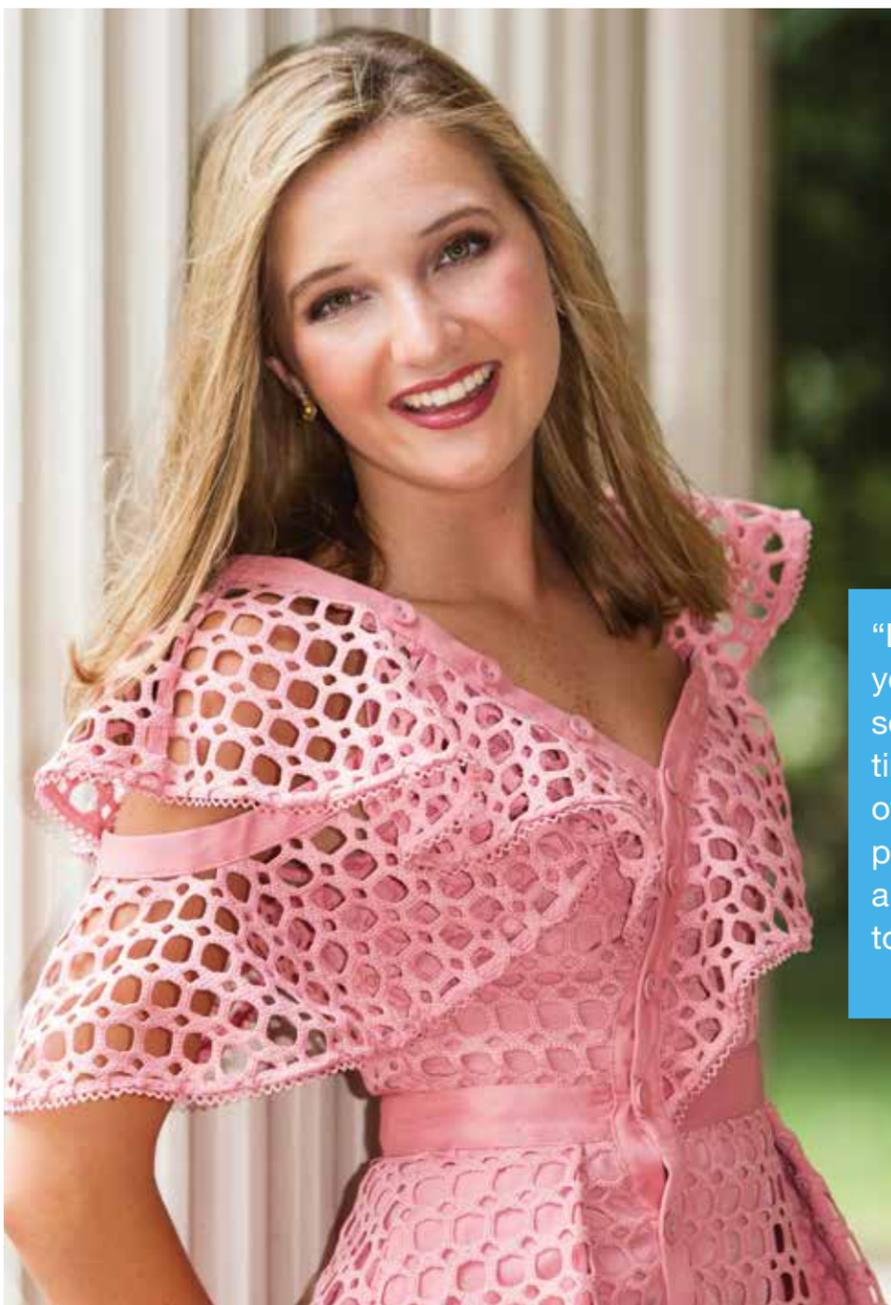


ALEX SIMPSON'S INSPIRING LEGACY:

LEAVING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE



Alex Simpson often said that if you were to meet her in person, you'd never guess that she was an actor, student, octopus researcher, cheer captain, Francophile, and a proud two-time cancer survivor.

As a young teen, Alex survived two bouts of CIC-DUX4, a rare childhood sarcoma. When she was a senior at Dartmouth College, the disease returned a third time after seven years of remission. Alex fought it valiantly, traveling every morning to Boston Children's Hospital for arduous radiation and chemotherapy treatments, then returning to Dartmouth for her afternoon classes.

