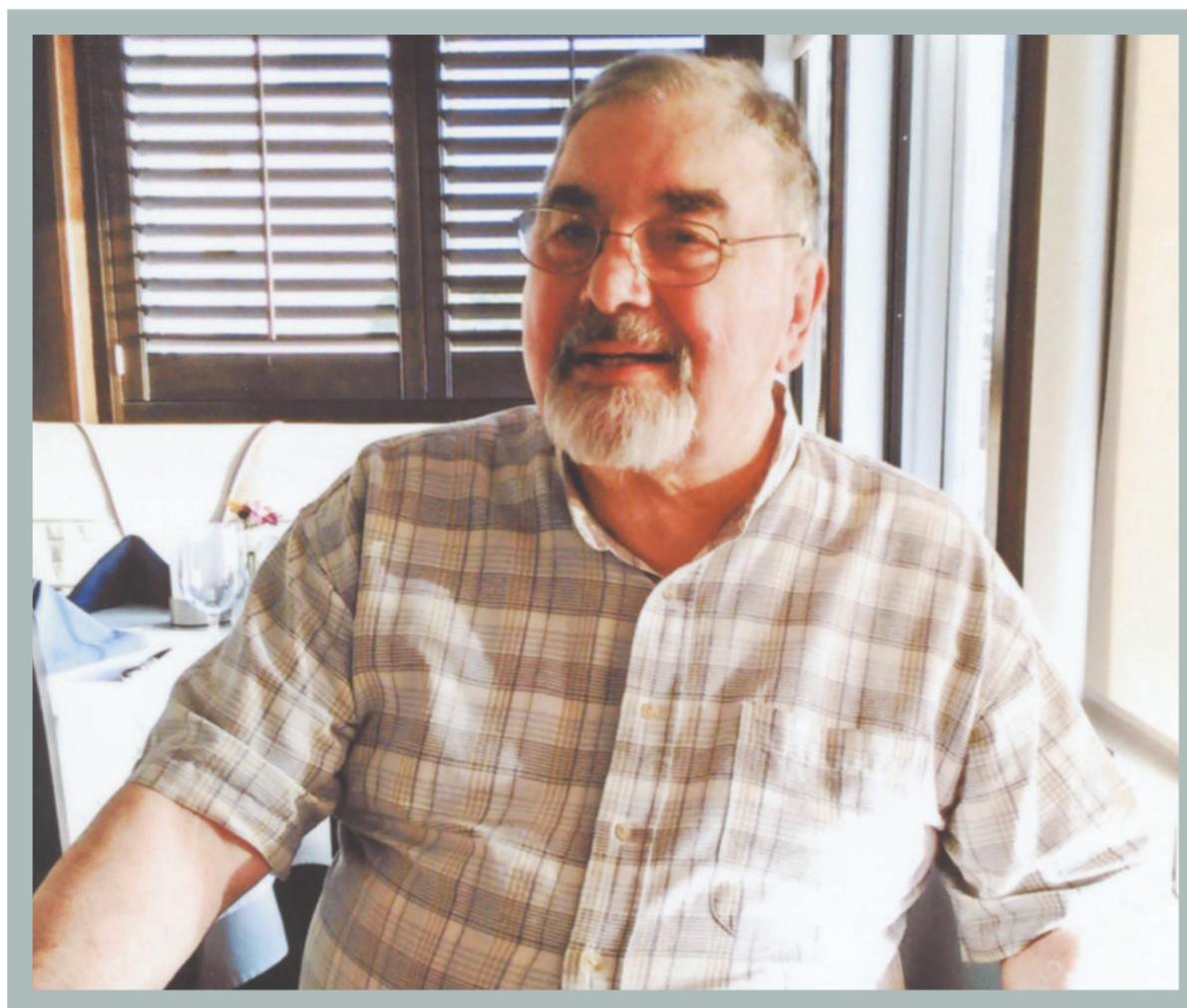
Over 50 years ago, when C.W. Sulier invited several Lexington philanthropists to come together to discuss establishing Blue Grass Community Foundation, Evangelos (Angel) Levas was at the table. In fact, he provided the table.

Angel, a personal friend of the Suliers, was also proprietor of Levas Restaurant, a popular restaurant in downtown Lexington. Angel embraced the idea of a community foundation to support local causes. He served on BGCF's original board of directors for many years and recently established a new permanently endowed designated fund and legacy fund at BGCF to give back to the community that has been so good to him.

Angel has lived and worked in Lexington all his life. The eldest child of Greek immigrants Emmanuel and Marika Levas, he started his career in the restaurant business in 1941 — when he was 10 years old. In addition to attending Kenwick Elementary School (where he first learned English), Angel put substantial hours in the family business — Coney Island Restaurant in downtown Lexington.

“Hot dog buns didn't used to come sliced,” Angel said. “That was my first job.” Another was taking and delivering orders to the old Phoenix Hotel on Main Street in Lexington, which provided housing for officers in the U.S. military who were attending the University of Kentucky.

“The Coney Island Restaurant never closed. It was open 24 hours, seven days a week,” said Angel. His father, he said, spent most of his waking hours at the restaurant but never failed to come home so the family could have dinner together at 5 every evening. “My father always said the blessing over the meal, and it always included, ‘God Bless America,’” said



Angel. “He used to say to us, ‘You children are accidental Americans, but I chose this country.’”

In 1953, Angel and his brother John took over the restaurant. When their parents made a month-long visit to Greece, Angel and John transformed Coney Island Restaurant into the upscale Levas Restaurant. “We went from hot dogs to filet mignon,” Angel said.

Angel, a graduate of Lafayette High School, went on to earn a general business degree from the University of Kentucky in 1954. After college, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served as a second lieutenant.

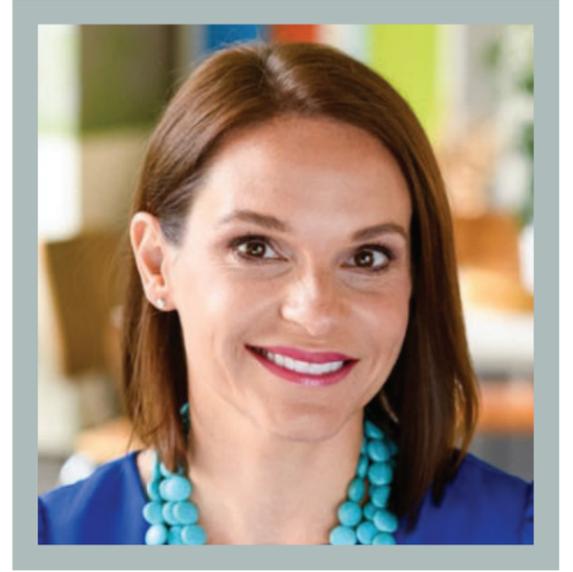
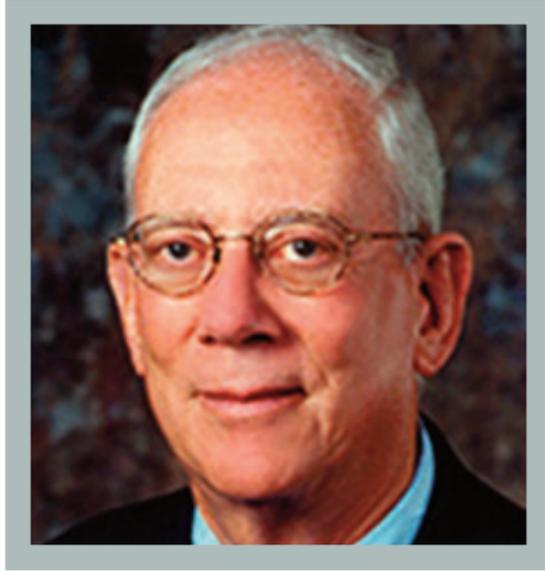
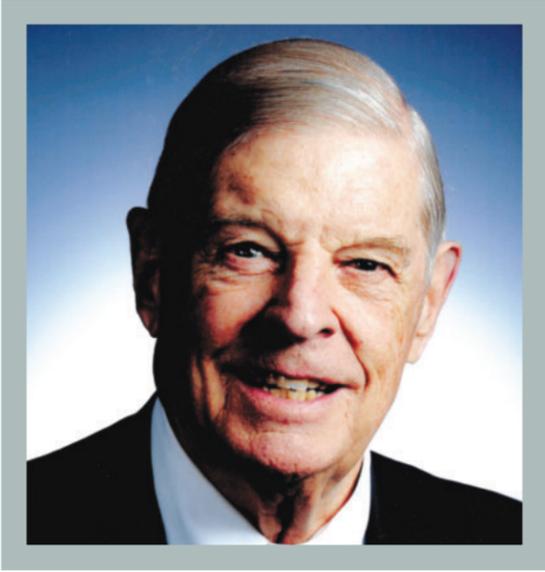
When it comes to giving, Angel says he learned from his parents. Angel's father often told stories about the difficulties he and his mother encountered when they first arrived in

America just before the Great Depression as a young married couple with little money and knowing no English — and about the generosity of those who helped them through. Angel remains mindful of his father's favorite saying: “We are here because of someone else. Help when you can.”

