

**SKYROCKETING GENEROSITY:**

# BGCF CELEBRATES \$150 MILLION IN TOTAL GRANTMAKING

Blue Grass Community Foundation is celebrating a tremendous milestone: awarding over \$150 million in grants and scholarships since our founding in 1967!

BGCF was established when C.W. and Irene Sulier invited several Central Kentucky philanthropists to join them in establishing a public foundation to encourage charitable giving and to support local causes and charities. That first year, the assets of Blue Grass Foundation (as it was then called) reached \$5,000. The following year, grants totaling \$500 were awarded to five nonprofit organizations.

Fast forward to 2023. The Community Foundation has grown from one charitable fund to over 800, each with its own unique charitable purpose. Charitable assets total more than \$220 million. Most importantly, the Community Foundation, in partnership with our generous fundholders and donors, has awarded more than \$150 million in grants.

It was just three years ago we celebrated

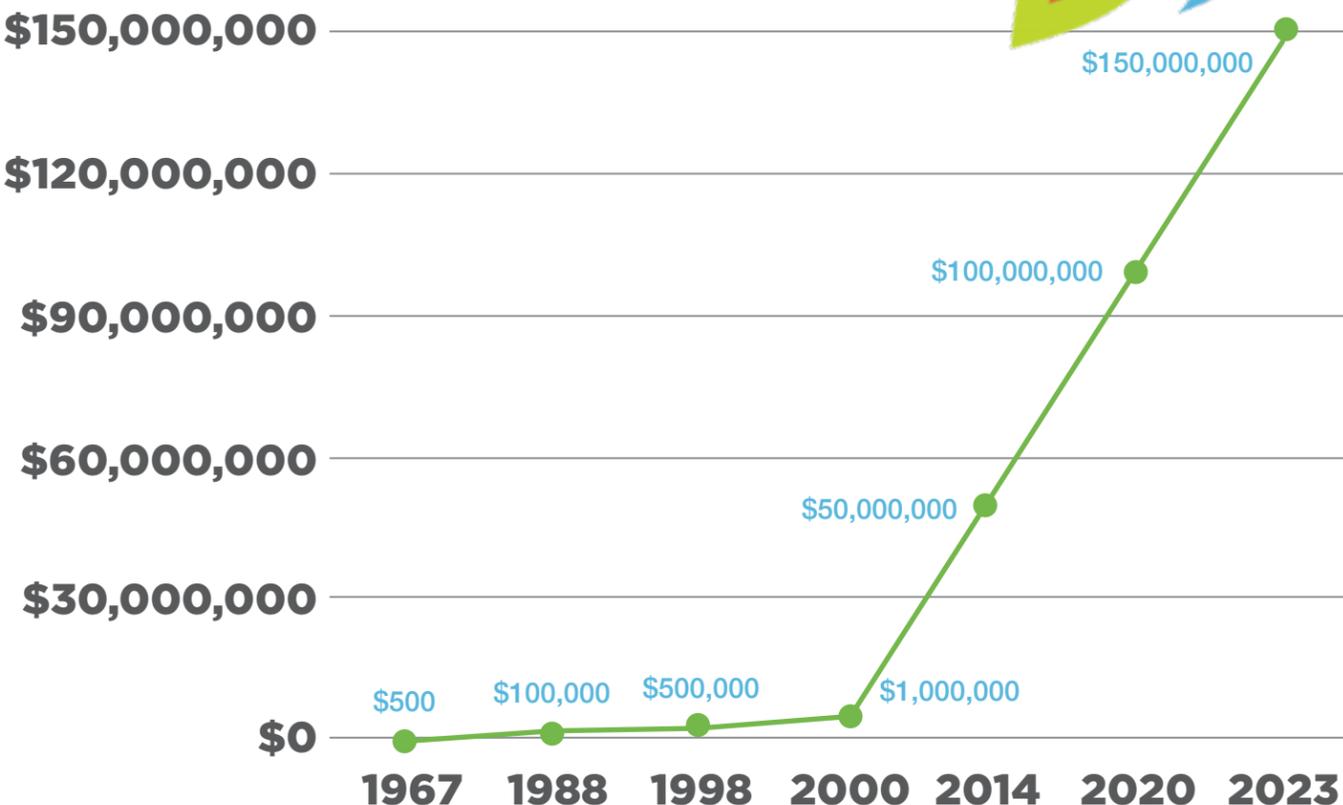
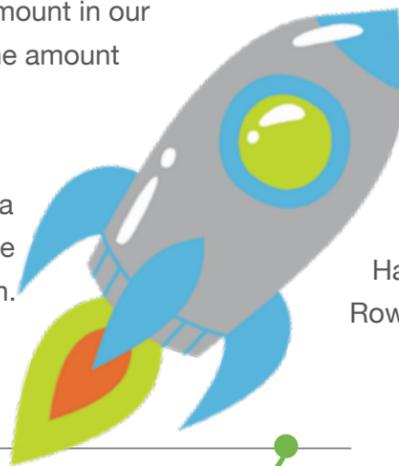
surpassing \$100 million in grants. It took us 53 years to reach that milestone but just three years to grant another \$50 million. And what a whirlwind those three years have been! From COVID-19 to racial injustice, to devastating natural disasters, our community has experienced what seems to be a record amount of heartbreak.

