



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Statewide Association Celebrates Legislators' Commitment to Nonprofit Sector**

(FRANKFORT, Ky.—) Kentucky Nonprofit Network, Kentucky's state association of nonprofit organizations, held the tenth anniversary Kentucky Nonprofit Day at the Capitol event in Frankfort on February 12. The annual event provides nonprofit organizations statewide with the opportunity to meet with legislators and support KNN's advocacy program to advance the sector.

At this year's Day at the Capital event, the association held a rally in the Rotunda to present seventeen Nonprofit VOICE Awards, recognizing KNN members for their demonstrated excellence in public policy during the 2014 General Assembly. The association also presented Nonprofit Advocacy Partner Awards to twenty current and former legislators and five current and former state government officials for their support of KNN members' efforts.

Kentucky Association of Food Banks; Beattyville Housing & Development Corporation; Feeding America, Kentucky's Heartland of Elizabethtown; Freestore Foodbank of Cincinnati; God's Pantry Food Bank of Lexington; River Cities Harvest of Ashland; Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Northern KY were honored with the Nonprofit VOICE Award for work to achieve a budget appropriation in 2014 of \$1.2 million over two years for the Farms to Food Banks program. These organizations honored the following legislators and government officials with the Nonprofit Advocacy Partner Award: Agriculture Commissioner James Comer; Senate President Robert Stivers; House Speaker Greg Stumbo; Representative Tom McKee of Cynthiana; Representative Derrick Graham of Frankfort; Representative Rick Rand of Bedford and Senator Paul Hornback of Shelbyville.

Children's Alliance received the Nonprofit VOICE Award for achieving a budget appropriation of \$8 million for residential and therapeutic foster care reimbursement rates. Children's Alliance recognized former Representative Jimmie Lee of Elizabethtown for championing this effort.

Children's Alliance also recognized Representatives Kelly Flood, Lexington; Mary Lou Marzian, Louisville; Susan Westrom, Lexington and Addia Wuchner, Florence for supporting passage of House Bill 157, requiring doctor training on the recognition and prevention of pediatric abusive head trauma.

Children's Alliance and additional KNN members, Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs, Kentucky Association of Counties, Kentucky Council of Churches and Kentucky Equal Justice Center received awards for their work on collaborative effort to pass Senate Bill 200, legislation reforming Kentucky's Juvenile Justice system for non-violent offenders. These organizations recognized the following legislators and government officials for their support: Justice Cabinet Secretary J. Michael Brown; former Commissioner of Department of Juvenile Justice, Hasan Davis; Laurie Dudgeon, Director, Administrative Office of the Courts; Rachael Bingham, Executive Officer, Family and Children's Services Department; Representative John Tilley and Senator Whitney Westerfield, both of Hopkinsville.

KNN member, Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs received the Nonprofit VOICE Award for work on a 2014 budget appropriation to address a retirement shortfall for the state's thirteen rape crisis centers. House Speaker Greg Stumbo and Senate President Robert Stivers were recognized with the Nonprofit Advocacy Partner Award for their support.

Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs was also recognized for passage of Senate Bill 98, which created an adult abuse registry. They honored former Senator Sara Beth Gregory of Monticello with the Nonprofit Advocacy Partner Award for her support of this legislation.

Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs also recognized Senator Gregory and Representative David Meade of Stanford for their support of passage of Senate Bill 108, curtailing parental rights of convicted rapists.

Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs also received the VOICE Award for passage of Senate Bill 184, which allows victims of human trafficking to raise defenses and expunge their non-violent offenses resulting from being a victim of human trafficking, as well as for passage of Senate Bill 225, amending Kentucky law on voyeurism to include recording or viewing underwear not publicly visible. Senator Morgan McGarvey and former Senator Julie Denton, both of Louisville were honored with the Nonprofit Advocacy Partner Award for their support of these two bills.

Kentucky Equal Justice Center of Lexington received the Nonprofit VOICE Award for championing issues that impact consumers and low-income Kentuckians. Representative Tom Burch of Louisville was presented the Nonprofit Advocacy Partner Award for his consistent support of such issues.

KNN member, Kentucky Coalition of Nurse Practitioners & Nurse Midwives received the Nonprofit VOICE Award for passage of SB7, legislation allowing nurse practitioners and nurse midwives to prescribe non-controlled medication commensurate with their education and experience. Receiving the Nonprofit Advocacy Partner Award for their support of the legislation were Senator Paul Hornback, Shelbyville; Senator John Schikel of Union and Representative Mary Lou Marzian of Louisville.



KNN members, Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence; Kentucky Association of School Boards, KY PTA and Kentucky Association of School Councils received the Nonprofit VOICE Award for their work as part of the Kentucky Education Action Team (KEAT) effort to restore funding for K-12 education back to 2008 levels. Representative Kelly Flood of Lexington was presented the Nonprofit Advocacy Partner Award for championing this effort.

The rally also promoted the nonprofit sector's support for HCR 89, a resolution that would create a task force to examine ways to streamline and improve nonprofit contracts with state government. The task force would bring together nonprofits, government officials and legislators to evaluate current contracting processes and propose solutions that would allow both government and nonprofits to save time and money – resulting in a better investment of taxpayer dollars and improved services for Kentuckians.

Kentucky's nonprofit sector is a strong economic engine. One in nine Kentuckians work for a nonprofit, making it the third largest industry in Kentucky and outpacing retail employment. Many nonprofit organizations contract with state government to help the Commonwealth provide essential services to Kentuckians.

Kentucky Nonprofit Network is the state association of nonprofit organizations working to strengthen and advance Kentucky's nonprofit community. With over thirteen years of service, KNN provides a unified public policy voice, professional development opportunities and resources, and various membership benefits.

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