

FROM PARKING LOT TO PUBLIC TREASURE: Philanthropy Built Gatton Park



On August 23, Lexington officially opened Gatton Park on the Town Branch, a 12-acre, privately funded, nonprofit-managed public park that transformed the site of a former Rupp Arena parking lot into a world-class green space. Designed by renowned landscape architecture firm Sasaki, the park features an outdoor amphitheater, a children's play area, a dog park, native plant gardens and a restored section of Town Branch Creek—Lexington's original water source.

More than a park, Gatton Park is a symbol of transformation: reclaiming buried history, repurposing space and restoring natural beauty to the heart of the city.

From Buried Creek to Community Catalyst

Lexington was founded 250 years ago along the Town Branch, and its growth was powered by the creek's fresh water and milling capacity. But by the 1800s, the stream had become polluted and flood prone. In the 1930s, it was buried in an underground culvert, hidden beneath concrete and asphalt for nearly a century.

That forgotten stream now flows once again.

The idea to "daylight" Town Branch gained momentum with the Town Branch Commons project, a multi-use trail system tracing the creek's path through downtown. When the Central Bank Center expansion freed up a nearby parking lot, local leaders saw a chance to create not just a park, but a statement about reclaiming Lexington's past and shaping its future.

BGCF: Laying the Groundwork for Giving

Blue Grass Community Foundation played a key role in bringing Gatton Park to life. As the project's fiscal sponsor, BGCF provided the charitable infrastructure needed to raise funds and build early momentum before the park became an independent nonprofit.

"Fiscal sponsorship is one way we help visionary ideas take root," said Lisa Adkins, BGCF president/CEO. "For years, Gatton Park existed only on paper, but we believed in its promise. We're honored to have supported its transformation and proud to underwrite the Gatton Park donor recognition wall, which permanently honors the generosity behind this remarkable project."

Today, BGCF sponsors dozens of community initiatives across Central and Appalachia Kentucky, offering administrative support, financial oversight and donor confidence while projects grow toward independence.

"Our role is to help build the bridge from inspiration to impact," said Lisa. "And Gatton Park is a perfect example of what's possible when community leadership and philanthropy come together."

Gatton Park: Powered by Philanthropy

The park is named in honor of Carol Martin "Bill" Gatton, a local philanthropist whose \$14.5 million gift secured the park's completion and long-term sustainability. Additional support from businesses, foundations, families and more than 16,000 community members helped shape the park's design and programming.

"This park is a celebration of Lexington's heritage and a gift to its future," said Allison Lankford, CEO, Gatton Park and Conservancy, and former VP/advancement at BGCF. "The Community Foundation was with us from day one, and we're incredibly grateful for its belief in this project and the support when we needed it most."

A Park for Everyone + A Model for Community Giving

Gatton Park includes limestone-lined creek beds, water-powered play structures, native gardens and an amphitheater designed to host national acts. It also connects more than 22 miles of bike and pedestrian trails, linking downtown to surrounding neighborhoods and green spaces. During construction, crews uncovered a stone wall dating to 1790. Its stones were reused in the restored streambed, blending the city's history into a thoroughly modern park.

Now open to the public, Gatton Park on the Town Branch is more than a destination. It's a testament to what we preserve, what we restore and what we build together.

At BGCF, we believe in the power of local giving to drive bold change. We're proud to have helped shape this new chapter for downtown Lexington, and proud that Gatton Park will stand as a lasting reminder of what community philanthropy can achieve.

To learn more about BGCF's fiscal sponsorship program, contact

Brian Dineen at bdineen@bgcf.org.

To make a gift to the Gatton Park Conservancy Endowed Fund at BGCF, visit www.bit.ly/GattonPark.



CELEBRATING THE 2025 GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP AWARDS RECIPIENTS



The Lexington Black Prosperity Initiative (LBPI), a community-advised committee of Blue Grass Community Foundation, honored four exceptional individuals at the 2025 Grassroots Leadership Awards reception in May.

