



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF THE HEARTLAND

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear CASA Supporters,

CASA of the Heartland experienced a year of remarkable growth and expansion throughout 2024, all thanks to the dedication of our incredible volunteer advocates, devoted staff, committed board members, community partners, the local courts, the Kentucky CASA Network, and our generous donors. Because of your unwavering support, CASA of the Heartland was able to serve more children than ever before, as we expanded our services to include Meade, Breckinridge, and Grayson Counties. This critical step has allowed us to reach even more vulnerable children in need of a voice in the courtroom.

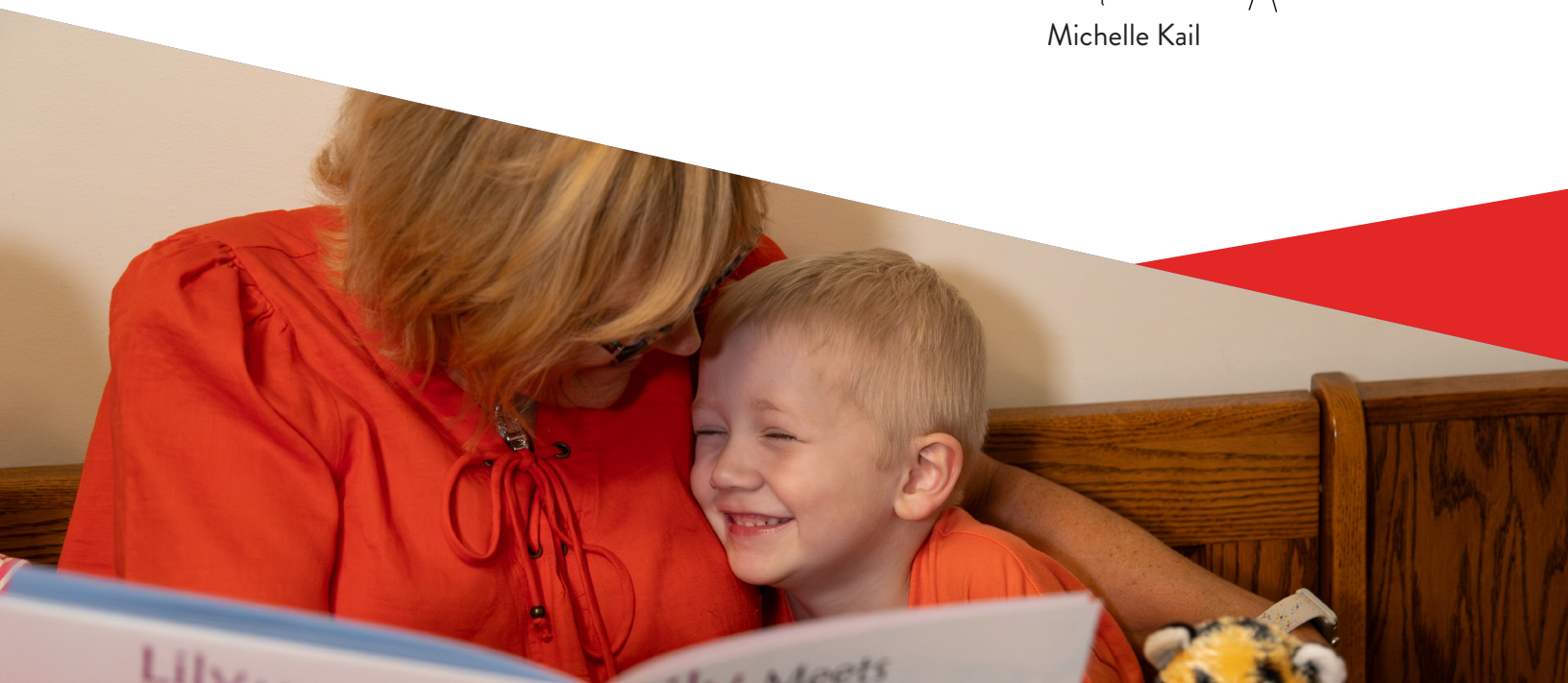
In 2024, CASA of the Heartland proudly **supported 98 volunteers**, who advocated for the best interests of **265 children**. Our volunteers spent over **2,600 hours** providing life-changing advocacy, ensuring that these children had someone standing up for them in the face of increasing child abuse and neglect across the state of Kentucky. The need for our services continues to grow, and we are grateful for the strength and resilience of our volunteers, who have gone above and beyond.

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for standing with us and for believing in the power of advocacy to Change a Child's Story.

Respectfully,



Michelle Kail



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



BOARD CHAIR
Grant Niebuhr
Altec



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Beth Avey
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and Technical College



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Cerity Partners



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Advocate Recruiter



Nilah Ware
Advocate Coordinator



Angela Rafferty
Advocate Coordinator



Stephanie Babcock
Advocate Coordinator



Elizabeth Kail
Advocate Recruiter

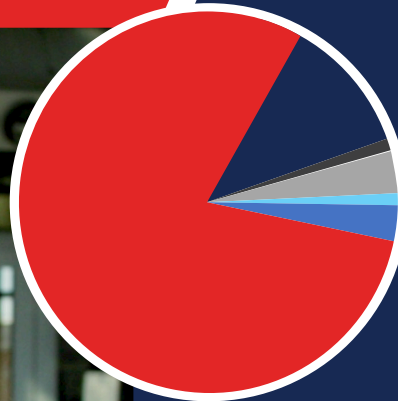
FAST FACTS



VOLUNTEER DEMOGRAPHICS

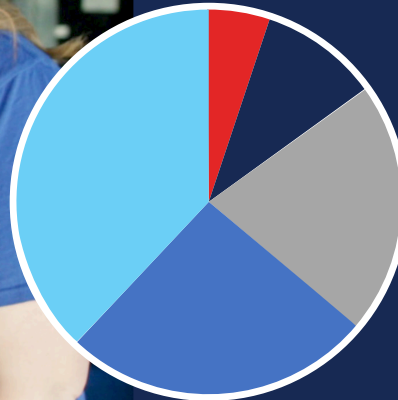
RACE

- White 82%
- Black 13%
- Hispanic 3%
- Two or More Races 3%
- Asian 1%
- Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander 1%



AGE

- 21 - 29 5%
- 30 - 39 15%
- 40 - 49 20%
- 50 - 59 24%
- 60+ 36%



GENDER

- Female 85%
- Male 15%



265 CHILDREN SERVED

60 VOLUNTEERS TRAINED

99 CHILDREN WHO REACHED PERMANENCY

4,429 NUMBER OF SERVICES PROVIDED

2,958 HOURS OF ADVOCACY

31,965 MILES DRIVEN

CHILDREN SERVED

18	LARUE
162	HARDIN
21	MEADE
20	BRECKINRIDGE
44	GRAYSON

*We began serving children in Meade, Breckinridge, and Grayson Counties on August 1, 2024

ASSETS &
LIABILITIES
\$45,825.85

REVENUE
\$678,675.75

Donations	\$174,520.24	26%
Fundraising	\$168,927.29	25%
Grants	\$330,966.24	49%
Other	\$4,261.98	<1%

EXPENSES
\$564,083.85

FUNDRAISING
& EVENTS

2024 Goal: \$175,500.00
2024 Actual: \$168,927.29

Friend of CASA	\$7,767.92
Pinwheel Planting	\$1,250.00
KY Gives Day	\$2,726.15
Summer Blitz	\$7,068.57
Give270 Raffles	\$72,000.00
Giving Tuesday	\$41.63
Light the Night 5K	\$6,952.00
Farm to Fork	\$59,120.00
End of Year Mailer	\$11,439.02
Community Lunch	\$0.00
Movie Fundraisers	\$562.00

96%

SUCCESS STORY

A HEARTFELT SUCCESS STORY: THE JOURNEY OF ADDY AND HER FOREVER FAMILY

Addy entered the foster care system when she was just five years old after her biological parents struggled with domestic violence and substance abuse. Her early years were marked by instability, as she was initially placed with her grandmother. Unfortunately, when her grandmother lost her home, they both moved in with Addy's aunt and uncle, where a new set of challenges emerged. Addy faced neglect and experienced unimaginable trauma, including sexual abuse in this unsafe environment.

Thankfully, CASA became involved and Addy was assigned a dedicated advocate named Michelle. Over time, Michelle built a strong and trusting bond with Addy, which was key to understanding her situation and advocating for her removal from the harmful environment. Through Michelle's consistent advocacy and unwavering commitment, Addy was placed in a loving foster home with her foster mother, Mary, a former military member. In this new home, Addy finally found the stability she desperately needed. Mary, who had no other children, embraced Addy with open arms and provided her with a safe and nurturing environment.