"Alex did not know the meaning of the word quit," said her mother, Melanie Simpson, who accompanied Alex to her treatments every day. "She had contagious energy, determination, drive and passion, and these qualities carried her through to the end."

In a testament to her strength and resolve, Alex graduated *cum laude* with her class in June 2022 with a double major in French and psychology, then fulfilled her lifelong dream of traveling to Kenya for a photo safari. She died August 27, 2022, at the age of 22.

Alex had been accepted to Wake Forest Law School for the following fall. Her goal was to be an instrument of change through her legal education. "She was a strong believer that everyone needs a crusader or two to march beside them," said Melanie.

In her will, Alex provided a number of legacy gifts for her "passion projects," as she called them. These include a kid-friendly pediatric MRI for Kentucky Children's Hospital; The No Stone Left Unturned Clinic at the Boston Children's Hospital for outside patient adventures,

"Legacy isn't something you just leave behind. It is something you build over time. With Alex, one level of her legacy is her passion projects, and the next level is a legacy of spirit and the will to live life to the fullest."

— Melanie Simpson

palliative care education, and a colorful mural; an amphitheater for outdoor education on the campus of The Lexington School; and gifts to the Lexington Children's Theatre, where she frequently performed; the Lexington Theatre Company; and Central Christian Church.

"Alex wanted her gifts to leave this world a better place," said Melanie.

"She wanted to create a ripple effect that would encourage others to leave legacy gifts to help the children in our community."

In her daughter's memory, Melanie established the Alexandra Hudson Simpson Memorial Fund at Blue Grass Community Foundation to provide scholarships for outstanding students at SCAPA Lafayette Theatre, where Alex was a 2018 graduate. The scholarship was something Melanie and Alex had discussed when Alex was going through her second occurrence of cancer at the age of 14.

"As our first Lafayette Thespian Troupe president, Alex set the tone for excellence in leadership in our program," said Amie Kising, Lafayette theatre director and teacher. "This scholarship honors the excellence and dedication of a graduating senior who balances the academic, leadership, and artistic sides of theatre with grace and vigor, just like Alex did."

The scholarship made its first award in 2023 to graduating senior William Briggs.



To make plans to leave a meaningful legacy, contact Vice President/Advancement Scott Fitzpatrick at 859.225.3343.

SPLASH!

at Charles Young Park

A Joyful Oasis in the Heart of the East End



After years of planning and a month of sweltering summer days, the ribbon-cutting and opening of the long-awaited Splash! sprayground at Charles Young Park in Lexington's East End came not a day too soon. On Thursday, July 27, excitement permeated the air as families, community members, funders and local officials gathered to celebrate the newest gem of this historic neighborhood.



Splash! is a large, nature-inspired, interactive water feature for children of all ages and abilities. It connects the Park's new playground, basketball court and Community Center to the Town Branch Commons Trail. The Trail is connected to several downtown parks, and other trails that lead out into the Bluegrass countryside.

The design for Splash! was inspired by the Bluegrass landscape, mimicking rock formations and creeks found in Fayette County. The rich history of the park, and the life of Brigadier General Charles Young, also inspired the design.

In 1930, when the city bought four acres downtown for Charles Young Park, it was the second parcel of land purchased to serve the recreation needs of the African American community in what was then a segregated city. Like its namesake, now Brigadier General Charles Young, the first African American to achieve the rank of Colonel in the U.S. Army, the Park has overcome its humble beginnings. (Brigadier General Young recently received a posthumous promotion.)

Splash! features educational information through interpretive signs about Brigadier General Charles Young, the Park and the cultural history of the East End neighborhood. An etched timeline detailing the life of Brigadier General Charles Young surrounds the perimeter of the splashpad.

With 90% of funding coming from private sources, it took many dedicated partners to make Splash! possible, with significant leadership and resources from BGCF.

"For more than a decade, Blue Grass Community Foundation has been committed to the development of equitable parks and green spaces. The realization of 'Splash! at Charles Young Park' is a dream come true," said Lisa Adkins, president/CEO of Blue Grass Community Foundation. "It has been an honor to lead a collaboration of largely local charitable givers who made Splash! possible, with a special shout out to Knight Foundation Donor Advised Charitable Fund at BGCF that issued the initial \$600,000 matching challenge. We couldn't be more excited that children in the East End and across Lexington have a new spot for fun, creative and safe water play that also brings to life the significant history of Brigadier General Charles Young."

