

Bugle

FALL 2024

*R.T.
Kendall*

Christian Writer,
Speaker, & Teacher



A PUBLICATION OF
The Honorable Order of
**Kentucky
Colonels®**

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Louisville, Kentucky 40203
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KyColonels.org

From the Commanding General

This is your Honorable Order!

This year, the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels granted \$2.5 million to 325 nonprofits across the Commonwealth after a rigorous vetting process. We do the due diligence making it easy for you to have confidence your donations are invested where they are most needed.

In this issue, we meet two Colonels who have invested in the Kentucky Colonels for over 30 years. We are grateful for their commitment to the Good Works program. Because they gave, because a Colonel gave, you have changed the lives of millions of Kentuckians. Thank you.

We desire to reach every region of Kentucky and, in this issue, feature five nonprofits representing the western, northern, central, eastern, and greater Louisville regions.

The reach of Kentucky Colonels goes far beyond the boundaries of the Commonwealth and the United States. Colonel Bud Shown's military career took him around the world, and his good works continue in his retirement. Colonel R. T. Kendall hung his commission certificate in the vestry of Westminster Chapel, where he served for 25 years.

We want to hear from you! Do you have topics you would like to read about in future issues of this magazine? Do you have questions for HOKC? Do you have an interesting career or hobby? Send us a note or give us a call.

Cordially,

Gary W Boschert

Gary Boschert
Commanding General
HOKC 



Logan "Bud" SHOWN

Written by Colonel
Leslie Watkins, Director
of Major Gifts

On any given day, Kentucky Colonel Logan Shown might be found working on a multitude of repairs at the Ohio County Museum or volunteering at the Beaver Dam Methodist Church, where he has been a member for over 80 years. And that's on top of the more than 100 Habitat for Humanity houses he has helped to build in Owensboro, Madisonville, and Bowling Green, Kentucky. Shown was commissioned as a Kentucky Colonel in 1988.

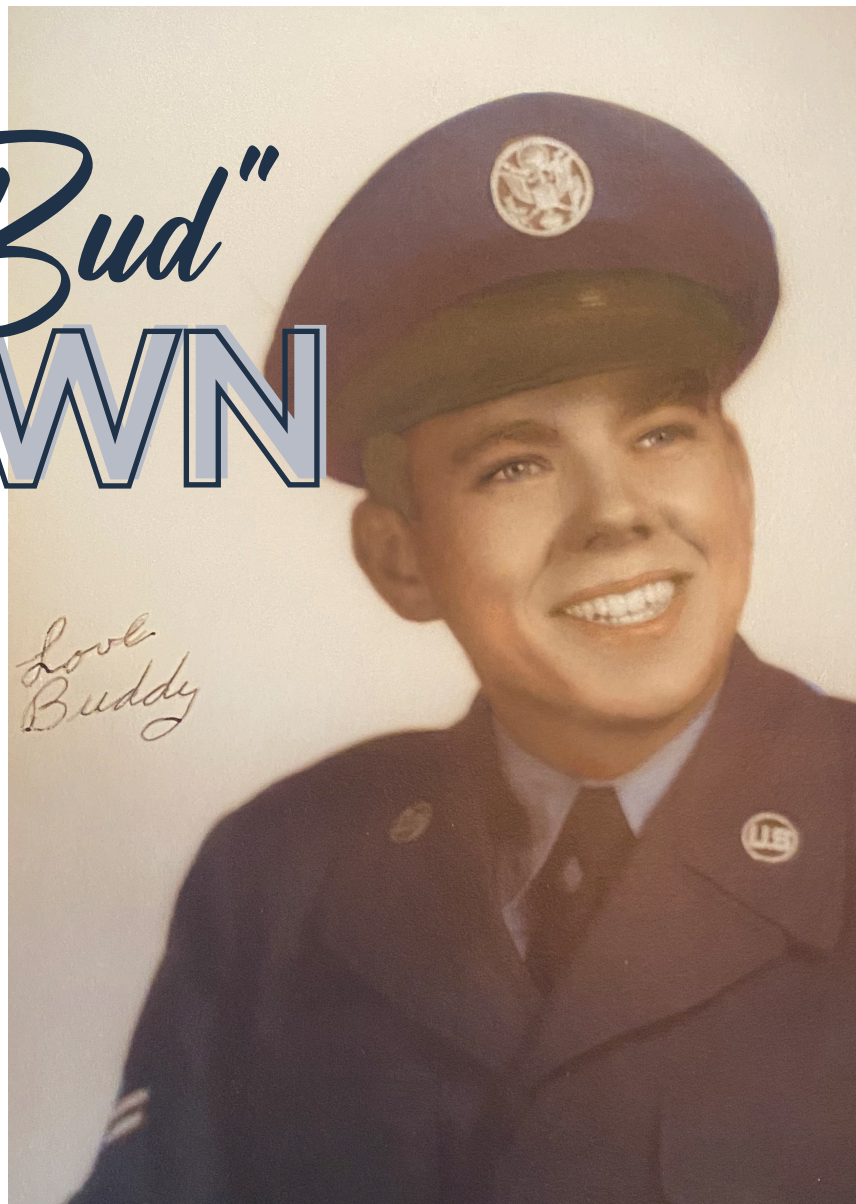
Born and raised in Ohio County, Shown is known as "Bud" or "Buddy" to most. Helping his father, a bricklayer, one summer, eleven-year-old Shown realized he did not want to suffer in the summer heat and retreated to the local shoe repair shop to cool off. Shown became interested in the cobbler's work and that day began an apprenticeship as a cobbler and a job he held until he enlisted in the military.

