

A PROFILE IN GIVING

BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION OF GENEROSITY

In addition to building homes, James and Martha Monroe build communities.

In 2006, when James and Martha were in their early twenties and had been married for a year, they launched James Monroe Homes. For the first several years while the company was getting started, James received no salary from the business; it was Martha's income as a registered nurse that sustained the family.

Today, James Monroe Homes is a nationally recognized business that has won numerous awards, and James has been recognized as one of the top 40 under 40 professionals in the country by Professional Builder magazine. Besides building homes in Lexington, a total of three neighborhoods—in Georgetown, Nicholasville and Richmond—are comprised exclusively of James Monroe Homes.

Even during those early lean years, the Monroes made giving back a priority. At the end of each year, James and Martha reviewed how much money they had earned and then chose which charities to support.

“Our philosophy was always: Don't wait until you have a lot to give. When you have a little, give a little. When you have more, give more,” said James.

As the Monroes found they had more to give, the couple considered forming a nonprofit so they could be more strategic with their giving. An attorney they consulted urged them to contact Blue Grass Community Foundation instead.

“BGCF showed us how we could continue to support our passions in a way that would also maximize our gifts,” said Martha.

The Monroes are especially passionate about helping those who struggle financially.



James grew up in Lexington, the middle of five children. His family frequently ran out of food stamps before the end of the month. School breakfasts and lunches were often the only meals James and his siblings could count on. The family had no health insurance. A higher-than-expected electric bill could spell disaster.

Martha was sensitive to the realities of poverty as well and worked through Lexington Parks & Recreation with children at the Kenwick

Community Center. She frequently took the kids on field trips to the old Charles Young Center in Lexington.

Recently, the Monroes used their charitable giving fund at the Community Foundation to make a major gift to Splash!, a water feature scheduled to open this summer in the newly refurbished Charles Young playground in Lexington's East End, a neighborhood traditionally lacking in free, kid-friendly water features and dynamic green spaces. The neighborhood, said James, reminded him of the place where he grew up, a place where people work hard yet still struggle financially.

The Monroes also use their fund to support their favorite charities and to match charitable donations of employees of James Monroe Homes. And, because the Monroe's Fund is endowed, it will continue to have an impact beyond James' and Martha's lifetimes.

Perhaps most important of all, the Monroes want to teach their three children—James (16), Topher (14), and Mary (9)—that giving back to one's community is an important responsibility, no matter where you start or how much you have to give. Investing in an endowed giving fund at BGCF allows the Monroes to lead by example.

“We highly encourage others to start a giving fund at the Community Foundation,” said James. “Not only will donors learn how their contributions can impact an entire community, they'll also learn how much fun it is to give.”

“Our philosophy was always: Don't wait until you have a lot to give. When you have a little, give a little. When you have more, give more.”

— James Monroe



To learn how you and your family can support your community and leave a meaningful legacy, contact BGCF Vice President/ Advancement Scott Fitzpatrick at 859.225.3343.

BGCF 365

THE POWER OF GIVING A DOLLAR A DAY

BGCF365 GRANTS \$25,000 TO LEXINGTON YOUTH PROGRAMS

BGCF365, a giving circle at Blue Grass Community Foundation for emerging philanthropists, held its annual grantmaking event, The Finals, on April 20 in downtown Lexington's Base249. During the event, three local nonprofits pitched innovative projects and competed for \$25,000 in grants.

In late January, the BGCF365 membership selected the 2022-2023 grant theme of "Youth Development and Wellness" to support programs that foster the resiliency, safety, connectedness, physical

health, mental health, and overall wellbeing of children and youth (birth to age 22) in Fayette County.

