



2024
ANNUAL
REPORT



Photo courtesy of Last Mile Food Rescue



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

As Horizon Community Funds enters its eighth year, we find ourselves not only reflecting on the progress we've made, but looking ahead with renewed energy. 2024 brought with it bold ideas, deepened partnerships, and a sharpened focus on what our region needs most.

Our work is powered by the strength of this community. Whether through collaborative initiatives, responsive grantmaking, or innovative pilot programs, we remain committed to being a nimble and effective partner.

We also saw continued impact from our community-led giving circles. The 410 and Give Where You Live NKY continued to rally neighbors around local causes, now surpassing \$230,000 in total grants awarded since 2019. These groups are a shining example of what happens when generosity meets grassroots action.

The needs of Northern Kentucky will continue to evolve, but so will we. Horizon Community Funds is here to listen, to lead, and to ensure that philanthropy in our region remains personal, purposeful, and powerful.

There's room at the table for everyone. Join us.

Nancy Grayson, President & CEO
Horizon Community Funds of Northern Kentucky

“
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”



I live here and I give here.

2024 AT A GLANCE

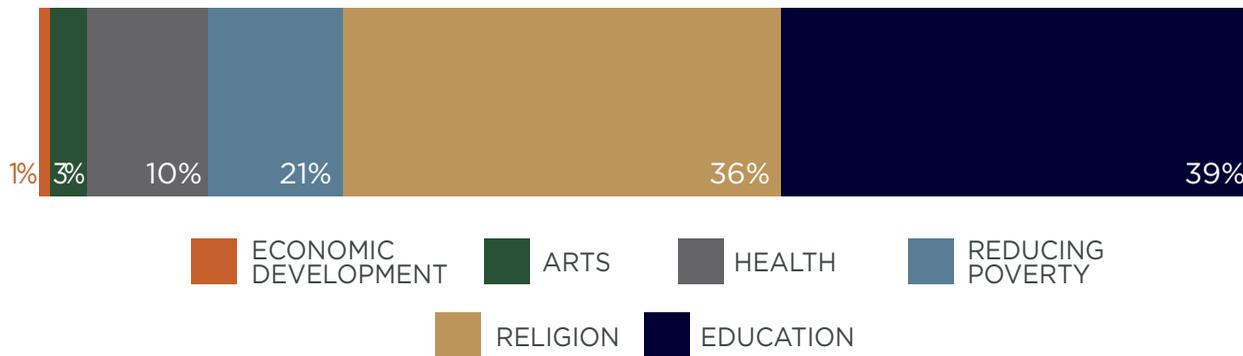
\$11.9 million
total grants made
\$47.7 MILLION SINCE INCEPTION

\$11.3 million
total contributions
\$78.5 MILLION SINCE INCEPTION

79%
donations under \$100

92%
donations under \$1,000

grants by impact area



functional expenses



about the community impact fund

The Community Impact Fund connects our community to needs across the region and uses collective giving as a way to break the cycle of poverty, support the arts, enhance education, and build a successful future for Northern Kentucky. It is our most flexible source of grantmaking dollars and supports long-term solutions, rapid response to emergencies, and the ability to navigate changing needs in our region.

This fund provides support to nonprofits that accelerate change, innovate solutions, and leverage partnerships and resources in Northern Kentucky. The Community Impact Fund relies on generous donors, business partnerships, and other support to bring grant opportunities to Northern Kentucky.

When you invest in our community fund, you are making a charitable gift that addresses the challenges of Northern Kentucky as they evolve, including needs that are not anticipated at the time the gift is made. Community funds empower our Council of Trustees to apply their judgment in assessing our community's needs and most critical endeavors.