Angel's charitable fund and legacy gift will do just that, benefiting his favorite nonprofit causes for generations to come.

To learn how you can leave a meaningful legacy like Angel and benefit your community forever, contact BGCF Vice President of Advancement Scott Fitzpatrick at [sfitzpatrick@bgcf.org](mailto:sfitzpatrick@bgcf.org) or 859.225.3343.





# BGCF FAQ WITH Bob & Mike

Lauren Parsons, BGCF's director of strategic initiatives + communications, had a conversation with Bob Milward (above, left) and Mike Ades, two of BGCF's founding board members. Bob and Mike joined the BGCF board in 1967 and served for many years.

**LP** Can you tell me about your background and how you got connected with Blue Grass Community Foundation?

**B** I'm a lifelong Lexington resident. I graduated from the University of Virginia, served two years in the navy, then came home and joined my father at Milward Funeral Directors, which started in 1825. And I've been working there since 1961.

**M** I'm a third-generation Lexingtonian. I went to undergrad at the University of Pennsylvania, then went on to Yale Law. I came back to Lexington and practiced law for 45 years.

C.W. Sulier was a very good friend of my grandfather and father. When I was a young attorney, C.W. called to ask if I would join the board and be the first counsel to Blue Grass Community Foundation. I served in that capacity for a couple of decades.

**B** I can't remember if there was any pay involved?

**M** There was no pay involved at any time along the years. This was a community charitable foundation and so I never brought it up.

**LP** Well, it might be too late to send a bill now. How would you describe the Community Foundation to someone who isn't familiar with us?

**B** What I like to say to people is 'If you're the least bit philanthropic, have you considered the Community Foundation? Because you can leave a charitable legacy there that will keep on giving long after you're gone.'

I try to do that at least once a day. Somebody, every day, is going to hear about Blue Grass Community Foundation.

**M** I think the great advantage of the Community Foundation is the flexibility it offers donors, through both current and planned giving, by being able to make recommendations as to what direction their gifts go and the advantage of not having to file tax returns for their own private foundations. The community benefits have turned out to be remarkably strong, as the Community Foundation has now grown so large, with somewhere around \$180 million total assets at this point and grants of more than \$10 million on an annual basis. It's a huge benefit to the community — and not just Fayette County but across the region, including all the counties with endowed community funds at BGCF.

I think another benefit is the professional staff of 12 the Community Foundation has now developed. Not only professionals with expertise in philanthropy but also nonprofit finance, legal, marketing, etc. — it's a very knowledgeable and dedicated full-time staff.

**LP** What is a project or accomplishment of the Community Foundation that makes you proud?

**B** The biggest one is probably the Legacy Trail. Oftentimes I pick up the paper and see that the Community Foundation is part of a new project. I don't know who dreams up all these things, but somebody's sure been busy!

**M** In my personal life, I'm proud that several of the religious organizations I belong to have established endowed charitable funds at BGCF to take advantage of the full-scale administrative benefits and professional asset management.

**B** I like the fact that that people like John Michael Montgomery who looked at creating their own foundation realized that opening a fund at the Community Foundation is a better way to manage their charitable giving.

It's easy! My family and I have our own donor advised charitable fund — we contribute to it, and BGCF keeps us informed about how much money we can give away. And instead of writing a bunch of checks to different charities, I can just write one big check to BGCF and let them write all the grant checks. It's simple and effective.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

# NEWS BRIEF



## Matthew Mitchell Foundation Presents Holiday Benefit Concert

Former Kentucky women's basketball head coach Matthew Mitchell is ready to spread Christmas cheer and raise money for a good cause. Proceeds from the *Coach Mitchell Presents Christmas in Kentucky* concert will benefit character and leadership development programs for students in Fayette County Public Schools, in partnership with the Mitchell Family Foundation at BGCF.

Tickets for the December 7 concert can be purchased at Ticketmaster.com and the Lexington Opera House box office.

"What better way to get in the Christmas spirit than by singing some holiday classics and raising money for a good cause? Jenna and I are so excited to raise much-needed funds to help Fayette County students," Matthew said.

More information on the Christmas concert and the Coach Mitchell Band Christmas album can be found at [mitchellfamily-foundation.org](http://mitchellfamily-foundation.org).

### SAVE THE DATE

## Hometown State of Kind Benefit Concert

Country music superstar Chris Stapleton's Hometown State of Kind Benefit Concert — A Concert For Kentucky has been rescheduled for Friday, April 22, 2022. Concert proceeds will go to a fund at BGCF and will be awarded to youth arts and music programs in central and Appalachia Kentucky. Willie Nelson & Family, Sheryl Crow and Yola will perform with Chris Stapleton on the rescheduled date at Kroger Field.