Now in its fourth year, the Grassroots Leadership Awards celebrate Lexingtonians who are creating meaningful change through hands-on leadership and community service to the Black community. This year’s recipients exemplify grassroots leadership in action by meeting community needs with compassion, commitment and deep local knowledge.

The awards are a core component of the Lexington Black Prosperity Initiative’s commitment to investing in local leadership. Unlike grants directed to organizations, these awards recognize individuals whose grassroots work is often underfunded, but deeply impactful. Each honoree or team receives an unrestricted \$5,000 award in recognition of their ongoing, on-the-ground efforts to uplift Lexington’s Black community.

“The Grassroots Leadership Awards were created to shine a light on those doing essential work in our communities, often without formal titles or institutional backing,” said Christian Motley, LBPI chair. “These individuals embody the kind of leadership that builds trust, changes lives and strengthens neighborhoods from the inside out.”

Each year, LBPI invites the community to join in this celebration of leadership, service and vision. The May 13 reception brought together family, friends, community members and past recipients to celebrate this year’s honorees and their ongoing impact across Lexington.



To learn more about the Lexington Black Prosperity Initiative, visit bgcf.org/LBPI

COMMUNITY EVENTS SPOTLIGHT HISTORY, REDLINING AND RESILIENCE

In celebration of Black Philanthropy Month, Blue Grass Community Foundation hosted two powerful community events exploring the legacy of systemic racism and the strength of Lexington’s Black communities.



TANYA S. CLARK

Tanya S. Clark, co-founder of the West End Community Empowerment Project of Lexington (WECEP), has spent more than 30 years working with youth and families to foster education, mentorship and personal growth. Through programs like WECEP’s

Sankofa University, she helps provide academic support and cultural enrichment for young people, nurturing the next generation of leaders.



DORA M. HUDSON

Fellow WECEP co-founder Dora M. Hudson was recognized for her decades of grassroots leadership. A retired VA Hospital nurse, Dora has devoted her post-clinical life to empowering Lexington’s West End. Inspired to act after witnessing violence in her neighborhood, she has remained committed

to supporting youth and families through mentorship, outreach and WECEP’s community-centered programming. Her work is rooted in faith, service and a belief in the power of transformation through love and structure.



CHRISTINE ELIZABETH SMITH

Christine Elizabeth Smith, executive director of Seedleaf Inc., is helping lead a community-wide movement around food justice and sustainability. Under her leadership, Seedleaf’s urban gardens provide fresh produce through free u-pick locations and job training programs for youth. Her approach

emphasizes access, dignity and neighbor-to-neighbor connection through growing and sharing food.



REBECCA WEBB

Rebecca Webb is the co-founder and executive director of Community Inspired Lexington, where she has spent more than a decade creating safe, enriching spaces for youth and families. The organization’s free summer camp offers children educational, social and emotional support, while its monthly food pantry now serves more than

100 families. Rebecca’s work emphasizes mentorship, skill-building and partnerships that support long-term growth.

On August 26, a sold-out audience packed the Kentucky Theatre for a screening of *Lexington: Resilience in the Redline*, a feature-length documentary from Black Yarn. The film traced the impact of redlining and disinvestment in Lexington’s Black neighborhoods and celebrated the resilience, creativity and leadership that continue to shape those neighborhoods, and the city as a whole, today.

GIVE 8/28 LEX DOUBLES DOWN FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT



final hours of the campaign.

“Give 8/28 Lex was a powerful celebration of our community’s collective generosity and the incredible work of Lexington’s Black-serving nonprofits,” said Christian Motley, LBPI chair. “Every gift made on 8/28 was an investment in organizations that are strengthening families, supporting youth, expanding opportunity and building a more prosperous Lexington for all.”

The second annual Give 8/28 Lex campaign proved that collective generosity can create powerful, lasting impact. On August 28, BGCF and LBPI brought the community together to raise \$234,956 in support of 40 Black-serving nonprofits in Fayette County.

Give 8/28 Lex is part of the national Give 8/28 movement, a coordinated day of giving held during Black Philanthropy Month to honor the legacy of Black generosity and uplift organizations serving Black communities. The date of August 28 holds deep historical significance, marking milestones in Black history including the March on Washington in 1963 and the ratification of the 13th Amendment in 1865.

Give 8/28 Lex rallied hundreds of donors to support a broad range of nonprofits doing vital work in the areas of youth development, education, food justice, housing, public health, community safety and more.

The 2025 campaign doubled down on last year’s efforts—with twice as many

participating nonprofits, twice the amount of matching funds and twice the dollars raised. In 2024, Give 8/28 Lex raised \$120,000 for 26 organizations. This year, 40 nonprofits received support, fueled by more than \$100,000 in matching funds and prizes that boosted the impact of every donation. Matching gifts were made possible by the Lexington Black Prosperity Initiative, Blue Grass Community Foundation, Back Black and several generous anonymous donors.

Throughout the day, participating nonprofits engaged their networks with storytelling, social media campaigns and community outreach to mobilize support. A full slate of hourly prizes and dollar-for-dollar matching opportunities helped build excitement and drive donor participation from early morning until the



To learn more about the Lexington Black Prosperity Initiative or to support future campaigns like Give 8/28 Lex, visit bgcf.org/LBPI.

Then a few weeks later, on September 19, BGCF sponsored Food for Thought at The Apiary, a special evening of dialogue and shared learning inspired by the film. Attendees enjoyed dinner and conversation with community leaders, scholars and residents, discussing the historical forces explored in the documentary and the work ahead to build a more equitable Lexington.

Both events underscored BGCF’s ongoing commitment to opportunity, education and community-led change.



FROM FUDGE TO PHILANTHROPY:

DAHLHUS FUDGE HAS SWEET TREATS, AND AN EVEN SWEETER MISSION



What began as a Friendsgiving sweet treat has grown into something much bigger—a full-fledged movement to feed kids in need, one piece of fudge at a time.

Twelve years ago, Adam Dahl began making fudge to share with friends over the holidays. His creative fudge flavors quickly became the highlight of their annual celebrations. Encouraged by his wife, Brittany, Adam turned his passion into a business by launching Dahlhus Fudge, a small-batch artisanal fudge shop, online in 2021.

What began in the Lexington Incubator Kitchen soon expanded. In April 2023, Dahlhus Fudge opened a brick-and-mortar shop on Woodland Avenue—just down the street from BGCF.

With a background in advertising, Adam leaned into social media to spread the word, and it worked! His playful TikTok videos earned him more than 10,000 followers and an invitation to join TikTok’s Creator Rewards Program. But instead of pocketing the extra income, Adam saw an opportunity to give back.

As the father of two school-aged daughters, Adam felt compelled to help pay down school lunch debt in Fayette County. Inspired by other

creators across the country, he committed 100% of his TikTok earnings to the cause.

Support started pouring in. “I would have people come into the shop and hand me a \$20 bill, saying ‘This is for the kids,’” Adam recalls. With money coming in through TikTok, Venmo and his fudge shop, Adam needed a way to get the funds in the right hands (and alleviate the accounting headaches).

Enter Blue Grass Community Foundation. Through a connection from Crank & Boom owner Toa Green, Adam partnered with BGCF to create the Dahlhus Fund, a charitable fund dedicated to eliminating local school lunch debt.

Since July 2025, the Dahlhus Fund has already granted more than \$12,000 to pay off outstanding school lunch accounts, ensuring local students can focus on learning, not overdue lunch money.

And Adam’s just getting started. Dahlhus Fudge’s TikTok following continues to grow, and he hosted the first #FeedTheKids 3K in September to raise even more support.

Dahlhus Fudge continues to prove that making a lasting difference in the community doesn’t require a miracle—just creativity, heart and a little bit of fudge!

To learn more about how opening a charitable fund can make a sweet impact in your community, contact contact Scott Fitzpatrick, BGCF VP/Advancement, at sfitzpatrick@bgcf.org.



Scan the QR code to support the Dahlhus Fund.



Or tune into Adam’s story on BGCF’s DoGood Radio Hour, available on Spotify and Apple Podcasts.

SCHOLARSHIPS:

OPENING DOORS TO EDUCATION THROUGH LOCAL GIVING

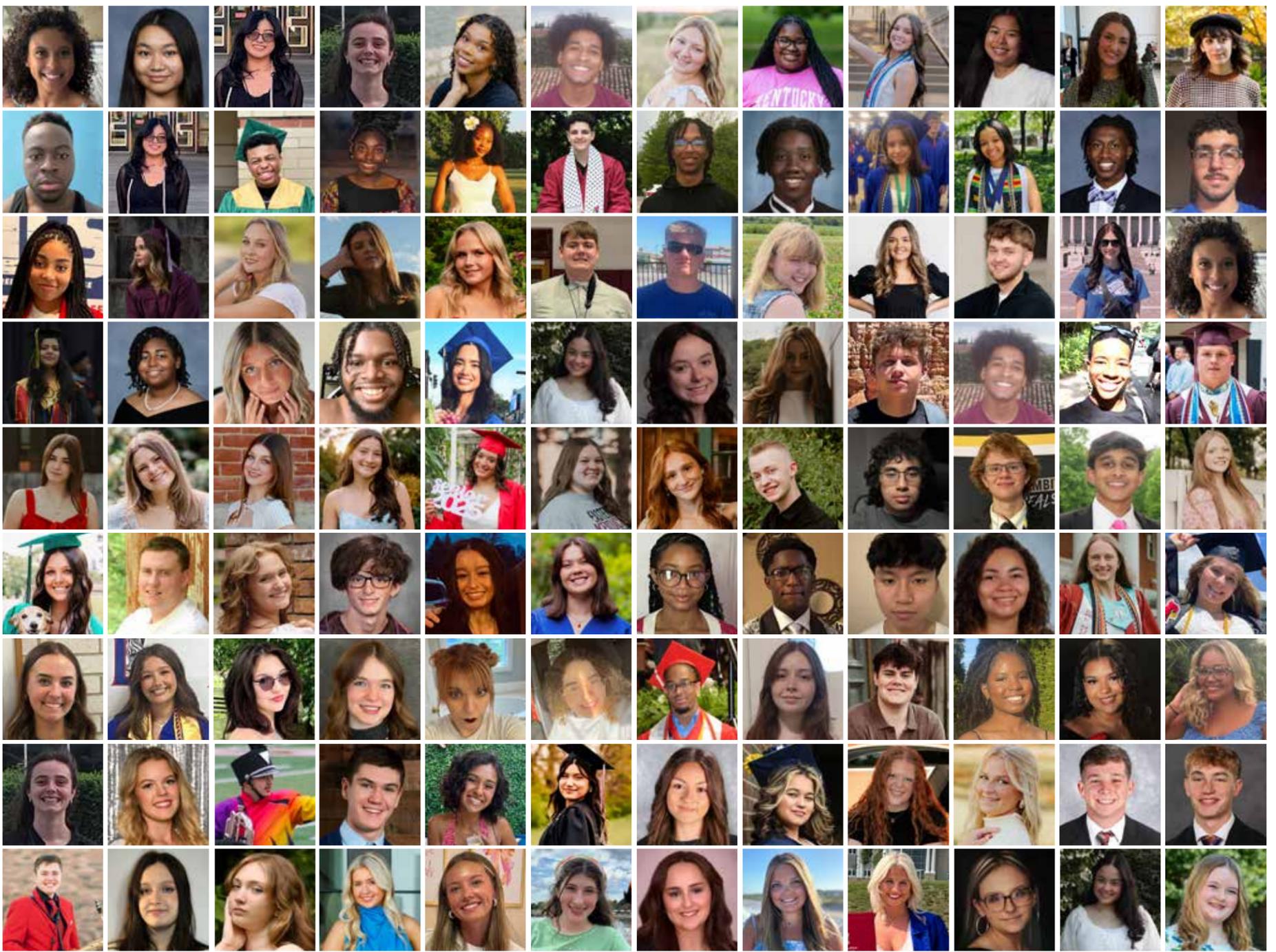
At Blue Grass Community Foundation, we believe that investing in students is investing in the future of our communities. Through the generosity of donors who have established scholarship funds, BGCF is proud to help students across Central and Appalachia Kentucky pursue their dreams of higher education.

BGCF manages more than 50 scholarships, each with varying criteria and award amounts. Each year, we award more than \$500,000 in scholarships to students pursuing two- and four-year degrees, trade and technical programs, and graduate studies. On the opposite page, you’ll find a list of the scholarship funds established at BGCF, along with the students selected to receive support this year.

Our Scholarship Committee is composed of dedicated community volunteers who review hundreds of applications each year, carefully evaluating essays, transcripts, recommendations and financial need to award scholarships in alignment with each fund’s criteria.

The impact of this support is real. Nationally, financial pressure is the number one reason students drop out of college, and nearly 4 in 10 students who start college don’t finish. Scholarships can be the difference between walking away and walking across the graduation stage.

We’re grateful to every donor, advisor and volunteer who helps make these life-changing opportunities possible.



2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

16th District PTA Scholarship

Autumn Hersey, Lexington, KY
 Tristan Jones-Gary, Lexington, KY
 Jackeline Leyva Martinez, Lexington, KY
 Kaylin Medders, Lexington, KY
 Grace Sun, Lexington, KY
 Lily Webber, Lexington, KY

Baird Scholarship

Olivia Strong, Danville, KY

Be the Change Scholarship

Lisa Abrampah, Lexington, KY
 Shristi Adhikari, Lexington, KY
 MonTae Ashford, Lexington, KY
 Prince Boateng, Lexington, KY
 Deena Chhadh, Lexington, KY
 Zakaria Darrat, Lexington, KY
 Brooke Etter, Lexington, KY
 Tameyah Green, Lexington, KY
 Arianna Hurtado, Lexington, KY
 Tyren Harris, Lexington, KY
 Delfin Iteriteka, Lexington, KY
 Elissa Lawnd, Lexington, KY
 Melissa Mapigano, Lexington, KY
 Jackeline Leyva Martinez, Lexington, KY
 Mohammed Srour, Lexington, KY
 Zoey Washington, Lexington, KY
 Jarrell Wilkerson, Lexington, KY
 Amaya Young, Lexington, KY

Buck and Lillie May Patrick Scholarship

Connor Adkins, Salyersville, KY
 Alexandria Allen, Salyersville, KY
 Jackson Arnett, Salyersville, KY
 Addison Gullett, Salyersville, KY
 Emmalee Lemaster, Salyersville, KY
 Avery Preston, Salyersville, KY
 Caleb Russell, Salyersville, KY
 DeAnna Salyer, Salyersville, KY
 Kenley Simpkins, Salyersville, KY
 Abigail Skaggs, Salyersville, KY

CLARK Scholars Scholarship

Autumn Hersey, Lexington, KY
 Saqqara Noble, Lexington, KY
 Mamata Sapkota, Louisville, KY
 Lily Webber, Lexington, KY

Dorothy T. Givens Scholarship

Bryan Falls, Winchester, KY

Dr. Geri Polvino, Russell, Josephine & Mary Foundation Scholarship

Aayusha Regmi, Lexington, KY

Dr. S.O. Sublette Scholarship

Emily Melcher, Versailles, KY

Dr. W.C. McCauley Scholarship

Evelyn Gallegos Pantoja, Versailles, KY

Edith Schwab Memorial Scholarship

Mallory Bane, Tollesboro, KY

Edwin Paul Lyon III Memorial Scholarship

Preston Conley, Salyersville, KY
 Destiny Russell, Salyersville, KY

EKU Gabbard-Hylton Scholarship

Hadley Chester, Berea, KY
 Savannah Davis, Richmond, KY
 Garrett Johnson, Richmond, KY
 Owen Wellinghurst, Richmond, KY

Emma E. Buckley Scholarship

Tristan Jones-Gary, Lexington, KY
 GaBree King, Lexington, KY

George F. Johnson, Jr. Scholarship

James Anthony, Pikeville, KY
 Meghan Bevins, Belfry, KY

Gill-Elliott Scholarship

Chelsea Crisler, Fort Thomas, KY
 Kate Fausz, Fort Thomas, KY
 Alaina Kuhn, Fort Thomas, KY

Howard Edelstein Scholarship

Melek Spurlock, Lexington, KY

Hudson-Ellis Scholarship

Laykin Gatton, Perryville, KY
 Ella Gorley, Gravel Switch, KY
 Rylan Montgomery, Danville, KY
 Tristan Viveros, Danville, KY

Jane Allen Newman Scholarship

Trinity Johnson, Lexington, KY
 Carter Overtom, Lexington, KY
 Shrey Patel, Lexington, KY

Jared E. Banta Legacy Scholarship

Kylie Markin, Frankfort, KY

Jean H. Johnson Scholarship

Gage Hurley, Phelps, KY
 Havanna Scarberry, Stopover, KY

Jennifer Leigh Soper Scholarship

Cameron Herzog, Louisville, KY
 Sarena Sarah Szymaszek, Meriden, CT

Joann McEvoy Frazer Vocal Achievement Award

Sienna Johnson, Lexington, KY

John and Maggie Price Scholarship

Anthoni Gill, Lexington, KY

John G. Heber Scholarship

Jonathan Tshibangu, Lexington, KY
 Leonardo Huynh, Lexington, KY

John T. and Willie Hedges Education Scholarship

Katie Davis, Paris, KY
 Morgan Howell, Paris, KY

Kathryn Owen Veterinary Scholarship

Allison Asherwood, Winchester, KY

King-Barton Scholarship

Addison Roe, Mt. Olivet, KY

Lewis E. Owens Scholarship

Lucas Abney, Irvine, KY
 Madison Combs, Winchester, KY
 Edward Fizette, Cynthiana, KY

Logan Thomas Family Memorial Scholarship

Emily Lutes, Beattyville, KY
 Madison Shouse, Booneville, KY

Loren Richards Elder Care Scholarship

Lauren Anderson, Ransom, KY
 Morgan Perri, Richmond, KY

Lt. Richard Caswell Saufley/George E. Saufley II Scholarship

Joshua Goode, Danville, KY

MacLellan Education Scholarship

Kueper Anthony, Moncks Corner, SC
 Bailey Barnes, Forest, IN
 Ishmael Glover, Tuscaloosa, AL

Monica Combs Memorial Scholarship

Luke Holt, Versailles, KY

Murry Foundation Scholarship

JoNya Jackson, Lexington, KY
 Zoe Patterson, Lancaster, PA

R.L. Brown Foundation Scholarship

Hannah Cline, Owingsville, KY

Robert Henry Hughes Scholarship

Kaylin Medders, Lexington, KY
 Anh Thu Nguyen, Lexington, KY
 Lily Webber, Lexington, KY

Robert Marion and Ethel Keolker Stewart Scholarship

Ella Douglas, Salem, IL

Rosalind Scoggan Pittenger Scholarship

Alex Cadle, Paris, KY
 Joseph Fritsch, Paris, KY

Stephen L. Keller Scholarship

Emely Colchado, Corbin, KY

Steven G. Todd Scholarship

Daniela Ambriz, Winchester, KY

Stewart Family Scholarship

Nathan Cooper, Lucasville, OH
 Ethan Cordle, Minford, OH
 Ella Estep, Lucasville, OH
 Davanna Grubb, Worthington, KY
 Baylee Hammonds, Portsmouth, OH
 Braelyn Maye, South Point, OH
 Landon Rowe, Ironton, OH

Sydney Mullins Scholarship

Amy Amburgey, Minnie, KY

Thomas B. Bright, Jr. Scholarship

Allie Costello, Fountain Run, KY
 Kaylee Fluhr, Shepherdsville, KY
 Caroline Morrison, Glasgow, KY

Tony Turner Memorial Broadcast Scholarship

Shakirah Johnson, Hazard, KY
 Skylar Rife, Stopover, KY
 Kaley Roberts, Manchester, KY

Vengu Family Memorial Scholarship

Taryn Carter, Georgetown, KY
 Lillian Cooper, Georgetown, KY

W.O. Davis Memorial Scholarship

Julia Blackburn, Versailles, KY
 Evelyn Gallegos Pantoja, Versailles, KY

JENNA AND MATTHEW MITCHELL: A LEXINGTON LEGACY, CONTINUED FROM AFAR

For years, Jenna and Matthew Mitchell quietly, and generously, shaped the Lexington community in ways that touch every corner of our city. From supporting beloved local parks to uplifting students, their commitment to making Lexington a better place has been unwavering.

In 2014, they created the Jenna and Matthew Mitchell Foundation at BGCF, a vehicle for giving that has since provided transformative support to countless local organizations. Through this family foundation, the Mitchells have helped launch and grow programs that improve lives, build belonging and expand opportunity.

Their impact is easy to spot. They championed Bluegrass Gives (formerly the GoodGiving Challenge), nurtured Gatton Park as a gathering space for the community, and brought joy to students in Fayette County Public Schools. And during the height of the pandemic, the Mitchells stepped forward to ensure the community had the support it needed.



As a member of Blue Grass Community Foundation's board of directors, Jenna brought insight and leadership that helped shape our work for the greater good.

In 2024, the Mitchells were celebrated as Outstanding Community Honorees at AFP National Philanthropy Day, a well-earned recognition of their enduring commitment to Lexington.

Though they now call Texas home, their love for our community remains strong. Jenna and Matthew Mitchell have shown us that generosity isn't just about gifts; it's about care, presence, and the belief that one family can help lift an entire community.

Thank you, Jenna, Matthew and your family, for continuing to leave a lasting mark on Lexington—one act of generosity at a time.

REMEMBERING RENA BAER: A LIFE OF WORDS AND HEART

Rena Dianne Baer, a gifted writer, advocate and beloved friend of Blue Grass Community Foundation, passed away on July 30 after courageously living with ovarian cancer for two and a half years.

A lifelong storyteller, Rena's journalism career took her from Florida to South Carolina, North Carolina, and finally Lexington, where she launched Rena Baer Communications and contributed her voice to countless local publications and organizations, including BGCF.

Her impact reached far beyond the page. Rena marched for civil rights, organized against gun violence, supported Pride, co-founded Friends of Jacobson Park and gave generously of her time and talents. Even through cancer, she wrote with honesty and grace, offering hope to others facing similar journeys.

Rena is survived by her husband, Eric Mitchell and their son, Matthew. Her legacy lives on through the lives she touched, the stories she told and the causes she championed.



To honor Rena's memory, gifts can be made to the Shannon's Angel Fund at BGCF, supporting women undergoing treatment at the UK Markey Cancer Center. Visit www.bit.ly/shannonsangels



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, Fayette, Franklin, Harrison, Madison, Magoffin, Montgomery, Rowan or Woodford counties, visit our website to learn more about endowed community funds in these counties at bgcf.org/communityfunds.

TWO LIVES, ONE LEGACY OF OPPORTUNITY:

A NEW SCHOLARSHIP FOR WOODFORD COUNTY TRADE STUDENTS

Sometimes through hardships and heartbreak, hope can be found in unexpected places. That is the story of two Woodford County families, forever connected by a shared belief in the importance of skilled trades, and a deep love for their community.

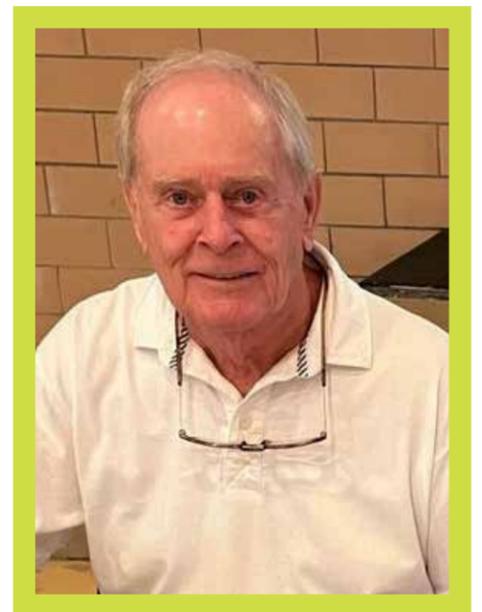
In September 2024, Woodford County mourned the loss of 20-year-old Josiah Timothy Dale. A proud 2022 graduate of Woodford County High School, Josiah discovered his calling in the trades. He went on to graduate from the Building Institute of Central Kentucky as a journeyman electrician and began his career with Jennmar Electric in Winchester. Known for his work ethic and kindness, Josiah's legacy of generosity continued when he gave the gift of life as an organ donor.

Just two months earlier in July 2024, the community also said goodbye to Doug Robinson, a longtime resident, contractor and friend to many. Doug had one wish for his legacy—to provide opportunity for Woodford County students pursuing the trades, just as he had.

Two tragedies. Two grieving families. One shared dream: to see Woodford County graduates build bright futures in the trades.

When Josiah's parents, John and Humaira Dale, began exploring ways to honor their son's memory, their estate attorney reached out to Blue Grass Community Foundation for guidance. At the same time, Doug's advisors were communicating with our team. Through conversations among estate attorneys, advisors and BGCF staff, a new idea took shape. Instead of two separate funds, there could be one scholarship, honoring both Josiah and Doug.

The Josiah Dale Trade School Scholarship was created through the generosity of Josiah's parents and a bequest from Doug Robinson's



estate. Together, these gifts will support Woodford County students with dreams of pursuing vocational and trade programs, for generations to come.

Josiah and Doug walked different paths, but both believed in the dignity of hard work, the value of skilled trades and the promise of Woodford County's young people. Their shared story is a powerful reminder of what's possible when community comes to together around a shared purpose.

To learn more about how you and your neighbors can collaborate to impact your community for years to come, contact Jane Higgins, BGCF's director of community advancement, at janehiggins@bgcf.org.



To make a gift to the Josiah Dale Trade School Scholarship, scan the QR code below.



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

Clark Fayette Franklin Harrison Madison Magoffin Montgomery 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, 2026 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 janehiggins@bgcf.org

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

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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Online newsletter:
bgcf.org/BGCFyi

FROM LISA ADKINS

Our President's Letter



As autumn settles in and winter is just around the corner, we're celebrating a season of unbelievable generosity—thanks to you, our fundholders, donors and friends!

FY2025 was another standout year for local philanthropy at BGCF. You helped contribute more than \$38 million to charitable funds, powering over \$22 million in grants to causes across Central and Appalachia Kentucky. To date, our charitable assets have reached an all-time high of \$301 million, with more than half permanently endowed to ensure that this generosity keeps growing for generations to come.

In this issue, you'll read about donors using their funds to make education more accessible—from the Blue Grass Scholars Assistance Fund, to Dahlhus Fudge's Feed the Kids Fund, to local champions honored by the Lexington Black Prosperity Initiative for their work with Lexington youth. You'll also find a story about the newly opened Gatton Park on the Town Branch, a vision made real through community giving and civic leadership.

And we're sending our heartfelt gratitude to Jenna and Matthew Mitchell, whose generosity continues to uplift Lexington, even as life takes them on a new adventure.

As you begin to think about your year-end giving, know that we're here to help you make the most of it. Whether you're granting from your donor advised fund, starting something new or exploring legacy plans, your giving makes our region stronger, season after season.

Lisa

Lisa Ashner Adkins, JD
President/CEO

FROM GOODGIVING TO GREAT GIVING:



GIVING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2
6AM TO MIDNIGHT • BGGIVES.ORG

Mark your calendar for Bluegrass Gives: a brand-new name for the giving day you know and love!

Formerly the GoodGiving Challenge, this one-day fundraiser for 232 local nonprofits kicks off Giving Tuesday, December 2 at 6 a.m. and runs through midnight. With hundreds of thousands of dollars in

matching funds and prizes, your gift goes further and does more for the causes you care about.



Let's go from good to great. Join us at BGGives.org on December 2 and help make this the biggest giving day yet!