Yet, we've also experienced a record amount of generosity and support since those early 2020 days. In FY20, we saw a record number of grants awarded in one fiscal year — \$17.2 million — a 70% increase over the previous year. And in FY22, the amount of total contributions to charitable funds at the Community Foundation rose to \$43,045,798, the largest amount in our 55-year history and double the amount of contributions over FY21!

“This is about so much more than numbers,” explained Lisa Adkins, president/CEO of Blue Grass Community Foundation.

“Surpassing the \$150 million milestone represents progress toward our mission of increasing community generosity. It’s about impact, transformation, changed lives and the generosity of donors of all sizes who make it possible. We hope this philanthropic milestone will inspire pride and energize our community’s giving spirit.”

At Blue Grass Community Foundation, we believe one person can make a difference but know we make the biggest impact when we invest together for our community. If you’d like to have a greater impact on your community and the causes you love, join us! We want to partner with you. Contact us today to establish a charitable fund to reach your philanthropic goals. Or maximize the impact of your charitable giving by investing in our endowed community funds in Clark, Fayette, Franklin, Harrison, Madison, Magoffin, Rowan or Woodford counties.



This chart depicts the velocity of our community's increased generosity in the past 23 years.

View a special video message about this grantmaking milestone and learn more about BGCF's impact since 1967 at [bgcf.org/150million](https://bgcf.org/150million) or scan the QR code below



# BGCF 365

# DO GOOD. CREATE CHANGE. HAVE FUN!

Help build a better Lexington  
with just a dollar a day!



Want to learn more about your community, meet like-minded folks who care about building a better Lexington and support local nonprofits? Look no further than BGCF365, an initiative of Blue Grass Community Foundation that unites and informs emerging philanthropists to make a collective impact on Fayette County. BGCF365 is for givers of all ages who want to be more engaged with their giving to make Lexington a better place to work, live and play for all!

The idea is simple: You give \$365 — a dollar a day — to make our community better. You pool those daily dollars with others. Members meet quarterly to learn about community issues and the Lexington nonprofits working to address them. Then, once a year, you decide together which local nonprofit organizations you want to receive \$25,000 in total grants.

This year's grant theme, selected by BGCF365 membership, is Youth Development + Wellness. At their annual meeting in April, BGCF365 members will hear from three Fayette County nonprofits about how they would utilize grant funding for initiatives that foster the resiliency,

safety, connectedness, physical health, mental health and overall well-being of local children and youth (birth to age 22).