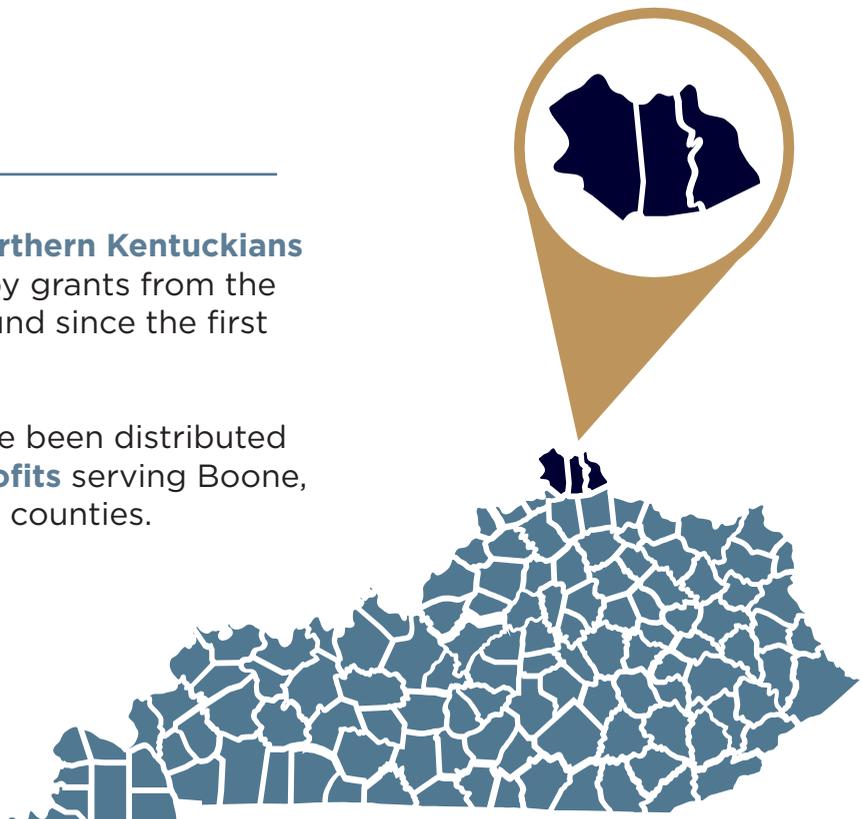
From young professionals to lifelong Northern Kentucky residents, the Community Impact Fund provides an opportunity for people to join together and help neighbors throughout Boone, Campbell, and Kenton counties. No gift is too small to build a more vibrant community now and in the future.

individuals served



More than **50,000 Northern Kentuckians** have been impacted by grants from the Community Impact Fund since the first grant cycle in 2019.

In total, **29 grants** have been distributed to **26 different nonprofits** serving Boone, Kenton, and Campbell counties.



grant dollars by year

During the first five grant cycles of the Community Impact Fund, a total of **\$343,700** was invested into Northern Kentucky.

Thanks to the generous supporters of the fund, the amount we are able to grant continues to increase each year. From 2019 to 2023, **the total amount granted increased by 98%.**

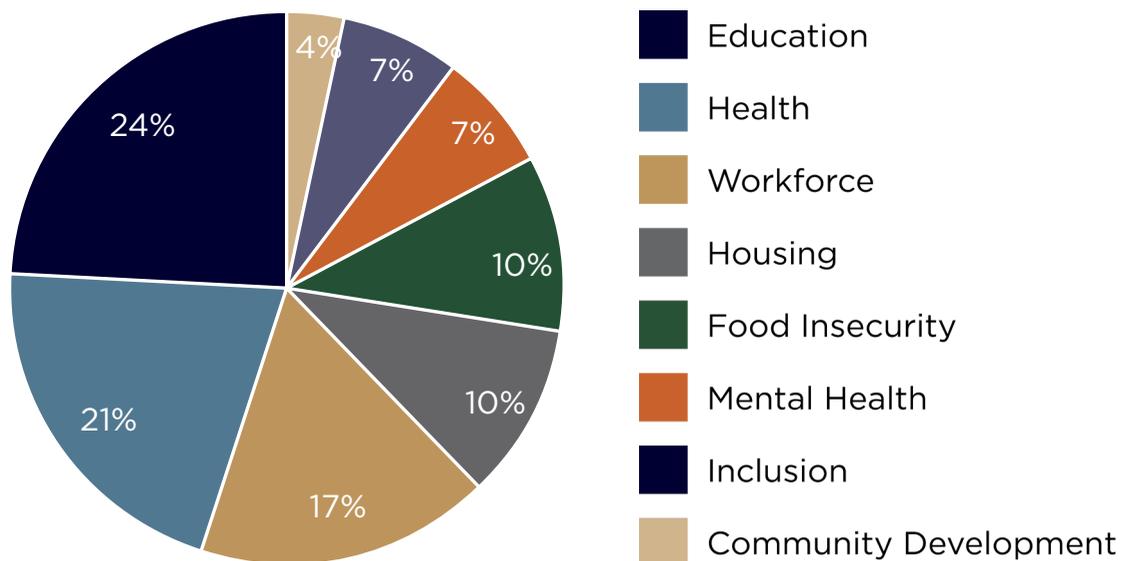


addressing priority needs

Through the Community Impact Fund, we are able to invest in a variety of areas for our region, ensuring that our community continues to thrive and grow. Northern Kentucky's needs are ever-changing, influenced by factors such as economic shifts, population growth, and emerging social challenges.

