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State Association of Nonprofits Presents Advocacy Awards to Members and Legislators

(FRANKFORT, Ky.—) Kentucky Nonprofit Network, the state association of nonprofit organizations, presented three member organizations, five legislators and eight officials with awards as part of its 13th annual Kentucky Nonprofit Day at the Capitol in Frankfort on February 1. The annual event provides nonprofit organizations statewide with the opportunity to meet legislators and support Kentucky Nonprofit Network's advocacy program to advance the sector.

The awards presented include the Nonprofit Voice Awards, recognizing KNN members for their demonstrated excellence in public policy during the 2017 General Assembly, and the Nonprofit Advocacy Partner Awards, recognizing legislators and officials for their support of the members' efforts.

[Advocacy Action Network](#) of Louisville received a Nonprofit Voice Award for Senate Bill 91, also known as "Tim's Law," which allows a judge to order outpatient treatment for up to a year for individuals unable to recognize the severity of their mental illness. Rep. Tom Burch and Sen. Julie Raque Adams, both of Louisville, were presented the Nonprofit Advocacy Partner award for their sponsorship of the bill and advocacy to encourage the General Assembly to override Governor Matt Bevin's veto of the bill.

[Kentucky Association of Food Banks](#) of Berea was recognized for House Bill 237, legislation that increases resources for food banks through enhanced immunity from liability for food donors and clarifies date labeling of food products. Ryan Quarles, Agriculture Commissioner; Joe Bilby, General Counsel at the Department of Agriculture; and Representative Phillip Pratt of Georgetown were recognized with the Nonprofit Advocacy Partner award for their support.

[Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#) of Frankfort was recognized for House Bill 309 with provisions of Senate Bill 86 attached. House Bill 309 provides leasing protections for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, assault and stalking – which among other provisions, prohibits landlords from refusing to rent or evicting victims solely because they have a court-ordered issue of protection. Senate Bill 86 replaced domestic violence mandatory reporting with education and referral resources. Officials Carol Jordan, director of the University of Kentucky Office for Policy Studies on Violence Against Women; Adria Johnson, Commissioner of Department of Community Based Services in the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and officials Steven Fisher and Jeanne Keen, also with the Department of Community Based Services were presented with the Nonprofit Advocacy Partner award. Rep. Melinda Gibbons Prunty of Belton was recognized for her sponsorship of House Bill 309 and Senator Ralph Alvarado of Winchester was recognized for his sponsorship of Senate Bill 86 - both receiving Nonprofit Advocacy Partner awards.

In addition to the awards presentation, Danielle Clore, KNN's executive director and CEO, urged nonprofit leaders to continue efforts to educate legislators and government officials on the facts that the nonprofit sector is essential to a quality of life that brings jobs to Kentucky; employs one in eleven Kentuckians; and pumps over \$27 billion in revenue back into the state's economy each year.

Partnering with Kentucky Nonprofit Network to host Kentucky Nonprofit Day at the Capitol were the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges & Universities, Bluegrass.org, Centerstone Kentucky, Family & Children's Place, Fund for the Arts, Goodwill Industries of Kentucky, Homeless & Housing Coalition of Kentucky, Hosparus Health, Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs, LexArts, Mountain Comprehensive Care Center, New Directions Housing Corporation, Opportunity for Work & Learning Foundation, Passport Health Plan, Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky, The Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence and University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Foundation.

The event was sponsored by Aetna Better Health of Kentucky and GuideOne Insurance.

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About the Kentucky Nonprofit Network: KNN is the state association of nonprofits, existing to strengthen and advance Kentucky's nonprofit community. Celebrating fifteen years of service to the sector, KNN provides nonprofit organizations with a unified public policy voice, professional development opportunities and resources, and member benefits. For more information, visit <http://www.kynonprofits.org>.