Thanks to these Generous Funders who made Splash! possible:

Blue Grass Community Foundation
Knight Foundation Donor Advised Fund at BGCF
Kentucky American Water
Lexington Parks & Recreation
J.M. Smucker Co.
James and Martha Monroe Charitable Fund at BGCF
James Monroe Homes
Community Ventures
Elhapa Foundation
Kentucky Veterans Program Trust Fund
Lexington Black Prosperity Initiative
Friends of the Parks of Fayette County

WELCOME TO THE BOARD!

Blue Grass Community Foundation couldn't accomplish all we do in Central and Appalachia Kentucky without our top-notch board of directors. We're fortunate to add the following community members to our board for a three-year term: Blanton Coates, Gentry Collins, Mike Kretz and Lesme Romero.



Learn more about our board at bgcf.org/board-of-directors.



Blanton Coates (left) and Gentry Collins



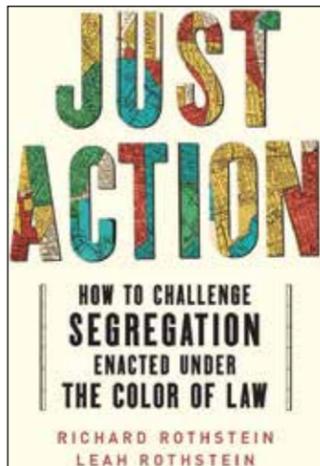
Mike Kretz (left) and Lesme Romero

The Color of Law and Just Action

AN EVENING WITH THE AUTHORS

Blue Grass Community Foundation, Lexington Public Library, University of Kentucky and our community partners will present **The Color of Law and Just Action: An Evening with the Authors**, on Tuesday, October 24, 6:30-8:30pm, at the University of Kentucky Gatton Student Center Worsham Cinema.

The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America, published by Richard Rothstein in 2018, dispelled the long-held myth that the residential segregation present in every U.S. metropolitan area is the result of private discrimination or personal choices. *The Color of Law* makes the powerful case that unconstitutional direct and indirect government action and policies at the federal, state and local levels caused segregation and the resulting social problems throughout the United States. The book was a *New York Times* best seller and significantly influenced discussions of the systemic impact of segregated communities on a range of



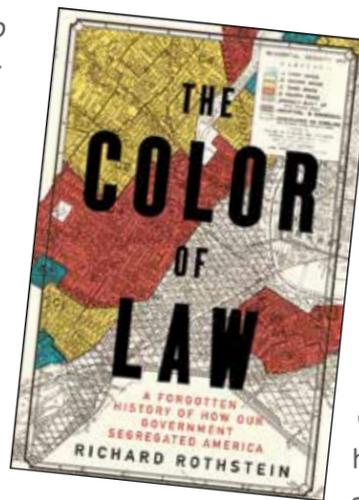
outcomes in education, health and workforce participation.

Published in June, *Just Action: How to Challenge Segregation Enacted Under the Color of Law* is the important companion book co-authored by Rothstein and housing policy expert Leah Rothstein. *Just Action* provides a blueprint for concerned advocates and community leaders to address the legacy of state-sanctioned segregation and create tangible change.

The Color of Law and Just Action: An Evening with the Authors will feature a keynote address by Leah Rothstein about their books and tool kit for activism and advocacy, with myriad real-life examples from communities, groups and individuals that have confronted segregation-related challenges from legal, real estate, banking and commercial development standpoints. The keynote will be preceded

by a performance featuring the Uniting Voices Lexington children's choir and will be followed by a conversation with the Rothsteins and Renee Shaw, KET's director of public affairs.

"Inviting the Rothsteins to Lexington is part of the Community Foundation's ongoing commitment to creating more vibrant, healthy communities where everyone can thrive," said Lisa Adkins, president/CEO of Blue Grass Community Foundation. "The 24th will be a dynamic opportunity where we can come together to learn how we can move forward from a long history of residential segregation and racial division."



The Color of Law and Just Action: An Evening with the Authors is free and open to all, but a reservation is required. Reserve your ticket at bgcf.org/events.



**THE COLOR OF LAW AND JUST ACTION:
AN EVENING WITH THE AUTHORS
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24 / 6:30 – 8:30PM
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY GATTON STUDENT CENTER
WORSHAM CINEMA**



Before you go: Be sure to visit *Undesign the Redline* at the Lexington Public Library Central Branch. Created by designing the WE, this interactive exhibit unearths the history of structural racism and inequality in Lexington. *Undesign the Redline* explores the design of policies like redlining, their implications for today, and what we can do to undesign them. Visit lexpublib.org/undesign for details.