Grants in the following amounts will be awarded based on membership votes: First place will receive \$15,000; second place will receive \$7,500; and third place will receive \$2,500.

Join BGCF365 today and experience 365 days of fun and impact. Since 2018, BGCF365 has awarded \$125,000 to more than 20 Lexington nonprofits. Become a member of BGCF365 to vote on this year's grant awards at [bgcf.org/BGCF365](http://bgcf.org/BGCF365).

**Know someone who would like to get plugged into local philanthropy? BGCF365 membership makes a great gift! Contact Lauren to purchase a BGCF365 membership gift voucher.**



To learn more and join BGCF365, visit [bgcf.org/BGCF365](http://bgcf.org/BGCF365) or contact BGCF's Director of Strategic Initiatives +



Communications Lauren Parsons at [lauren@bgcf.org](mailto:lauren@bgcf.org).



## The Power of Endowments

In 2017, philanthropists Donna Hall and the late John Hall generously gave \$365,000 to establish the BGCF365 Endowment Fund and inspire the next generation of givers. Funded through Endow Kentucky tax credits, BGCF365's endowment has grown to over \$500,000 since 2017. Funds from the endowment are combined with membership dues, allowing BGCF365 members to award a cumulative \$125,000 in grants to more than 20 Fayette County nonprofits. Our heartfelt thanks to the Halls for their inspired generosity!

# Making Sense of the Secure Act 2.0 Alphabet Soup

Tax-savvy philanthropists may be interested in new provisions included in the \$1.65 trillion omnibus spending bill, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 (CAA). These provisions, often referred to as SECURE 2.0, build upon the original SECURE Act of 2019 and provide enhancements to the rules for utilizing a qualified charitable distribution (QCD).

## Here are three key provisions affecting philanthropists in the new law:

**1. Increase in IRA RMD age:** The required minimum distribution (RMD) age from an IRA increased to 73 on January 1, 2023, and will increase again to 75 on January 1, 2033. While this provision is not directly tied to charitable giving, it can impact your overall financial plans and potentially affect the timing and strategy of your giving. As a reminder, required minimum distribution (RMD) refers to the mandated amount a taxpayer must withdraw from qualified

retirement plans, which include IRAs as well as 401(k)s and other tax-deferred retirement accounts.

**2. Increase in QCD limit:** The annual per-taxpayer \$100,000 QCD cap is now slated to be indexed for inflation, which will allow taxpayers to give even more from their IRAs directly to charity.

**3. One-time split-interest election:** Taxpayers may now make a one-time \$50,000 QCD transfer to a charitable remainder trust (CRT) or another split-interest gift, such as a charitable gift annuity (CGA). Split-interest gifts are gifts for which the donor receives a benefit during their lifetime or for a set term with the remainder benefiting a charitable organization(s).

## Here's what has not changed:

**1. Eligibility for making a QCD still starts at 70 ½.** This allows taxpayers who are not yet required to take IRA distributions under

the RMD rules to still take advantage of the QCD technique without the income-tax hit on the distributed funds while also removing those funds from liability for future estate taxes.

**2. Taxpayers required to take RMDs can still count QCDs toward their RMDs,** thereby avoiding the usual income tax hit on RMD dollars.

**3. Charities eligible to receive QCDs include designated funds, field-of-interest funds, community and nonprofit endowments, and scholarship funds at BGCF but still not donor advised funds.**

To discuss how this legal update will affect your giving strategy for 2023 and beyond, contact BGCF General Counsel/Director of Planned Giving Halee Cunningham at 859.225.3343 or [halee@bgcf.org](mailto:halee@bgcf.org).



## CHEERS TO DRINKABLE ASSETS!

Blue Grass Community Foundation works with donors who want to contribute a wide variety of assets. We're here to help you fuel your philanthropy with stock, real estate or other "liquid" assets, even bourbon!