For three years, Addy thrived in Mary's care, and in June 2024, she was officially adopted, marking the beginning of a beautiful new chapter in her life. Michelle, Addy's CASA, attended the adoption ceremony and celebrated alongside Addy and Mary.

Mary's supportive extended family has embraced Addy as one of their own, and she is now thriving in activities such as cheerleading, gymnastics, and dance. Addy has also become deeply involved in her church's youth ministry, and she and Mary share a unique bond that shines through in small, joyful moments—like wearing matching outfits and hairstyles on special occasions.

2024 COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES

ALISON RAY ♥ AMY HOLLINGSWORTH ♥ ANDRIETTE JANSING
ANN STRAND ♥ ANNA DAHL ♥ AUGUST PHILLIPS
BAMBI SNYDER ♥ BERNADETTE BELL ♥ BETTY WALKER
BOBBI JO POOLE ♥ BRENT GRISWELL ♥ CARL MILLSAP
CATHY SCHULTZ ♥ CHERYL BROOKS ♥ CHRISTA BRANGERS
CHRISTINA RIVAS ♥ CINDY TRENT ♥ COURTNEY JOHNSON
CRYSTAL COSTELLO ♥ DANA SONG ♥ DARIL POHLMAN
DAVID MILES ♥ DEBRA CHAVEZ ♥ DEBRA CHILDRESS
DEBRA FARACI ♥ DONNA BROWN ♥ ELIZABETH KAIL
EVELYN SCHNEE ♥ GLYNIS BOND ♥ HEATHER YEAGER
HOPE TUCKER ♥ JAIME FEY ♥ JEANE FORTNER
JENNIFER MABRY ♥ JESSICA CHRISTIE ♥ JESSICA EMBRY
JESSICA WILLIAMS ♥ JESSICA YOUART ♥ JOAN COOKE
JOHN HOUSE ♥ JOHN WHIPPLE ♥ JORDAN ATWELL
JORDANNA PIKE ♥ JOSE TORRES ♥ JOSEPH CHANG
JUDY DAVENPORT ♥ JULIE CARROLL ♥ JULIE QUINN
KATELYNN KERR ♥ KIMBERLY HELSEL ♥ KITTIE SMITH
LAANNA MRAZ ♥ LATISHA BUTLER ♥ LAURA HAMILTON
LAURIE JAGGERS ♥ LAWRENCE HOH ♥ LESA WEIKEL
LESLIE SHARTZER ♥ LISA BALLMAN ♥ LOUISE EATON
LYNETTE MATHIS ♥ LYNN DUMMITT ♥ MANFREDO QUIROS
MARK CHITWOOD ♥ MARSHA SENNINGER ♥ MARY YOUNG
MELISSA MONTGOMERY ♥ MELISSA TORRES ♥ MICHAEL CORLEY
MICHELLE BERGER ♥ MICHELLE KAIL ♥ MISTY WILMOTH
MOLLY DOWERS ♥ NANCYE LYNN ♥ NATALIE CURTIS
NILAH WARE ♥ NOSHIA SAUNDERS ♥ OLIVIA CARNES
OLIVIA DUVALL ♥ PETRA KLINE ♥ QUINTON HIGGINS
RACHEL RIVERA ♥ RENEE DENNISON ♥ ROBERT YOUNG
ROXANNE MILES ♥ SANDRA SHARP ♥ SARAH KELLEY
SHANNON JOHNSTON ♥ SHEILA MEREDITH ♥ SHERRI SEARLES
STACY BIBELHAUSER ♥ STEPHEN SPOHN ♥ SUSAN LIPPMAN
TAMMY EMBRY ♥ THERESA ARMSTRONG ♥ TONIA SAETTEL
VICKI SCHMIDT ♥ VICKI WILSON

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHTS



MELISSA AND JOSE TORRES

Melissa Torres has been a CASA volunteer for five years, after learning about CASA during a dinner engagement. Her husband, Jose, followed in her footsteps a year ago and they now serve as “Team Torres”, a dynamic duo deeply rooted to service in their community. Volunteering together allows them to discuss case specifics, share frustrations, and bounce ideas off each other following a court hearing or visit, in ways they could not if working solo. “We’re always trying to come out with a best case scenario as we serve the kids, so it just works out really well,” said Jose.



