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## **Kentucky Colonels Distribute \$245,000 in First Wave of Disaster Relief, Colonels from 46 States Respond to Challenge.**

This week, the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels sent via overnight delivery checks totaling \$245,000 to 23 nonprofits providing disaster relief services in western Kentucky following the December 10 tornadoes.

“This is just a down payment from Kentucky Colonels for our neighbors across western Kentucky,” said Gen. Hal Sullivan, board of trustees chair. “Just last week, the trustees committed assistance and began our search and vetting efforts for legitimate nonprofits serving this region.” Of the 23 nonprofits receiving grants, 15 are in the affected areas. The other eight organizations are based in Louisville and Frankfort and have a history of providing services statewide.

The Colonels’ initial pledge included a \$2 million challenge from Colonels Shannon, Kristy, and Amy Ralston. The trustees responded with a \$1 million match and a call to Kentucky Colonels around the world to match the remaining \$1 million. The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels annually receives its Good Works Program contributions from Colonels in all 50 states, Canada, and 58 other countries.

Anyone wishing to help meet this \$1 million challenge can contribute to the Honorable Order online at [KyColonels.org](http://KyColonels.org) or mail their contribution marked Western Kentucky Tornado Relief to 943 South First Street, Louisville, KY 40203. Visit [KyColonels.org/Tornado-Relief](http://KyColonels.org/Tornado-Relief) to see a list of emergency grants. This list will be updated regularly.

Honorable Order’s plan for a Spring 2022 Day of Service to be held in western Kentucky is in the planning stages, with details to be announced in January.

### **About The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, Inc.**

The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels is a 501(c)(3) entity dedicated to supporting charitable activities throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The organization is governed by an all-volunteer Board of Trustees. The “Kentucky Colonel” commission is an honorary title granted by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Since 1951, the organization has pursued its mission through annual grants totaling \$55 million to more than 1,600 nonprofits. Of those Colonels’ contributions, 100% are awarded to nonprofits across the state. Each grant is thoroughly vetted by the trustees and staff. Though the corporate name is The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, most know it by its long-term trademark, KENTUCKY COLONELS.