# BGCF AT A GLANCE

From January 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021

<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$183,666,392</b>
<b>Number of Grants Awarded</b>	<b>2,091</b>
<b>Nonprofits Receiving Grants</b>	<b>927</b>
<b>Grants Awarded</b>	<b>\$ 13,703,359</b>
<b>Grants Since Inception</b>	<b>\$130,202,410</b>



## CORPORATE GIVING:

# The Tempur Sealy Foundation

The Tempur Sealy Foundation, a corporate advised fund at BGCF, pledged a gift of \$2 million to support a pediatric sleep center at UK's Kentucky Children's Hospital.

A third of a child's life is spent sleeping, and the connection between quality rest and adequate emotional, physical and mental growth is clear. But 25% of children have a sleep disorder, which can lead to other long-term health problems, such as inattentiveness in school, obesity, behavioral issues and a higher risk of depression.

Often, the effects of sustained sleep deficits are reversible if caught early, and Tempur Sealy Foundation's gift aims to help make those interventions possible for more children.

The new Tempur Sealy Pediatric Sleep Center will be staffed by pediatric sleep experts, making it one of just a few sleep centers in Kentucky that accept children as patients.

Tempur Sealy Chairman and CEO Scott Thompson commented, "As a global leader in sleep-related products and the world's largest mattress manufacturer, we know very well how important a good night of sleep is to overall health and wellness. Our organization is passionate about supporting our communities, particularly children in need."

"A well-rested child is a happy, healthy child. This gift from the Tempur Sealy Foundation will go a long way in helping us treat our most vulnerable patients at a critical point in their lives," said Dr. Scottie B. Day, physician-in-chief at Kentucky Children's Hospital.

"Tempur Sealy's generous gift shows how important corporate philanthropy can be to improving the quality of life in our community," said Scott Fitzpatrick, VP/Advancement. "BGCF is here to help create more generosity and is happy to work with businesses of all sizes that want to make their giving easier and more impactful."

The mission of the Tempur Sealy Foundation is to better the lives of children and families in need. Since its launch in 2017, the foundation has donated more than \$2.7 million to charities that support this mission. **Learn more about the Tempur Sealy Foundation at [bgcf.givingfuel.com/tempursealy](http://bgcf.givingfuel.com/tempursealy).**

-  **To create a corporate advised fund to organize and streamline your business giving, contact BGCF Vice President of Advancement Scott Fitzpatrick at [sfitzpatrick@bgcf.org](mailto:sfitzpatrick@bgcf.org) or 859.225.3343.**
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PAY IT FORWARD

# Logan Thomas Family Memorial Scholarship

**Invest back into what has invested in you. Give back to what made you who you are.**

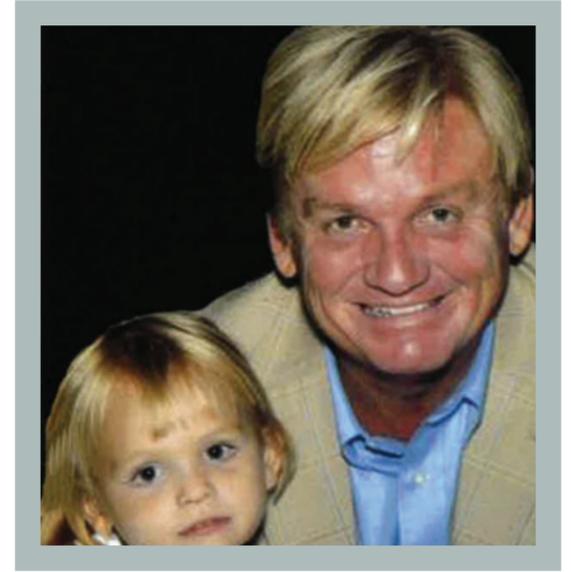
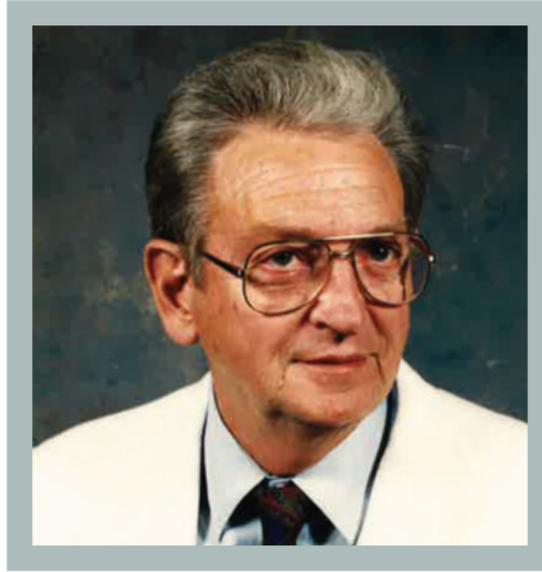
The Logan Thomas Family Memorial Scholarship, an education scholarship for Lee County High School students, embodies these values.