A fundholder recently donated 30 rare and collectible bottles of bourbon. Additionally, last year we facilitated our largest gift of real estate (a Bluegrass area farm) and the single largest stock gift ever.

At the Community Foundation we like to say, "Start where you are, use what you have, give what you can."



Contact Scott Fitzpatrick, VP/Advancement, at [sfitzpatrick@bgcf.org](mailto:sfitzpatrick@bgcf.org) to discuss the creative ways you can make a charitable gift!



## 2022 BY THE NUMBERS



### MAJOR UNDERWRITERS

Clark County Community Foundation*	\$255,000
Murry Family Foundation	\$100,000
Marksbury Family Foundation	\$ 60,000
Blue Grass Community Foundation	\$ 48,250
Mitchell Family Foundation*	\$ 25,000
Thomas R. Bryant Jr. & Betty R. Bryant Fund*	\$ 25,000
MacAdam Family Foundation*	\$ 25,000
Hudson-Ellis Fund*	\$ 20,000
Evangelos "Angel" Levas Foundation*	\$ 15,000
Traditional Bank	\$ 15,000
THE GROOVALUATION*	\$ 11,111

\*at Blue Grass Community Foundation

### HIGHLIGHTS



**\$12,010**

Average Raised Per Nonprofit



**\$157**

Average Gift Size



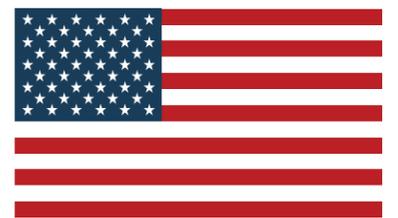
**\$198,983**

Most Money Raised In One Hour

### THE GEOGRAPHY OF GIVING



**90** Kentucky Counties



**48** States & District of Columbia

**1/4** OF DONORS GAVE TO A NEW NONPROFIT FOR THE FIRST TIME



Canada



Australia



**TOTAL RAISED**  
**\$2.5 MILLION**

# OF GENEROSITY!

**Our generous community of givers once again rallied in support of local nonprofits during the 12th annual GoodGiving Challenge, raising \$2.5 million for 200 nonprofits in just four days!**



Created and hosted by Blue Grass Community Foundation and Smiley Pete Publishing, the GoodGiving Challenge connects charitable individuals with local nonprofits by providing matching incentives and a convenient online giving platform at BGgives.org.

“At Blue Grass Community Foundation, building greater community generosity is central to what we do,” said Lisa Adkins, president/CEO of Blue Grass Community Foundation. “The GoodGiving Challenge shows that people respond enthusiastically when you make giving simple, rewarding and fun.”

## 12 YEARS AND NEARLY \$20 MILLION RAISED

Since its inception in 2011, the GoodGiving Challenge has raised nearly \$20 million for local nonprofits. This year, the Challenge raised \$2.5 million for 200 local nonprofits through more than 12,000 gifts made.

With nonprofits across 14 counties in Central and Appalachia Kentucky participating in the GoodGiving Challenge, there was a cause for everyone to support, from health and human services to education to youth development and more.



“Raising \$2.5 million in just four days was the perfect way to end 2022,” said Lauren Parsons, director of strategic initiatives and communications at Blue Grass Community Foundation. “We’re thankful for the thousands of givers who rallied in support of these hardworking nonprofits so they can continue providing vital services across our communities.”

This year’s top fundraising charity was Central Kentucky Youth Orchestras, raising \$54,483 prior to matches and prizes.

“We couldn’t have done it without the commitment of our board, staff, alumni and current students/families,” said Amelia Groetsch, executive director of Central Kentucky Youth Orchestras. “Everyone played their part to spread the word about the Challenge and share their stories about the impact of our organization, which has been active in Central Kentucky for the past 75 years. The money we raised will provide

funding to help grow our Friends in Music and MusicWorks programs, which are provided at no cost to students and their families.”

## MATCHES AND PRIZES

“The 2022 GoodGiving Challenge featured over \$600,000 in matching prizes that increased gifts by as much as 50% to 100%,” said Adkins. “The Challenge wouldn’t have the impact it does without our funding partners.”

Each day the Challenge offered multiple opportunities to amplify gifts with matches and prizes, thanks to funding partners like Traditional Bank, which has supported the Challenge for several years. “Supporting the Good Giving Challenge as a match sponsor perfectly aligns with Traditional Bank’s

mission to provide financial support to local nonprofits, with an emphasis on those helping to meet critical needs for our most vulnerable community members,” said Dana Adamson, Traditional Bank’s chief marketing + development officer. “Through strategic partnerships with Blue Grass Community Foundation we are able to create a deeper financial impact and help build

awareness for numerous organizations throughout our service area.”

**Patricia Fegley Price:** I love the GoodGiving Challenge because it brings out the best in people and shows how generous our community is.

**Leila W. Salisbury:** As a newer nonprofit, the GoodGiving Challenge is an incredible opportunity for us to spread the word about our services. Thank you for supporting us in this way!



**Tracee McCarter Lyon:** The GoodGiving Challenge increases awareness of nonprofits in our area! Donating to amazing organizations benefits both the giver and the receiver. There is absolutely no better feeling than giving of yourself, time, or monies for fabulous causes. Thank you for facilitating this incredible week!



Registration for the 2023 GoodGiving Challenge will open June 1. Area nonprofits can learn more about the GoodGiving Challenge and how to participate at [bgcf.org/goodgivingchallenge](http://bgcf.org/goodgivingchallenge).



**For information about how you can help incentivize giving through sponsorship and/or other funding opportunities,**



**contact BGCF President/CEO Lisa Adkins at [ladkins@bgcf.org](mailto:ladkins@bgcf.org) or 859.225.3343.**



NEW CHARITABLE FUNDS

# WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

These new charitable funds were established between January 1 and December 31, 2022.

Please join us in welcoming them to our BGCF community of givers!

AEBFF Holiday Fund  
 Alice Forgy Kerr Foundation  
 Amy Boulden Mashburn Charitable Fund  
 Anne C. Kenan Redistribution Fund  
 Bernard and Mary Ann Burch Family Fund  
 Bernice M. Pederson and Pete Pederson Fund  
 FBO Ashland, the Henry Clay Estate  
 Bradley Family Charitable Fund  
 Brothers' Run Charitable Fund  
 Buster Family Charitable Fund  
 CEOF Christ the King Fund  
 Charlene Davis Bush Scholarship Fund  
 Concerts for Charity Fund  
 Crawford Calvert Fund  
 Crutcher Family Foundation  
 David Disend Fund  
 Ed Brown Society Fund - Project Success Education-to-Workforce  
 The Equine Fund  
 Fayette Education Foundation - Bright Ideas Grants  
 Fayette Education Foundation - Imagination Library Lexington  
 Fayette Education Foundation - School Arts Education Initiatives  
 Fayette Education Foundation Fund - Teachers for Tomorrow  
 The Fidelio Fund  
 Fooji Endowment for Kentucky  
 Fooji Foundation  
 Frankfort/Franklin County  
 Joint Task Force on Invasives Fund