After the BGCF365 Advisory Committee reviewed 40 amazing project proposals, it selected three organizations to pitch their programs at The Finals: The African American Ballet Troupe, Operation Making a Change and Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth. After each nonprofit presentation, the BGCF365 members voted live on how to award \$25,000 total in grants. Those grant amounts and winners are:

First Place \$15,000 Grant Winner: OPERATION MAKING A CHANGE

Operation Making a Change (OMAC) offers a 12-week violence prevention/intervention program for Fayette County Public School students in grades 3-12. In addition to violence prevention (with an emphasis on gun violence), the program addresses other critical issues such as substance abuse and mental health and reinforces positive behaviors and decision-making.

"We are grateful to BGCF365 for its generous \$15,000 grant! This support means the world to us and will make a huge difference in our program," said Geo Gibson, founder of Operation Making a Change. "Thanks to this funding, we can keep on doing what we love: helping hundreds of kids every year. It's all about giving them the guidance, coaching and support they need to make a positive impact in our community."



BGCF365 Advisory Team with the 2023 BGCF365 Grant Winners.

Second Place \$7,500 Grant Winner: AFRICAN AMERICAN BALLET TROUPE

The African American Ballet Troupe provides free ballet classes to traditionally underserved youth, including children of diverse races and those experiencing financial hardship, to increase the diversity of the Lexington ballet community. Students benefit from regular physical activity, and experience positive changes to their confidence levels and mental health by connecting with a community of dancers and performing in dance productions.

Third Place \$2,500 Grant Winner: SAFY

Through Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth of KY's Older Youth Services Pathways to Success Skill Building Program, youth aging out of foster care (ages 18-21) receive monthly independent living skill building programming from a SAFY case manager. In addition to hands-on life skills, such as cooking, cleaning and financial planning, the youth also receive trauma-informed mental health care.



BGCF365 is an initiative of Blue Grass Community Foundation which 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! Members commit to giving \$1 a day (\$365 a year) to the BGCF365 Fund at the Community Foundation. Half of this contribution goes toward immediate grantmaking, while the other half is added to a permanent endowment fund that will produce an annual charitable payout for the group, in perpetuity.

Social and networking events are held quarterly and to date, BGCF365 has awarded \$150,000 to the Lexington nonprofit community!



Lexingtonians who want to make a bigger impact with their charitable giving can learn more about BGCF365 and sign up for a 2023-2024 membership online at bgcf.org/bgcf365. Monthly payment plans are available. All contributions are tax deductible.

SINGING IN THE SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY

What can you do with \$5,000?

Take a trip? Buy exclusive season tickets for the University of Kentucky Men's Basketball team? Maybe score a Taylor Swift ticket?

Dr. Everett McCorvey had something a bit different in mind.

Dr. McCorvey is a classical tenor, teacher, conductor and producer who, among many recognizable roles, serves as the director for the University of Kentucky's Opera Theatre and Professor of Voice. He is also the founder and conductor of the American Spiritual Ensemble.

The American Spiritual Ensemble preserves and continues the tradition of storytelling through the performance and preservation of the American Negro Spiritual. Performing these spirituals serves as a tribute to enslaved people who were not permitted to speak their native languages or sing their traditional songs. In 2022, the American Spiritual Ensemble received a \$5,000 Better Together Grant from the Lexington Black Prosperity Initiative.

The Lexington Black Prosperity Initiative (LBPI), a community-advised committee of Blue Grass Community Foundation (BGCF), established the Better Together Grants alongside the Walton Family Foundation to support important work by a variety of local nonprofits across a range of industries and focuses, including arts, civic engagement, construction, cultural inclusivity, education, equine and technology.

The American Spiritual Ensemble put its grant to use by funding the Singing in the Spirit: ASE Vocal Camp in February 2023. This camp was an experiential camp for children, adolescents and adults to foster a community of talent interested in the performance, preservation and understanding of the American Negro Spiritual. The vocal camp was entitled "Negro Spirituals: Meaning, Influence, Structure, and Context," and featured not only Dr. McCorvey, but also Dr. Eileen Gunther, conductor, lecturer and author of *In Their Own Words: Slave Life and the Power of Spiritual*, and acclaimed collaborative pianist, Dr. Tedrin Lindsay.