SAVE THE DATE for the Bluegrass region's biggest online fundraiser! **The 2023 GoodGiving Challenge begins on Giving Tuesday, November 28 at 9am, and ends at 11:59pm on Friday, December 1.**



Visit BGgives.org to read about the participating nonprofits, and follow along on BGCF's social media pages (@BGCFKY) for match challenges and daily prize opportunities that can amplify your giving. Join the FUNraising and let's make the 2023 GoodGiving Challenge the biggest and best yet!



FOR YOUR CALENDAR

EDITH SCHWAB MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



HONORING A LEGACY OF PUBLIC SERVICE



2022 award winner
Madalyn Sullivan



2023 award winner
Jackeline Almaraz

Edith Minovitz Schwab will long be remembered for her outstanding intellect, generosity of spirit and dedication to public service.

Edith served as attorney and deputy director of the Legislative Research Commission (LRC) in Frankfort for 26 years, where she was widely known for her extraordinary ability to provide clear answers to complicated questions on Kentucky law.

“Edith Schwab was a pioneering female attorney in Kentucky,” said John Schaaf, her colleague for many years at LRC. “In the 1950s, when Edith graduated from the University of Louisville Louis D. Brandeis School of Law, there were very few women lawyers, but Edith rose to the highest level of leadership with the staff of the Kentucky General Assembly. Legislators from all over the state relied on her expertise. She was a wonderful mentor to me and many others.”

With her untimely death in 1989 at the age of 56, friends, family and coworkers established the Edith Schwab Memorial Scholarship to honor her memory. John Schaaf has served on the scholarship review committee since its inception.

The scholarship provides an award of at least \$1,000 to a graduate student pursuing a career

in public service. Applicants must have excellent academic records, demonstrate financial need and intend to continue to work in Kentucky.

Since the scholarship fund was established at BGCF in 1997, it has awarded more than \$42,000 in scholarships to 36 graduate students who have gone on to rewarding careers in public service, including teaching, law, social work and public health.

“Receiving this scholarship is such an honor after discussing the wonderful woman that Mrs. Schwab was with her loved ones during the interview,” said Madalyn Sullivan, winner of the award in 2022. The scholarship helped Madalyn, a teacher in the Kentucky public school system, earn a master’s degree in instructional computer technology to better educate children growing up in a digital world.

Jackeline Almaraz, winner of the award in 2023, said, “Thanks to this scholarship, I can seize opportunities to advance my career and provide essential health services for the local Latinx community and the community in general.”

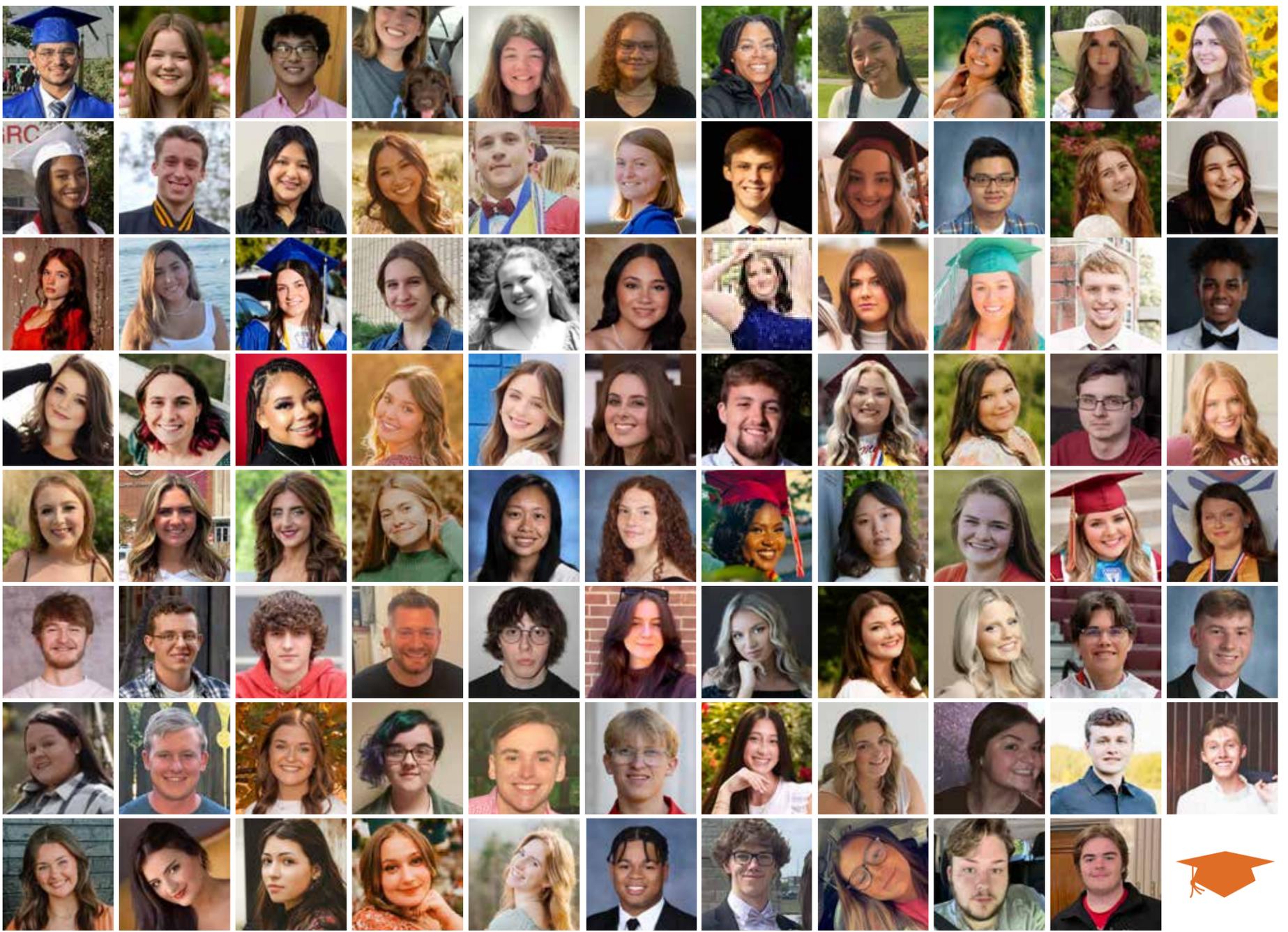
Donors who establish scholarships at Blue Grass Community Foundation may specify criteria, such as academic achievement,

financial need, geographic location, community involvement, career plans and more. The Community Foundation designs the application and oversees an independent committee to choose recipients. If they wish, donors may also serve on the selection committee and be part of the interview process.

In a heartwarming turn of events, Melissa N. Henke, the inaugural recipient of the Edith Schwab Memorial Scholarship, has come full circle by joining the scholarship review committee. Melissa distinguished herself academically, graduating *summa cum laude* from the University of Kentucky in 1998 and subsequently earning her J.D. with highest honors from George Washington University Law School in 2001. Today, she serves as a dedicated professor at the University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law, wholeheartedly upholding Edith’s legacy of commitment to public service.

To discuss ways to honor the life and work of a loved one and make a real difference in the life of a young person, contact BGCF Vice President/Advancement Scott Fitzpatrick at 859.225.3343.





2023 Scholarship Recipients

16th District PTA Scholarship

Lynlee Elliott, Lexington
 Gracie Jones, Lexington
 Philip Lamartiniere, Lexington
 Kevin Le, Lexington
 Kiari Stewart, Lexington
 Bishesh Pokharel, Lexington
 Evelyn Real, Lexington
 Takirah Sleet, Lexington

Baird Scholarship

Tenghoit Kouch, Danville

Benjamin Bright Moran Scholarship

Madison Crain, Danville
 Karlee Johnson, Danville

Charlene Davis Bush Scholarship

McKinnley Martin, Langley

CLARK Scholars Scholarship

Katelyn Jordan, Lexington
 Rebecca Chavez Olivas, Lexington
 Evelyn Real, Lexington