Shortly after graduation from high school, Shown received his Korean War draft notice for the Army but wanted to join the Air Force. The Air Force quota for recruits in Kentucky had been filled, so Shown's mother drove him and friends to Nashville to enlist. They were sworn in on December 7, 1951, ten years after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Shown's basic training for the USAF was at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. He finished in the top ten percent of his flight, was promoted, and was selected to fill a need in the supply career field and sent to supply school at F. E. Warren AFB in Wyoming. Finishing again in the top ten percent of his class, he was promoted and assigned to Camp Stoneman, California, to await the boarding of the troopship, USS Black, on June 1, 1952, heading to Japan, the staging site for Korea. With his knowledge of the base supply system and the work he did, Shown received the rank of Airman First Class before being sent to Moody AFB in Georgia.

During Shown's first ten years in the Air Force, his job was to supply everything a base needed for operation and keep supply records.

As a priority expeditor, he was responsible for finding anything a base needed, such as plane parts for a flying mission, and getting it to that base, whether it be located in England, Morocco, the Philippines, or France, as quickly as possible. Shown continued his education to learn the computer systems necessary to become a systems analyst. In this role, Sergeant Shown computerized supply applications for the Air Force bases, installing, loading, and managing the command supply systems. Over the years, he helped move the supply system process from manual records to the installation of computers to monitor supplies. Eventually, he worked to standardize the USAF supply system at all bases worldwide. On one of his most interesting assignments, he landed in Vietnam the day after the





Tet Offensive started and had to be moved to a safe location until the base was cleared.

Always finding ways to help others, Shown worked as a cobbler at night after his regular duties were over. He also frequently worked as a projectionist, a skill he had developed in high school, working at the local Ohio County movie theaters.

Shown's assignments during his 20 years in the United States Air Force took him to fifteen countries, with combat assignments in Korea and Vietnam. He also served overseas in Germany and Iceland, in addition to his duties at Lackland AFB (Texas), Moody AFB (Georgia), Edwards AFB (California), Scott AFB (Illinois), Ellsworth AFB (South Dakota), and Offutt AFB (Nebraska).

In 1972, Master Sergeant Shown retired from the United States Air Force after a 20-year career. He has received the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Force Good Conduct Medal with



2 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal with one Bronze Star, and the Vietnam Service Medal. He also received a Citation of Valor from the Commonwealth of Kentucky House of Representatives in 2023 for bravery and courageous service in the Air Force during his tours of duty in Vietnam and Korea.

Upon his military retirement, Shown returned to Beaver Dam; at the same time, the owner of the shoe repair shop where Shown worked as a boy was ready to retire. On January 1, 1972, he bought the shoe repair shop and operated that business as Pioneer Shoe Service until January 1, 1999. Beyond repair work, he also did custom work, for example, building up the sole of a shoe prescribed by a doctor for a patient, a young boy, who had one leg several inches shorter than the other. With a smile on his face, Shown says that he had "saved a lot of soles and done a lot of heeling" in those 27 years, outfitting thousands of coal miners, farmers, and construction and factory workers.

Eventually, Shown began looking for a change of pace from the shoe repair shop, wanting to do something worthwhile by utilizing his construction talents. His solution was Habitat for Humanity. In 1998, at age 65, he participated in his first statewide "blitz" build in Fordsville, Kentucky, where volunteers constructed an entire home in just one week (and fifteen houses were built in eleven cities across Kentucky). The next year, in a spontaneous act of goodwill, Shown sold the shoe repair shop to a man who had suffered a broken back and needed to find less physically taxing work and trained the new owner as a cobbler.

The Habitat experience was so fulfilling to Shown he has spent the last 25 years volunteering with Habitat locally, across the United States, and around the world in the Habitat for Humanity's Global Village Missions, working on global projects in India, Costa Rica, and the Dominican Republic.

Each winter, Shown heads south, taking his construction expertise to Habitat affiliates, where the weather is warmer, and the needs are great after devastating hurricanes. He





has volunteered with Habitat in Florida, Arizona, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Canada. He worked on three Jimmy Carter Work Projects with President and Mrs. Carter in Georgia, California, and Michigan, where they built 125 houses in one week. Shown said, "I enjoy seeing what we are able to achieve with each build. It's rewarding, helping someone have a house who couldn't otherwise afford one." He said the satisfaction comes from helping other people who work beside them in the building of the houses. Shown also volunteers for the Habitat Brush with Kindness program, which helps people in need of small repairs on their homes.

Because of his work with Habitat for Humanity, Shown was commissioned in 1988.

In 2008, Shown bought an ambulance at a used car dealership and retrofitted it with storage to carry enough tools for 50 people to job sites. He repaired the electrical system of the ambulance and added a generator. On his 20th anniversary with Habitat, Shown donated his volunteer truck to Habitat for Humanity of Ohio County. He also

surprised them with the gift of his home in Beaver Dam, for which he will retain a life estate.

Shown oversaw construction for ten Habitat houses and provided significant funding for two houses in Ohio and Daviess Counties. He was inducted into the Owensboro-

Daviess County Habitat for Humanity Hall of Fame in 2016.

Shown's time in the military afforded him the opportunity to travel. He continues to travel and has been to all 50 states, seven continents, and at least 76 foreign countries, including Iceland, Spain, England, France, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Italy, Denmark, Vietnam, Korea, Japan, the Philippines, and French Morocco.

Colonel Shown has faithfully served his church, country, and customers and has hundreds of Habitat for Humanity houses under his "construction" belt to show for his service to others worldwide. At age 91, he continues to volunteer almost daily. Beyond his work with Habitat, he has been a part of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program since 1999. According to the regular diners at his favorite restaurant in Beaver Dam, "If you want something done, you call on Bud." 🇺🇸



RICHARD KAYE

Written by Colonel Richard Kaye

I was born in New York and raised in the small town of Jericho, approximately 35 miles east of New York City on Long Island. Growing up, I participated in a number of school-sponsored activities, mostly involving team sports. Summers were spent on Long Island's beautiful beaches until my parents impressed on me the benefits of a job, primarily for my financial well-being but also for the discipline that employment creates in a young person.

I enrolled at the University of Kentucky in the late summer of 1971, having applied without ever having visited the school or the state of Kentucky. I'm not a romantic at heart, but, looking back, there was something that attracted me to UK, which, no doubt, played on my psyche and subconsciously directed me there. In retrospect, the four years I spent there were some of the best years of my early life. The beauty of the state and the genuineness of the many people I met remain fixed in my mind.

I graduated in 1975 with a B.A. in political science with High Distinction and Phi Beta Kappa. My studies included a course in the Honors Program, which granted credit for non-classroom activities; my credit was earned as an intern in Congressman John Breckenridge's Lexington office. That internship served as the predicate for my nomination as a Kentucky Colonel.

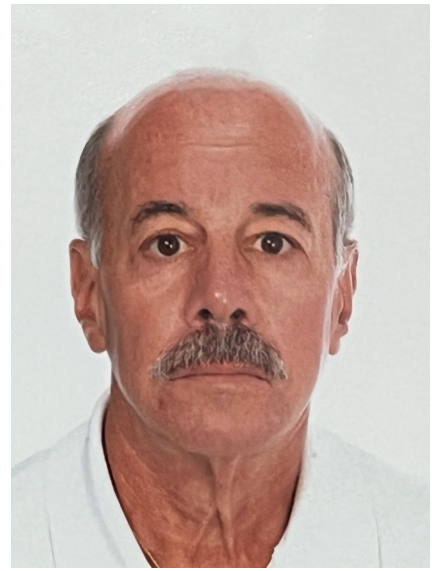
As a New Yorker until enrolling at UK, the Kentucky Colonels was an organization with which I was unfamiliar. It was while living in the freshmen dorm that I first heard about it; a friend of mine explained how proud he was of a relative who was a

Kentucky Colonel. He explained that it was a charity-based organization and that membership was limited to those who performed a service for the benefit of the state.

It wasn't until my senior year that the prestige of membership became evident. While interning for Congressman Breckenridge, I noticed the certificates that some of his top aides displayed in their offices. They described the many charitable things the Colonels do and how the people of Kentucky benefit from it. Since my role in the office was to help resolve constituent complaints and problems, it was considered that I had served the people of Kentucky and was eligible to become a Colonel. I wish I could recall which of my colleagues nominated me.

After graduating in 1975, I returned to New York and attended law school at Albany Law School of Union University. I graduated in 1978 and practiced law in New York until I retired in 2014. I specialized in defending catastrophic injuries arising from construction site accidents, elevator accidents, and medical malpractice. My wife, Maureen, and I are enjoying our retirement here in Naples, Florida. I enjoy golf, gardening, and reading fiction and history. Our two children and five grandchildren reside in the northeast.

Like many young attorneys, the early years are challenging; mine were no different. Everyday obligations and student loan debt (no such thing as loan forgiveness back then) left little room for discretionary spending. Still, I was aware that others are a little less fortunate than me or the victim of some terrible happenstance may need



assistance. Mindful that my certificate as a Kentucky Colonel was more than simply for show and having seen the list of the many recipients of the donations made by other Colonels, it became evident that some effort, however small, had to be undertaken to help out. Thus, my attempts to do my part these many years later. The Kentucky Colonels are now beneficiaries of my estate plan.

Like many others, I have a choice as to which charities to support. My modest contributions are directed to those charities that serve the truly needy, the disabled, and the disadvantaged. The Good Works Program of the Colonels does just that with a focus on those whose lives will be made better by financial help and knowing that there are people who really care about them and their circumstances. The diversity of beneficiaries, ranging from disabled veterans to hurricane victims to abused/battered women to facilities for the seeing/hearing impaired, satisfies my concern that the funds are used wisely and judiciously. The fact that a great deal of the money goes to Kentucky-based services is also important to me; the state that gave me my start, where I made lasting friends, and about which I have so many fond memories, makes me a happy donor. I hope I can continue to be so. 🇺🇸

OVER 30 YEARS



LESSLEY DECKER WILES

Written by Colonel Lessley Decker Wiles

A World War II baby, I was born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and remember air raid warnings and blackout curtains. My father was transferred to Green River Steel in Owensboro when I was a teenager. I worked at Wax Works in Owensboro, a record store owned by Kentucky Colonels Leroy and Terry Woodward. I studied chemical engineering at Purdue University for two years. At that time, women were not encouraged to study engineering at Purdue, and I was told my only job would be cleaning test tubes.

On my way to a debate tournament at the University of Kentucky, I sustained a broken back in an automobile wreck. Unhappy at Purdue, I decided to transfer to the University of Kentucky and majored in political science. While there, I was active with the Young Democrats organization, especially the 1959 campaign of Wilson Wyatt, who ran for lieutenant governor on the Bert Combs ticket. Because of my work on his campaign, I was nominated to be a Kentucky Colonel.

While a student at UK, I met Bill Wiles, a second-generation Kentucky Colonel, who had graduated from what was then known as Murray State College, earned his Master's in business administration, and was teaching at UK.

Upon my graduation, we married in Owensboro, Kentucky, and moved to Madison, Wisconsin, for him to pursue a Ph.D. in economics. In 1964, Bill served a summer internship with the Federal Reserve Board of Governors and, in 1965, became a full-time economist with the then-named Banking Market Unit.

Over the next 40 years, he served the organization in increasingly responsible positions, culminating with his promotion to Secretary of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, a position he held until he retired in 1998. Bill was the longest-serving Secretary of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, serving under all chairmen from Volcker to Greenspan. Bill also served in the United States Army Counterintelligence Corps during the Korean War.

Living in Arlington, Virginia, I was a labor analyst for the Department of Labor. When the Department of Housing and Urban Development was created, I took a position with HUD and developed new communities under Title VII, the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970. The New Communities Development Corporation was established to guarantee bonds and other financing of private and public developers and to provide other development assistance through loans, grants, and planning assistance. The new communities were to be mixed-use areas with diversified mixtures of income, ethnic, and social groups. I traveled extensively with George Romney, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development at that time, and developed communities in St. Charles, Maryland; Flower Mound, Texas; The Woodlands, Texas; and Harbison, South Carolina.

In 1995, after 41 years with the federal government, I retired. Bill and I decided we wanted to leave the northern Virginia area. Wanting a similar climate, we drew a circle to enclose every place within one and one-half hours of Arlington.



Eventually, we chose York, Pennsylvania, where we would spend our retirement and moved into a large home on 5.5 acres. After Bill suffered a stroke, we moved to a condominium development where I currently live. I continued as a self-employed consultant working with multi-family housing until 2014.

Diagnosed with breast cancer in 2005, I learned that some similarly diagnosed could not afford the insurance co-payment for treatment. Wanting to do whatever I could to help those newly diagnosed, I became an officer in Pink Partners, a 501(c)3. Our 60 members held fundraisers and gave approximately \$100,000 each to Memorial Hospital and the York Hospital. We also funded scholarships for York High School students impacted by a family member's cancer.

Over the years, I watched the Contributor's Report to see where grants went. I have never thought money was going to a nonprofit I would not give to personally, and I trust the Kentucky Colonels to use my donations wisely. For the last two years, I have made additional gifts in memory of my husband to provide money for grant applications that the Good Works program could not fully fund at the end of the vetting process. 🇺🇸



RS OF GIVING



Written by Colonel
Leslie Watkins,
Director of Major Gifts

Colonel Robert Tillman Kendall, a Christian writer, speaker, and teacher who pastored Westminster Chapel in London, England, for 25 years, was born in Ashland, Kentucky, in 1935. Named for R. T. Williams, a minister and general superintendent of the Church of the Nazarene, Kendall eventually followed in his



namesake's footsteps and is now a prominent figure in the global Christian community.

While attending Ashland High School, Kendall and his debate team visited Washington, DC, where he met United States Senator John Sherman Cooper. Kendall said Cooper let him sit in the Vice President's seat and told him of the tradition for a person sitting in the chair to make a wish; his wish was to be a great minister. After their meeting, Cooper encouraged and remained in touch with Kendall, frequently sending him debate team ideas.

After graduation, Colonel Kendall attended Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, Tennessee, for his Bachelor's degree. While he was a student, he frequently wondered but doubted if he should be a minister. Through the guidance of a visiting lecturer who became a mentor to him, Kendall eventually felt it was his calling and never doubted it after that. Seventy years later, Kendall

is still preaching around the world. At 89 years old, he will travel to China, Scotland, England, and several locations around the United States this year.

Kendall's ministerial training includes a Master's in divinity from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, and a Master's degree in divinity from the University of Louisville. He earned his Ph.D. from Regent's Park College, a hall of the University of Oxford. From 1974 to 1977, while he was at Oxford, Kendall was pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, which served United States Air Force families stationed at Royal Air Upper Heyford and Royal Air Force Croughton bases.

In February of 1977, Kendall was assigned to Westminster Chapel in London, where he served for 25 years. Westminster Chapel is located one block from Buckingham Palace. During his ministry, many of his sermons were

compiled into books. Today, through the help of his wife, Louise, he is the author of more than 80 books.

Since leaving Westminster in 2002, Kendall has continued his work as an author and guest speaker and says there are few countries in which he has not preached.

One of Kendall's sermons, titled "Total Forgiveness," has been translated into 20 languages. According to Kendall, this sermon was born in his darkest hour when he was bitter about something that happened to him he thought was unjust. Remembering Charles Dickens' A Tale of Two Cities, he drafted the sermon with its famous "best of times, worst of times" line. Kendall said he became famous in South Africa for one day because of that sermon. A black lady in South Africa, whose parents had been brutally murdered by a white supremacist, visited with the perpetrator in prison to tell him she

had forgiven him. In media interviews, she said she did so after reading Kendall's "Total Forgiveness" sermon.

In 2002, the Archbishop of Canterbury appointed him to a committee designed to help bring peace to the Middle East. When the Archbishop received a call from Canterbury's envoy to the Middle East asking for someone to visit with Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Army, he sent Kendall, who was in Jerusalem at the time. Kendall unexpectedly spent almost two hours with Arafat and visited him five more times over the years. In his home in Nashville, Tennessee, Kendall displays photos of himself and Arafat, including a photo of Arafat on their first visit, talking with Mrs. Kendall on a cell phone, and reassuring her that Kendall was safe.

Since leaving Westminster in 2002, Kendall has continued his work as an author and guest speaker and says there are few countries in which he has not preached. He appears on Christian television and is a regular contributor to Christian publications. Kendall tapes YouTube videos weekly and tweets regularly. He also appears on TVNUK, a television channel in



England, Scotland, Ireland, and South Africa, three times a week.

After speaking at a conference in Kentucky in 1997, Kendall was nominated as a Kentucky Colonel. His framed commission hung on the wall in the vestry at Westminster Chapel for the remainder of his time as pastor there.

Kendall is married to the former Louise Wallis of Sterling, Illinois. They have two children, Robert Tillman II and Melissa Louise. 🇺🇸





Kentucky Colonels **REGIONAL GRANTS**

Through the Good Works Program, the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels provides over \$2.5 million annually in grants to Kentucky nonprofits that together assist over 3.9 million individuals. Since 1951, the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels has granted \$68 million, which represents more than 8,000 grants.

It is only BECAUSE A COLONEL GAVE, because over 30,000 active Colonels throughout the world gave, that these grants are possible. Thank you for choosing to dedicate your charitable efforts to organizations that help Kentuckians. The goal of the Honorable Order is to provide support across the Commonwealth, from Fulton to Flemingsburg. These nonprofits, representing the different regions of Kentucky, have received numerous grants from the Honorable Order.

\$2.5 Million Awarded Grants
3.9 Million Lives Touched

ST. JOSEPH CHILDREN'S HOME

Awarded their first HOKC grant in 1958.

Submitted by Tiffany White, Communications Manager



The funds St. Joseph Children's Home, located in Louisville, Kentucky, receives from the Kentucky Colonels help us in our mission of providing inclusive and compassionate care to ensure a safe home and bright future for every child in our diverse community.

Kentucky ranks fifth in the nation for child abuse and neglect, but our staff is dedicated to reversing this disturbing trend with the addition of our Behavioral Health Services Outpatient Program, which provides therapy to kids and families in the community. The financial support we've received from the Kentucky Colonels allows us to provide a continuum of care for children who have been adopted. After adoption, they can continue receiving therapy from St. Joe's for as long as needed.

"We know that when children have a community of advocates, they blossom. St. Joe's has been the lifeline for kids in the foster care system and has served over 75,000 children. This year marks our 175th anniversary and is a reminder of the impact we've had with the help of funding from the Kentucky Colonels. There is still work to be done, but knowing we have the support of this incredible organization makes it easier for us to do whatever it takes to keep children safe," says Grace Akers, CEO of St. Joe's.

St. Joe's Residential Treatment program cares for children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse and

neglect and is licensed to house up to 48 children (ages 6-15) at a time. St. Joe's has become an extended family for many residents, and it is not uncommon for a child to say, "For the first time, I feel safe." We plan structured outings off campus for our children and have partnered with other organizations, such as the Louisville Visual Art Association, to incorporate art therapy classes into their extracurricular activities in our on-campus school, St. Joe's Academy.

We continue to have one of the highest rates of adoptions of any private child-caring agency in Kentucky. Our Foster Care and Adoption Program serves children from infancy to 21 years old who are currently placed in Kentucky's foster care system. The St. Joe's foster care and adoption team recruits and trains individuals from the community to become foster parents while also providing 24/7 support to meet the various needs of our families.

"Receiving our first HOKC grant in 1958, St. Joseph Children's Home remains grateful for the Kentucky Colonels' support, which has been vital to our mission."

— Tiffany White

Having received our first HOKC grant in 1958, St. Joseph Children's Home remains grateful for the Kentucky Colonels' support, which has been vital to our mission. Their contributions have funded essential needs, including vehicles, technology upgrades, the preservation of historical adoption records, and our capital campaign to rehabilitate our 1885 Landmark Building. 🇺🇸



Photos Courtesy of Jess Amburgey

Fall 2024

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The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels

WATCH INC.

Awarded their first HOKC grant in 1986.

Submitted by Colonel Peggy Williams, Executive Advisor

WATCH is dedicated to providing the most normal lifestyle possible and preparing each individual for maximal self-sufficiency. Our goal is to assist developmentally and intellectually disabled adults and those with acquired brain injuries in becoming fully integrated into their community. Our services include training in self-help/personal care, independent living, pre-vocational, and communication and motor skills.


"The Kentucky Colonels have been an integral part of the success of WATCH. They have always been there for us when we needed their help the most. I cannot imagine accomplishing these projects over all these years without them."

— Peggy Williams

The Murray WATCH Center has been blessed with the support of the Kentucky Colonels since 1986 when we requested funding to construct our first 3,200-square-foot building at 702 Main Street. The old houses where we were providing services were no longer safe. At this time, twelve individuals were enrolled. As our program has grown, so has the need for additional space (and assistance from the Kentucky Colonels). In 1988, a 3,220 square foot workshop was added to the Main Street building to provide space for our clients to assemble parts at a piece rate of pay for Briggs & Stratton and Pella Corporations, and, in 1999, a 1,200 square foot office building was constructed with a 40 feet wheelchair ramp. We purchased and remodeled the WATCH Annex in 2005 to provide space for over 20 of our individuals who had been working on the site at Briggs and Stratton to return to our center. We also constructed an 8,000-square-foot gym and activity center for art and cooking classes and recreational activities.

Through the years, the Kentucky Colonels have helped with the expenses of a box truck that makes daily runs, picking up small parts and delivering assembled parts to the corporations with which WATCH has contracts.

Funding from the Colonels has helped us purchase a forklift, pallet jack, and automatic door openers for those in wheelchairs and to build covered walkways, driveways, and parking lots. They have provided support for canopies over our doors to protect our clients from the weather when loading and unloading buses and helped with purchasing a sound system for the gym, exercise equipment, new flooring, furniture, washer/dryer, tables and folding chairs, computers/printers for our clients to learn computer skills, and booths for eating areas.

"The Kentucky Colonels have been an integral part of the success of WATCH. They have always been there for us when we needed their help the most. I cannot imagine accomplishing these projects over all these years without them." said Peggy Williams, WATCH Inc. Executive Advisor (Executive Director, retired). She continued, "In turn, the Honorable Order would not be able to give this assistance to WATCH or similar agencies without the support of Kentucky Colonels around the world. The Murray WATCH Center will be forever grateful to the Kentucky Colonels for the encouragement and assistance given to our agency for many years. WATCH has been able to realize dreams that would not have been possible without the Kentucky Colonels." 



KENTUCKY UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME

Awarded their first HOKC grant in 1958.

Submitted by Rebecca Merrill, Director of Communications and Public Relations

For as long as Jon can remember, all he wanted was a normal life. Thanks to positive influences in his life, such as the Kentucky United Methodist Children's Homes (KyUMH), Jon has now built the life he dreamed of as a child.

Jon was thirteen years old when he arrived at KyUMH. After being placed in foster care at just two years old, he craved stability. Jon says living with us gave him a vision of a healthy home. He learned that "It's normal to have clean sheets. It's normal to have nutritious meals," Jon says. "It's normal to have someone who cares about you, to ask you questions, to care for your safety, to care if the doors are locked at night."

KyUMH's mission is to serve Christ by providing for the physical, emotional, educational, and spiritual needs of children and families. We know that, for youth like Jon, providing a safe physical environment is the first step to building trust. Only once a young person feels safe can they begin healing from trauma.

For decades, the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels has provided a safe physical environment for our youth. New beds and mattresses ensured our youth could get the quality rest they needed. Vans for transportation meant our youth could go to doctor's appointments and recreational outings. Essentials like air conditioning units, a new

phone system, a snow blower, and more ensured our facilities were comfortable and safe.

"The Kentucky Colonels have cared for generations of youth by making sure we have what we need to provide quality care," says Colonel Julie Hager Love, KyUMH President and CEO. "Our partnership is a powerful example of what Kentuckians can do when they come together for child welfare."



Kentucky Colonels have laid a foundation for healing that spans generations by providing these essential items. Jon credits the safety and security he experienced at KyUMH as the model for his life as an adult. He is now a role model to his children and other young men in his community. "I want to pay it forward," Jon says. "Hopefully, I can teach them what I have learned, and they'll be better than I was, and their kids will be better than they are."

Since our founding in 1871, caring people like the Kentucky Colonels have stepped up for children in need. KyUMH was founded as an orphanage in the fallout of the Civil War. The original building on South Fifth Street in Louisville housed about five dozen children.

We outgrew the orphanage and moved to a large farm in Versailles in 1931. As the foster care system was created in the 1980s, we changed our focus and became

a treatment home to serve youth who had experienced abuse, neglect, and trauma. In 1984, we expanded our reach to Western Kentucky with the addition of the Mary Kendall Campus in Owensboro. In the 2000s, we launched early intervention programs serving families in the community. After over eighty years in Versailles, in 2017, we moved our facilities to a new campus in Nicholasville.

We are constantly adapting to meet the needs of children and families in Kentucky. Our state-wide programs include:

- Community-Based Services: Youth and families facing behavioral or emotional challenges heal together through counseling and other resources. In 2023, youth served in these programs accounted for 84% of our total clients served.
- Residential Services: Youth in foster care who have experienced abuse and neglect receive a safe home and therapeutic care.
- Independent Living: Young adults aging out of foster care and at risk of homelessness receive support as they prepare for adulthood.

In 2023, the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels made a brighter future possible for 1,942 young people that KyUMH served. We are grateful to each Kentucky Colonel for providing a solid foundation for healing! 🇺🇸



BUCKHORN CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

Awarded their first HOKC grant in 1970.

Submitted by Richard Wilson, Chief Development Officer

Buckhorn Children & Family Services' mission is to provide a sanctuary of health, healing, and hope for at-risk children, youth, and families. Our CEO, Kentucky Colonel Billy Smith, said, "Support from the Kentucky Colonels profoundly enhances the lives of the children in our care. Your support is a beacon of hope, allowing us to provide a nurturing and secure environment where our children can thrive."

For over 170 years, we have served thousands of children and families in Kentucky, especially the isolated communities around Buckhorn, Kentucky. We began in Louisville, but after 50 years, our founder selected this new location because it had been cut off from many advantages, and he sought to bring those advantages to these people. Today, we honor that vision and continue his work. Buckhorn is still a remote and resource-poor region of Appalachia; we are a vital part of bringing hope and healing to families and the community.

At our Dessie Scott location, we offer four twelve-bedroom homes for

abused, neglected, and abandoned children who are developmentally delayed. These children have been sexually, physically, or emotionally abused in the most horrific ways. For them, we operate a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTF) with all the appropriate licenses and highly trained staff. This includes 24/7 house parents, along with clinical and nursing staff support. We have a school dedicated to meeting the children's special needs located near our campus, along with campus recreational activities.

"Thank you for your invaluable grant, which will significantly improve the quality of life and opportunities for the children in our home."