The community sing and workshop was open to choral singers, music directors and music lovers who were welcome to explore topics like the value embedded in spirituals, the role of cultural and spiritual traditions, and the significance and power of a shared communal experience through discussion of historical, social, and political context.

"During the era of slavery, those who labored in captivity pioneered a musical motif that began as unaccompanied songs of sorrow and hope," said Dr. McCorvey. "They have morphed into the music only America can lay claim to. This is our mother music. It is the music that helped America find its musical voice and define what we now call 'the American sound.' All of the musical genres that have evolved over the past few centuries — including jazz, blues, gospel, rock and even rap, are deeply rooted in the spirituals."

"LBPI and its Better Together Grants are just one way the Community Foundation is continuing the critical work to create a more inclusive, welcoming and equitable community," said Lisa Adkins, president/CEO of BGCF. "We're excited about the diverse and compelling ideas funded by the grants that are now coming into fruition."

Learn more about the Lexington Black Prosperity Initiative and the Better Together Grants at bgcf.org/racialequity.



ALL ABOUT ENDOWMENTS

Thanks to the Endow Kentucky Tax Credit, there has never been a better time to invest in the future of our community. Gifts to endowed charitable funds at Blue Grass Community Foundation are eligible for up to 20% in state tax credits. Unlike tax deductions, tax credits are subtracted from a donor's tax bill, dollar for dollar. A gift of \$5,000 can reduce what you owe in state taxes by \$1,000. A gift of \$50,000 can reduce your tax bill by \$10,000. And this is in addition to your federal and state charitable tax deduction.

But these credits go fast! The Kentucky Department of Revenue begins accepting applications for Endow Kentucky Tax Credits on July 1. All applications submitted between July 1 and July 7 are guaranteed to receive at least a prorated portion.

An endowment's income provides annual support for charities and charitable causes in perpetuity. Whether it's supporting an existing endowment at BGCF or creating one of your own, we can help. A gift to an endowment fund is an investment in today and tomorrow.



Would you like to make a gift that qualifies for the Endow Kentucky Tax Credit? Call us at 859.225.3343 or scan the QR code to download our Endow Kentucky Tax Credit Toolkit.

THE POWER OF ENDOWMENTS

INVESTING IN THE ARTS PAYS OFF IN PERPETUITY



Celebrated philanthropist Lucille Little was passionate about the arts. All told, Mrs. Little awarded over \$50 million to nonprofits in Fayette, Rowan and Elliott Counties. It would be hard to find an arts organization in those communities that has not benefitted from her generosity.

Mrs. Little died in 2002, but thanks to the power of endowments, her generosity lives on.

The Lexington Children's Theatre (LCT) was always especially dear to Mrs. Little, so in 2012, The Little Foundation, which continued to award grants based on Mrs. Little's guidelines, honored her legacy by establishing an endowment of \$2.5 million at the Community Foundation for the benefit of LCT.

Each year, the Fund's annual payout of about \$125,000 supports LCT's Shooting Stars Youth Theatre (SSYT), which provides year-round

drama programs for youth in Rowan and Elliott Counties. In addition to workshops, performances and summer programs, SSYT reaches every third and fifth grader in those counties through fun, innovative programs that dovetail with core educational content. Third graders get to invent their own superhero character and develop a monologue telling its backstory. Fifth graders learn about improvisation, performance and set design, and their performance pieces are filmed so children in younger grades can enjoy them.



Octavia Biggs, Director of LCT's Shooting Stars, created the award-winning program and has been at its helm since its inception in 2012. It has become so popular that Octavia has been invited to duplicate it in nine additional Eastern Kentucky Counties. Shooting Stars now has programs for toddlers, kids with dyslexia, and special needs students.

Former Shooting Stars students have gone on to careers in the theatre, become drama teachers, or now work beside Octavia in summer drama programs.

"Art education is what gives kids a voice and a brave space," said Octavia. "I am proud to be part of something so amazingly beautiful."