The scholarship was established in 2016 by the Thomas family.

“My husband, Logan, passed away; then just three months later, my son, Logan Jr., also passed away,” says Barbara Thomas, founder of the Logan Thomas Family Memorial Scholarship. “So, my son Michael, his son John and I knew we had to create this scholarship in honor of both of them.”

This scholarship benefits high school seniors attending Lee County High School in Beattyville, Kentucky, who demonstrate financial need and have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. Students must attend a college or university within the state of Kentucky. Until last year, the Thomas family annually awarded a \$5,000 four-year renewable scholarship to one Lee County high school senior. The fund has now grown to annually award a \$5,000 renewable scholarship to two students.

“It’s special because my husband and son both graduated from Lee County High



School,” says Barbara. “We had our business here and always hoped for better opportunities for the youth in our community.”

In 1960, Logan Sr. began his career in the wholesale petroleum business. In 1981, Logan Jr. graduated from the University of Kentucky. He came back home to Lee County and, with his family, started a chain of Shell-branded convenience stores that would grow to 16 stores in central and eastern Kentucky. This propelled the family into the retail business, which included quick-serve restaurants like Subway, Krystal and Lee’s Famous Recipe Chicken. Logan Sr. labored tirelessly until his health necessitated his retirement in 2008.

**“Without this scholarship, I wouldn’t be pursuing my education to become a veterinary technician at Morehead State University,” said Emily Griffin, 2021 recipient of the Logan Thomas Family Memorial Scholarship. “I’m so grateful to the Thomas family for creating this scholarship that is helping me attend college!”**

“Our community suffers from poverty and our family is fortunate,” says Michael. “This scholarship is a meaningful way we can give back.”

The Logan Thomas Family Memorial Scholarship recognizes outstanding students who excel in the classroom and contribute to their community through service.

“If we can make a difference in a few young people’s lives, then we are doing our part,” says Michael. “Giving back allows us to invest in the people and places that made us who we are — just like my brother and dad.”

Because the Logan Thomas Family Memorial Scholarship is endowed, it creates a lasting legacy.

Barbara, Michael and John agree: “We know Logan Sr. and Logan Jr. would be proud that a scholarship in their names is making a permanent difference in the lives of Lee County students.”

**To learn how you can partner with BGCF to make a real difference in the life of a young person, contact Halee Cunningham, general counsel, at [halee@bgcf.org](mailto:halee@bgcf.org).**



(MIKE & BOB...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

**LP** Your involvement with the Community Foundation has stayed constant over the years. Why is giving back important to you?

**M** For me, it’s a family tradition. I’ve been involved with several community nonprofits over the years, and BGCF was just a natural outgrowth of that, particularly,

because it impacts such a wide range of community organizations, and it meets a wide range of community needs. And for donors, it offers the flexibility of addressing their philanthropic desires in a businesslike way.

**B** I want my children to be philanthropic. And by establishing a fund here, they can get involved and help decide where grants should be made.

**LP** BGCF has accomplished so much in the 54 years since C.W. Sulier recruited you two to serve on the board. None of it would have been possible without your decades of hard work, and our community is a better place because of you. Thank you!



# 2021 Scholarship Recipients

**16th District PTA Scholarship:**

Karen Capellan, Lexington  
 Evan Damron, Lexington  
 Saloni Patel, Lexington  
 Gabriel Portugal, Lexington  
 DaShaun Staley, Lexington  
 Savannah Stevens, Lexington  
 Alejandrina Walton, Lexington

**Baird Scholarship:**

Ayhana Burnett, Lexington  
 Mia Weigel, Hustonville

**Thomas B. Bright, Jr. Memorial Scholarship:**

Makenna Lanham, Union  
 Isaac McCants, Bagdad  
 Samantha Aileen Stamm, Wallingford

**Emma E. Buckley Scholarship:**

Alfie Painter, Versailles  
 Gabriel Portugal, Lexington

**CLARK Scholars Scholarship:**

Nina Bradley, Lexington  
 Nishan Budhathoki, Lexington  
 Ivan Nkinzo, Lexington  
 Wenxiang Sun, Lexington