— Richard Wilson

On our Buckhorn campus, we provide addiction recovery homes for men and women. These adults live on our Buckhorn campus and learn how to live a sober life as diagnosed addicts. We also offer Therapeutic Foster Care for children who have experienced extreme trauma and foster parents trained to handle these higher needs. We provide our community with outpatient therapy services to all who seek help. Finally, we provide family preservation services for families at risk of being separated due to the

parent/child dynamic. We coach parents, connect them to resources, and provide one-on-one crisis support to keep the family together. All services are free.

Our most recent grant from the Kentucky Colonels will go directly to our Dessie Scott Campus for a new HVAC unit at the Client Center. "Thank you for your invaluable grant, which will significantly improve the quality of life and opportunities for the children in our home. Your generosity ensures that we can continue to provide a safe, loving, and supportive environment for their growth and development," said our Dessie Scott Campus Operations Manager, David Benton. At this specific location, Buckhorn Children & Family Services' Campus-Based Residential Treatment Program serves boys ages twelve to seventeen.

Kids referred to our programs are survivors of chronic and frequently severe abuse and neglect. They are products of families that suffer from drug addiction, domestic violence, poverty, and a lack of education and parenting skills. They are challenged with mental disorders, developmental delays, and educational shortfalls. Many of them have faced the unimaginable and often come to us after a number of failed placements or when no other residential treatment program in the state will accept them.



EASTERSEALS REDWOOD

Awarded their first HOKC grant in 1958.

Submitted by Bruce Ripley, Grant Writer

The mission of Easterseals Redwood (ESRW), in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky, is to advance 100% equity, access, and inclusion for people with disabilities, people facing disadvantages, and veterans.

We provide programs designed to support people, regardless of ability, age, or level of workforce readiness, to develop skills, gain employment, and integrate into the community. We offer day programs for adults with disabilities and/or medical fragility and assistance for older people with disabilities and medical fragility.

Our Early Care and Education program offers childcare and preschool for children with and without special needs. The program is nationally accredited (NAEYC) and has an excellent 5-star rating in Kentucky. Embedded in this program is Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care, which helps children with special healthcare needs stabilize and improve their health by receiving onsite nursing care while benefiting from typical childhood experiences. We also offer after-school and summer programs for youth with disabilities.

ESRW provides therapy (speech, physical, occupational) and behavioral support to children and adults. We offer Northern Kentucky's only Assistive Technology Resource Center,

where we provide equipment loans, demonstrations, and training in the use of technology devices that facilitate activities of daily living and communication.

We also operate the Community OneSource hotline, providing emergency services to veterans, including those with disabilities, and their families by connecting them to resources, employment, and academic training.

Typically, those we serve lack education, experience, and/or network connections, which are disadvantages and barriers to employment. We provide people with education, certifications, practical hands-on experience, and employability training to address these issues. Graduates are connected to employment.

In 2024, we received a grant to purchase a Tovertafel, a multi-sensory gaming console that will benefit adults and children with intellectual disabilities. The system's light projections challenge players to maintain or develop their skills in a fun way. The Tovertafel is designed to challenge players at their skill level and can be played alone or in a group.

The Tovertafel has a positive effect because it promotes movement and social interaction, which helps

increase a sense of accomplishment and self-reliance in clients who rely heavily on their caregivers for assistance with daily activities. "Easterseals Redwood is very proud to have the support of the Kentucky Colonels who, over several years, have invested in equipment that allows people with disabilities to thrive," said Danielle Gentry-Barth, Executive Vice President of Agency Advancement and Veteran Services.

Our nursing and dietary staff, computer instructor, assistive technology professionals, and others provide an integrated support system for approximately 100 clients annually. They learn work and workplace skills through individualized training and completing business subcontract work. Wages are based on productivity and federal labor laws. The work is completed on-site at Redwood. Jobs include tasks such as sorting hangers, shredding large amounts of paper, and assembling information packets.

Another grant we received from the Kentucky Colonels allowed us to purchase an industrial shredder for clients in our Vocational Day Training (VDT) Program. VDT serves adults with disabilities who can perform work tasks in a sheltered environment but not in a competitive job setting. Clients use the industrial shredder while completing subcontract work requiring paper shredding for Northern Kentucky businesses. 🇺🇸





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...from Ashland to Paducah, 3.9 million Kentuckians benefit from the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels' Good Works Program. Children, veterans, people with disabilities, the hungry, and the homeless all find help through the services of 325 nonprofits receiving grants from us this year. And we continued to fulfill our commitment of \$4.5 million to tornado and flood relief across the state.

A commission as a Kentucky Colonel is the highest civilian honor a Kentucky governor can bestow. And many Colonels consider annual or monthly contributions to the Honorable Order to be a continuation of the altruistic activity that earned them that commission.

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2024
\$2.5 Million
325 Grants



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