

Inaugural Edition

Bugle

Winter 2020



Exploring Our Heritage

*The Great Seal of
the Honorable Order*



A publication of
The Honorable Order of

**Kentucky
Colonels®**



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From the Commanding General *Because a Colonel Gave*

The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels is a special group of people who strive to make a difference in the lives of others through charitable giving. Because a Colonel Gave – because you gave – the HOKC invests over \$2 million annually in programs across the Commonwealth which improve and enrich the lives of her citizens. HOKC as a voluntary organization crosses all aspects of race, gender, and age in serving peoples’ needs at a very basic level: food, safe shelter, proper attention to families with children, education, and the list goes on. Because a Colonel Gave it is possible for others to rise above adversity and find hope to carry on.

With this inaugural issue of HOKC’s new publication, Bugle, we offer an in-depth look into successful grant recipients and the impact they have in the lives of our fellow Kentuckians Because a Colonel Gave. We feature two grant recipients: Isaiah House (Willisburg, Kentucky) which assists over 1,000 recovering addicts, and Child Watch Advocacy and Counseling Center (Paducah, Kentucky), which addresses the critical issue of child abuse and neglect. We also spotlight Colonels, present and past, and our connection with the history of our Commonwealth.

Hal N. Sullivan

Hal N. Sullivan
Commanding General,
Honorable Order of
Kentucky Colonels

We will also unveil new opportunities and programs HOKC has created to provide members with opportunities to make lasting gifts to targeted needs that each of us harbors in our hearts. Whether it is an experience within our family, or our own community, state or nation, something in our lives drives use to do what we can to help others. We invite you to learn more about our Legacy of Honor Endowment and Golden Legacy Register. With an investment through your estate plans, you can create a legacy for a cause most dear to you and ensure lasting change for our community, all Because You Gave.

The promise of tomorrow is never guaranteed. You were commissioned as a Kentucky Colonel because you are a person not simply capable but willing to participate in the heavy lifting charitable agencies are doing. Know that this organization strives to help each other take the high road and lift up all lives.

Thank you for your support. There is much to celebrate – Because a Colonel Gave. 🇺🇸



Legacy of Honor Endowments

From Humble Beginnings to High Aspirations

By Colonel Leslie M. Watkins

The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels Charitable Fund originated as the Colonel Anna Friedman Goldman Memorial Endowment Fund, created with memorial gifts upon the death of Colonel Anna in 1981. The Honorable Order added additional funds and formally established the Colonel Anna Fund with \$420,000 in October of 1981. Through additional contributions and a series of fortuitous investments, the endowment grew to \$2.7 million by 1988.

Through this fund and other donations – including annual donations from thousands of loyal contributors – the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels has served 1,953 grantees and awarded over \$16,319,256 in grants across the Commonwealth of Kentucky in the last ten years.

As the years passed, other estate gifts have been received by the HOKC. One such gift came from Hiltrud Dienstbach Gordon, a German immigrant.

For many years, every year, a \$100 donation from Colonel Hiltrud Gordon of New Bern, North Carolina, arrived at Headquarters for the Good Works Program. In 2005, a check came, but it was signed by attorney Mary Markovich rather than Colonel Gordon.

Ms. Markovich explained that Mrs. Gordon had passed away. However, Colonel Gordon had established the James Geno and Hiltrud J. Gordon

Memorial Fund Trust to benefit the Good Works Program of the HOKC.


At her death, Colonel Gordon was 82. She had once lived in Grant County, Kentucky, where she had worked as a medical secretary. The HOKC had Colonel Gordon's address in North Carolina and contacted some of her neighbors, who told us that she had always said her money would go to the Kentucky Colonels because, according to the neighbors, when Colonel Gordon arrived in this country as the sole Holocaust survivor from her family, she received assistance from the Kentucky Colonels. Her attorney shared that Mrs. Gordon told her that the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels provided her with shoes and warm clothing when she was too poor to buy those items herself, and Colonel Gordon would be grateful until the day she died. She knew that naming the Colonels as the sole beneficiary of her \$515,000 estate would help many others in the years to come.

Another such gift came from Colonel Cynthia Shaw. Shaw worked as a systems consultant and financial analyst. Colonel Shaw gave of herself to help others in ways that made a difference. According to her financial advisor, Cynthia was extremely philanthropic and wanted to help people less fortunate than herself.

When Cynthia passed away in 2019, her estate gift to the Honorable

Order of Kentucky Colonels made it possible for the HOKC to establish a Legacy of Honor Endowment. Additionally, Cynthia left money to nearly 50 nonprofits, many of which receive grants from the HOKC.

