New Report Highlights Impact of Nonprofit Sector on Kentucky’s Economy, Employment

State Association of Nonprofits Releases Report on Economic Importance of Nonprofit Sector, Announces Nonprofit Legislative Caucus, Presents Advocacy Awards

(FRANKFORT, Ky.—) Kentucky Nonprofit Network – the state association of nonprofits, released an updated “More Than Charity” report today at its annual Kentucky Nonprofit Day at the Capitol. Lt. Governor Jacqueline Coleman was on hand for the announcement, highlighting that in addition to its impact on the quality of life in Kentucky communities, the sector is also a powerful economic engine and a major employer. Significant findings include:

- The sector continues to grow – there are 20,467 registered tax-exempt organizations in Kentucky as of November 2019.
- The majority of charitable 501 (c)(3) nonprofits in Kentucky are relatively small – 75% of Kentucky’s charitable nonprofits have annual operating budgets of less than $500,000 and 83% have annual budgets of less than $1,000,000.
- Charitable nonprofits had expenditures exceeding $24 billion – pumping those dollars into the economies of Kentucky communities.
- One in 10 Kentuckians worked at a charitable nonprofit, 9.8% of the state’s private industry workforce.
- Charitable nonprofit wages exceeded $7.5 billion in 2017.
- The sector ranks fourth in private sector employers with 154,213 jobs at charitable nonprofits.
- The charitable sector outpaces employment growth in other private industries by 3.6 percentage points.
- Wages paid to employees of the charitable nonprofit sector were 9.6% higher than wages in other private industries, with the sector accounting for 10.6% of private industry wages.
“Nonprofits play a vital role in meeting needs in Kentucky communities and they are certainly important to creating a quality of life in communities that encourage businesses to locate in the Commonwealth. And this report illustrates that nonprofits are also more than charity – they are major employers of tax-paying Kentuckians, they are an increasing employer of choice and expenditures of nonprofits are putting needed dollars into the economies of Kentucky communities,” said Danielle Clore, CEO of KNN.

Lt. Governor Coleman added, “Kentucky nonprofits do incredible work and help support state government efforts in a wide variety of fields. We are delighted that the Kentucky Center for Statistics, better known as KYStats, was able to partner with KNN to help gather data that reinforces the broader impact these organizations have as an economic engine and job creator in the Commonwealth.”

All information contained in the report, including data for each of Kentucky's 10 local workforce areas is available at [https://www.kynonprofits.org/advocate/morethancharity](https://www.kynonprofits.org/advocate/morethancharity).

The Kentucky Center for Statistics was KNN's data partner in compiling the report, utilizing state and national data sources. The report was funded with support from Aetna and Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky.

At the event, a new Kentucky Nonprofit Legislative Caucus was announced by co-chairs Senate President Pro Tempore Senator David Givens (R – Greensburg); Senate Minority Floor Leader Senator Morgan McGarvey (D – Louisville); and House Minority Whip Representative Angie Hatton (D – Whitesburg). House Majority Floor Leader Representative John Bam Carney is also a co-chair of the caucus and was unable to attend due to illness. The bipartisan, bicameral caucus will focus on legislative and regulatory issues impacting nonprofit organizations in Kentucky. The purpose of the caucus is to support Kentucky’s nonprofit sector through legislative action on issues such as tax policy; budget and spending; public-private partnerships; and ensuring the laws governing nonprofits are effective, appropriate and current.

“Given the scope of the sector and their importance to our economy, the Nonprofit Caucus will provide General Assembly members with an important opportunity to gain from the expertise of nonprofit organizations across Kentucky,” said co-chair, Senator David Givens.

Co-chair, Senator Morgan McGarvey noted, “Kentuckians are impacted by the work of nonprofit organizations every day and in meaningful ways. The Nonprofit Caucus will allow us to focus on building stronger relationships with these government partners.”

“Each member of the General Assembly comes to Frankfort with a goal of strengthening their districts and our Commonwealth,” said co-chair, Representative Angie Hatton. “The Nonprofit Caucus gives us another tool to work together as we move our state forward,” she added.

Working with legislators to establish a Nonprofit Caucus has been a goal of KNN’s for some time said CEO, Clore. “Given the momentum of our work with the General Assembly in 2019 to create a swift
solution to the unintended consequences of 2018 tax reform that imposed sales tax on nonprofit fundraising, we felt the time was right. We appreciate the support of these initial legislators who have stepped up to participate and we hope more will join,” Clore added.

Additional information, including the list of current Nonprofit Caucus members may be found at www.kynonprofits.org/advocate/kentuckynonprofitcaucus.

KNN also presented 13 member organizations and 22 legislators with awards. The awards presented include the Nonprofit Voice Awards, recognizing KNN members for their demonstrated excellence in public policy during the General Assembly’s 2019 Regular Session, and the Nonprofit Advocacy Partner Awards, recognizing legislators and officials for their support of the members’ efforts.

Kentucky Nonprofit Network celebrated the sector’s work on the passage of House Bill 354, which included an exemption to address the 2018 tax law that required nonprofits to collect and remit sales tax on admissions to fundraising events and some items sold for fundraising purposes. House Speaker Representative David Osborne (R – Prospect), Acting House Majority Floor Leader Representative Steven Rudy (R – Paducah) and House Speaker Pro Tempore Representative David Meade (R – Stanford), along with Senator Chris McDaniel (R – Taylor Mill), Senator Whitney Westerfield (R – Crofton), Senate Speaker Pro Tempore Senator David Givens (R – Greensburg), Senator Steve West (R – Paris), Senate Majority Floor Leader Senator Damon Thayer (R – Georgetown), Senator Minority Floor Leader Senator Morgan McGarvey (D – Louisville), and Senator Majority Caucus Chair Senator Julie Raque Adams (R – Louisville) were presented Nonprofit Advocacy Partner Awards for their support of a comprehensive legislative solution to ensure donations will fully benefit Kentucky’s nonprofit organizations and are exempt from taxation.

Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs, both of Frankfort, received Nonprofit Voice Awards for their work on passage of Senate Bill 70, legislation that made strangulation a felony in Kentucky. Senator Alice Forgy Kerr (R – Lexington) was recognized with a Nonprofit Advocacy Partner Award for her leadership on passage of this legislation.

Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs also received a Nonprofit Voice Award for successful passage of four additional bills they championed. Senate Bill 131 addressed evidence retention for DNA testing and Senate Bill 121 addressed police sexual assault investigation training. Senator Danny Carroll (R – Paducah) received a Nonprofit Advocacy Partner Award for leadership on these bills. They also received an award for Senate Bill 92 requiring sexual assault training for EMT/first responders and Senate Bill 97, which created a sexual assault forensic evidence tracking portal. Senator Denise Harper Angel (D – Louisville) received a Nonprofit Advocacy Partner Award for sponsorship of these bills.

Metro United Way of Louisville, United Way of Kentucky of Louisville, Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence of Frankfort, Kentucky Center for Economic Policy of Berea, and Kentucky Council of
Churches of Lexington were recognized with Nonprofit Voice Awards for their work on passage of Senate Bill 18, which created protections for pregnant workers. Senator Alice Forgy Kerr (R – Lexington) and Senate Majority Caucus Chair Senator Julie Raque Adams (R – Louisville), and House Minority Floor Leader Representative Joni Jenkins (D – Shively) were presented with Nonprofit Advocacy Partner Awards for their support of this effort.

The Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence’s Student Voice Team and Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky, both of Lexington, received Nonprofit Voice Awards for their work on the passage of Senate Bill 1, comprehensive legislation addressing school safety. Senator Max Wise (R – Campbellsville) and House Majority Floor Leader Representative Bam Carney (R – Campbellsville) were recognized with Nonprofit Advocacy Partner Awards for their leadership.

Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky of Frankfort and Children’s Alliance of Frankfort were recognized with Nonprofit Voice Awards for their work on passage of House Bill 378, which addressed youth homelessness. House Speaker Pro Tempore Representative David Meade (R – Stanford) and House Minority Floor Leader Representative Joni Jenkins (D – Shively) were recognized with Nonprofit Advocacy Partner Awards for their support of this effort.

Hosparus Health of Louisville received a Nonprofit Voice Award for passage of Senate Bill 65, which created a palliative care council. Senate Majority Caucus Chair Senator Julie Raque Adams (R – Louisville) and Representative Reginald Meeks (D – Louisville) received Nonprofit Advocacy Partner Awards.

Kentucky Circuit Court Clerks’ Trust for Life of Louisville received a Nonprofit Voice Award for the passage of Senate Bill 77, which expanded organ donor registration. Senate Majority Caucus Chair Senator Julie Raque Adams (R – Louisville); