



2025
annual
report





LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

As we embark on our ninth year of serving Northern Kentucky, I proudly reflect on a year defined by growth, resilience, and meaningful impact.

Despite significant transitions, including new team members, an office move, and our organizational name change, 2025 was our strongest fundraising year yet. In fact, since our founding in 2017, we have raised more than \$115 million and granted over \$50 million back into the community.

Nationally, Horizon is now the 21st fastest growing community foundation out of 903 organizations, according to the Community Foundation Census. While we ranked #366 by asset size in 2023, we ranked #21 in percentage growth between 2017 and 2023 resulting in a 519.5% increase.

Most importantly, this remarkable growth translates into real impact. In 2025 alone, we awarded \$10.7 million in grants. When the U.S. government shutdown paused SNAP benefits this past fall, our community responded immediately and raised nearly \$300,000 in just one week to launch the NKY Food Support Fund. Through 19 nonprofit partners, that fund ultimately supported more than 62,000 individuals across our region.

You are a vital part of this progress. Together, we are building a stronger, more resilient Northern Kentucky and creating a brighter future for all who call it home.

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

Cover photo courtesy of:
Notre Dame Urban Education Center

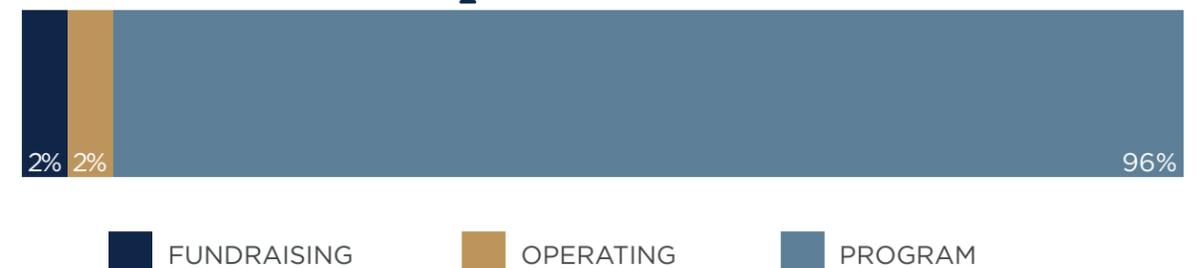


*21st out of 903, according to the Community Foundation Census by the Community Foundation Research and Training Institute.

grants by type



functional expenses



“
Together, we are building a stronger, more resilient Northern Kentucky and creating a brighter future for all who call it home.
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I live here and I give here.



community impact fund

nky food support fund: responding swiftly, serving thousands

When Horizon Community Foundation launched the NKY Food Support Fund in November in response to the federal government shutdown and disrupted SNAP funding, we knew the need would be urgent. What has been extraordinary is how our community responded.

Building on the trusted partnerships and efficient systems developed during the pandemic, Horizon quickly mobilized local food pantries, schools, and funding partners to ensure families had access to essential food resources. Through January 2026, local food partners have helped feed more than 62,000 Northern Kentucky residents across nearly 34,000 households. Notably, nonprofit partners report that the need for food assistance continues to surpass demand seen during the COVID era.

Through the NKY Food Support Fund, Horizon invested nearly \$300,000 in frontline agencies to support our neighbors in need. We are deeply grateful for the collaboration of food pantry partners including Be Concerned, Freestore Foodbank, Go Pantry, Master Provisions,

Meals on Wheels, Nourish, St. Vincent De Paul NKY, and Brighton Center.

“Be Concerned is a proud partner of Horizon Community Foundation and is honored to have played a part in the smooth distribution of food and funding related to the NKY Food Support Fund during the most recent food crisis for NKY families,” said Andy Brunsman, Executive Director of Be Concerned. “Through collaboration and communication comes an opportunity for large impact and cost-savings. Be Concerned was happy to work with HCF and was humbled to step up for our local donors, service providers, and families in need.”

With food distribution continuing into March, partners will submit a final report to capture the complete impact, which will be shared with the community. The NKY Food Support Fund represents Northern Kentucky at its best, coming together to ensure families have access to food when they need it most.

At the heart of Horizon Community Foundation’s work is the Community Impact Fund, our most flexible and responsive source of grantmaking dollars. The fund connects generosity to the evolving needs of Northern Kentucky, using collective giving to break the cycle of poverty, support the arts, enhance education, and help build a stronger future for our region.