**Monica Combs Memorial Scholarship :**

Alfie Painter, Versailles

**Kevin J. Crowe Memorial Scholarship:**

Jared Patterson, Nancy  
 Gabriella Rowe, Somerset

**Joann McEvoy Frazer Vocal Achievement Award Scholarship:**

Alexandra Thibault, Lexington

**Gill-Elliott Scholarship:**

Kayla Bolling, Fort Thomas  
 Matthew Erickson, Fort Thomas

**Dorothy T. Givens Scholarship:**

Dawson Gay, Winchester

**John G. Heber Scholarship:**

Nishan Budhathoki, Lexington  
 Madison Underwood, Lexington

**John T. and Willie Hedges Education Scholarship:**

Hannah Hamelback, Paris  
 Chez Tye, Lexington

**Hudson-Ellis Scholarship:**

Ahyana Burnett, Danville  
 Kayla Mobley, Danville  
 Tia Su Moors, Munfordville  
 Haley Ragan, Danville  
 Mia Weigel, Hustonville

**John and Maggie Price Scholarship:**

Ayat Shalash, Lexington

**Stephen L. Keller Scholarship:**

Tanner Simpkins, Campton

**King-Barton Scholarship:**

Clay Carpenter, Cynthiana

**Lewis Sexton Scholarship:**

Madelyn Emerson, Louisville  
 Emma Guest, LaGrange  
 Payton League, Coxs Creek

**Loren Richards Elder Care Scholarship:**

Madison Miller, Richmond  
 Madison Popplewell, Russell Springs  
 Emmaline Saunders, Carlisle

**Edwin Paul Lyon III Memorial Scholarship:**

Emilee Bailey, Salyersville  
 Laken Howard, Flatgap

**MacLellan Education Scholarship :**

Jesus Juarez, Georgetown  
 Myiah Porter, Rockford

**Maggofin County Scholarship:**

Austin Howard, Salyersville  
 Kenton Isaac, Salyersville  
 Tyler Jenkins, Salyersville  
 Brooklyn Lemaster, Salyersville  
 Riley Meadows, Salyersville  
 Andrew Mortimer, Salyersville  
 Joseph Porter, Salyersville  
 Grant Rudd, Royalton  
 Isaiah Salyer, Salyersville  
 Kaitlyn Russell, Salyersville

**Margaret Hall Alumnae Association Scholarship:**

Evan Karcher, Satellite Beach  
 Gabriella Motley, Carlisle  
 Aila Reyes, Brooklyn

**Dr. W. C. McCauley Scholarship:**

Brandon Flores, Versailles

**Sydney G. Mullins Scholarship:**

Rachel Gayheart, Drift

**Jane Allen Newman Scholarship:**

Molly Perkins, Sadieville  
 Mia Smith, Corydon  
 Debbie Tremba, Lexington

**Kathryn Owen Veterinary Scholarship:**

Autumn Brinegar, Winchester

**Viola Phillips Scholarship:**

Makala Stambaugh, Jenkins

**Rosalind Scoggan Pittenger Scholarship:**

McLain Murphy, Paris  
 Jayce Tucker, Cynthiana

**Edith Schwab Memorial Scholarship:**

Kayleigh Reneau, Glasgow

**Jennifer Leigh Soper Scholarship:**

Sara Martins, Peabody

**Stewart Family Scholarship:**

Nathan Conley, Georgetown  
 Nicholas Conley, Georgetown  
 Bailey Grubb, Lexington  
 Benjamin Hammons, Ashland  
 Perla Hernandez, Ashland  
 Austin Jones, Ashland  
 Havanna Kirk, Ashland  
 Rylee Prichard, Ashland  
 Mena Roark, Ashland  
 Ashley Sanchez, Ashland  
 Natalie Tackett, Ashland  
 Tyler Walker, Ashland

**Robert Marion and Ethel Keolker Stewart Scholarship:**

Tyson Mann, Salem

**Logan Thomas Family Memorial Scholarship:**

Emily Griffin, Beattyville  
 Erin McIntosh, Beattyville

**Steven G. Todd Memorial Scholarship:**

Brenna Rose, Winchester

**Thomas D. Urmston Scholarship:**

Molly Perkins, Sadieville

**Vengu Family Memorial Scholarship:**

Olivia Spencer, Georgetown

**W.O. Davis Memorial Scholarship:**

Odalys Garcia, Versailles

# 2021: JUST THE NUMBERS

## 54 YEARS OF INSPIRING GENEROSITY

Since 1967, we've helped build generous, vibrant, engaged and equitable communities. By investing together, we create stronger, better communities for all. [Find out more](#) at [BGCF.ORG](#) or [859.225.3343](#).