The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels established the Legacy of Honor Society to recognize individuals, such as Gordon and Shaw, who contribute \$100,000 or more to the Kentucky Colonels' philanthropic efforts. Through an estate or current gift, a Colonel can establish a Legacy of Honor named endowment to fund the Good Works Program or a grantee category of the Colonel's choosing. These endowments will be held in trust managed by Hilliard Lyons Trust, and interest generated will fund grants to non-profits in Kentucky or operational costs of the Honorable Order, if the Colonel so designates. A Colonel can provide for the Honorable Order through his or her estate plans in a variety of ways, including a will or trust, or through a retirement account or life insurance policy. Additionally, if a Colonel wishes to create a named endowment during his or her lifetime, in place of a cash donation, a distribution from a retirement account is a tax-friendly way to make such a gift.

Currently, Legacy of Honor Endowments have been documented by Colonel Fenton Cunningham, Colonel Spencer Dayton, and Colonel Maitland Young. 



Colonel Harland David Sanders was a businessman and restaurateur who founded the Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant chain. After holding numerous jobs in his lifetime – as a steam engine stoker, insurance salesman, filling station operator, and farmer – Sanders, a self-styled Southern gentleman with white hair, a white goatee, and white double-breasted suits, became a worldwide trademark for Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Sanders had humble beginnings. The oldest of three children born to Wilbur David and Margaret Ann Sanders, Harland was born on September 9, 1890, in a four-room shack on a country road three miles east of Henryville, Indiana.

After Wilbur broke his back and a leg on the farm, he worked for two years as a butcher in Henryville. In the summer of 1895, he came home with a fever and died later that day. Sanders' mother took work in a tomato-canning factory, and the

young Harland learned early to take care of himself and his siblings. By age seven he had taught himself to cook so he could feed the younger children.

After his mother remarried in 1902 to an abusive man with whom Harland didn't get along, the twelve-year-old, with his mother's approval, dropped out of school and left home. In a 1970 interview with *The New Yorker*, Harland gave another reason for leaving school, saying "When I started to class that fall, they had algebra in our arithmetic.

Well, I couldn't conceive any part of it. The only thing I got out of it was that x equaled the unknown quantity. And I thought, 'Oh, Lord, if we got to wrestle with this, I'll just leave – I don't care about the unknown quantity.' So my school days ended right there near Greenwood, Indiana, and algebra's what drove me off."

He took a job painting horse carriages and then moved at age 14 to work as a farmhand in southern Indiana.

Sanders falsified his date of birth and enlisted in the United States Army at the age of fifteen.

After completing his service commitment as a mule handler in Cuba, he was honorably discharged and made his way to Alabama to live with an uncle, working as a blacksmith's helper for the railway system. Two months later, he went to work for the Northern Alabama Railroad, first emptying ash pans after trains finished their runs and eventually as a steam engine stoker. While working there, Harland met his future wife, Josephine King. They had three children: Margaret Josephine, Harland David Jr., and Mildred. Sanders would go on to work for various railways and move his family to locations in Alabama, Tennessee and Arkansas.

In 1929, Sanders moved to Corbin, Kentucky, a small city close to



the Appalachian Mountains, to open a service station. He added a dining section and first served his fried chicken (along with ham and steaks) to tourists in his adjacent living quarters. The Sanders Court and Cafe had a homey atmosphere, with no menu, but good food. In 1935, Governor Ruby Laffoon gave Sanders his first Kentucky Colonel commission for his part in getting a local man paroled and for his contribution to “state cuisine.”

In 1939, food critic Duncan Hines (who would later become a Kentucky Colonel for his own accomplishments) visited Sanders’ restaurant incognito. Hines was so impressed, he listed the place in “Adventures in Good Eating,” his famous guide to restaurants throughout the United States. With that endorsement, the restaurant’s popularity grew, and Sanders moved to a motel and 142-seat restaurant (which later became the Harland Sanders Café and Museum). Over the next nine years he perfected his “secret recipe” for “finger lickin’ good chicken” and his patented method for frying chicken in a pressure fryer that cooked the chicken much faster than pan frying and sealed in flavor and moisture.

As his success grew, Sanders played a more active role in Corbin civic life, joining the Rotary Club, the chamber of commerce, and the Freemasons. In 1947 he and Josephine divorced, and in 1949 he married his secretary Claudia.

John Ed Pearce wrote in his book, *The Colonel*, that “1949 brought another event, seemingly insignificant at the time, that was to have a part in redirecting Harland’s life.” Lieutenant Governor Lawrence Wetherby,



Arguably the most famous Kentucky Colonel, Harlan Sanders launched his fried chicken empire in Corbin, Kentucky. Here, circa 1970, he poses outside Sanders Cafe.

Photo courtesy of KFC Corporation

with whom Harland had become acquainted, presented Harland with another Kentucky Colonel commission. Pearce hypothesized that Sanders might not have ever pinpointed the time when he first had the idea to become Colonel Sanders, but it undoubtedly had its origins with this second Kentucky Colonel commission, which he framed. After being recommissioned, Sanders began to dress the part growing a goatee, wearing a black frock coat, and referring to himself and signing his name as Colonel Harland Sanders. Upon the suggestion of his barber, Sanders had a white linen suit tailored. His colleagues went along with the change, “jokingly at first and then in earnest,” according to biographer Josh Ozersky. Eventually,

people began to ask him when he was going to change the name of his place to Colonel Sanders’ Court and sell Colonel Sanders fried chicken.

Colonel Sanders never wore anything else in public during the last 20 years of his life, using a heavy wool suit in the winter and a light cotton suit in the summer. He bleached his mustache and goatee to match his white hair. Thus, with his second commissioning, Sanders seemed to find himself and a legend was born.

In 1955, when Sanders was 65 years old, a new interstate was built, bypassing the café and reducing its business. When the store failed, Sanders took \$105 from his first Social Security check and devoted





himself to franchising his fried chicken around the country.

Sanders recognized the potential of the restaurant franchising concept, and in 1952, the first KFC franchise opened in South Salt Lake, Utah. By 1964, there were more than 600 franchises in the United States and Canada. With what was called a flair for promotion and dedication to providing quality fast food, Sanders saw his franchise become one of the largest in the world. His likeness appears on their chicken buckets to this day, and a stylized graphic of his face is a trademark of the corporation.

In 1964, Sanders sold the Kentucky Fried Chicken Corporation for \$2 million to a partnership of Kentucky businessmen headed by John Y. Brown, Jr., reportedly receiving \$2,000,000, a lifetime salary of \$40,000 a year, and a seat on the board of directors.

This sale did not include the KFC operations in Canada. In 1965

Sanders moved to Mississauga, Ontario, to oversee his Canadian franchises. He became active locally and his 80th birthday party was held at the Inn on the Park in North York, Ontario, hosted by Jerry Lewis as a Canadian Muscular Dystrophy Association fundraiser. Sanders later established the Colonel Harland Sanders Trust and Colonel Harland Sanders Charitable Organization, to aid charities and fund scholarships.

When he was not representing KFC or managing his own franchises and restaurant, he devoted increasing time and money to charities devoted to children. Over the years, he had become not only the most famous of all Kentucky Colonels but had taken a personal interest in the Honorable Order and its charities and was chairman of its fundraising campaign. The Salvation Army in Louisville built a chapel and community center largely with his contributions. He also donated \$60,000 toward a Boy Scouts Service Center in Louisville. For his 90th birthday, KFC raised \$625,000 for

the March of Dimes. He received the Horatio Alger Award, an honor given annually to Americans who rise from humble beginnings to prominence and power through hard work.

Sanders died of pneumonia at Jewish Hospital in Louisville on December 16, 1980, after having been diagnosed with leukemia the previous June. His body lay in state in the rotunda of the Kentucky State Capitol, and more than 1,000 people attended his funeral service at the Southern Baptist Seminary Chapel. According to John Ed Pearce in *The Colonel*, Sanders was eulogized by John Y. Brown Jr. as “a brilliant man with a gourmet flair for food, a visionary and a great motivator, with the style of a showman and the discipline of a Vince Lombardi.”

He was buried in his characteristic white suit and black string tie in Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville. Sanders’ granddaughter, Josephine Wurster, and several other family members also share the honor of being commissioned Kentucky Colonels. 🇺🇸



Folks gathered from miles around for this birthday celebration of Colonel Sanders at Sanders Cafe, in Corbin.
Photo courtesy of KFC Corporation

BECAUSE KIDS MATTER

Child Watch Counseling & Advocacy Center

By Colonel Eric Patterson

The immediate trauma of childhood abuse is often just the beginning of the impact on that child. Left untreated, trauma from adverse childhood experiences can lead to lifelong negative health outcomes. These outcomes, according to Janie Criner, Executive Director of Paducah's Child Watch Counseling & Advocacy Center, can include increased risk of medical conditions like diabetes, cancer, or heart disease. However, research also shows that the intervention of just one caring adult can change these outcomes.

Child Watch was established in 1984 to serve children who have been victims of a broad range of abuse, including sexual, physical, mental, neglect, witness to domestic violence, and homicide. The organization's programs have expanded and evolved through the years, but the primary objective of keeping children safe from maltreatment has remained constant. Child Watch provides these services free of charge, thanks to community support and funding from organizations like the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels.

Currently, Child Watch is assisting children with a range of life challenges, including incarcerated parents, a child who witnessed a

parent's murder, a child who was kidnapped, children who were sex trafficked by their parents in exchange for drugs, a child who was left alone in a dark room for extended periods of time, kids who have been denied food and clean clothes, children born

negative behaviors will almost certainly continue without therapeutic interventions and learned coping mechanisms to help overcome the trauma. Additionally, because abuse affects the entire family, Child Watch works with parents, caregivers, and



Since 1984, Paducah's Child Watch has worked to protect children who have been victims of sexual, physical, and mental abuse, as well as those who have witnessed domestic violence and homicide.

with drug addictions or fetal alcohol syndrome, and the list goes on.

Children and teens respond to trauma from abuse in different ways. Immediate effects can include behavior issues, anger, depression, difficulty in school, sleep disorders, problems with friendships, anxiety, and drug and alcohol abuse. These

other family members to help the entire family heal and support the child through the recovery process.

Child Watch programs include:

COUNSELING

At Child Watch, professional mental health counseling is available to children and teens suffering from



For the second year in a row, Kentucky had the highest child abuse rate in the country. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Children's Bureau "Child Maltreatment 2018" report — released this year — shows more than 23 out of every 1,000 Kentucky children suffered some type of abuse. By comparison, the second-worst state (West Virginia) had a rate of 19.1 per 1,000 kids. The U.S. average is 9.2.





trauma resulting from abuse, neglect, and violence along with their non-offending family members and caregivers. Treatment is tailored to the needs of each person and may include cognitive behavioral therapy, art therapy, play therapy, and other modalities.

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA)

CASA of McCracken County operates in partnership with National CASA, Kentucky CASA Network, and local judiciary to provide advocacy for children involved in cases in McCracken County Family Court as a result of abuse or neglect.

families, schools, and friends may change but the CASA volunteer stays with the child until permanency is achieved. These relationships are so important, Criner says, that Child Watch has a child currently living in a residential treatment center who uses his daily phone privileges to talk with his CASA volunteer.

ABUSE PREVENTION EDUCATION

Through an abuse prevention education program called Safety Tools and Golden Rules, trained staff and volunteers provide crucial information to students from preschool through sixth grade in

still at their schools or they confide in a teacher after the Child Watch educators leave. One sixth grader saved the Child Watch phone number and called the office on his cell phone after school one day; he didn't want to get on the bus and go home because his dad was punching him in the stomach every night. Child Watch made sure this student didn't get on the bus and, instead, went to a safe location that night.

Kentucky law requires mandatory reporting of child abuse from anyone who has reason to believe that it is occurring. Even though we are all mandated reporters, people often hesitate to make the call, fearing they might be wrong. Child Watch says the question should instead be "what if I am right?" Ninety percent of abuse is by someone the child knows.

After vetting and recommending Child Watch for a Good Works Program grant, General Hal Sullivan said "The children of Kentucky are the fabric of our future. Child Watch embodies compassion when children fall into neglect. It breaks my heart to know that children all too often are victims of trauma and abuse in our community. We must do all we can to help agencies like Child Watch treat and protect children from harm and exploitation. This is what the Good Works Program is intended to do."

Child Watch Counseling & Advocacy Center was a recent HOKC grant recipient with funding used to replace carpeting in common office spaces where children and their families participate in programs, often sitting on the floor to enhance engagement. One staff therapist shared that "some of the nicest things we have in our office were provided by grants from the Kentucky Colonels." 🇺🇸

The children of Kentucky are the fabric of our future. Child Watch embodies compassion when children fall into neglect.

Child Watch currently has 60 CASA volunteers working cases and have served 144 children in the past year. CASA volunteers are key to helping the judge decide the best outcome for a child. While the goal is almost always to return a child to the parents, sometimes that goal is not possible. CASA volunteers gather information from the child's school, doctors, foster parents, and any other significant people in the child's life to help ensure the child's best interests are considered when making decisions about a permanent home.

CASA volunteers become a rare constant in a child's life when everything else is changing. Foster

schools and camps throughout the Purchase Area. The curriculum teaches children safe internet/online practices, body safety rules, what abuse is, and the use of basic respect for self and others as a tool to promote a safe environment.

Many children who live in abusive homes do not understand that what is happening to them is wrong. During a presentation, the Child Watch instructor may see a child get a confused look on his or her face or start to cry. It's "almost like a light bulb going off" says Criner.

Experience shows that this program works. Children sometimes disclose to Child Watch educators while

A full-page photograph of Colonel Fenton Cunningham, an older man with grey hair, wearing a light pink button-down shirt and grey trousers. He has his arms crossed and is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background is a blurred indoor setting with a brick wall and some framed pictures.

Colonel Fenton Cunningham

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It's in Our Blood.

By Colonel Leslie M. Watkins

Though he moved away from Kentucky many years ago, Colonel Fenton Cunningham has a love for the Commonwealth that's hard for him to express, "I think a person needs to be a native to understand it." He also says that it's difficult to explain what it means to him to be a Kentucky Colonel. Quoting the Kentucky Colonels' toast, Colonel Cunningham says that a Colonel is, "generous in spirit as well as action and proud in the traditions of Kentucky.' It's in our blood, like horses and bourbon."

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The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels



Cunningham, who now lives in Asheville, North Carolina, was commissioned in 1976 by Julian Carroll. (Cunningham was also named Honorary Captain, Belle of Louisville, in 1997, by Mayor Jerry Abramson.) His maternal grandfather, Richard L. Duncan, and uncle Ted Ricketts were also Kentucky Colonels. His family, from Oldham and Trigg counties, has a rich history in the Commonwealth. Richard Duncan was a dairy farmer

Credit Corporation and built the Duncan Memorial in Oldham County. Harland Sanders' wife, Claudia, was his grandmother's cousin.

From his childhood through his high school years, Colonel Cunningham spent his summers with his grandparents in LaGrange, where he enjoyed fishing with his grandfather and riding horses. He describes those summers as paradise. Cunningham's father, originally from Asheville,

Butch, as his parents called him when he was a kid, grew up in Asheville, North Carolina, after moving there at age five. He enjoyed riding bicycles, hiking, golfing, and especially riding horses on his family's horse farm. In his youth, he spent a lot of time in south Florida, around Delray. During his college years, he was uncertain about his career path and was in and out of school, at one point working as a golf assistant at Country Club of



Colonel Fenton Cunningham in his Asheville, North Carolina, studio where he plies his lifelong passion for painting. It's a style that some might call Impressionistic, but he modestly downplays it as "hen-scratching."

in LaGrange, Kentucky, and founded the Falls City Milk Cooperative, the first milk cooperative in the country, which later became Dairymen Inc. Duncan was very involved with the Baptist Orphanage in Louisville, the first Baptist orphanage in the United States. (This philanthropic work of his grandfather lives on in Fenton in his desire to help children.) A great-uncle built the Mall at St. Matthews, the first shopping mall in Louisville. Another great-uncle, Alexander E. Duncan, founded the Commercial

North Carolina, attended dental school at the University of Louisville. Fenton was born in Louisville in 1946. While in dental school, his father ran the medical lab at the Kentucky State Reformatory in LaGrange (where Fenton's mother was the warden's secretary) and received horse racing tips from prisoners on a work release program. He used the winnings to buy his dental equipment. That connection led to Colonel Cunningham's love of Churchill Downs, his favorite place on earth.

Asheville, leading his father to call him a "Road Scholar." He had a love for history though and majored in it at Elon University where he earned his bachelor's degree. At Elon, Jim Toney, an economics professor, befriended him. Cunningham says he probably wouldn't have graduated without Professor Toney's influence. After graduating, Cunningham worked in the banking business and earned a graduate degree from the Stonier Graduate School of Banking at Rutgers University.

He spent his early career with Northwestern Bank and then transferred to First Citizens Bank, which is now the nineteenth largest bank in the United States. Working with First Citizens for 25 years, he was Group Vice President in charge of the Special Assets Division for 20 years, dealing with mergers and acquisitions, bankruptcy, litigation, foreclosures, and real estate issues for the bank in the United States. Thirteen years into his retirement, he continues to enjoy reading, painting, and traveling. He and his wife, Mary, now live very close to his childhood home.

Colonel Cunningham's Kentucky roots run deep. His mother, Betty Duncan Cunningham, lives in Louisville, and his aunt, Margaret Ricketts, was the longest resident at the Masonic Home, where she started a vegetable garden that lives on, and the community garden for the Masonic Home is named for her. He also has a cousin, Debi Ricketts, in Taylorsville.

His continuing passion for painting started when Fenton was in second grade, when his mother, an artist herself, took him to an art studio on Wall Street in Asheville for his first art lesson. His first paintings were pastels, and he still has some of them. He has painted consistently over his lifetime and, about 28 years ago, transformed a tool building on their property into a studio, adding a picture window for plentiful natural light. He now paints in acrylic on canvas in what one might described as an impressionistic style (what Colonel Cunningham in his self-effacing personality calls "hen-scratching.") In 2020, Colonel Cunningham donated one of his works, Kentucky Goldenrod, to the HOKC headquarters. The gold in the painting representing the goldenrod,



Colonel Cunningham and his wife, Mary, enjoying themselves at the Kentucky Colonels Homecoming event in November 2019.

the state flower, his inspiration for the piece. Fenton doesn't sell his paintings but gives them to family and friends.

Fenton's liberal arts education, he says, prepared him for the rest of his life. He usually has several books going at one time, most recently a book about Dwight D. Eisenhower, written by Eisenhower's granddaughter. He and Mary, who taught high school business classes, have enjoyed traveling. His love of World War II history has led to several trips to England. Fenton says he has been fortunate to know Winston Churchill's family and travel with them in England. Fenton and Mary toured South Africa with Lady Mary Soames and Celia Sandys, Churchill's daughter and granddaughter, respectively. Celia is an internationally recognized author, speaker, and television presenter on the subject of her grandfather. Other trips he and Mary have enjoyed have been to Turkey, Greece, Italy, and France. Nevertheless,

Churchill Downs remains his favorite place on earth, and presenting the trophy for the Kentucky Colonels Classic remains one of his favorite experiences.

Although the Cunninghams attended the Derby and horse sale at Keeneland, the fall meets at Churchill Downs with the Colonels Romp or Homecoming are his favorite times to attend the races. Through those events, his love for the Kentucky Colonels has grown. A donor to the Good Works program for fifteen years, he says it is his favorite charity because of the history and heritage the Honorary Order represents and the consistent good work of the organization. This belief in the impact of the Kentucky Colonels has led Fenton to give annually to the Good Works program and to include the Colonels in his estate plans.

We are proud to have Colonel Cunningham among our ranks and salute his continuing passions for travel, art, and philanthropy. 🇺🇸





Isaiah House

Real Hope for Real Addiction

By Colonel Caroline Collins

The opioid epidemic in America is taking its toll on the economy. Statistics show that opioid overdose, misuse, and addiction cost more than \$2.5 trillion between 2015 and 2018. But the human cost is even grimmer with an estimated 200,000 lives lost in the past decade.

With four state facilities, offering long- and short-term options, Isaiah House isn't a typical recovery center. Its patients can get mental health treatment, art therapy, and recreational activities, plus in-house employment opportunities.

Its 94-bed residential treatment center for substance abuse disorder makes Isaiah House in Willisburg one of Kentucky's largest nonprofit substance disorder treatment centers serving over 1,000 recovering addicts annually.

Isaiah House has grown into one of the state's largest holistic

treatment centers, employing a staff of approximately 200 and managing the care of almost 200 residential treatment beds. Treatment includes every level of care, from detox to inpatient, outpatient, and transitional homes. More than 30 of the staff are licensed, master-degreed professionals, including social workers, counselors, psychologists, and psychiatrists.

According to the National Institute of Drug Abuse, effective treatment addresses not only drug abuse but also the associated medical, psychological, social, vocational, and legal problems. Isaiah House's holistic treatment addresses every area of clients' lives impacting their ability to stay clean — lack of job experience and education, legal consequences, repairing child and family relationships, improving physical health, and developing peer relationships.

Isaiah House offers residential programs in Nelson, Washington, Fayette, and Mercer Counties, in addition to an outpatient center in Boyle County and 25 sober living homes. In 2019, Isaiah House accepted clients from 94 of Kentucky's 120 counties.

The main facility, donated in 2007, is a former school building that was closed over 30 years ago. Since then, clients and graduates in Isaiah House's job training and employment programs completed extensive renovations.

Because job skills training and obtaining gainful employment are important steps in recovery, Isaiah House guarantees full-time employment to long-term recovery program clients, providing them the opportunity to learn how to apply recovery skills to real life situations while continuing to receive



the professional clinical and case management services needed for ongoing recovery and application.

Mark and Tammy LaPalme began Isaiah House in 1999, by opening up their home to the homeless. Born in a small town in Connecticut, LePalme had a typical childhood, until he started using drugs at age 14. At 17, he experienced his first overdose. By age 27, he had been arrested 40 times, sentenced to six years in prison, and divorced twice. He eventually went through 13 short-term treatment and psychiatric units. After moving to Kentucky, LePalme's struggles with drugs continued until a life-changing interaction with a man recently released from prison who shared his faith. Later, the LePalmes opened their home to a homeless, newly released convicted felon. Soon, 17 homeless people were living with them. Despite community opposition, the LePalmes housed over 250 men, women, and children over the next two years.

They soon learned of property in Lincoln County, with a 6,500 sq. ft. home, they could have if they agreed to run their ministry there. Isaiah House was officially born on November 17, 2001. For the next six years, they struggled to obtain the essentials needed for Isaiah House, but their needs were always met.

In 2003, their focus shifted to dealing with why their guests were homeless – issues like mental health, education, and addiction. By the end of 2004 and again in 2005, the Acton Institute

named the facility one of Kentucky's best and most effective ministries and one of the best in the country in 2006.

Also, in 2006, an eastern Kentucky drug task force permitted Isaiah House to apply vouchers for treatment of residents. With the voucher program available to pay for treatment, Isaiah House was able to hire its first clinician. Eventually Isaiah House outgrew its space. Property owners in Willisburg donated a 72-bed, 36,000 sq. ft. facility, along with the entire inventory of furnishings, to Isaiah House.

In 2010, Isaiah House became the first state-licensed Christ-centered treatment provider in the state and the first treatment provider to have a collaboration with employers. LaPalme says placing recovering addicts in a strong community, such as college or a job, helps ensure a 90-95% sober success rate beyond a year.

Isaiah House focuses on three essential items in recovery: instilling hope, helping clients find a purpose, and establishing opportunities. Its alumni-managed, client-operated businesses, with master electricians and master plumbers, builds homes from the ground up. Those businesses include Isaiah 58 Builders, Howard's Metal Sales, and Clean Cut Landscaping, which mows more than 500 acres weekly for Campbellsville University, local school systems, and several factories. Isaiah House offers on-site, free college through collaboration with Campbellsville

University and is a certified satellite CU location.

Because Isaiah House wanted to translate their successes into usable, empirical data, the organization became a leader in treatment data collection by hiring a statistician to evaluate the success of graduates. Metrics include sobriety length, employment, educational pursuits, housing stability, attendance at 12 step meetings, and status of family relationships. Sixty-eight percent of short-term treatment clients are still sober six months after completing a program; 83% of long-term clients are sober six months after; and no clients have reoffended 90 days after completion.

Isaiah House also operates Patricia's Place; the Jake Kuertz & Greg Bowen centers in Chaplin; and the Lisa Walker Center, a women's center in Harrodsburg. They helped 1,091 people in 2020, 90% of whom were low income.

Since 2018, Isaiah House has received \$50,000 in grants from HOKC for a transportation van for the women's treatment center, kitchen equipment, and two 2.5 ton Lennox heat pumps. They were able to apply a matching grant for the heat pumps. General Brooks Bower vetted the grant request and said that their almost 90% success rate is unheard of in drug rehabilitation and that it was refreshing to find an organization that worked to find matching money like Isaiah House did. 🇺🇸



Since 1951, the Good Works Program has helped nonprofits across the Commonwealth through grants funded by generous contributions from our members. In the last 10 years, 1,953 grantees have been served and \$16,319,256 in grants have been awarded. Two of the grants recently awarded were to Isaiah House and Child Watch Counseling & Advocacy Center.



Exploring Our Heritage. **The Great Seal of the Honorable Order**

By Colonel Sherry Crose

Former Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels trustee Jim Lindsey is well known for his storytelling prowess. But when it comes to the history of the Great Seal and the Keeper of the Great Seal, General Lindsey can only say, “it’s complicated.”

By Lindsey’s accounting, most everything we know about the Great Seal begins with, “according to legend...”

Governor Ruby Laffoon named Charlie Pettijohn, Chief Counsel of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, the first general of the Kentucky Colonels in 1932, and they established bylaws for the organization. The bylaws made provisions for the governor to preside as commander-in-chief only as long as he was in office. According to the records, the general was to foot all the bills of the organization. Each general was to hold office for only one year.

Anna Bell Ward Olsen was appointed as the first secretary and given the task of “organizing” commissioned Colonels into what is today the Honorable Order. Later, Anna modestly explained that she was appointed secretary “because I was there” and that the “Keeper of the Great Seal” part of the title was tacked on later because the governor said it “added dignity to the office.” Colonel Olsen modeled the Great

Seal of the Honorable Order after the Great Seal of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. This original seal was lost during the Great Flood of 1937. From this point on, the title “Keeper of the Great Seal” was given to the Secretary of the organization, but the true Great Seal was the one lost in the flood...according to legend.

The next Keeper of the Great Seal was Anna Friedman. Her association with the Colonels developed through her interest in the Kentucky Children’s Home. Colonel Friedman’s friendship with Mary Laffoon, wife of Governor Ruby Laffoon, grew through their mutual concern for the home for the state’s orphaned children. Mrs. Laffoon and “Colonel Anna,” as Anna Friedman came to be known, wanted to improve conditions at the institution and had a vision to build a school on the home grounds. This goal prompted them to visit New York publisher Colonel Jack W. Alicoate in 1935 to discuss enlisting the aid of Colonels on the project. Alicoate was national commander of the Honorable Order. While the state ultimately committed the money to build the school, the Honorable Order’s philanthropic mission had begun on a national scale.

Called “a ring-leader in the merry-making of the Colonels,” Colonel Anna was in charge of the annual dinners and, together with Colonel

Sam Friedman, hosted the annual post-Derby barbecue. Colonel Anna always maintained that the Colonels should “do something worthwhile.”

In 1957, articles of incorporation were signed, and the governor noted he could appoint the Keeper of the Great Seal. Remember, though, according to legend the Great Seal had been lost in the 1937 Flood. So no physical “seal” had been entrusted to Colonel Anna’s keeping when she was named Keeper. In 1976, Colonel Dorothy K. Smith was appointed assistant secretary when Colonel Anna’s health began to fail. Upon Colonel Anna’s death in 1982, Colonel Smith was appointed Secretary and Keeper of the Great Seal. In 1989, Colonel Patty Boston was appointed as Secretary, but there was no mention of the Great Seal.

After Colonel Boston, the title Keeper fell out of conversation as the organization shifted the title of chief staff member from Secretary to Senior Ambassador Glen Bastin, to Executive Directors Gary Gupton, and Lynn Ashton.

There was no mention of Keeper of the Great Seal until 2017. That’s when General Jim Lindsey researched the history of the Great Seal and the Keeper of the Great Seal. He determined that the title and the responsibility now rested with the Executive Director position.



However, the question over the years remained “where is the Great Seal?” Nobody seemed to know, so the Honorable Order began to wonder if the Great Seal was still an actual object.

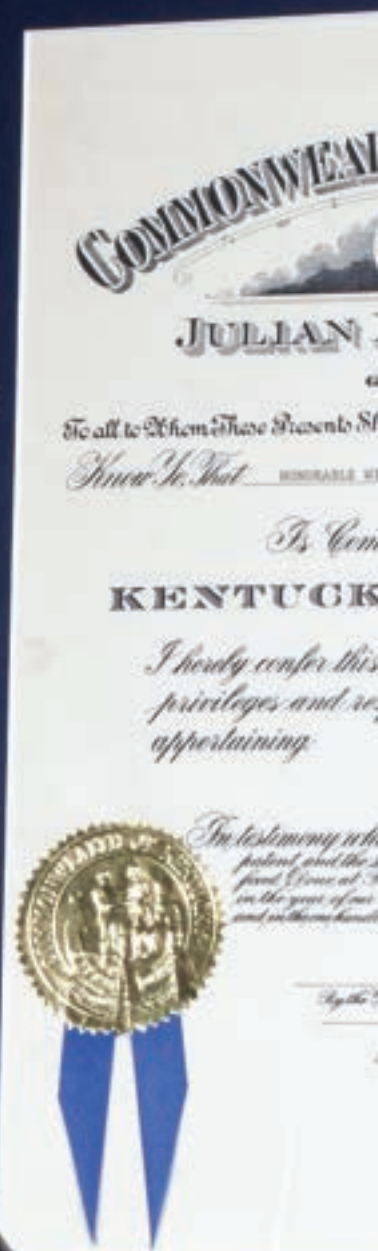
Around 2005, General Jim Lindsey said General Jan Camplin came to the headquarters with what might be the Great Seal at that time. Her father-in-law, Paul Camplin (also a Kentucky Colonel), served on a submarine in the Atlantic during World War II. During his long hours submerged, Paul Camplin hand-carved a 6” wooden replica of the Great Seal. This replica, which is the oldest known version of the seal, is on display at HOKC headquarters.

Fast forward a few years, and the question of the Great Seal resurfaced. General Lynn Ashton, who served as Interim Executive Director, said she thought she had the Great Seal, a twenty-pound item being used for a door stop. This “seal” was a large metal device with a handle on it. Experimenting with the gadget revealed it was a seal embosser, similar to what a notary uses. The design it imprinted was similar to the historical seal of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The possibility that this gadget was the Great Seal was credible because the governor’s office once sent the commission documents to the HOKC office, where the ribbon and gold seal were affixed. This history is more likely the true story of the official Great Seal, but a seal hand-carved by a sailor on a submarine in the Atlantic during World War II is certainly a prized possession and historical memorabilia for the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels.

Today, Executive Director Sherry Crose holds the title of Keeper of the Great Seal.

And that’s no legend 🇺🇸

Stories of the Great Seal of the Honorable Order include disappearing in the 1937 flood, being recreated aboard a WWII US Navy submarine, and an embosser, reminiscent of the day when the HOKC office was tasked by the governor to affix a ribbon and literally seal each Colonel’s commission.



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Because a Colonel Gave.

In 2020, the Good Works Program provided more than \$3.1 million in grants to nonprofits delivering critical services to Kentuckians in need. These grants are possible only because Colonels like you chose to continue their philanthropy through regular contributions to the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels.

On behalf of the 3.9 million people whose lives are forever changed by these nonprofits, we thank you for your generosity.



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