Unlike restricted funding, the Community Impact Fund allows Horizon to respond in real time to both long-term challenges and urgent crises. It supports nonprofits that accelerate change, innovate solutions,

and leverage partnerships to maximize impact across Boone, Campbell, and Kenton counties. Whether investing in emerging opportunities or navigating unexpected community needs, this fund empowers our Council of Trustees to apply thoughtful judgment where resources are needed most.

Through the Community Impact Fund, Horizon serves not only as a grant maker, but as a community leader, coordinating resources, aligning partnerships, and ensuring charitable dollars create positive, lasting change.

2025 grantees



baker hunt

“We are so grateful for Horizon Community Foundation’s support in helping us continue our mission of bringing art and culture into the community! The support of Horizon Community Foundation means we can continue to offer free after-school art and cooking clubs, and free classes for the VA, senior centers, Easterseals Redwood, and more! Thank you!”

— Alex Noel, Executive Director



beech acres parenting center

“We are proud of our longstanding partnership with Erlanger/Elsmere Schools, and this grant enables us to build on that foundation. It not only sustains the impactful work we’ve begun but also deepens our efforts and expands our reach within the community. We are excited about the opportunity to strengthen outcomes for students and families through this continued collaboration. Thank you to Horizon Community Foundation and our great partners in Erlanger/Elsmere Schools”

— Laura Mitchell, CEO



boone conservancy

“The Boone Conservancy appreciates the continued support of Horizon Community Foundation. As we prepare the 350-acre Ohio River Conservation Corridor for public use, we need to first identify and protect the property’s sensitive cultural and environmental assets. This funding will allow us to take the next steps in planning for the site’s future.”

— **Christy Noll**, Executive Director



the center for great neighborhoods

“Covington Sparks and Sparks in the Park is our answer to a community that is in need of safe and supportive places for their kids to go, outside of a school day. Every time we hold a Sparks event, we try to create an atmosphere that is welcoming, engaging, and catered to the needs and interests of the kids. We started with just an 8-week pilot program in 2024, and thanks to an overwhelming turnout and continued support from funders like Horizon Community Foundation, we are thrilled to be able to bring back our indoor Fall/Winter programming this year and to continue to offer this opportunity for Covington kids.”

— **Shannon Ratterman**, Executive Director



enzweiler building institute

“On behalf of the Enzweiler Building Institute, I want to thank Horizon Community Foundation for their generous \$15,000 investment in scholarships for students pursuing post-secondary trade school instruction in the construction trades. This support could not come at a more critical time. As our region works to address the housing crisis, developing a skilled construction workforce is essential to increasing housing supply, supporting the companies that keep our community vibrant, and fueling economic growth. These scholarships will not only open doors for students but will help ensure that Northern Kentucky has the talent and expertise needed to build a stronger, more resilient future.”

— **Brian Miller**, Executive Vice President, Building Industry Association of Northern Kentucky; President, Enzweiler Building Institute



faith community pharmacy

“We are incredibly grateful to receive a Community Impact Fund grant from Horizon Community Foundation of Northern Kentucky. This support will directly enhance our prescription medicine program by providing vital funding to purchase more medications for our uninsured and underinsured neighbors. With this grant, we can reach even more individuals in need—helping them access life-saving medications they might otherwise go without. It’s an investment in both health and hope, and we’re proud to partner with Horizon Community Foundation to serve our community with dignity and compassion.”

— **Aaron Broomall**, Executive Director



fiesta nky

“This grant will allow us to help so many more families with much-needed programming and support. Health, mental health, and workforce development are our main goals, and we are fortunate to have many great partners helping us do this important work. We are deeply grateful for Horizon’s support and faith in FIESTA. With this generous grant, we can expand our services and empower Hispanic families in Northern Kentucky to build a brighter future.”

