

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Photo courtesy of Grant Us Hope

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO



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“  
**I encourage you to be a  
part of the change right  
here at home**  
”

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I live here and I give here.

At the end of each year, I cannot imagine feeling prouder of the work Horizon Community Funds has accomplished and the following year I am always proven wrong. Our donors, advocates, and partners continue to go above and beyond to make our mission of raising the quality of life for our fellow Northern Kentuckians a reality.

In 2022, we saw more collaborative local efforts leading to the formation of new funds with Horizon, including the Northern Kentucky Uniting for Ukraine Fund and the Northern Kentucky Entrepreneurship Fund. Each of these funds, while serving very different needs, was created to lift up our fellow community members and provide resources they need to succeed.

We continued to support critical nonprofit work through impactful grantmaking. Members of our giving circles showed their passion for our community through their involvement in The 410 and Give Where You Live NKY and we saw great work come from the Community Impact Fund grantees.

It's inspiring to see the transformations that are happening in Northern Kentucky, and I encourage you to be a part of the change right here at home. Are you in?

*Nancy Grayson, President & CEO*

Horizon Community Funds of Northern Kentucky

# 2022

## AT A GLANCE

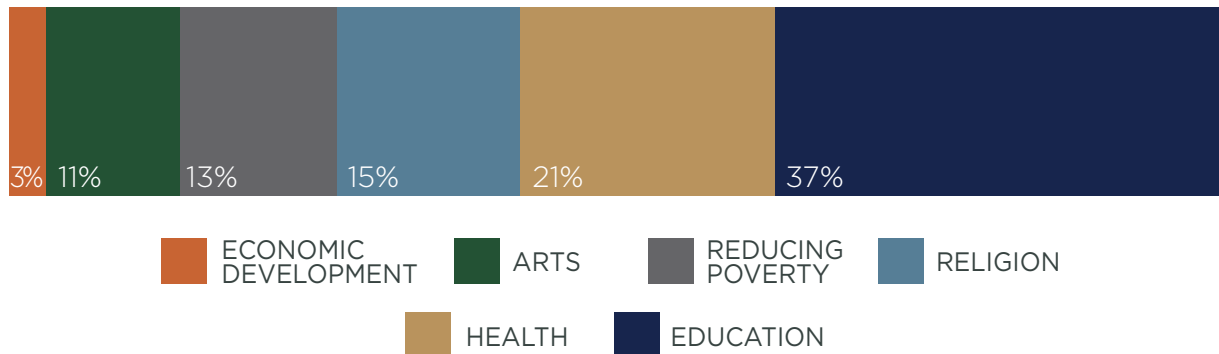
**\$4.1 million**  
total  
grants made  
\$20.2 MILLION  
SINCE INCEPTION

**\$8.6 million**  
total  
contributions  
\$58.7 MILLION  
SINCE INCEPTION

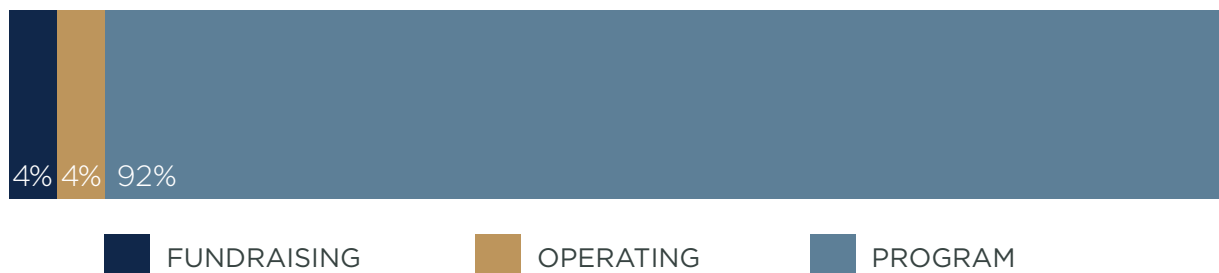
**61%**  
donations  
under \$100

**86%**  
donations  
under \$1,000

## grants by impact area



## functional expenses





# Uniting for Local Impact

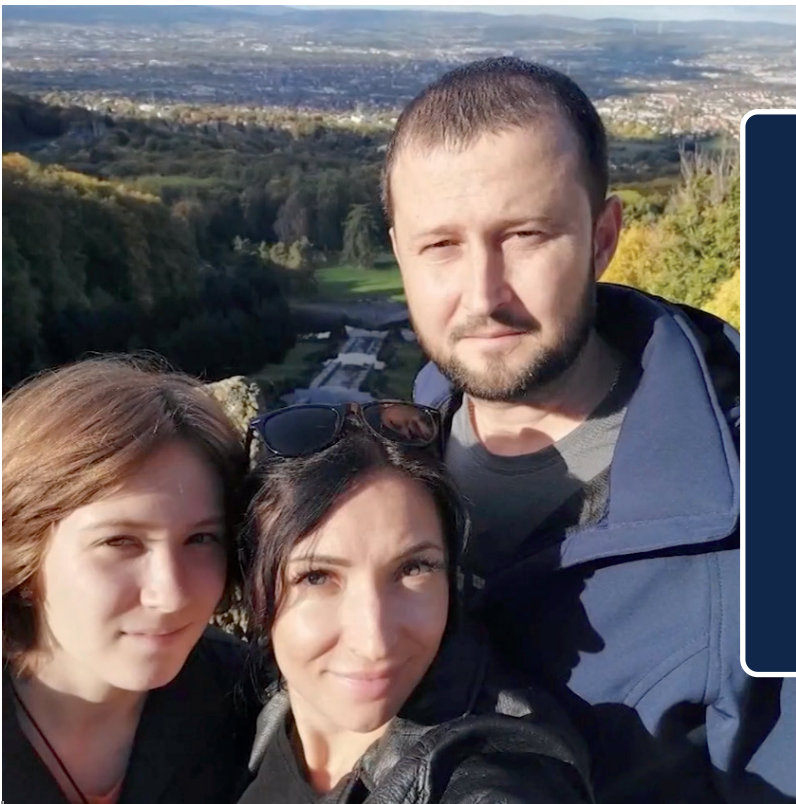
## NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNITING FOR UKRAINE FUND

In response to the war in Ukraine, Northern Kentucky community leaders rallied to establish a fund that would support refugees relocating to our community. The fund was created to help those displaced by the war acclimate into their new home. The funds have already been put to use helping the Dybka family relocate and will continue to help more families with items such as:

- Travel arrangements/tickets from Europe to Cincinnati
- Cash assistance upon arrival
- Season-specific clothing
- Assistance in purchasing a vehicle for use for employment
- Funding for down payments or security deposits for stable housing
- Support with school/training
- Assistance with medical deductibles and/or insurance

“The needs generated by the war in Ukraine are urgent and immediate,” said Kenton County Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann. “The first family we’re helping includes a police officer who was injured in the invasion and who will now receive therapy for his injuries here in Northern Kentucky. This fund is a great way to be of some help to those directly affected by the war, and I encourage anyone in the community who is moved, as I am, by the courage and resiliency of Ukrainians to consider supporting it.”

More information about the Northern Kentucky Uniting for Ukraine Fund, including how to donate, can be found at [www.horizonfunds.org/ukraine](http://www.horizonfunds.org/ukraine).



The Dybka family fled Ukraine after the father, a police officer, survived a bombing that injured his leg. The family arrived with limited belongings and received assistance from the fund to help them adjust to their new home.



## NORTHERN KENTUCKY ENTREPRENEURSHIP FUND

To address a lack of funding supporting Northern Kentucky's entrepreneurs, Blue North established the Northern Kentucky Entrepreneurship fund at the end of 2022. Main Street Ventures serves as the grantor of the fund and awarded the first grant to Down the Road Spice Co., a Covington-based business.

This fund will provide a boost for the entrepreneurial community in Northern Kentucky and help to create a stronger, more prosperous region. Businesses like Down the Road Spice Co. bring vibrancy to the region and add to our already robust entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The Northern Kentucky Entrepreneur Fund was supported by an initial donation from the R.C. Durr Foundation.



**Down the Road Spice Co.** was founded by Mansi Shah and her father, Sandeep, after they recognized a lack of quality Indian spices in American grocery stores. Mansi and her father decided to make her own line of Indian spices and blends. Their products help people in America to provide tasteful Indian cuisines.