Shooting Stars has enriched the lives of an entire generation of students in Eastern Kentucky, and, because it is funded by an endowment, these high-quality programs will continue to inspire young people for generations to come.

Since 2012, the Little Endowment for LCT has paid a total of \$1,364,058 to bring Shooting Stars Youth Theatre to Rowan and Elliott Counties. Today, the endowment that was established with a **\$2.5 million** grant now has a balance of **\$2.67 million**—thanks to the power of endowments and the Community Foundation's careful stewardship of the funds it administers.



For more information about endowments, or how to establish your own, contact Lisa Adkins, President/CEO, at ladkins@bgcf.org or 859.255.3343.

Endowed Funds at BGCF

Endowment funds help nonprofits safeguard charitable dollars for the future of their work and mission. Donations to any of the funds listed here are eligible for the Endow Kentucky Tax Credit.

Community-Based Funds

Fund for Greater Lexington
Clark County Community Foundation
Franklin County Community Fund
Harrison County Community Fund
Madison County Community Fund
Magoffin County Community Fund
Our Foundation for Morgan County
Rowan County Community Fund
Woodford County Community Fund
Fund for Appalachia Kentucky

Community and Special Interest Funds

Lexington Black Prosperity Initiative
BGCF365 Hall Endowment
BGCF Civic Leadership Fund

Agency and Designated Funds

African American Forum Fund
All Children in Need Endowment Fund
American Spiritual Ensemble Endowment Fund
Ampersand Sexual Violence Resource Center of the Bluegrass
Anderson-Dean Park Fund
Arbor Youth Services Endowment Fund
Ashland Terrace Retirement Home Endowment Fund
Ashland, The Henry Clay Estate Endowment Fund
Audrey Rooney Vocal Competition Fund
Baby Health Services Endowed Fund
Battle of Richmond (KY) Fund
Berea Opportunity Fund
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bluegrass Endowed Fund
Big Sandy Diabetes Coalition Endowment
Blessing Hands Endowment Fund
Bluegrass Care Navigators Fund
Bluegrass Greensource Endowment Fund
Bluegrass Land Conservancy Fund
Bodley-Bullock House Endowment Fund
BUILD (Building a United Interfaith Lexington through Direct Action) Fund
Calvary Baptist Church Endowment Fund
Camp Horsin' Around Endowment Fund
Carnegie Center Endowment Fund
CASA of Lexington Endowed Fund
CASA of the Bluegrass Endowment
Cave Run Symphony Orchestra Fund
Central Kentucky Audubon Society Endowment
Central Music Academy Endowment
Charles H. Stone Endowed Fund to support the Chamber Music Festival of Lexington
Child Development Centers of the Bluegrass Endowed Fund
Children's Advocacy Center of the Bluegrass Endowed Fund
Chrysalis House Endowed Fund
Civic Leadership Fund to Support BGCF
CKYO MusicWorks Endowment Fund
Clark County Animal Shelter Fund
Clark County Community Services Endowment Fund
Clark County Homeless Coalition Endowment Fund
Community Action Council - RSVP Fund
Community Action Council Fund
Curious Forever Endowment Fund
Elizabeth Cannon Fund to support the First Church of Christ, Scientist
Elizabeth Rosenberg Fund of the Jewish Federation FBO the PJ Library
Ellen and Herb Moelis Industry Service Award to support Thoroughbred Charities of America
Endow Jewish Lexington Fund
Flight 5191 Memorial Preservation Fund

Frankfort Parks Recreation & Historic Sites Endowed Foundation
Franklin County Humane Society Endowment
Franklin County Trust for Historic Preservation Endowment
Friends of McConnell Springs Endowed Fund
Friends of the Kentucky Theatre Endowed Fund
Friends of the Lexington Senior Center Endowment Fund
Frontier Nursing University Endowment
FUMC of Cynthiana Chartered Scout Troop 60 and Troop 607 Endowment
FUMC of Cynthiana Children's Fund
FUMC of Cynthiana Endowment for Evangelism
FUMC of Cynthiana Scholarships Fund
FUMC of Cynthiana United Preschool Fund
FUMC of Cynthiana Youth Fund
Garbulinska Initiative Endowed Fund to support Lexington Philharmonic
Gateway Regional Arts Center Fund
Georgetown & Scott County Museum Foundation
GleanKY Endowed Fund
Global Adoption, Counseling, Cultural Resources, Inc. Endowed Fund
God's Pantry Food Bank Hunger Relief Fund
GreenHouse17, Inc. Endowed Fund
Growing Together Preschool Endowed Fund
Hazel Burns Education Foundation for Oneida Baptist Institute
Headley-Whitney Endowment Fund
Henry T. Duncan Memorial Fund to Support the Fayette County Bar Association
HEP Endowment Fund for First Presbyterian Church
Historic Christ Church Preservation Fund
Hope's Wings Endowment
Hospice Care Plus Endowment Fund
Independence Place Endowment Fund
J.K.R. McClanahan Foundation to support Eastland Church of God
James F. Glenn Fund for Indigent Medical Care to support the University of Kentucky Human Needs Fund
Jane Keeble Resident Education Fund to support the University of Kentucky Department of Surgery
Jean B. Ezzell Foundation Account for First Presbyterian Church
Jeff A. Woods Endowment for the University of Kentucky College of Law
Josephine Sculpture Park Endowment Fund
Just Fund Education Project
Keith MacAdam Endowment for the Kentucky Nature Preserves
Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter SWCS Endowment Fund
Kentucky Equal Justice Center Endowment Fund
Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) Kentucky Treasures Endowment
Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation (KLEMF) Inc. Fund
Kentucky Natural Lands Trust Endowment Fund
Kentucky Refugee Ministries Endowment Fund
Kentucky Resources Foundation
Kentucky River Foothills Development Council Inc. Fund
KSDAR Endowed Fund for Duncan Tavern Historic Center
LCA Teachers Endowment Fund
LCHS Tuition Assistance Endowment Fund
Leeds Center for the Arts Endowment Fund
Legacy Greenscapes Endowment Fund
LexArts Inc. Fund
Lexington Art League Endowment
Lexington Children's Theater Fund
Lexington Community Radio Endowment Fund
Lexington Fairness Endowed Fund
Lexington History Museum Endowment Fund
Lexington Humane Society Endowment Fund

Lexington Leadership Foundation Inc.
Endowment FBO Amachi Central Kentucky
Lexington Philharmonic Orchestra Foundation
Lexington Public Library Clock Pendulum and Rotunda Preservation Fund
Lexington Rescue Mission Endowed Fund
The Lexington Theatre Company Endowment
Life Plan of Kentucky Endowment Fund
Living Arts & Science Center Fund
Lower Howard's Creek Heritage Park Fund
Madison County Athenaeum Fund to support the Madison County Public Library in Berea and Richmond
Martin Luther King Neighborhood Association Endowment Fund
Mary Louise Young and Mary Lillard Young Fund to support Central Christian Church
Millie E. and Gayle J. Adams Memorial Fund to support Cancer Research at the Lucille Markey Cancer Research Center
Mission Lexington Endowed Fund
Montessori High School Endowment Fund
Morehead Optimist Club Endowment Fund
Mt. Sterling-Montgomery Co Parks and Recreation Fund
The Nest Center for Women, Children & Families Endowment Fund
New Opportunity School For Women Endowed Fund
Newton's Attic Endowment Fund
Northside Common Market Endowment Fund
Nursing Home Ombudsman Agency Fund
Ohavay Synagogue Endowed Fund
One Parent Family Facility/Virginia Place Fund
Opera Lex Endowment
Pam Hammonds Memorial Endowed Fund for Central Music Academy
Paris Animal Welfare Society Endowed Fund
Paris-Bourbon County YMCA Endowed Fund
Post Clinic Endowment Fund
Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence Endowed Fund
Primate Rescue Center Endowment Fund
Providence Montessori Endowment Fund
Radio Eye Endowment
Ralph W. Gabbard Educational Fund to support the Governor's Scholar Program
Richmond Area Arts Council Endowed Fund
Rockcastle Karst Conservancy Legacy Endowment Fund
Rose Mary C. Brooks Place Fund
Rowan County Arts Promotion Foundation
Rowan365 Endowed Fund
Save The Grand Theatre, Inc. Fund
Saykaly Garbulinska Philharmonic Foundation Composer-In-Residence Fund
Serve Kentucky Foundation
Seton Catholic School Education Opportunities Endowment Fund
Shaker Village Endowment Fund
Shoulder to Shoulder Global Endowed Fund
St. Agatha Academy Endowment Fund
Step by Step Endowment Fund
Surgery on Sunday Endowment Fund
Thoroughbred Charities of America Endowment Fund
Temple Adath Israel Blue Grass Fund
United States Pony Clubs Endowment Fund
University of Kentucky Bilal ibn Rabah Scholarship Endowment
W. Paul and Lucille Caudill Little Endowment for Lexington Children's Theatre
W. Paul and Lucille Caudill Little Endowment for the Morehead Theatre Guild
Wilderness Trace Child Development Center Endowment Fund
Woodford County Rural Land Board Endowed Fund
Woodford Humane Society Endowment Fund
Woods & Waters Land Trust Endowment
YMCA of Central Kentucky Endowment Fund
Zantker Endowed Fund for PJ Library Bluegrass