Dorothy T. Givens Scholarship

Trinity Gay, Winchester

Dr. S.O. Sublette Scholarship

Katelyn Spencer, Versailles

Dr. W.C. McCauley Scholarship

Sawyer James Ford, Versailles

Edith Schwab Memorial Scholarship

Jackeline Almarez, Richmond
 Cameron French, Campton

Edwin Paul Lyon III Memorial Scholarship

Alison Cantrell, Salyersville
 Hannah Long, Salyersville

Emma E. Buckley Scholarship

Daniela Cornelio Genchis, Lexington
 Yulu Wu, Versailles

George F. Johnson, Jr. Scholarship

Braxton Hatfield, Belfry
 Addyson Layne, Kimper

Gill-Elliott Scholarship

Bianca Hemsath, Fort Thomas
 Caden Schroeder, Fort Thomas

Hudson-Ellis Scholarship

Tiffany Couch, Danville
 Cailyn Godsey, Danville
 Tenghoit Kouch, Danville

Jane Allen Newman Scholarship

Trayvon Mason, Lexington
 Kiari Stewart, Lexington
 Logan West, Lexington

Jean H. Johnson Scholarship

Lauren Anderson, Ransom
 Alyssa Curry, Belfry

Jennifer Leigh Soper Scholarship

Sara Martins, Peabody, MA

Joann McEvoy Frazer Vocal Achievement Award

Aileen J. Conner, Lexington

John and Maggie Price Scholarship

Kevarine Nyirabagigi, Lexington

John G. Heber Scholarship

Abigail Cahill, Lexington
 Dorottya Gal, Lexington

John T. and Willie Hedges Education Scholarship

Gracyn Wagner, Paris
 Jamie Youngs, Paris

Kathryn Owen Veterinary Scholarship

Alissa Pasley, Winchester

Kevin J. Crowe Memorial Scholarship

Kathryn Carrington, Somerset
 Christian Sawyers, Somerset

King-Barton Scholarship

Tristan Mitchell, Cynthiana

Lewis Sexton Scholarship

Haylee Allen, Campbellsville
 Heny Clan, Louisville
 Christopher Puryear, Jr., Louisville

Logan Thomas Family Memorial Scholarship

Autumn Fox, Beattyville

Loren Richards Elder Care Scholarship

Mallory Gross, Ghent
 Alaisha Jenkins, Louisville
 Hanna McQueay, Hustonville

Lt. Richard Caswell Saufley/

George E. Saufley II Scholarship

Kaylee Sneed, Kings Mountain

Maggofin County Scholarship

Rylie Castle, Salyersville
 Chloe Helton, Salyersville
 Braxton Holbrook, Salyersville
 Ella Howard, Salyersville
 Katie Howard, Salyersville
 Lauren Hunley, Salyersville
 Benjamin Lafferty, Staffordsville
 Mayley Lykins, Salyersville
 Connor Wireman, Gunlock
 Raegan Ward, Salyersville

Margaret Hall Alumnae Association Scholarship

Caitlin Cottingham, Versailles
 Jordan Kolpek, Westchester, OH

Monica Combs Memorial Scholarship

Logan Weaver, Versailles

Murry Foundation Scholarship

Nicole Chen, Lancaster, PA
 Takirah Sleet, Lexington

Nate Morris Prize for Eastern High School

Cameron Casey, Louisville

R.L. Brown Foundation Scholarship

Ava Enoch, Owingsville

Robert Marion and Ethel Keolker Stewart Scholarship

Maya Susmeña, Salem, IL

Rosalind Pittenger Scholarship

Jamie Cowan, Paris
 Carley Ann Peace, Paris

Stephen L. Keller Scholarship

Kensley Haley, Whitesburg

Steven G. Todd Scholarship

Lilyana Rosas, Winchester

Stewart Family Scholarship

Josie Atkins, Russell
 Anthony Bartley, Elkhorn City
 Olivia Burney, Russell
 Trista Conley, South Shore
 Grace Dennis, Lexington
 Elijah Dillon, Ironton, OH
 Anna Gentile, Greenup
 Elijah Gentile, Greenup
 Trevor Kleinman, Ironton, OH
 Evan Koerper, Ironton, OH
 Garrett Leach, Ashland
 Katherine Seplman, Versailles
 Robert Whitlock, Ashland
 Evan Yongue, Ashland

Sydney Mullins Scholarship

McKinnley Martin, Langley

Thomas B. Bright, Jr. Scholarship

Gabriel Hall, Irvine
 Makenna Lanham, Union
 Isaac McCants, Bagdad

Thomas D. Urmston Scholarship

Kyla Soard, Paris

Vengu Family Memorial Scholarship

Sara Swanigan, Georgetown

Viola Phillips Scholarship

Jae-Leigh Bates, Jenkins

W.O. Davis Memorial Scholarship

Jeri Ireland, Lexington

2023 GRASSROOTS BLACK LEADERSHIP AWARDS

HONORING LEXINGTON TRAILBLAZERS



The Lexington Black Prosperity Initiative celebrated Black community members leading positive change with its 2023 class of Grassroots Black Leadership Awards honorees.

This award was initiated in 2021 to celebrate and invest in individuals on the frontlines leading the vital work of addressing racial equity, disparities in the Black community and social justice across Lexington. Award winners receive an unrestricted stipend of \$5,000 in recognition of their efforts at the grassroots level to effect change in our community.

“The Lexington Black Prosperity Initiative is honored to recognize these outstanding grassroots leaders who work tirelessly in our community, every day,” said Dr. Tiffany Daniels, D.C., LPBI advisory board co-chair.

The 2023 Grassroots Black Leadership Awards were presented to the following recipients:

SHAWN KA’RON BUMPASE, KENTUCKY BLACK PRIDE

Shawn Ka’Ron Bumpase is the founder of Kentucky Black Pride, an organization that promotes unity, pride, self-awareness and positive visibility within Kentucky’s Black LGBTQIA+ community. An activist for Transgender and Queer People of Color (TQPOC) for decades, he is dedicated to mentoring young TQPOC to strengthen their physical and mental health, educate their families and support networks and demonstrate unlimited possibilities for this community.

“I’m very honored to receive a Grassroots Black Leadership Award. I live in a confused world, where discrimination meets at the road of intersectionality, and my work to help and advocate for the health and well-being of Transgender and Queer People of Color is usually done behind the scenes.”

**KAYLA CHAMBERS-REED,
THE AFRICAN AMERICAN BALLET TROUPE**

Kayla Chambers-Reed, a pre-engineering and SCAPA student at Lafayette High School, is the founder of The African American Ballet Troupe. A ballerina since age 3, Kayla noticed she was often the only dancer of color in her classes. She started The African American

Ballet Troupe in 2022 to help close the racial equity gap in the performing arts and increase diversity in ballet. By providing free ballet classes for traditionally underrepresented and underserved youth, the AABT has already brought ballet into several different Lexington schools and neighborhoods and provided hundreds of children with free dance classes and opportunities to perform for the Lexington community.

Members of the Lexington Black Prosperity Initiative Advisory Committee with GBLA winner Latarika Young.



(from left) Kayla Chambers-Reed, Shawn Ka’Ron Bumpase and Latarika Young

“The African American Ballet Troupe strives to make ballet lessons and

performances accessible to the Black community. We believe that the work of the African American Ballet Troupe is not only enriching the Black Community, but the overall Lexington community as well.”

Latarika Young, Fayette Education Foundation

As a passionate advocate and connector, Latarika Young is dedicated to promoting equity and bridging gaps in Lexington’s Black communities. She is an active member of the Fayette Education

Foundation Board of Directors, carrying out its mission to ensure educational excellence and foster equity for all students in Fayette County Public Schools. She also serves as a technology advisor to the Black Male Working Academy, Inc. (BMWA), which strives to unlock the potential for excellence within African American males through education, motivation and activation. A product of Lexington’s north side, Latarika’s dedication to servant leadership is made clear by her work as a volunteer and board member of the North Lexington YMCA, and her decade-long service on the Bryan Station High School IT Academy Advisory Board mentoring students at her high school alma mater.

“Being a servant leader in Lexington and doing my part to help our community move forward is something that’s always been very important to me and my family. I take immense pride in witnessing the success of my community.”



Hear more from the honorees on the Do Good Radio Hour, available online at bgcf.org/do-good-radio-hour or wherever you get your podcasts.



Learn more about the work of the Lexington Black Prosperity Initiative at 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.

COMMUNITY'S FUND ENRICHING RICHMOND'S HISTORY AND HOPE

Woods Chevrolet. Madison Garage. Low's Discount Drug. The Teen Club. Macie's Upholstery Shop. Eastern School of Hair Design. Andy's Pizza Palace. Cherry's. The Cherry Pit.

If you've lived in Richmond between 1915 and 2023, the building standing at 110 South Second Street has likely played a role in your community experience. For decades, the building has been home to a rotation of staple businesses and as of August 2023, a new staple was added to the long list of Madison County history.



Enrich, a new nonprofit that assists those in active addiction recovery find employment and additional resources, purchased the famed building to utilize the space for this endeavor. Daniel and India Kirstein founded Enrich after noticing the need for a change in their community.

"Dan spent a few years working as a night shift police officer and I worked in foster care," said Kirstein. "We saw people struggling and we felt a burden that 'someone' needed to do something. Eventually, God answered our prayers by showing us we were the people who needed to do something more."

Once the building was purchased, the organization wanted to find a way to honor the history of the beloved building and to honor those the Richmond Community has lost. "The community of Richmond desperately wants to help their fellow community members," said Kirstein. "It's something very evident and beautiful in this community."