### GRANTS

**\$14,618,389**

GRANTS AWARDED IN FY 2021

**\$127.9 MILLION**

TOTAL GRANTS SINCE 1967

### CONTRIBUTIONS

**\$21,990,985**

CONTRIBUTIONS IN FY 2021

**\$233.5 MILLION**

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS SINCE 1967

### CHARITABLE ASSETS

#### TODAY

675 FUNDS

**\$131.7 MILLION**

TOTAL ASSETS

AS OF JUNE 30, 2020

#### TOMORROW

**\$90.8 MILLION**

LEGACY GIFTS

FUTURE ESTATE GIFTS

#### FOREVER

**\$82.9 MILLION**

PERMANENTLY

ENDOWED

## GOODGIVING CHALLENGE

**\$2.49 MILLION**

RAISED FOR LOCAL NONPROFITS

**\$14.1 MILLION**

SINCE 2011

## ENDOW KENTUCKY

**\$9.3 MILLION**

IN KY TAX CREDIT GIFTS

CONTRIBUTED TO BGCF ENDOWMENTS  
SINCE 2011

# WRAP UP 2021 WITH YEAR-END GIVING

#### DO YOU NEED TO:

- Give big? 2021 is the final year to receive a charitable tax deduction for up to 100% of your adjusted gross income.
- Take an immediate tax deduction, but don't want timing pressure to dictate your giving?
- Avoid capital gains tax on appreciated stock?
- Avoid income tax on distributions from qualified retirement plans?
- Reduce the hassle of collecting numerous charitable receipts for itemization?
- Plan your charitable legacy?
- Donate complex or unusual assets to charity?
- Simply make your charitable giving more efficient?

#### BGCF CAN HELP!

Contact a member of our Advancement Team at [859.225.3343](#).