Fantastic Negrito Concert Benefits Lexington Black Prosperity Initiative

What does a three-time GRAMMY Award-winning musician, the first ever winner of NPR Music's Tiny Desk contest, and dynamic storyteller do before he goes on tour with Bruce Springsteen? He comes to The Lyric Theatre, of course!

At least, that is what Xavier Amin Dphrepaulezz, better known by his performance name, Fantastic Negrito, did in April 2023. The contemporary blues artist's latest project, "White Jesus, Black Problems," which explores racism, the enduring impact of slavery and forbidden love, was a concept conceived when he learned his seventh great-grandmother was a white indentured servant from Scotland, who entered into a common-law marriage with an enslaved African American man. Many of the album's lyrics deal with slavery in historical times and its effects on modern-day people of color, as well as interracial relationships that were illegal during certain periods of American history.

The album is accompanied with a visual film component which audience members at The Lyric were able to view after Fantastic Negrito performed an acoustic set of his fifth studio album.

"The event exceeded expectations," said co-founder of Black Mountain Management, David Helmers. "It was a unique cultural event that allowed for a true artist to be on display and share his work and process. The screening, the intimate Q&A, and the spellbinding acoustic performance provided an evening of film, music, and thoughtful dialogue that was very special. It was a profound artistic experience for those in attendance and something you won't encounter very often anywhere."

Helmers continued, "Fantastic Negrito was charming, funny, provocative, conversational, and approachable - yet extraordinary in the storytelling and musical ability."

The Lexington Black Prosperity Initiative (LBPI), housed at Blue Grass Community Foundation, was a beneficiary of the event and portion of the ticket sales went toward supporting LBPI's mission of strengthening, supporting, and making a meaningful impact in Lexington's Black community.

"The Lexington Black Prosperity Initiative is rooted in family, community and opportunity," said Lisa Higgins-Hord, co-chair of the Lexington Black Prosperity Initiative. "The supporters of this initiative generously share their time, talent, and treasure to advance LBPI's work and this event was just one example of ways to give! From hosting artistic community events like this to simply making a one-time donation, any gift to LBPI is an investment in Black leaders, organizations, young people and families in Fayette County."



To learn more about the Lexington Black Prosperity Initiative and how you can support its efforts, please visit bgcf.org/racialequity.





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.

THE POWER OF ONE

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF CLARK COUNTY

“I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.”
— Mother Teresa

One Clark County native took those words to heart and realized one person can make a huge difference in the future of their community.

