

LASTING LEGACY:

THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING, FOREVER.

It isn't often one person has the opportunity, ability and charisma to impact an entire community. It's even more rare for someone to arrive in a small Kentucky town in adulthood and leave an imprint so large that the town now carries his legacy proudly after his passing.

But sometimes, when the cards fall just right, a person can do all of that while also changing the lives of so many.

For Franklin County, that man was George Russell.

George was born in Rome, Georgia, and found his way to the Bluegrass State after he graduated from Abilene Christian University in Texas, and served two years in the Peace Corps in Chile. However, once he arrived, he was a force to be reckoned with.

After planting in Franklin County, George became friends with local financial advisor, and future mayor of Frankfort, Layne Wilkerson, who was serving as chair of the board for the Franklin County Community Fund (FCCF). Through Wilkerson's encouragement and persistence, George's interest was finally sparked.

He quickly became a pillar of the FCCF board, yearning to understand how the community fund worked, the impact it had on the community, and who among his arsenal of connections would best serve the community as a member of the board. Single-handedly, George was responsible for the recruitment of six board members and led by example by putting his whole self into the success of the community fund.

George's love of travel, exploration and knowledge allowed him to take many adventures. From across Kentucky, to Europe, to Kazakhstan and Malawi, to Montenegro and Cambodia, to Kosovo and El Salvador, George was always eager to bring a small

piece of those communities back to the town he called home.

"George's professional work took him to many counties where he experienced the local culture and their communities," said current FCCF board member Wil Rhodes. "These experiences frequently brought back new perspectives and a reinforced love and commitment of his own community of Frankfort. He understood that people were much more powerful as a collective and that belief found a home in the Franklin County Community Fund."

Sadly, George passed suddenly in December of 2022 and for many people in Franklin County, the question became, "What will we do without George Russell's impact?"

Luckily, George answered that question himself.

His generosity and love for his community led him to leave a sizable legacy gift to the Franklin County Community Fund. While there are other planned gifts set to be left to FCCF, George's gift is the first in the community to come to fruition. His gift has made it possible for the community fund to hit almost a quarter of a million dollars in assets, which will impact the Franklin County community for years to come.

"While we acknowledge and appreciate all the contributions that have grown the fund over the past few years, it is legacy gifts that can really make it grow," said board member Harry Carver. "George Russell's inclusion of the fund in his estate planning resulted in our first legacy gift, making a huge difference in the fund's balance. By doing this, George will



keep giving to our community for generations to come."

Your will tells a story – it's a testament to your lifetime of accomplishments, and it ensures your values live on. Your charitable giving reflects your values today, and for George, his gift was only the beginning.

"George was so well known, so deeply committed to his community and so voraciously loved, people have opened funds and given gifts simply because it was important to him," said Blue Grass Community Foundation's Director of Community Advancement Jane Higgins. "We celebrate his life and his legacy by giving back to the community he loved. I've heard many times since his passing, 'I support the Franklin County Community fund because George supported the Franklin County Community Fund.'"

Blue Grass Community Foundation and the Franklin County Community Fund are honored to have been a part of George's story and, even more so, a part of his lasting legacy.

To learn more about how Blue Grass Community Foundation can help you ensure your philanthropic values live on, continue reading on page 7.

BGCF Grants \$500,000 for Accelerating Innovative + Equitable Workforce Pathways

When there's a will, there's a way; for two organizations in Lexington, their pathway will lead to a significant difference in the lives of many Fayette County youth.

With support from the Walton Family Foundation, Blue Grass Community Foundation recently offered a funding opportunity for the development of new programs designed to accelerate innovation and equity in education-to-workforce experiences to better prepare Fayette County students in grades 6-12 for in-demand, high-wage employment opportunities.

Jubilee Jobs and the Black Male Working (BMW) Academy were jointly awarded a grant of \$500,000 to be dispersed over two years for their new collaborative initiative, "Innovate to Elevate," a program designed to bridge the educational and professional performance gap prevalent among young men of color.

Through innovative workforce development curriculum, VR technology, career simulations and mentorships from leading voices in the Lexington community, the initiative seeks to empower young African American men for successful careers in a 21st-century workforce.

"Jubilee Jobs is incredibly excited for BGCF's and Walton Family Foundation's monumental investment in the 'Innovate to Elevate' initiative," said Jubilee Jobs CEO Mason King. "With these funds, Jubilee Jobs and BMW Academy are set to launch impactful initiatives like virtual reality career exploration and the Youth Chamber of Commerce trip, to broaden the opportunity horizon and engage Lexington's youth. We believe that the future of Central Kentucky's workforce lies in the great potential of our young neighbors, and we are eager to actualize that potential over the next two years."