CINDY TRENT

In 2018, Cindy Trent attended CASA of the Heartland’s Farm to Fork dinner as a guest and was fascinated by the stories and work presented. She became a CASA volunteer shortly thereafter and encourages others to do the same, especially if volunteering is already on their mind. “Just do it,” she said, “you don’t realize how much these kids mean to you.” Cindy has been impacted by the children she has served in ways she couldn’t imagine, especially when it comes to growing, thriving, and simply doing. “In some ways, they’ve helped me more than I’ve helped them,” she reflects.



HEATHER YEAGER

As a mother of six, Heather Yeager knows how important it is for kids to have a voice in whatever they’re involved with, whether it’s school or sports, or their health and family. She learned about CASA and its mission through commercials and was inspired to become an advocate. “I wanted to provide a voice for other kids,” she said. Heather has been a CASA volunteer for over two years. For her, the best part about volunteering is not only helping children and their families, but also working with her peers and the many others involved in the family court system.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO MEET
MORE OF OUR VOLUNTEERS!



EVENTS & HIGHLIGHTS



PINWHEELS FOR PREVENTION

To raise awareness throughout Child Abuse Prevention Month in April, CASA of the Heartland and our community came together to plant 1000 pinwheels outside of the Elizabethtown Police Department and 500 pinwheels on Lincoln Square in Hodgenville representing the happy and healthy childhood which all children deserve.



FRIEND OF CASA T-SHIRT CAMPAIGN

At the beginning of the year, CASA of the Heartland held its second Friend of CASA t-shirt fundraiser. Community members came together to purchase and wear custom-designed shirts, spreading awareness for Child Abuse Prevention and their support for CASA's mission.



"Any organization that is involved in supporting children is a worthy organization. CASA is one of our largest ones that we donate and contribute to throughout the year, so this is a big opportunity for us as a business to give back to the overall region of which we work in and contribute to help the children in need.

- Elton Youart, DirtWorks Unlimited

CASA LOVES COMMUNITY LUNCHEON

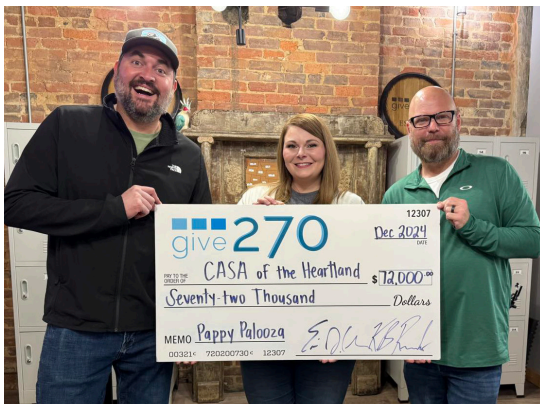
In February, CASA of the Heartland hosted its first community luncheon to thank the donors and community supporters who helped CASA in 2023. This event also served as an opportunity to educate new supporters about CASA's mission, impact in the community, and events for 2024.



KY GIVES DAY

KY Gives Day is held annually in May and "is an opportunity for Kentuckians (near and far) to come together to make donations to Kentucky charities in an effort to raise as much money as possible in 24 hours." This year, CASA of the Heartland raised \$2726.15 with 21 donors in less than 24 hours to assist in providing advocacy to local children!





“

“Eventually, I realized my CASA wasn’t going to leave me, and now we have a really strong relationship. CASA is important for kids navigating the court system because they’re not alone. They have someone that is in their corner and that specifically advocates for them.”

- Savanna Spurrell

LIGHT THE NIGHT 5K

In May, CASA of the Heartland hosted its second annual Light the Night Superhero 5K at the Elizabethtown Sports Park. This family-friendly event featured a Krazy Flavaz food truck before the race and was complete with a DJ, headlamps, and glowsticks. The event’s superhero theme symbolized the impact that CASA volunteers have on the children they serve. CASA volunteers provide hope and light for children who are navigating some of the darkest times in their lives.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

In December, CASA of the Heartland hosted a volunteer appreciation dinner at the CKCF Community Hall to honor social workers, family court judges, and our volunteers for their dedication and service to over 200 children in 2024. Volunteers, board members, and community partners enjoyed a celebratory dinner. Volunteers, board, and staff received CASA sweatshirts as tokens of appreciation. CASA of the Heartland also recognized long-time board members Grant Niebuhr, Katie Butler, and Megan Stith for their years of commitment to CASA.

GIVE 270 PAPPY PALOOZA RAFFLE

For the second time, CASA of the Heartland was the recipient of proceeds from Give 270’s end of year Pappy Palooza raffle series. This year, the raffles generated \$72,000 for CASA of the Heartland!

“

“We are always proud to partner with CASA of the Heartland to help support the important work they do for kids in need. We know their work is vital to our communities.”

-Eric Clemens, Board Chair for Give 270

FARM TO FORK

CASA of the Heartland held its biggest fundraising event of the year in June: the annual Farm to Fork event at Highland Sod Farms in Elizabethtown. With support from 200 attendees, CASA of the Heartland raised over \$60,000 to support advocacy for children in Hardin and LaRue Counties. This year’s event included live entertainment from the band Van Winkle and the Spirits, live and silent auctions, along with locally grown, farm-fresh dishes supplied by local farmers.





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2025 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

FEBRUARY 11

CASA Loves
Community Luncheon

JAN—APRIL

Friend of CASA Campaign -
Awareness/T-Shirt Campaign

MARCH—APRIL

Pinwheels for Prevention Planting
Hardin County - March 27
Grayson County - April 3
LaRue County - April 1
Breckinridge County - April 7
Meade County - March 28

MAY 9

Light the Night 5K:
Superhero Edition

JUNE 14

Farm to Fork

DONOR RECOGNITION

A A Portable Sanitation LLC	Cindy Trent	James R Banks Jr.	Mary Ballard	Sherry Whitman Powers
A Touch of Kentucky Bourbon Mastery	Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association	James Weise	Mary Cofer Trigg Grant Award	Signarama Elizabethtown
ABE 93.7	City of Elizabethtown	Jennifer Hare	Matt Pitz	Sky's The Limit
Abound Federal Credit Union	Clagett Photography	Jennifer Menna	Maurice Brown	South Central Bank
Adrianne Griggs	Clark Jewelers	Jeremy Colby	Melissa Torres	Stephen Barr
Al Freeland	Clean Good Eats	Jerry Taylor	Michael Bowers	Steve Ballard
Aleksander Smith	Connie Barnett	Jill Wade	Michael Byers	Steve Bratcher
Alice Zoeller	Courtney Bowling	Jim Marini	Michael Coyle	Steve Morton
Alison Langley	CrossFit Elizabethtown	Joanie Powell	Michael Miller	Stith Family Farms
Altec Industries Inc.	Crowne Pointe Theatre	John DuPlessis	Michael Nethers	Sun Thomas
Ambrose OBryan	Dalts American Grill	John House	Michelle Cox	Susan Donahue
Amy Hollingsworth	Danny Benningfield	John Ward	Michelle Kail	Susan Vervilles
Amy Sherman	David Zoeller	Johnny Sharp	Michelle Morrison	Swope Care Group Foundation Inc.
Andrea Bruns	Davis Printing Inc. (Gerald Printing)	Josephine Vice	Michelle Sanborn	Swope Family of Dealerships
Andrea Huff	Dawn Blair	Josh Reed	Mike Jones	T&T Construction Enterprises, LLC
Angela Brown	Deanna Simcoe	Joyce Meyer	Missy Jenkins	Tanya Deneen
Ann Sonneborn Foundation	Debbie Anders	Julia McKinley	Mouser Cabinetry LLC	Tara Still
Anonymous Donors	Deborah Lee	Julia Springsteen	Mr. Robert Curtis	Terry Patterson
Anthem Health Plans of Kentucky, Inc.	Dewsters Homemade Ice Cream and Bakery	Kaco Workers Compensation	Myra Covault	That Buzzi B/ The Pink Camper
Arts of Southern KY	Dirt Works Unlimited LLC	Katie Butler	Nancy Schramm	The Bug's Ear
Axe Play	Donna Burch	Keith Taul	Nannette Johnston	The Cecilian Bank
BAK CPAs and Advisors PSC	Donna Skeeters	Kelly Emerine	Natalie Curtis	The Dreamery
Baptist Health Hardin	Dorian Floyd	Kendra Scott	Nolin Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation	The Goodman Family Charitable Fund
