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Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels announces \$1 Million in Disaster Relief; Distributes \$255,000 this week.

The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels' Board of Trustees voted on Tuesday to commit \$1 million to emergency relief and rebuilding efforts across flood-ravaged eastern Kentucky. The trustees immediately put a challenge out to Kentucky Colonels around the world to collectively match that amount.

“It is unprecedented, to my knowledge, for the Commonwealth to be hit by such a one-two punch of December’s tornadoes and these devastating floods,” said Gen. Gary Boschert, board chair. “Also unprecedented is for the Honorable Order’s to ask Colonels, once again, to step up to assist our neighbors who are dealing with an incredible blow that most of us cannot begin to fathom. And yet, that’s what we are doing today.”

Boschert concluded, “We learned from our recent experiences with partners in western Kentucky tornado relief, that recovery is a long-term commitment, and we will ensure that 100% of contributions toward flood relief will be given to thoroughly vetted nonprofits providing assistance to the citizens and communities of eastern Kentucky.”

The Honorable Order made up to \$255,000 immediate relief available to qualified nonprofits and those who have received grants from the Colonels’ Good Works Program. The remaining amount, along with Colonels’ contributions to this effort will be earmarked for eastern Kentucky relief and rebuilding in the months and years to come.

Since Tuesday’s vote, the Colonels’ Grants Committee reviewed over 50 nonprofits with boots on the ground in eastern Kentucky. Their recommendation of the following organizations was presented to the Board of Trustees and approval:

Appalachian Citizens' Law Center, Whitesburg
Appalachian Regional Healthcare Foundation, Lexington
Appalshop, Inc., Whitesburg
Christian Aid Ministries, Berlin, OH
Christian Appalachian Project, Lexington
Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky, Hazard
Hindman Settlement School, Hindman
Housing Development Alliance, Hazard
Housing Oriented Ministries Established for Service, Inc., Whitesburg
Kentucky Nurse Foundation, Louisville
Kentucky River Regional Animal Shelter, Hazard
Partnership Housing Offering, Booneville
SOS International, Louisville

Team Eastern Kentucky Flood Relief Fund, Frankfort
United Methodist Mountain Mission, Jackson
World Central Kitchen, Washington, DC

To contribute to the Honorable Order, Kentucky Colonels and others can visit KyColonels.org or mail their contribution to 943 South First Street, Louisville, KY 40203.

About The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, Inc.

HOKC 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. For decades HOKC has pursued its mission through annual grants to charities across the state, funded by the generous donations of its contributing Colonels. Though the corporate name is The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, most know it by its long-term trademark, KENTUCKY COLONELS.