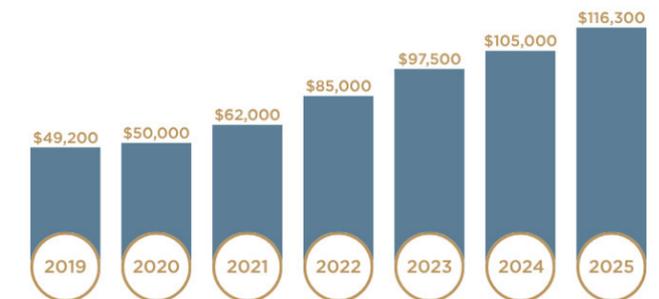
— **Theresa Cruz**, President/CEO FIESTA NKY



reset ministries

“The Reset team is grateful that Horizon has chosen to support the efforts of our organization to restore lives. The TANK Lifeline Project will allow us to add a crucial resource to our current support system through increased understanding of and greater access to bus transportation. The ability to navigate the TANK system with confidence will open opportunities in many areas for our residents to create a pathway to stability and hope for a future.”

— **Tom Sherwood**, Reset Executive Director



individuals served

As of the 2025 grant cycle, more than 50,000 Northern Kentuckians have been impacted by grants from the Community Impact Fund since the first cycle in 2019. In total, 44 grants have been distributed to 52 different nonprofits serving Boone, Kenton, and Campbell counties.

grant dollars by year

During the first five cycles of the Community Impact Fund, a total of \$565,000 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%.



nonprofit funds

SUPPORT YOUR FAVORITE ORGANIZATIONS

Nonprofit funds at Horizon Community Foundation provide a powerful way to ensure longterm support for the causes that matter most in Northern Kentucky. These funds can be established by individuals, families, or the organizations themselves, giving donors and nonprofits access to professional investment management and financial oversight. Contributions are invested and managed by Horizon Community Foundation, relieving nonprofits of administrative burdens while helping them focus on their mission.

Whether directed toward a specific purpose or used more broadly to advance an organization's work, nonprofit funds offer

flexibility and reliability for sustained impact. By partnering with Horizon Community Foundation, donors can make meaningful gifts that support lasting change, and nonprofits can strengthen their financial foundation and plan confidently for the future.

We encourage you to consider making a contribution or establishing a fund to support the vital work of local nonprofits—your generosity helps fuel lasting impact across our community.

In the following pages, we highlight some of these funds and the meaningful ways they are supporting our community.

meet our new nonprofit funds



campbell county education foundation

The Campbell County Education Foundation supports students and strengthens the future of the Campbell County School District. The Foundation helps expand access to high-quality educational and extracurricular opportunities, so every student has the tools and support needed to thrive.

The Campbell County Education Foundation provides meaningful resources that enrich learning, remove barriers, and empower student success.



chowdown cares fund

The Chowdown Cares Fund was created to rally support for local restaurant owners facing unprecedented challenges. Restaurants are cornerstones of community life: they fuel local culture, create jobs, and build lasting relationships. However, rising operating costs, labor shortages, and economic uncertainty continue to strain independent restaurateurs.

The Chowdown Cares Fund helps sustain the vibrant food scene that brings our region together and ensures local restaurants can continue to thrive.



boone county water rescue fund

The Boone County Water Rescue Fund supports the Boone County Water Rescue Team, a dedicated, volunteer-based organization that provides critical water safety, rescue, and recovery services across Northern Kentucky's waterways 24/7. Serving Boone, Kenton, and Campbell counties, this team responds to emergencies, promotes water safety education, conducts patrols, and performs evidence and victim recovery operations to protect lives and property along more than 83 miles of the Ohio River.

This fund helps sustain the team's mission and supports the development of a new riverfront rescue station designed to house boats, equipment, dive gear, and training space along with faster dock access that will improve emergency response times.



dan beard council fund

The Dan Beard Fund supports Dan Beard Council, Scouting America, serving youth across Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. Guided by the Scouting mission to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices rooted in the Scout Oath and Law, the Council delivers programs that build character, leadership, citizenship, and personal growth.

This fund strengthens Scouting across Northern KY, expanding access to outdoor adventure, service opportunities, and leadership development, so young people have the experiences and support they need to grow into capable, values-driven leaders.



eons preserve fund

Eons Preserve is an evolving destination in Erlanger that celebrates exploration, nature, and connection. Designed to unfold over time, the park will feature trails, adventure play areas, and natural amenities that invite people of all ages to get outside and experience the outdoors together.

The Eons Preserve Fund supports the development of these public spaces, from trail systems and play areas to ecological restoration and community gathering spots.



linden grove cemetery fund

Linden Grove Cemetery & Arboretum offers a parklike space—with a purpose—where history, community, and nature meet. Situated on 22.3 acres in Covington and officially consecrated in 1843, the cemetery was designed by landscape gardener Benjamin Grove and remains a treasured historic landmark.