Friends of Augusta St. Paul's AME Church Fund  
 FUMC of Cynthiana Chartered Scout Troop 60 and Troop 607 Endowment  
 FUMC of Cynthiana Endowment for Evangelism  
 Garkovich Designated Fund  
 Give Me Shelter Fund  
 Glenn S. Bromagen Sharpsburg Memorial Fund  
 Grant Ready Kentucky Fund  
 Greely Family Foundation  
 Harris Family Endowed Fund  
 Harris Family Foundation  
 Hines Family Fund  
 Howard Edelstein Scholarship Fund  
 Independence Place Endowment Fund  
 Jim and Jan Barnes Fund  
 The Jo B. Robertson Charitable Foundation  
 Jose Julio Sarria/ Nicole M Ramirez International Education Fund  
 The Kaufman Coffman Family Fund  
 Kentucky Artists Legacy Fund  
 Kentucky Rising Fund  
 Kentucky Sports Industry Conference Fund  
 LCA Teachers Endowment Fund  
 League of Women Voters of Kentucky Fund  
 Lexington Art League Endowment  
 M. Denise Quandt and C. William Balke Foundation  
 Madison Multiuse Trails Fund  
 Midway Park Renovation Fund

MoeJoe Charitable Foundation  
 Moors-Charles Charitable Fund  
 Moors-Charles Legacy Fund\*  
 The Nate Morris Prize for Eastern High School Fund  
 Northside Common Market Endowment Fund  
 Nunn Center Oral History Advancement Fund  
 Ona & Ernest Marshall Fund  
 Pam Hammonds Memorial Endowed Fund  
 Pike and Debbie Caskey Foundation  
 Project Ricochet Fund  
 Reinhold Family Charitable Fund  
 Ryan and Shannon Voogt Giving Fund  
 Save the Choctaw Academy Fund  
 Southeast Conservation Fund  
 St John's in Georgetown Fund  
 Stable Recovery Fund  
 Stephen and Melody Ryan Foundation  
 Theresa Holmes Charitable Fund  
 Three Historic African-American Churches of Midway, Kentucky Charitable Fund  
 Town Branch Park Fund  
 Tunnell Family Foundation\*  
 Wild Health Foundation  
 Wilma (Willi) Walker-Thompson Foundation  
 Winchester Minority Leadership Initiative (WMLI)  
 Woodford County Community Opportunities Fund  
 YMCA of Central Kentucky Endowment Fund

\*Legacy Fund



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

- Clark  Fayette  Franklin  Harrison  Madison  Magoffin  Rowan  Woodford
- Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I commit to give \$ \_\_\_\_\_ each year for the next five years.
- I would like to make my gift after July 1 to earn Endow Kentucky Tax Credits. (We will contact you with instructions.)
- 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



If you would like to create your own charitable giving fund, contact Scott Fitzpatrick, vice president, Advancement at 859.225.3343 or [sfitzpatrick@bgcf.org](mailto:sfitzpatrick@bgcf.org).

Scan the QR code below to learn more about the types of funds offered at Blue Grass Community Foundation.



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

499 East High Street • Suite 112 • Lexington, KY 40507 / 859.225.3343 / [bgcf.org](http://bgcf.org)



# 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 community's 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, Rowan or Woodford counties, visit our website to learn more about endowed community funds in these counties: [bgcf.org/communityfunds](http://bgcf.org/communityfunds)

## COMMUNITY FUNDS SERVE AS UMBRELLA FOR CHARITABLE GIVING

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

These community funds, including ones in Clark, Fayette, Franklin, Harrison, Madison, Magoffin, Rowan and Woodford counties, have the ability to serve as an umbrella organization for specific projects and initiatives that may not have the funding or resources to kick-start their own nonprofit. Take, for example, a project recently supported by the Franklin County Community Fund.

When Frankfort decided to take on the issue of homelessness, the community came together and said, "We've got you covered." Literally.

In November 2022, "Give Me Shelter" was installed in downtown Frankfort's Catfish Alley. Comprising 32 brightly colored umbrellas and globe lights suspended in mid-air, the installation was the brainchild of Franklin County natives Teresa Barton and Lee Ann Snelling, who'd seen similar projects in other cities to revitalize alleyways. The Frankfort umbrella alley has since become a "selfie stop" and created a new gathering space between the famous Foundry and Cooperage buildings.

The project was done through a fiscal sponsorship at Blue Grass Community Foundation that helps fund the Frankfort CARES Coalition

and addresses two needs in Frankfort: local homelessness and a lack of tourism.



"Give Me Shelter" has raised over \$20,000 for the coalition and shows no sign of slowing down.

"BGCF allowed us to fast track the contributions for the Frankfort Cares Coalition with a 501(c)(3) already in place to ensure the 'Give Me Shelter' project was successful," Snelling said. Barton added, "The extra layer of accountability gave assurance to contributors. This funding was the seed money to make a difference in our community for those in crisis. It's a win-win!"

The Frankfort CARES Coalition is an umbrella organization, pun intended, that benefits local agencies that work to help the homeless and address shelter issues. The CARES Coalition includes representatives from several local

organizations including the Franklin County Women and Family Shelter, Simon House, Sunshine Center, Senior Activity Center, Homeless Housing Coalition of KY, Franklin County Health Department and Franklin County Schools Family Youth Resource Center.

The Franklin County Community Fund at BGCF is a permanent charitable resource that supports local causes and organizations. A local advisory board puts donations of all sizes to good use by making grants to meet the vision and needs of the community. Because the Franklin County Community Fund exists, projects like "Give Me Shelter" help make Franklin County a better place to learn, work, play and live.

**GIVE ME SHELTER HAS RAISED**

**OVER**

**\$20,000**

**FOR THE FRANKFORT CARES COALITION**

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: Courtney Turner**



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

## LISTEN: BGCF PODCAST!



In January 2023, it was reported that nearly 180 million Americans listen to podcasts on a daily basis. While listenership of Blue Grass Community Foundation’s DoGood Radio Hour is not quite 180 million, the past year has seen an all-time high in terms of listeners and engagement!

With guests like Mayor Linda Gorton, Vice Mayor Dan Wu, UK professor Vanessa Holden, Martina and Marcellus Barksdale, Tanya Torp, Dr. Jonathan Coleman and many more, the

DoGood Radio Hour highlights members of the community and local organizations that are simply “doing good.” Each episode features two segments designed to educate and inspire while covering topics like music, literature, television, food and of course, giving.

A new episode is released every Monday on Spotify and Apple Podcasts, and the show streams live on RadioLex every Monday at 2pm. To listen, subscribe and learn more about the DoGood Radio Hour, visit [bgcf.org/do-good-radio-hour](https://bgcf.org/do-good-radio-hour).



**Have a great idea for a DoGood Radio Hour guest interview?**  
**Contact BGCF Communications Associate Courtney Turner at [courtney@bgcf.org](mailto:courtney@bgcf.org).**



**Scan the QR code to subscribe to the DoGood Radio Hour on Apple Podcasts.**

## FROM LISA ADKINS

# Our President’s Letter

Blue skies, warm weather and flowers blossoming everywhere! This spring issue of BGCFyi, our first of 2023, is the perfect opportunity to look back as well as forward. As we closed out 2022, BGCF celebrated several milestones, including the largest gift of real estate ever received, the largest single stock gift received and an all-time high for total charitable assets of more than \$220 million. The most important milestone we achieved, thanks to all of you, is total grantmaking of \$150 million since our founding in 1967. Learn more about the significance of this milestone in this issue and by viewing a special video message at [bgcf.org/150million](https://bgcf.org/150million).

Your ever-growing generosity is nurturing programs across the Bluegrass and Appalachia, like the “Give Me Shelter” project in Franklin County, inspiring the next generation of givers through BGCF365 and planting seeds of possibility for hundreds of nonprofits thanks to the GoodGiving Challenge and the \$20 million it’s raised over the past 12 years.

The team at BGCF is ready to spring into action to help you achieve your charitable dreams. Call or email me if I can be of assistance: [ladkins@bgcf.org](mailto:ladkins@bgcf.org) or 859.225.3343.



We look forward to working together to make our community bloom!

Lisa Ashner Adkins, J.D.  
President