"BMW Academy and Jubilee Jobs of Lexington are so excited and are looking forward to working together in making a difference in the lives

of the young people in our city," said Roz Akins, executive director of the Black Male Working Academy. "This awesome grant that is being sponsored by the Walton Foundation and Blue Grass Community Foundation is going to set a new course in workforce development in helping young people understand the difference between a job and a career. We hope that through this grant, we will educate, motivate and activate the potential for excellence that lies within every person who participates in this grant!"



With a combined vision, the collaborative initiative seeks to redefine the future for African American males in Fayette County. The new program will directly benefit 175 participants in the Black Male Working Academy, as well as an additional 500 Fayette County students of color, regardless of gender, who will have access to some of the more broadly offered resources.

Commerce Lexington is also a project partner and will serve as a bridge, connecting students with Lexington's

business community. They are sponsoring a Youth Chamber of Commerce trip that was birthed through this joint initiative and their involvement ensures the project is rooted in real-world applications and future-forward strategies.

The requests for proposals (RFP) for BGCF's Accelerating Innovative + Equitable Workforce Pathways Grant were designed by a community-based team that represented a wide cross-section of organizations and professionals working in the education and workforce development sectors. The RFP team also included college and high school students. After receiving 13 applications eligible for consideration, an independent, intergenerational, community-based Grant Review Committee evaluated the grant proposals and made the final award recommendation.

To hear more from Mason King, listen to his interview on our Do Good Radio Hour podcast, available wherever you stream your podcasts, or on our website at bgcf.org/do-good-radio-hour.



BARBARA FISCHER: Retiring after 24 years of Doing Good at BGCF

"Puzzle Lunch" is a famed Blue Grass Community Foundation tradition. Most days, between noon and 1p.m., BGCF staff members remove plants from a back table in the office, pull up a chair, and eat together – all while completing the daily *New York Times* crossword. For newcomers, Puzzle Lunch can be intimidating! As a team effort, each staff member has their specialty: Scott covers sports, Kristen covers music and foreign language, Zach covers geography (most days).

However, there is one person on the staff who knows just enough of everything to dominate even the hardest clue. It's common to hear a small debate about an answer before she quietly, yet confidently, says the correct answer and shuts down any doubts. For Barbara Fischer, she covers it all.

That is a very simple way to summarize Barbara's time at BGCF – she has covered it all.

When she started working at the Community Foundation 24 years ago, she was surprised to have been asked to join the team. "Susanna Creek, BGCF's first director, called me in 2000 when I was working at the Lexington Philharmonic and asked me if I wanted to interview for a job as her assistant," Barb said. "I guess I was head-hunted. I still don't know how she got my name and number; I'd never even heard of BGCF! But it was one of the luckiest things that ever happened to me."

Barb quickly became a staple at the Community Foundation and eventually became the director of nonprofit services, serving as the liaison between BGCF and Kentucky nonprofits. As the longest-serving staff member in BGCF history, Barb has seen a lot of change and credits president/CEO Lisa Adkins for the immense impact the Community Foundation has had on its service areas.

"When I started on March 1, 2000, BGCF had 50 funds and \$10 million in assets. When Susanna started five years earlier, there was only one fund and just a few million dollars, if that!" Barb said. "The Community Foundation continues to grow exponentially, and not just in assets. Thanks to Lisa's vision, BGCF has expanded its role in the community to become a real force for social justice."

But one thing has remained the same: the love of our community Barb has dedicated so much time to. "I've always felt like working for BGCF gave me the opportunity to be a part of such a force for good. BGCF touches every part of our community and tries to make it better. BGCF's wide reach is also what made working here so interesting—there is always something new to learn, and BGCF empowers staff to explore what interests us."

Now, Barb has decided to give up her spot at the Puzzle Lunch table and join the world of retirement. As an avid reader, quilter and adventurer, she is excited to have more time to dedicate to a slower lifestyle. However, she is still going to be committing much of her time to doing good in her community.

"Did you ever see that cartoon, If Dogs Could Talk?" Barb asked. "Turns out, all the dog says is, 'Squirrel!' and then when another one catches its eye, 'Squirrel!' Right now, I'm in that squirrel phase of running



after everything that catches my eye. I've joined two book clubs, reconnected with neighbors and old friends, and joined a local group to explore solutions to homelessness in Woodford County. And naps. Naps are awesome."

"It's a joy to celebrate Barbara and her 24-year legacy of service to Blue Grass Community Foundation and the many communities, organizations and people we touch," said Lisa. "As BGCF's longest tenured staff member, Barbara has made an indelible impact, from providing excellent service to nonprofits, donors, grantees, charitable fundholders, corporate partners, city government and national foundations to compelling storytelling. Over the years, Barb contributed to almost every aspect of BGCF's work, helping us grow and expand our impact. Beyond her professional accomplishments, Barbara's ability to do good is grounded in her deep reservoir of kindness, compassion and selfless service. While her time at BGCF has concluded, all of us who know Barb and enjoyed the privilege of working alongside her know that her journey of making a difference is far from over. Barbara will always be a member of the Blue Grass Community Foundation family."

"I've always felt like working for BGCF gave me the opportunity to be a part of such a force for good."

— Barbara Fischer

Blue Grass Community Foundation is a better organization because of the love and devotion provided by Barbara Fischer. We will continue to cheer her on as she takes on new projects, new adventures and new ways to do good.

As for Barb, "I'm going to miss the people! I have met so many wonderful, inspiring people doing such good work. I'll especially miss my co-workers and the fun we had together. And, it goes without saying, I will miss Kristen's treats...

...and Puzzle Lunch."



2023 BY THE NUMBERS



MAJOR UNDERWRITERS

Clark County Community Foundation*	\$ 255,000
Murry Foundation	\$ 100,000
Outlaw State of Kind Hometown Fund*	\$ 100,000
Marksbury Family Foundation	\$ 60,000
James A. and Martha R. Brown Charitable Foundation	\$ 50,000
MacAdam Family Foundation*	\$ 25,000
Thomas R. Bryant Jr. & Betty R. Bryant Fund*	\$ 25,000
Jenna and Mathew Mitchell Family Foundation*	\$ 25,000
Hudson-Ellis Fund*	\$ 20,000
Traditional Bank	\$ 15,000
Evangelos "Angel" Levas Foundation*	\$ 15,000
THE GROOVALUATION*	\$ 11,111
Mason Investments	\$ 10,000

*at Blue Grass Community Foundation

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

HIGHLIGHTS



\$13,601

Average Raised Per Nonprofit



\$160

Average Gift Size



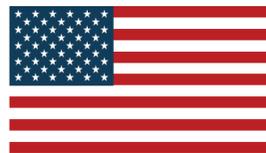
\$186,642

Most Money Raised In One Hour

THE GEOGRAPHY OF GIVING



81 Kentucky Counties



48 States & District of Columbia



Australia



Canada



Scotland



Spain



Switzerland



United States

TOTAL RAISED \$2.67 MILLION



Our amazing community of givers once again rallied in support of local nonprofits during the 13th annual GoodGiving Challenge, raising nearly \$2.7 million for 195 local nonprofits in just four days!

Created and hosted by Blue Grass Community Foundation and Smiley Pete Publishing, the GoodGiving Challenge is all

about connecting charitable individuals, families and businesses with local nonprofits.

The magic happens through matching incentives and our online giving platform at BGGives.org, where donors can give to multiple organizations at once. The year-over-year success of the challenge proves when giving is made simple, rewarding and fun, people respond with enthusiasm!

Lisa Adkins, president/CEO of Blue Grass Community Foundation, shared, "Building greater community generosity is at the heart of what we do. The GoodGiving Challenge is just one way we demonstrate that being philanthropic is impactful and rewarding, no matter whether you are giving \$10,000 or \$10."



Celebrating 13 Years and \$23 Million Raised!

Since its start in 2011, the GoodGiving Challenge has raised \$23 million for local nonprofits. With over 11,700 gifts made, the 13th annual GoodGiving Challenge raised \$2.67 million, supporting 195 local nonprofits across 14 counties in Central and Appalachia Kentucky.

From health and human services to education and youth development, there was a cause for everyone to champion. "Raising \$2.67 million in just four days was the perfect way to end 2023,"



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."

Highlighting the Stars: Community Response Coalition of Kentucky, Inc.

This year's top fundraising charity was Community Response Coalition of Kentucky, Inc., raising an impressive \$71,427.73, including matches and prizes. Dominique Olbert, president of CRCKY's board of directors, shared, "CRCKY is deeply grateful for the GoodGiving Challenge. It is a profoundly powerful way for small nonprofits to become better known and expand their fundraising, with relatively little expense and time. The GoodGiving Challenge has been truly transformational for CRCKY, allowing us to fund new programs and staffing."



Matches and Prizes: Amplifying the Impact

"The 2023 GoodGiving Challenge featured over \$700,000 in matching prizes that increased gifts by as much as 50% to 100%," said Lisa. "The challenge wouldn't have the impact it does without our funding partners."

Each day of the challenge offered multiple opportunities to amplify gifts with matches and prizes, thanks to sponsors like Independence Bank. Stacy Schanher Berge, Independence Bank's Lexington president, says, "BGCF's mission aligns with Independence Bank's motto of 'Here for Good,' so we knew right away we wanted to support the GoodGiving Challenge, and we wanted to make it fun! Our team enjoyed collaborating with BGCF to design a creative game of Plinko that awarded a prize to a nonprofit assisting with fundamental human needs. The GoodGiving Challenge is a great way to support local nonprofits and spread the spirit of generosity, and have fun doing it!"

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for the 14th annual GoodGiving Challenge, set to take place from Giving Tuesday, December 3 through Friday, December 6. Registration for the 2024 GoodGiving Challenge opens on June 3. Area nonprofits eager to participate can find more information at bgcf.org/goodgivingchallenge.



If you're interested in incentivizing giving through sponsorship or other funding opportunities, reach out to BGCF President/CEO Lisa Adkins at ladkins@bgcf.org or 859.225.3343. Let's continue spreading cheer, making a positive impact, and building a stronger, more generous community together!



NEW CHARITABLE FUNDS

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

These new charitable funds were established between January 1 and December 31, 2023. Please join us in welcoming them to our BGCF community of givers!

A Sense of Place Endowment
 A Sense of Place: Remembering and Celebrating our Historic Fayette County Hamlets Fund
 Alexandra Hudson Simpson Memorial Fund
 Apiary Arts Fund
 The Baker's Dozen Dames Fund
 Berry L. and Susan M. Popp Fund
 The Billie Sue Crowe Lucas Charitable Fund
 Black Yarn Fund
 Blanton Family Foundation*
 Blue Grass Scholars Assistance Fund
 Bluegrass Parkinson's Alliance Endowment
 Bluegrass Parkinson's Alliance Fund
 The Bob and Bonnie Hall Employee Assistance Fund
 Cannady Charitable Fund
 Charitable Causes of the Commonwealth Fund
 Chris Mizeur Memorial Charitable Fund
 Clark County Equity Coalition Fund
 Clay Ingels Charitable Endowment Fund
 Clay-Ingels Employee Hardship Fund
 The D. Michael Richey and Susan Richey Donor Advised Fund
 Dorothy Heist Noll Fund
 Drew and Mary Ellen McNeill Ministry Fund
 Eastern Wildlife Conservation Coalition Fund
 The Eaves Foundation
 Gene and Mary Ann Burch Legacy Fund*

Georgetown-Scott County Friends of the Parks Endowment
 The Hall Family Foundation
 Harville/Griffith Charitable Fund
 The Herb Riddle Dental Fund
 Hound Welfare Endowment Fund
 It's Time Lexington Fund
 J.S. Pumphrey Family Charitable Fund
 The James A and Martha R Brown Charitable Foundation Fund for CKYO Community Programs
 The Janet and Robert Weber Family Foundation
 Jay and Carolyn Jones Charitable Foundation*
 Jessamine County Public Library Foundation
 John and Karen Cosby Designated Fund
 John Michael Rollins Family Foundation
 Jordon C. Ellis Fund for Arts and Healing
 Keefe Memorial Educational Fund
 Kentucky Heartwood Endowment Fund
 Kentucky Heartwood Fund
 Kentucky Horse Council Endowment
 Kentucky Student Council Association Fund
 Kiwanis Club of Frankfort Legacy Endowment
 The Ku'uipo Manu Fund*
 Lewis and Harriet Hayden Memorial Scholarship*
 Lewis Family Fund
 LexEngage Fund
 LGBTQ Defense and Education Fund

Light Up Racing Fund
 Linda and Hank Everman Scholarship Fund*
 LOVE Coalition Fund
 Marty and Jeorgette Vanzant Foundation*
 Mary Alice "Maggie" Coleman Griffis Foundation
 O. Daniel Wilds Memorial Endowment
 The Odyssey Farm Fund*
 Parks Sustainable Funding Fund
 Pewitt/McChesney Foundation
 Phoenix Park Reimagined Fund
 Positive Light in Someone's Situation Fund
 Ride the Whole Horse Foundation
 Robert Henry Hughes Scholarship Fund
 Ronald G. and Evelyn B. Waincott Designated Fund
 Seton Catholic School Education Opportunities Endowment Fund
 Stivers Family Foundation
 Susan O'Daniel Charity Fund*
 Swim with Purpose: Building Connections Building Community Fund
 Together We Grow
 The Tom Byrd and Lila Gray Griffin and Dillard Griffin Charitable Fund
 United Way of the Bluegrass WayPoint Centers Endowment Fund
 Versailles Downtown Revitalization Project Fund
 Visually Impaired Preschool Services Endowment for Central and Eastern Kentucky
 Vollet Family Charitable Foundation
 *Legacy Fund

YOUR CHARITABLE LEGACY

LONG LIVE YOUR VALUES

"If you're going to live, leave a legacy. Make a mark on the world that can't be erased."

— MAYA ANGELOU

Your estate plan tells the story of what you value most, and Blue Grass Community Foundation can ensure the charitable causes you care about will receive your support long into the future.

Legacy Giving at BGCF is as easy as one, two, three!

01

TALK TO US. As experts in charitable giving, we will lead a discussion to identify the causes you want to support, the way you want to support them, and how long you want your support to last.



02

CREATE YOUR LEGACY FUND. Based on the results of our discussion, we'll create a customized legacy fund that provides BGCF with specific guidelines on how the charitable component of your estate should be distributed. And, if you already have a charitable fund at BGCF, we can amend its succession plan to connect with your Legacy Fund.



03

DIRECT CHARITABLE RESOURCES FROM YOUR WILL OR TRUST TO BGCF. With some simple language, everything in your estate intended for charitable purpose will come to your Legacy Fund at BGCF. For example:

"I give to Blue Grass Community Foundation _____ (percent, dollar amount, residual and remainder, or specific tangible item). This gift is to be added to the _____ Fund."



SIMPLE, EASY AND ADAPTABLE.

- Since everything charitable from your estate will come to your Legacy Fund, you will never need to change this portion of your will or trust document again.
- You can make changes to your Legacy Fund any time, at no cost to you.

TYPICAL INSTRUCTIONS IN A LEGACY FUND.

- In most cases, Legacy Funds direct charitable resources in the following ways:
- Immediate deposit into another charitable endowment at BGCF, such as a scholarship, a nonprofit endowment or one of our Community Funds.
 - Immediate pass-through to named organizations.
 - Over a period of time (e.g., five years).
 - In perpetuity through the establishment of a permanent endowment.
 - Or, your plan can be a combination of any or all of the above options!

MANY OPTIONS. ONE FUND.

BGCF can provide many customizable options to simplify your giving – both during and after your lifetime.

- Contact Halee Cunningham, BGCF's General Counsel/ Director of Gift Planning, at halee@bgcf.org or 859.225.3343 to get started.**



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 _____



Contact Jane Higgins, Director of Community Advancement at 859.225.3343 or jhiggins@bgcf.org

499 East High Street • Suite 112 • Lexington, KY 40507 / 859.225.3343 / bgcf.org



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.

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



Blue Grass Community Foundation creates more generous, vibrant, equitable 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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! BGCF365: THE FINALS MAY 8 @ THE MELODEON DO GOOD. CREATE CHANGE. HAVE FUN!

Join BGCF365, Blue Grass Community Foundation's initiative uniting philanthropists for positive change in Lexington. Give \$365, a dollar a day, to collectively impact Fayette County. Members meet quarterly to learn about important community issues. Once a year, they select a grant theme, solicit program proposals from Lexington nonprofits and vote on how to support those programs. This year's theme is "Connecting Communities to Resources," and on May 8, members will hear from three nonprofits and vote on \$30,000 in grants for initiatives breaking down barriers for members of our community. Since 2018, BGCF365 has awarded \$150,000 to Lexington nonprofits.



Join us! Become a member at bgcf.org/BGCF365 and enjoy 365 days of fun and impact!

FROM LISA ADKINS

Our President's Letter

Blue skies, warm weather and flowers blossoming everywhere! This spring issue of BGCFyi, our first of 2024, is the perfect opportunity to both look back and spring forward. As we closed out 2023, BGCF celebrated several milestones, including an all-time high for total charitable assets of more than \$246 million, and the retirement of BGCF's longest-serving employee, Barbara Fischer.

Another highlight is the 74 new charitable funds that joined the BGCF family of givers, including several legacy funds. Incorporating charitable giving into your estate plan is easy with the help of BGCF. You can read about George Russell's impactful legacy gift to the Franklin County Community Fund on page 1, and we hope it inspires you to give us a call. We'd be honored to partner with you to ensure your values live on, long into the future.

Your ever-growing generosity is nurturing programs across the Bluegrass and Appalachia, including the Accelerating Innovative + Equitable Workforce Pathways grants; inspiring the next generation of givers through BGCF365; and planting seeds of possibility for hundreds of nonprofits thanks to the GoodGiving Challenge and the \$23 million it's raised over the past 13 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 or 859.225.3343. We look forward to working together to make our community bloom!

Lisa Ashner Adkins, J.D.
President/CEO