



For Immediate Release
February 8, 2019

Contact: Danielle Clore
(859) 963-3203 x3
danielle@kynonprofits.org
www.kynonprofits.org

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 and current and former legislators with awards as part of its 14th annual Kentucky Nonprofit Day at the Capitol in Frankfort on February 7. 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 2018 General Assembly, and the Nonprofit Advocacy Partner Awards, recognizing legislators and officials for their support of the members' efforts.

[Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky](#) of Louisville received a Nonprofit Voice Award for its work to raise the cigarette tax in Kentucky in an effort to curb smoking and improve the health of Kentuckians. House Bill 366 included a \$.50 per pack tax increase on cigarettes, which recent polling revealed has resulted in 39 percent of Kentucky smokers cutting back. Senators Julie Raque Adams of Louisville and Ralph Alvarado of Winchester, Representative Steven Rudy of Paducah and former Representative Addia Wuchner of Florence were presented Nonprofit Advocacy Partner awards for their support of the effort.

[Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs](#) of Frankfort was recognized for House Bill 101, also known as Jenna's Law, which provides protection for sixteen and seventeen year old youth from perpetrators who are ten years or more older; Senate Bill 109, which equalizes the punishment for all forms of nonconsensual penetration; Senate Bill 48, which establishes protections against child marriage in Kentucky; and Senate Bills 3 and 30, relating to Marsy's Law, creating victim rights within the Kentucky state constitution and amending the statutory Crime Victim's Bill of Rights. Representative Jason Petrie of Elkton (House Bill 101); Senator Julie Raque Adams of Louisville (Senate Bills 109 and 48); and Senator Whitney Westerfield of Crofton (Senate Bills 3 and 30) were recognized with the Nonprofit Advocacy Partner award for their sponsorship of the legislation.

[Kentucky Equal Justice Center](#) of Lexington was recognized for Senate Bill 68, legislation clarifying that a victim of domestic violence is not required to pay the legal fees of a spouse in a divorce action when the spouse is incarcerated for crimes against the petitioner. Senator Morgan McGarvey of Louisville was recognized with the Nonprofit Advocacy Partner Award for sponsoring the bill and Senators Julie

Raque Adams of Louisville, Ralph Alvarado of Winchester, Whitney Westerfield of Crofton, Danny Carroll of Paducah, Rick Girdler of Somerset, Denise Harper Angel of Louisville, Wil Schroder of Wilder, Robin Webb of Grayson and Stephen West of Paris were also recognized as co-sponsors.

Kentucky Nonprofit Network recognized former representative Robert Benvenuti of Lexington, Representative Joe Fischer of Ft. Thomas, Senators Damon Thayer of Georgetown and Whitney Westerfield of Crofton with Nonprofit Advocacy Partner Awards for their support of House Bill 443. The legislation provided needed updates to the laws governing Kentucky's nonprofit organizations. Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes was recognized for her creation of a task force in 2016 to recommend needed updates, and attorneys Michael Fine and Tad Myre of Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs were acknowledged for their work in helping KNN work on clarifying language and educational resources to help nonprofits implement the modernized laws.

In addition to the awards presentation, nonprofit leaders gathered to urge legislators to address a sales tax issue facing charities since July 1, 2018.

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 Coalition Against Domestic Violence, LexArts, Metro United Way, Mountain Comprehensive Care Center, 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 GuideOne Insurance.

###

About the Kentucky Nonprofit Network: KNN is the state association of nonprofits, existing to strengthen and advance Kentucky's nonprofit community. Celebrating seventeen 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>.