## NKY COMMUNITY JOURNALISM FUND



LINK NKY was established with the mission to ensure our region has a news outlet specific to Northern Kentucky. To help fund this initiative, the NKY Community Journalism Fund was established. It is a component fund of Horizon Community Funds and collaborates with community supporters to protect and expand public interest journalism that has a direct impact on our community. LINK NKY aims to increase our region's ability to engage the public, call for accountability, and explore solutions to make a difference for the people of Northern Kentucky. Join your neighbors in supporting this critical work.



Scan to make a gift supporting the important work of these funds!



# community impact fund

The Community Impact Fund is our most flexible source of grantmaking dollars and supports long-term solutions, rapid response to emergencies, and the ability to navigate changing community needs in Northern Kentucky. During the 2022 grant cycle, we awarded \$85,000 in total to seven different organizations.



## Brighton Center

OPPORTUNITY HOUSE | \$15,000

Brighton Center utilized their funds to support program services for Opportunity House residents, including one-on-one case management, workshops, and a variety of positive development activities. Opportunity House is an innovative project aimed at developing post-secondary educational opportunities and stability for Opportunity Youth, or young adults ages 18-24. The goal is to reduce the challenges these young adults face, including

housing, ultimately leading to educational success, employment, and self-sufficiency. The staff has helped the young adults navigate academic programs, work schedules, and made connections to essential community resources including financial coaching, career services, and mental health supports.



## CHNK Behavioral Health

EXPANDING MENTAL  
HEALTH SERVICES | \$15,000

CHNK Behavioral Health continues its work to close the gap in mental health services for children and youth. Since launching its initiative “Expanding Mental Health Services in a Pandemic Climate” with support from the Community Impact Fund, CHNK has achieved exciting outcomes through the Family Preservation Program, Intensive Outpatient and Partial Hospitalization Programs, Targeted Case Management, Medication

Management, and Psychiatric Residential Treatment. CHNK is working to make treatment more accessible for children, youth, and families facing mental/behavioral health or substance use disorders.



## Easterseals Redwood

EASTERSEALS REDWOOD  
CARE IN NKY | \$10,000

With the support of Horizon Community Funds, Easterseals Redwood expanded job development and supportive services to more veterans in the Northern Kentucky region. Easterseals Redwood’s Military & Veteran Services staff created new partnerships in Northern Kentucky with homeless and emergency shelters, career centers, safety alliances, coalitions, and veteran treatment courts. Easterseals Redwood’s Job Developers served

more veterans in Boone, Campbell and Kenton counties. Throughout the Greater Cincinnati Region, Military & Veteran Services staff served over 300 veterans and placed 146 veterans into employment.





## Grant Us Hope

NKY HOPE SQUAD | \$15,000

Through Grant Us Hope, schools like Dixie Heights High School and Notre Dame Academy launched Hope Squads, peer-to-peer suicide prevention programs. Students learned how to identify their classmates who are struggling, communicate with them effectively, and get them the help they need. Additionally, they implemented programming to reduce mental health stigma and foster a sense of belonging among students. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for youth, and students are five times more likely to report considering suicide now than they were prior to

the pandemic. This grant helped to bring this life-saving program to Northern Kentucky schools.



## La Soupe

RESCUE/TRANSFORM/SHARE | \$10,000

The Rescue/Transform/Share Program at La Soupe transforms rescued food into ready-to-serve, restaurant-quality meals, bridging the gap between food waste and food insecurity. La Soupe partners with civic, church, and community groups as well as social service organizations across the region in order to distribute meals to people experiencing food insecurity. The grant La Soupe received supported their work in Northern Kentucky. Since receiving the grant,

18,367 pounds of groceries were donated to Northern Kentucky, a nearly 30% increase. 12,883 servings were shared, totaling an 18% increase.



## Learning Grove

NAVIGO RIVER CITIES NETWORK | \$10,000

This grant was used to support work-based learning needs of students in the River Cities Network, a partnership between NaviGo, the six River Cities school districts, Gateway Community & Technical College, and business and community partners. The funds were used to buy work-based equipment, transportation to employment events, and certification and aptitude assessments. Thanks in part to this grant, students were able to succeed in their internships and co-ops that are aligned to their dual credit courses. They were given the chance to meet with employers in IT, skilled trades,

health care, and advanced manufacturing and had the opportunity to view a live surgery at St. Elizabeth Hospital. All students who participated in a paid co-op at Cengage were offered a job.



## Northern Kentucky Workforce Investment Board

LONG-TERM FEASIBILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF GROW NKY | \$10,000

The Northern Kentucky Area Development District, in partnership with BE-NKY, utilized the funding from Horizon Community Funds to help support a six-month study to review GROW NKY's optimal governance structure. The intention of this work is to provide leadership, goal setting, and oversight to align and leverage the existing workforce resources in Northern

Kentucky as well as to position the community for future success related to talent development, talent attraction, and employer policy and practice. Northern Kentucky University's CEAD presented the completed study in May 2023. The GROW NKY Steering Committee and other community leaders are reviewing key recommendations.

# creating positive change

## THROUGH GIVING CIRCLES

A central goal of Horizon Community Funds' is to foster a giving community. One way with accomplish this is through giving circles – a type of group philanthropy where members pool their dollars to create positive change in their community. We were proud to have another impactful year through both The 410 and Give Where You Live NKY.



Members of The 410 had the opportunity review applications from organizations serving Northern Kentucky. The focus area chosen by the group for this year's grant cycle was community development and vibrancy. This allowed for a wide range of projects to be considered. The members met to discuss the applications and chose to divide the \$16,400 generated by the group to two different organizations: the Boone Conservancy and the Behringer-Crawford Museum.

The 410 members defined community development and vibrancy as:

- Programs and initiatives that make the region a better place to live, work, and play.
- Programs that impact a wide range of people and ages.
- Arts, culture, parks, recreation.
- Spurring dollars invested to grow the economic and social vitality of the region.
- Growing both investment dollars and people activity in the region.

— THE —  
**410**

The Boone Conservancy plans to use their \$10,000 grant for their Outdoor Recreation Connectivity project. Specifically, they will create two new hiking trails that connect the Petersburg riverfront community. The first trail will be a pedestrian entrance from Rt. 18 through the woods to the existing Lee McNeely Birding Trail. The second trail will extend from the other end of the birding trail through the native wildflower prairie to the two acres that the Conservancy owns on Middle Creek. The trail will cross over Middle Creek to reach Camargo and Middle Creek Park.

The Behringer-Crawford Museum will put the \$6,400 they received towards the Crawford's Curators in Training (CCIT) program, which will help bridge divides and build stronger, more respectful, and valued communities. Through real-world, small group guided experiences, BCM will impart the tools youth need to be good citizens who respect cultural differences, invite inclusivity, promote change, and build stronger, more respectful, and valued communities. Program participants will act as treasure hunters and use artifacts to tell stories of our region's past. During the program, students will have unique opportunities to connect with local community leaders, Chamber of Commerce members, historians, and educators while helping our region tell its vibrant story.

To learn more about The 410 and how you can get involved, contact Mary Kate Vanderglas at [mvanderglas@horizonfunds.org](mailto:mvanderglas@horizonfunds.org).