With the flexibility of this fund, we can adapt to these changes and respond swiftly to the most pressing issues. This allows us to provide targeted support where it is most needed, whether it be in healthcare, education, affordable housing, or community development. By directing grants to the most crucial priorities, we can make a significant and lasting impact on the well-being and prosperity of Northern Kentucky.

grants by focus area



community impact fund

BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE FOR NKY

During the 2024 grant cycle, we awarded \$100,000 in total to six different organizations serving the Northern Kentucky community.



Adopt A Class

Adopt A Class received \$20,000 to grow their mentorship program to include an additional 1,000 students in River City Schools. The program pairs teams with classrooms, exposing students to diverse life and career experiences, broadening their knowledge of career opportunities, and helping them develop a clearer vision for their future.



The Catalytic Fund

The Catalytic Fund received \$20,000 for its Impact Investment Program, a key element of its three-part strategy for community development and urban revitalization in Northern Kentucky. This grant will specifically support an affordable housing initiative within the 2024-2026 Strategic Plan, addressing the region's need for workforce and low-income housing.



Girl Scouts of Kentucky's Wilderness Road

Girl Scouts of Kentucky's Wilderness Road received \$10,000 for Building the Bridge to Girls K-12 Leadership, a capacity-building initiative that will focus on creating collaborative community partnerships and building the volunteer infrastructure needed to expand and sustain program delivery to low-income and racially/ethnically diverse girls, with a strong focus on Hispanic and immigrant communities.



Last Mile Food Rescue

Last Mile Food Rescue received \$10,000 to build on the expansion and growth of their food recovery programming in Northern Kentucky. This funding will allow the organization to continue to directly serve those with transportation barriers, financial barriers, and other circumstances that would prevent them from accessing nutritious food.



Northern Kentucky University

Northern Kentucky University received \$25,000 for the Pathway for Paraeducators Program. The goal of the program is to reduce the teacher shortages in the region, to bolster competitive compensation packages for school districts to leverage and incentivize staff, award compulsory degrees for current paraeducators to attain teaching positions, and aid in the overall upward economic mobility of the community.



Samaritan Car Care

Samaritan Car Care Clinic received \$15,000 to provide emergency car services to low-income families. The organization works on a referral basis with Northern Kentucky social service agencies. Car repairs are done using a shared-cost model with the goal of helping the families get to their jobs and stay on the path to self-sufficiency.



The Community Impact Fund connects our community to needs across the region and uses collective giving as a way to break the cycle of poverty, support the arts, enhance education, and build a successful future for Northern Kentucky. When you invest in our community fund, you are making a charitable gift that addresses the challenges of Northern Kentucky as they evolve. Scan the QR code to learn how you can make an impact!

memorial funds

Memorial funds offer a powerful way to honor the memory of a loved one while making a lasting difference in the community. By establishing a memorial fund with Horizon Community Funds of Northern Kentucky, donors create a lasting legacy that reflects the values and passions of those they wish to remember—supporting meaningful causes and driving positive change in our region for generations to come.

OUR FAMILY OF MEMORIAL FUNDS

Anne Marie Gieske Fund

Chip and Joyce Tappan Scholarship Fund

Emma Heil Martinak Memorial Scholarship Fund

Eric Estenfelder Memorial Fund

Father Mario Tizziani Memorial Endowed Fund

Jordan G. McFaull Endowed Scholarship Fund

Kelly Daley McIntosh Memorial Scholarship Fund

Larry Ryle Scholarship Fund

Mary Ann Noll Endowed Scholarship Fund

Mary Philippe Scholarship Fund

Travis' Triumph Tour Memorial Scholarship Fund

Zachary Ronan Hart Memorial Fund

Zack Leffler Memorial Fund



“Horizon Community Funds has been a trusted partner for us in establishing a scholarship fund in memory of our beloved daughter Emma. Having never created a charitable fund, Nancy and her team were incredibly helpful to us navigating the entire process.” - Bob and Mary Beth Heil

CARRYING FORWARD A COMPASSIONATE SPIRIT

the amy sipple giving fund



Amy Sipple's life was defined by kindness, compassion, and a deep commitment to helping others. She left a lasting mark on everyone she encountered through her unwavering empathy, generosity, and ability to show up for people in meaningful, heartfelt ways.