Barb Jones	Dow Chemical	Kentucky CASA Network	North South Consulting Group LLC	The Purple Toad Winery
Barbara Easton	E-Town Exterminating Company	Kentucky Department of the Treasury	Nuts About Coffee	The Stephen Foster Story
Barlow Research Associates, Inc.	E. J. Vessels	Kentucky Science Center	Pampered Chef	The Wolf
Beccas Place Inc	Eddie Phillips	Kimber Consulting LLC	Patricia Whitehead	Theresa Jones
Belinda Brown	Eleanor Brown	Kosair for Kids Committee Inc.	Patti Mayhew	Thomas Kail
Belle Meade Historic Site & Winery	Elizabeth Kail	Krazy Flavaz	Paul Monday	Tiffany & Co.
Berger OK Tires	ETown Florist	Kroger	Peggy Fink	Tim Pennington
Beth Avey	Faye Dowell	LaAnna Mraz	Peoples Bank	Timothy Asher
Billie Colonels	Fine House & Garden	Lamar Jones	Perfect North Slopes	Tony Yorks on Main
Bob Swope	First Presbyterian Church	Lawrence Hoh	Peters Electric Inc	Tracy Schiller
Bob Wade	Fisher Auto Parts	Le Clairs Optical P.S.C.	PNC Foundation	Trena Floyd
Boundary Oak Distillery	Fort Knox OES 439	Leah Abang	Price Smith Insurance Inc	Tri-County CASA Inc.
Bowling Green Hot Rods Community Relations Dept.	Fort Knox Spouses & Community Club (FKSCC)	Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken	Priscilla Scarborough	United Way of Central Kentucky
Brandenburg Telecom	Fresh Start Farms	Legato Financial	Quicksie 98.3	Unlock Elizabethtown
Brenda Reynolds	Geoffery Clark	Lela Williams	Radcliff Christian Church CWF	VFW Auxiliary Post 10281
Brian Oberg	German American Bank	Life Force Wellness Center	Rebecca Ates	Vibe Coffee
Brian Smith	Give 270 Inc.	Lincoln National Bank	ResultPoint Financial, Inc.	Vicki Schmidt
Brian Witcher	Gold Star Realty LLC	Lincoln Trail Behavioral Health System	Rhonda Metcalf	Vicky Ferriell
Brittany Garrett	Grant Niebuhr	Linda Keith	Robert Larue	Wabuck Development Co. Inc.
Brown Gwynn	Gregory Youngblood	Lon Keith	Rose Harris	Waters Edge Winery & Bistro of ETOWN
Bryce Shumate	Gwen Yarbrough	Lori French	Roxie Claywell	WesBanco Bank Inc.
Burrell Management Division (BMD) Generosity Fund	Hardin County Bourbon Club	Louise Eaton	Ruby Tuesday Bowling Green	West Point Bank
Carl Swope	Heritage Media of Kentucky	Louisville City FC	Ryman Auditorium	Western Kentucky University
Carol Jones	Highland Sod Farms, Inc.	Racing Louisville FC	S. Brown	WHAS Crusade for Children
Carolyn Carpenter	Hintons Orchard & Farm Market	Lynn Dummitt	Sakinah Bunch	Will Harris Homes LLC
Cathy Boone	Historic State Theater Complex	M. Brent Hall	Sally Zaring	William Cochran
Central Kentucky Community Foundation	Hometown Pizza	Magnolia Bank	Sandra Sharp	William Fentress
Central Kentucky Race Management	Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels	Main Event	Sandy Kidd	William Godfrey
Christopher Ash	Irene Butler	Maker's Mark Distillery, Inc.	Sarah Heck	William Richardson
Churchill Downs Incorporated	Ising Orthodontics	Marjorie Mullins	Schaffrick Charitable Foundation	Wilson & Muir Bank & Trust Co.
Cincinnati Reds	Jack Fry's Restaurant	Mark Schultz	Schmidt Family Foundation Inc.	WMMG 93.5 FM
	James Iacocca	Mark's Feed Store	Scott Galey	Woman's Club of Elizabethtown
		Marsha Senninger	Shane Whitt	WXC: 104.3, The River
		Martha Monday	Shannon Bowie	
			Shear Genius Salon	

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!



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 @casaoftheheartland  @casaheartland

casaheartland.org