The Linden Grove Cemetery Fund supports the enhancement, preservation, and ongoing maintenance of the cemetery's beautiful grounds.



notre dame urban education center fund

The Notre Dame Urban Education Center Fund supports educational access and family-centered programming for children in Northern Kentucky's urban core. Through early learning, after-school programs, summer academics, and family engagement initiatives, the Center provides safe, nurturing environments where students can grow and succeed.

This fund helps reduce barriers to participation, strengthen core programming, and expand opportunities for local families.



help cure HD

HELPCUREHD FUND: TURNING LOSS INTO HOPE

For many families affected by Huntington's disease, the future can feel uncertain. Because the disease is genetic, each child of a parent who carries the gene has a 50% chance of inheriting it—continuing a cycle that has impacted generations.

The HelpCureHD Fund was created to help change that future.

Inspired by the life and legacy of Lee Smith, who was diagnosed with Huntington's disease in 2012 and passed away in 2020, her son, Major League Baseball veteran Joe Smith, and his wife, sports broadcaster Allie LaForce, made a promise to help other families facing the same diagnosis.

Through HelpCureHD's grant program, families at risk for Huntington's disease receive financial assistance to pursue IVF with preimplantation genetic testing (PGT-IVF)—a medical advancement that allows embryos to be tested so parents can have biological children free from the disease.

To date, the program has awarded more than 170 IVF grants, helping families break the cycle of Huntington's disease and build healthy futures.

As fiscal sponsor of the HelpCureHD Fund, Horizon Community Foundation of Northern Kentucky is proud to support this mission—helping families create the possibility of HDfree generations.

THE 410

GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE NKY



uniting for greater impact:

THE 410: GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE NKY

At the end of 2025, Horizon Community Foundation of Northern Kentucky brought together its two giving circles, The 410 and Give Where You Live NKY, to form The 410: Give Where You Live NKY, a unified initiative designed to strengthen collective giving across the region.

The merger aligns shared values, members, and momentum to create a more dynamic and accessible way for people who live or work in Northern Kentucky to engage in local philanthropy. Through an annual \$410 contribution, members pool their resources to learn about community needs and vote to fund innovative nonprofit projects through mini-grant events and a traditional grant cycle.

The impact of the giving circles has been significant. Together, the two giving circles have awarded \$300,000 to 31 nonprofits, demonstrating the power of collective generosity. In 2025, members supported organizations including Milestones, Inc., Esperanza Latino Center of Northern Kentucky, and UpSpring, advancing programs that promote inclusion, education, and well-being across Boone, Kenton, and Campbell counties.

By bringing these initiatives together, Horizon Community Foundation continues to cultivate a vibrant culture of philanthropy, empowering individuals to learn, connect, and invest in the future of Northern Kentucky.

“It’s a great way to contribute to the local community. I’ve enjoyed coming together with other members to decide how to invest these funds.”

— Shannon Peterson, Giving Circle Member

camp give NKY

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF GIVERS

Last summer, Horizon Community Foundation proudly invested \$10,000 to bring the spirit of generosity to young people across Northern Kentucky through two unique Camp Give NKY programs: one hosted at Brighton Center in Newport and another at Florence Elementary in partnership with UpSpring, the region’s only nonprofit dedicated exclusively to supporting the educational needs of children experiencing homelessness.

Camp Give, a program of Magnified Giving, introduces youth to philanthropy through fun, hands-on experiences that show how they can make a difference in their communities. Throughout the week-long camps, students explored community needs, volunteered with local nonprofits, and participated in service projects designed to build empathy, leadership, and teamwork.

One of the most powerful lessons came at the end of the week. Campers had the opportunity to award real grant dollars to

nonprofit organizations they believed were making a difference, a moment that allowed them to experience the responsibility and joy of giving firsthand.

Along the way, students discovered their own strengths, practiced leadership, and saw how even small actions can create meaningful change. From visiting community organizations to rolling up their sleeves in service, every activity reinforced an important message: philanthropy isn’t just for adults, it starts now.

Through partnerships with organizations like Magnified Giving and UpSpring, Horizon Community Foundation is helping young people understand that their voices matter and their generosity can shape a stronger community.

We are honored to help nurture these future philanthropists and excited to see the impact they will make across Northern Kentucky in the years to come.