To honor Amy's legacy and continue the work she cared about most, the Sipple family established the Amy Sipple Giving Fund in partnership with

Horizon Community Funds of Northern Kentucky. They chose Horizon because of its shared values, strong local presence, and deep understanding of how to meet the community's needs with both compassion and impact.

Horizon Community Funds provides the structure and support to ensure that Amy's legacy of giving can flourish for years to come. Through this partnership, the Sipple family can focus on what matters most to them: helping others in Amy's name. Horizon's community knowledge, philanthropic expertise, and commitment to personalized service make them the ideal steward for a fund rooted in empathy and action.

Amy's work touched people across all walks of life—from caring for premature newborns to supporting adults facing mental health challenges. She brought grace and presence to each moment, even while managing her own health struggles with quiet strength. The fund established in her honor reflects that same spirit of compassion. It offers support to individuals and families when they need it most, whether through basic essentials, emotional comfort, or simple acts of kindness.

"Through this fund, Amy's legacy continues to grow, helping others just as she always did," said Amy's brother, Mike Sipple. "We are forever grateful to Horizon Community Funds for helping us build something beautiful out of our deepest grief - a lasting tribute to Amy's incredible life."

By choosing Horizon Community Funds, the Sipple family has created a powerful, enduring way to channel Amy's generous heart into lasting good. Every contribution to the Amy Sipple Giving Fund carries forward her mission: to see people, support them, and let them know they matter.

investing in northern kentucky

THROUGH YOUR ENDOW KY TAX CREDIT



“The Endow Kentucky Tax Credit has become a key element to our family’s giving strategy. As a donor, it allows Shelley and I to provide additional support to organizations in Northern Kentucky that mean the most to us. I have also helped organizations that I sit on the board of to open endowment funds via Horizon Community Funds to attract private donors to support the different missions. We all want to give for the right reasons, but the Endow Kentucky Tax Credit helps those who are willing to give to do it in the most tax efficient way possible. This program has been a wonderful investment to strengthen our NKY community for years to come.”

Mickey and Shelley Fritz

A gift to an endowed fund at Horizon Community Funds helps the nonprofits that serve our Northern Kentucky community build for the future. A donation also allows donors to leverage the gifts of others through a pooled endowed fund.

The Endow Kentucky Tax Credit Program offers you a unique opportunity to receive a state tax credit toward your Kentucky Income Tax (individual, corporate, or limited liability) after making a contribution to permanent endowment funds at Horizon Community Funds. Endowment funds are for those who want to give today and long into the future, as they are held in perpetuity and produce an annual payout.

A total of \$1,000,000 in tax credits is available to taxpayers, individuals, and corporations through the Endow Kentucky Tax Credit Program. You are eligible to receive up to a 20% income tax credit (not to exceed \$10,000 per individual/entity or \$20,000 per married couple filing jointly) for your endowed gift per taxable year. A new allotment of tax credits is available on July 1 each year.

Your gift to an endowed fund lasts well into the future. It is a building block on which our nonprofits build their services in Northern Kentucky.

To learn more and to apply, visit horizonfunds.org/2025-endow-ky scan the QR code.



camp give

BY MAGNIFIED GIVING

Horizon Community Funds has supported the Northern Kentucky cohort of Camp Give by Magnified Giving since 2019. Camp Give is a fun and engaging summer camp with age-appropriate, hands-on service activities designed to spark a passion for giving at a young age. This impactful camp allows participants the opportunity to award a donation to local nonprofits at the end of the week.

Since 2019, Camp Give has empowered **65 campers** to grant **\$16,275** to **17 local nonprofits** and complete more than **369 hours of community service.**

BENEFITING NONPROFITS:

- Angel Food Pantry
- BLOC Ministries
- Brighton Center - Senior Services Twin Rivers
- Care Closet
- Dragonfly Foundation
- Emergency Shelter of NKY
- Family Promise
- Frankie's Furry Friends
- Gorman Heritage Farm
- Henry Hosea House
- La Soupe
- Master Provisions
- NKY Community Action Commission
- Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati
- Protect 4 Paws
- Queen City Book Bank
- St. Vincent De Paul



field of interest funds

CREATING IMPACT ACROSS OUR REGION

Field of interest funds allow you to create long-term support for the causes that matter to you most. It allows you to focus your gift on an important area of community life, such as enriching education, strengthening families, improving neighborhoods, cultivating arts, or protecting the environment.

You identify your personal interest when making your gift, and through the fund, ensure grants to community organizations and programs are making a difference in the area you select. Others can add to the fund to help grow its impact.

how does a field of interest fund work?

When you make a gift to establish a field of interest fund, we will work with you to establish guidelines that will direct the grantmaking over time. This type of fund can be broadly or narrowly focused, depending on your interest.

who should consider establishing a field of interest fund?

Donors who feel strongly about having an impact in a specific area of need. It's also a great option for a donor who would like to utilize Horizon Community Funds' expertise in grantmaking to designated fields of interest. It additionally offers the opportunity to leave a legacy through an estate gift or bequest.

nky trail fund



The NKY Trail Fund was established by the Cincinnati Off-Road Alliance (CORA) and Tri-State Trails to support trail development in Northern Kentucky. This initiative aims to enhance community connectivity and vibrancy, with CORA and Tri-State Trails bringing their expertise in trail advocacy and development. CORA, founded in 1996, has successfully built over 115 miles of multi-use natural surface trails, while Tri-State Trails has added more than 138 miles of multi-use trails and 55 miles of bikeways since its inception in 2012.

By creating this fund, the organizations hope to overcome financial barriers and foster greater community engagement, wellness, and environmental stewardship in Northern Kentucky.

The mission of Tri-State Trails is to connect people and places with a regional trail and bikeway network that enhances vibrancy and equity in our community. The nonprofit was organized in 2012 to craft a connected vision for the fragmented regional trail network. Since inception, their partners have built more than 138 miles of multi-use trails and 55 miles of on-road bikeways. Tri-State Trails has grown to become the leading advocacy organization for active transportation issues in Greater Cincinnati.

Donors can contribute to this fund at horizonfunds.org/fund/NKY-Trail-Fund or by scanning the QR code.



northern kentucky entrepreneur fund



Blue North established the Northern Kentucky Entrepreneurship Fund with Horizon Community Funds in an effort to support the work of entrepreneurs in Northern Kentucky. Currently, the fund is focusing its efforts on fundraising for SparkHaus. As Northern Kentucky's first Entrepreneurial Hub, SparkHaus is preparing to reshape the future of business in NKY by bringing together NKY-based startups, investment firms, and entrepreneurial support organizations. The "Be The Spark" campaign is the final step to reach their fundraising goal. To donate, visit horizonfunds.org/fund/Northern-Kentucky-Entrepreneur-Fund or scan the QR code.



strength in numbers

THE POWER OF GIVING CIRCLES

THE 410

The 410 giving circle wrapped up 2024 with a \$15,000 grant to Lord's Gym Ministries. This funding will help support their work in promoting health, mental well-being, and substance use recovery in the community.

Health, mental health, and substance use challenges are major concerns in Northern Kentucky, which is why The 410 members chose this focus for their 2024 grant. Their dedication to making a real impact is inspiring, and this grant is a reflection of their commitment to addressing urgent community needs.

Lord's Gym Ministries provides a safe and supportive environment for individuals facing adversity, offering fitness programs, mentorship, and resources to aid in recovery and overall well-being. The \$15,000 grant will help expand their programming, allowing more individuals to access essential health and wellness services, including fitness activities, counseling, and substance use recovery support.

WHAT IS THE 410?

The 410 is a giving circle made up of emerging philanthropists from Northern Kentucky who want to make a meaningful difference. Members contribute \$410 each year, pooling their funds to support nonprofit programs in Boone, Campbell, and Kenton counties. Each fall, they come together to choose a cause and award a grant that can drive real change in the community.



Want to be part of the next grant cycle? More details on the 2025 process will be announced this summer. In the meantime, you can learn more at horizonfunds.org/the-410.



Give Where You Live NKY made its mark on Northern Kentucky in 2024 through \$21,600 in grants! The group met quarterly to determine the recipients of their pooled funds. The group has contributed \$137,600 to Northern Kentucky since its inception in 2019.

Give Where You Live NKY is a giving circle we offer in partnership with Mueller Financial, Inc. The membership-based group engages the community with charitable giving through quarterly, one-hour meetings. Participating members nominate a nonprofit of their choice, three of which are randomly selected and briefly discussed by the group. The members then vote on one of the three organizations. Each member donates \$100 towards the grant awarded to the winning nonprofit. This format lends itself to busy community members who are looking for an easy way to give back to nonprofits that serve Boone, Campbell, and Kenton counties.

Visit horizonfunds.org/give-where-you-live.org to learn how to become a member!

congratulations to our 2024 winners!



The Victorian at Riverside



Samaritan Car Care Clinic



Northern Kentucky Children's Advocacy Center



Teal We Find A Cure

a giving community

DONORS IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Horizon Community Funds offers many ways for community members to engage in charitable giving. Our giving circles are a way for individuals to take part in the grantmaking process and learn about the many services offered by Northern Kentucky's nonprofits. We offer donor advised funds that provide a flexible approach to philanthropy, allowing donors to recommend grants to charitable organizations of their choice while enjoying tax benefits and ongoing support from our team. Donors also have the opportunity to contribute to one of our many funds. With a variety of options available, Horizon Community Funds empowers individuals to make a meaningful impact in Northern Kentucky's communities through philanthropy tailored to their interests and preferences.



Amy and I were pleased to establish The Jackman Family Fund as a way to instill philanthropy in our kids and support causes closer to our home in Northern Kentucky. The leadership of Horizon

Community Funds does a great job educating us on opportunities that align with our charitable intent and speak to our interests and passions. Horizon Community Funds is a tremendous asset to the region and to all the people and non-profits that call Northern Kentucky home.

Jason and Amy Jackman



No one knows for sure the path ahead. I want a world where my children and their children can play and thrive, and be happy. Horizon Community Funds helps me plan my giving in ways that create that future.

Larry Holladay



Horizon Community Funds is a great resource for qualifying and championing charities in the Northern Kentucky area. They have also provided educational opportunities for our family.

Mike Brandy



Our community offers so many incredible opportunities to give and the need is significant. Our donor advised fund with Horizon Community Funds helps us organize our donations, allowing for monthly and annual allocations to the causes and organizations we care about.

**Jason Worms and
Greta Elenbaas**

remembering dr. jim votruba

A CHAMPION FOR NORTHERN KENTUCKY



This spring, we said goodbye to one of Horizon Community Funds' most respected and beloved champions, Dr. Jim Votruba. As a founding member of our Council of Trustees, Dr. Votruba helped shape Horizon from the very beginning, bringing with him a wealth of wisdom, integrity, and an unwavering belief in the power of community.

A servant leader in the truest sense, Dr. Votruba's contributions to Northern Kentucky extended far beyond his tenure as president of Northern Kentucky University. He was a tireless advocate for civic engagement and a trusted voice in efforts to build a stronger, more connected region. When Horizon Community Funds was established, he immediately recognized its potential to serve as a catalyst for good and offered his guidance and steady leadership to help bring that vision to life. Up until his passing, he was an invaluable member of our Grantmaking Committee, where he helped us direct grant dollars with thoughtfulness, strategic insight, and a deep understanding of the community's most pressing needs.

Dr. Votruba's legacy at Horizon is woven into our mission. His thoughtful approach, gentle encouragement, and deep care for the Northern Kentucky community remain a guiding light for our work.

We are grateful to have had his leadership in our earliest days, and we continue to feel his impact in the way we engage with our community and strive toward lasting change. Dr. Votruba taught us that great communities don't just happen; they are built one act of stewardship at a time.

"Jim led with both heart and vision," said Mary Zalla, Chair of Horizon's Council of Trustees. "He challenged us to think bigger, serve more boldly, and always put community first. His presence around the table was a gift, and his influence will continue to shape Horizon's work for years to come."

We honor Dr. Jim Votruba's memory with deep appreciation and a commitment to carrying forward the values he exemplified so well. His legacy will live on through the work we do, the lives we touch, and the community he loved so deeply.

COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES

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kit andrews

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Volunteer

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FOR NORTHERN KENTUCKY

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COMMUNITY FUNDS

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c'mon y'all

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Horizon

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Photo courtesy of Adopt A Class