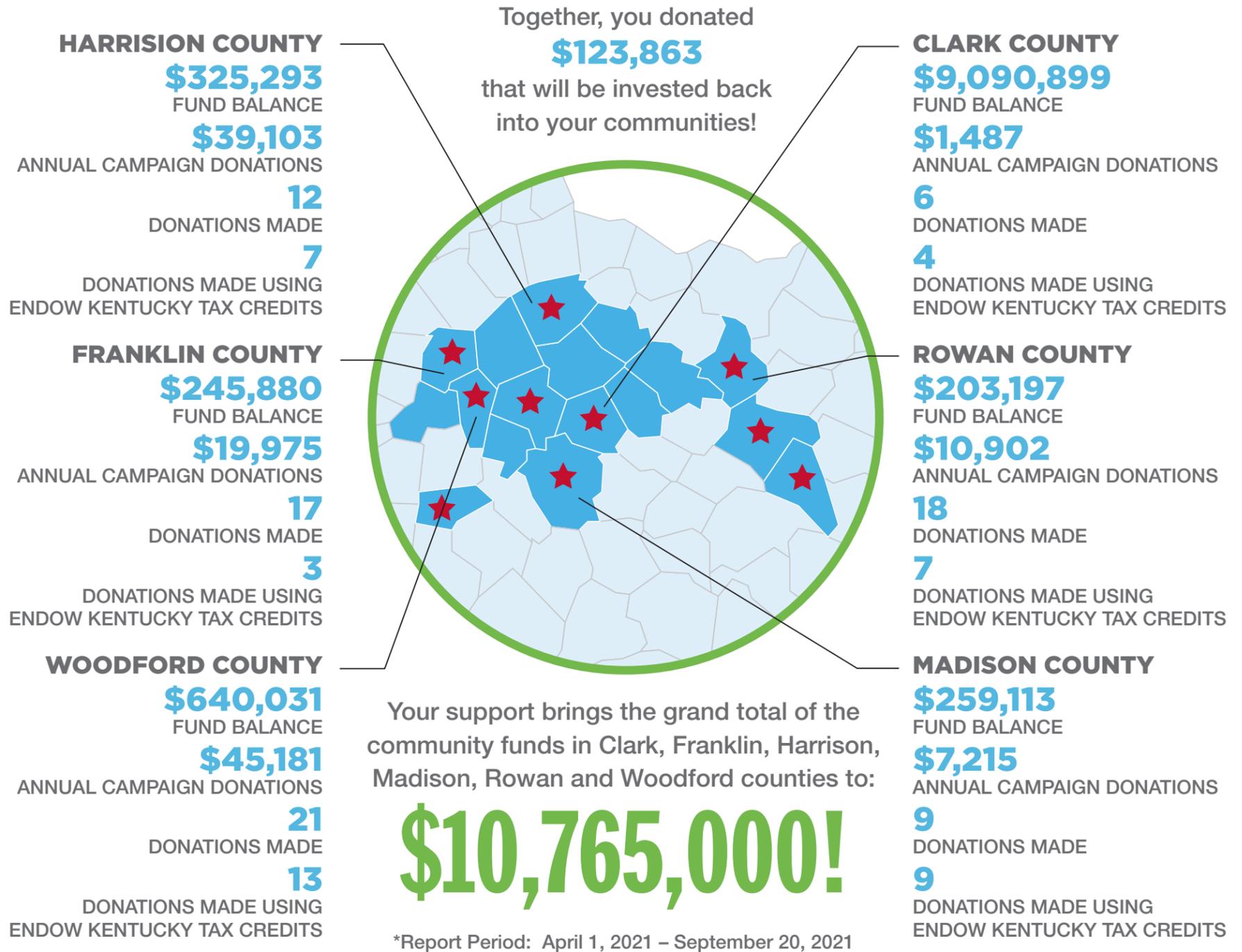
# HOMETOWN LEGACY

Blue Grass Community Foundation hosts a network of endowed community funds, each seeking to improve the quality of life in its geography. In partnership with local leaders, these funds work to increase charitable giving and build local charitable resources to impact their communities' greatest needs and opportunities.

Contributing to your local community fund is one important way to invest together for community good.

If you live in, or love, Clark, Franklin, Fayette, Harrison, Madison, Magoffin, Morgan, Rowan or Woodford counties, visit our website to learn more about endowed community funds in these counties: [bgcf.org/community-funds](http://bgcf.org/community-funds).

## Thanks to all who gave during the first COMMUNITY FUND ANNUAL CAMPAIGN!



★ Counties with Community Funds



### I ♥ MY COMMUNITY AND WANT TO GIVE TO THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND:

- Clark    Fayette    Franklin    Harrison    Madison    Magoffin    Morgan    Rowan    Woodford

- Enclosed is my gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_
- I commit to give \$\_\_\_\_\_ each year for the next five years.
- I would like to learn more about Endow Kentucky Tax Credits.
- I would like to learn more about making my gift using stocks/other appreciated assets.
- I am interested in making a gift through my estate.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_



Contact BGCF Director of Community Advancement Jane Higgins at 859.225.3343 or [jhiggins@bgcf.org](mailto:jhiggins@bgcf.org)

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Blue Grass Community Foundation creates more generous, vibrant and engaged communities by growing charitable giving throughout the Bluegrass and Appalachia Kentucky.



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**BGCFyi Editor: Lauren Parsons**  
**BGCFyi Staff Writer: Barbara A. Fischer**



**Online newsletter:**  
[bgcf.org/BGCFyi](http://bgcf.org/BGCFyi)

FROM LISA ADKINS

## Our President's Letter

The holidays are just around the corner, which means the GoodGiving Challenge can't be far behind! We're excited to invite you to join us for the 11th annual GoodGiving Challenge kicking off on Giving Tuesday, November 30 at 9am. With a record-breaking number of 179 nonprofits participating, it's shaping up to be the biggest Challenge ever, and we can't do it without you!

At BGCF, this time of year is about gratitude and giving. An easy and fun place to start is by participating in the GoodGiving Challenge, November 30 – December 6, at



[BGgives.org](http://BGgives.org). The impact of the GoodGiving Challenge wouldn't be possible without our generous sponsors who are providing more than \$640,000 in matches and prizes to make your gifts go even further!



Speaking of gratitude, don't miss the wise words of three of BGCF's founding board members, Angel Levas, Bob Milward and Mike Ades, on pages 1 and 2. From our founding in 1967 to today, we are grateful for their continued involvement. Angel, Bob and Mike inspire all of us to make giving part of our daily lives.

Stay safe and be well.  
Lisa Ashner Adkins, J.D.  
President/CEO

# WELCOME TO THE BOARD!



Blue Grass Community Foundation is a reflection of our top-notch volunteers. We couldn't accomplish all we do in Central and Appalachia Kentucky without our committed board of directors. We're fortunate to add the following community members to our board for a three-year term (pictured from top left, clockwise):

- Lisa Higgins-Hord
- Susan Krauss
- Daryl Love
- Marsha Moors-Charles
- Suzanne Shaffar
- Tony Thompson



**To learn more about our board of directors, visit: [bgcf.org /board-of-directors](http://bgcf.org/board-of-directors)**