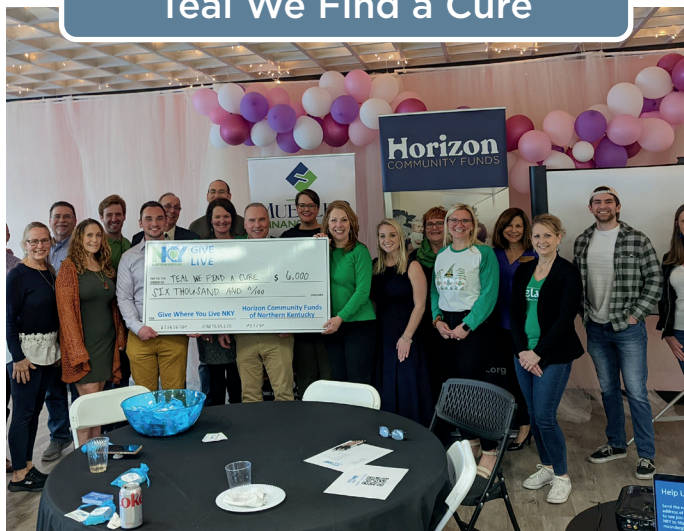




This year's Give Where You Live NKY grants were awarded to organizations with a variety of focus areas. Teal We Find a Cure, a nonprofit dedicated to ovarian cancer awareness and research, was our first quarter winner. In June, we awarded the grant to Ethan's Purpose, whose mission is to raise awareness about good mental health and suicide prevention. Samaritan Car Care Clinic received the third quarter funds for their work servicing cars for low-income families. Our final 2022 grant went to the Brighton Center, a nonprofit with programs promoting self-sufficiency. Since its inception, Give Where You Live NKY has contributed \$94,000 to Northern Kentucky's nonprofits.

## congratulations to our 2022 winners

Teal We Find a Cure



Ethan's Purpose



Samaritan Car Care Clinic



Brighton Center



# our uncommon advocates

## DONORS IN THEIR OWN WORDS



Northern Kentucky is 400,000 people strong. We have neighbors who need food and housing and health care. We have educational needs, cultural needs, arts needs, and recreational needs unique to us. Too often, those go unmet when they compete for funding with needs outside of our three counties. The Horizon Community Impact Fund puts Northern Kentucky's needs front and center.

**Mark and Kate Neikirk**



Life, and the time we have here on earth, is finite. Yet our ability to perpetuate goodness in our community, as well as create a more robust legacy of giving in Northern Kentucky, can and will long survive us. Horizon Community Funds enable us to “give where we live” now ... and over time. Our region is a testament to the positive influence charitable giving can have on a community, and this foundation is an important means to help us sustain our shared commitment to an even better and brighter future in Northern Kentucky.

**Jeff and Kristi Nelson**





We are grateful for the opportunity to join others in the community supporting the Horizon Fund of Northern Kentucky to collaboratively make a positive difference in future opportunities, growth and the greater common good for everyone in the Northern Kentucky community.

**Chuck and Maida Session**



We have found the Endow Kentucky Tax Credit program to be an excellent way to have a significant impact on nonprofits that are bettering our Northern Kentucky community. We were able to support nonprofits that are meaningful to us while benefiting from significant tax incentives. We were glad to go through this process with Horizon, they made it a very straightforward experience.

**Keith and Leah Carlson**



We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with Horizon Community Funds, who share our passion for creating positive change. The partnership and collaboration inspire us to strive for greater impact and make a difference in the community. Thank you for supporting us on this journey!

**Anthony and Mariluz Bradford**



# camp give

INSPIRING PHILANTHROPY



In July of 2022, students participating in the Brighton Center's Youth Leadership Development program participated in Camp Give for their annual summer collaboration. This week-long program explored ways the students can serve their community, focused on building their self-esteem, and encouraged them to feel pride in what they do.

Throughout the program, participants heard from five difference nonprofits that serve Northern Kentucky. Horizon Community Funds provided financial support that allowed the students to award a donation of \$2,819 to three of these nonprofits: Emergency Shelter of Northern Kentucky, Henry Hosea House, and Pet Partners.

Teamwork was an important aspect of Camp Give, especially in the wake virtual learning during the pandemic. The students developed new broadcasts depicting interviews with other campers, created reusable bags from T-shirts for St. Vincent DePaul, and learned to sew stuffed animals, among other activities.

Students were very receptive to the importance of giving back to their community. One student expressed her interest in returning to Camp Give the following year to participate in more community service projects. She had never had the opportunity to do this work before and was inspired by the experience.

We are inspired by the impact Camp Give has on these future leaders and look forward to supporting the program again!



## COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES

# our full governing board

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UNCOMMON ADVOCATES



FOR NORTHERN KENTUCKY



# Horizon

COMMUNITY FUNDS

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## c'mon y'all

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Contact Mary Kate Vanderglas,  
Director of Marketing & Communications,  
at [mvanderglas@horizonfunds.org](mailto:mvanderglas@horizonfunds.org)  
to receive our e-newsletter.



# Horizon

COMMUNITY FUNDS

Photo courtesy of La Soupe