That's when the Madison County Community Fund (MCCF) stepped in. "Enrich has captured the values of Richmond, Madison County and the Community Fund," said David Shew of MCCF. "We're thrilled the

opportunity fell into place to invest in a mural on Enrich's building that educates visitors and community members on the history of our city."

The MCCF put forward \$8,000—the total cost of the mural—reminding the community that Richmond has been, and continues to be, a place that loves and cares for their neighbors.

Blue Grass Community Foundation's network of endowed community funds seeks to improve the quality of life in their geography. The Madison County Community Fund believes this support of Enrich is a great step in improving the quality of life in Richmond.

"The Madison County Community Fund's Advisory Board was so excited to be a part of the revitalization of a historic building and support this nonprofit," said BGCF's Director of Community Advancement, Jane Higgins. "Investing in your community fund can create a never-ending source of support for projects and positive change, so we always encourage making your community fund one of your charitable options!"

Planting Seeds in Woodford County

What happens when you give \$88,000 to the women of the Woodford Gardeners Club? Well, they give it right back! When the club sold The Little House, a building in downtown Versailles that housed the club, three club members—Jane Pryor, Pat Young, and Joan Crowe—wanted to ensure the money was being used to impact the community they love.

The club members, now in their 90s, selected nine organizations to receive a gift. The largest contribution, \$48,000, went to the Woodford County Community Fund (WCCF). "It's one of the largest gifts we've ever received," said Joe Graviss, chair of WCCF. "This money is now in our endowed fund, so this gift will last forever."

The three gardeners and their friends can reflect on the years they spent growing flowers and friendships, and when they think about the financial seeds they planted in the WCCF's endowed fund, they'll know they nurtured their neighbors.

And Ms. Crowe wants their goodness to grow. "I hope our gift will encourage others to support the community's endowment," she said.



Woodford Gardeners Club members with Joe Graviss.

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



INSIDE

Alex Simpson's Legacy	1
Splash! Sprayground	2
The Color of Law and Just Action	3
For Your Calendar	3
Scholarships	4
Grassroots Black Leadership Awards	6
Hometown Legacy	7

BGCFyi Editor: Lauren Parsons
BGCFyi Staff Writers: Barbara Fischer
Courtney Turner



Online newsletter:
bgcf.org/BGCFyi

CHARITABLE ASSETS

TODAY

838 FUNDS

\$223 MILLION
TOTAL ASSETS

TOMORROW

\$121.5 MILLION
LEGACY GIFTS
FUTURE ESTATE GIFTS

FROM LISA ADKINS

Our President's Letter

Thanks to you – our fundholders, donors and friends – FY2023 was another record-breaking year for local generosity at BGCF! Contributions for the year exceeded \$46 million and more than \$21 million was awarded in grants. It's no understatement to say we



\$46,219,813

CONTRIBUTIONS IN FY 2023

\$21,099,478

GRANTS AWARDED IN FY 2023

couldn't do it without you. The staff and board at the Community Foundation are truly honored to serve as your partner in philanthropy as we work together to improve the quality of life across Kentucky.

October 1 marked my 14th year as president/CEO of Blue Grass Community Foundation. I feel the same today as I did on October 1, 2009 – serving in this role is a dream come true. Over that time, because of the unparalleled generosity of our community, total assets of the Foundation have increased by almost 800% and half of those dollars are permanently endowed, ensuring critical charitable capital for the future.

Our team finds joy every day in helping people and businesses with their current charitable giving, but we often derive even greater meaning when we help individuals, couples and families with their after-lifetime charitable legacy planning. Alex Simpson led a life filled with joy, passion and meaning. She was charitable from a very young age. Alex left this world far too young at the age of 22, but the charitable legacy she left will impact us, her community and the causes she cared about forever. Be sure to read Alex's story on the cover of this issue of BGCFyi.

Two quick reminders:

1. Please join us for a free, community event, *Color of Law and Just Action: An Evening with the Authors*, Tuesday, October 24, at 6:30pm. Seating is limited, so RSVP promptly for your complimentary ticket. You can find more information on page three.
2. It's Lucky 13! Our 13th annual GoodGiving Challenge launches on Tuesday, November 28, at 9am. Together, we've raised nearly \$20 million through this initiative for local nonprofits. This year we have more matches, challenges and prizes than ever before. Learn more at BGgives.org.

At BGCF, we are here to help you realize your charitable dreams. Reach out if I can ever be of assistance.

Happy Giving!

Lisa Ashner Adkins, JD
President/CEO