In 2022, a friend of Clark County came to Blue Grass Community Foundation with a dream and a plan: to make Winchester/Clark County a more equitable and inclusive place to live, work and play. A collaboration was formed between Blue Grass Community Foundation, Clark County Community Foundation, the Greater Clark Foundation, this Clark County benefactor, and facilitator Colene Elridge to develop an initiative with the goal of empowering the next generation of diverse leaders in Winchester/Clark County. Thus, the Winchester Minority Leadership Initiative (WMLI) was born.

“WMLI is a one-year, in-depth leadership training program with a passionate initial cohort of Clark Countians who are seeking to create positive change for our community,” said Halee Cunningham. Halee not only serves as general counsel and director of planned giving for Blue Grass Community Foundation, she also provides staff support to the Clark County Community Foundation board of advisors, assisting them in growing their fund and awarding grants to charitable organizations and causes in Clark County.

“We are so excited to see the ripple effect this program will inspire, including the opportunity for participants to direct grant funds toward needs and opportunities they have identified through their work and lived experiences in our community,” said Cunningham.

The program began hosting its initial cohort of participants ages 21-45 in the Spring of 2023. Each cohort will participate in a 13-month facilitated program, with the additional opportunity to receive one-on-one personal development coaching from Coach Colene. Sessions currently focus on leadership building in the professional and



Colene Elridge, WMLI Facilitator



community space, including sessions on public speaking, personal branding, agility and resilience building, and critical thinking and problem solving. The program even hosts a book club for the cohort, covering books provided by WMLI.

Following the completion of the program, participants will have the opportunity to develop grant proposals from a pool of \$250,000 in funding for needs and opportunities in Winchester/Clark County.

“The Winchester Minority Leadership Initiative is a great opportunity to further develop leaders within the community,” said Coach Colene. “The individuals enrolled are passionate about their growth, but even more passionate about the growth of Winchester. The information is useful and practical, but the real change is in how they see themselves. So many times, they’ve told me that they’ve done something differently, or responded differently than what they normally would have. I believe in them and know they will make an incredible impact in Winchester!”



To learn more about the Winchester Minority Leadership Initiative, please visit winchestermli.org.

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



INSIDE

Profile In Giving	1
BGCF365	2
Better Together Grants Update	3
All About Endowments	3
The Power of Endowments	4
Endowed Funds at BGCF	5
Fantastic Negrito Concert	6
Hometown Legacy	7

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Online newsletter:
bgcf.org/BGCFyi

GOODGIVING CHALLENGE

NONPROFIT REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!

While the 2023 GoodGiving Challenge won't kick off until Giving Tuesday, November 28, nonprofit registration is open NOW through September 1! Charitable organizations located in Blue Grass Community Foundation's service area are encouraged to sign up for this online four-day

fundraising event. Now in its 13th year, the GoodGiving Challenge has helped hundreds of organizations raise nearly \$20 million to fuel their missions of supporting animals, the arts, education, the environment, youth organizations, and more!



Learn more about requirements and how to register at bgcf.org/goodgivingchallenge.

FROM LISA ADKINS

Our President's Letter

Money doesn't grow on trees; it grows in endowments. We say it all the time around the Community Foundation, because we know how true it is. This issue of BGCFyi proves the point that charitable endowments play a critical role in sustaining and enhancing the quality of life across our communities. For BGCF fundholders and donors, it's a terrific way to perpetuate one's values and priorities, create a permanent legacy and make a significant investment in the future. For nonprofit organizations and causes, it creates an ongoing stream of income, diversifies the funding base, enhances sustainability and promotes more giving.

We are so fortunate the state of Kentucky incentivizes endowed charitable giving at community foundations through the Endow Kentucky Tax Credit program. The team at BGCF is here to help you build your charitable legacy and invest in the communities and organizations you love. If you're interested in establishing an endowed charitable fund or applying for Endow Kentucky tax credits, don't hesitate to contact me at 859.225.3343 or ladkins@bgcf.org.



Lisa Ashner Adkins, J.D.
President/CEO