NextGen giving guide

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF PHILANTHROPISTS



NextGen Giving Guide

Who it's for:
Families, educators, students, and young professionals.

What it offers:
Stories, tools, and local opportunities to give your time, talent, and treasure.

Explore:
horizoncfnky.org/nextgen-giving-guide

In 2025, Horizon Community Foundation launched the NextGen Giving Guide, a digital resource designed to inspire generosity and help people of all ages explore the power of philanthropy. Developed in partnership with Magnified Giving and the Mayerson Student Philanthropy Project at Northern Kentucky University, the guide introduces charitable giving in an engaging and accessible way for families, educators, students, and professionals.

Through stories, practical tools, and interactive pathways, the guide helps users discover how they can contribute their time, talent, and treasure to causes they care about. By highlighting local needs and opportunities, the NextGen Giving Guide encourages individuals to take their first steps toward meaningful community impact.

The initiative is also a tribute to Dr. James Votruba, whose leadership and commitment to education and community helped shape Northern Kentucky's culture of generosity. The guide honors his legacy by inspiring the next generation to lead with empathy, purpose, and service.

partner voices



"CTI's culture of giving starts with our people. The CTI Cares Employee Fund invites our staff to shape how we support our communities and makes giving back a natural extension of our work, connecting what we do each day with causes that matter where our teams live and work."

- **Tim Schroeder**
CEO of CTI Clinical Trial and Consulting Services

"I have been a supporter of Horizon Community Foundation since its inception in 2017. Maida and I support them because of their genuine and intentional engagement with all citizens in the community, which provides everyone an opportunity to lend a "hand up" and enhance the quality of life for all in the Northern Kentucky region."

- **Chuck Session**
Community Volunteer

"By partnering with Horizon Community Foundation through our donor advised fund and The 410: Give Where You Live giving circle, it helps turn shared values into real impact. The team at Horizon Community Foundation is a blast to partner with—smart, capable, and deeply committed to making a difference. They make philanthropy fun and engaging at every level."

- **Liz Corbett**
Partner at Focus On Success

EXPLORE
horizoncfnky.org/nextgen-giving-guide
or scan the QR code.



partner voices



“I am very grateful for Horizon Community Foundation’s partnership on so many levels. As a non-profit partner with the Catalytic Fund, Horizon Community Foundation has been instrumental in supporting the launch of our new NKY Housing Fund which will address housing affordability in our region. As a OneNKY partner, we share staff and office services with Horizon Community Foundation so both our organizations can operate cost efficiently and make effective use of our funders’ resources. As a donor advised fund client, I value having a fund advisor who is local and understands the unique needs and challenges of our immediate community.”

- **Jeanne Schroer**
President & CEO,
The Catalytic Fund



Life Learning Center™



“Horizon continues to amaze me at how effectively it puts large investments to work for the combined community. Its reach, personal focus, and creative approaches serve to strengthen and unify our community. We are so fortunate to have Nancy and team in our area!”

- **Michael Stich**
Partner at
CourtAvenue

“Through our fund partnership with Horizon Community Funds, Life Learning Center works every day to improve the quality of life for people across Northern Kentucky. It’s important to us that we work together to address real needs while building a stronger future for our region.

We are proud to be part of a community that cares so deeply about one another, and we’re honored to help make Northern Kentucky such a unique and vibrant place to live.”

- **Alecia Webb-Edgington**
President, Life Learning Center



Last year marked a major milestone as we became **Horizon Community Foundation** of Northern Kentucky and moved into the **OneNKY Center in Covington** — strengthening our role as the region’s philanthropic partner.

Our new name better reflects our work: connecting donors, nonprofits, and community leaders to invest in solutions that improve quality of life across Northern Kentucky.

“This name more clearly reflects who we are and what we do. As a true community foundation, our purpose is to serve Northern Kentucky with strategic philanthropy, responsive grantmaking, and a deep connection to the people and needs of this region.”

— **Nancy Grayson, President & CEO**

At the OneNKY Center, we are now part of a collaborative hub advancing regional progress and innovation.

We also welcomed new team members, including Ashleigh Luebbers and Dawn Denham, and added Sharmili Reddy, Jason Payne, and Patrick Hughes to our Board.

While our name and location have evolved, our mission remains the same: bringing people and resources together to strengthen Northern Kentucky.

our team



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chuck session
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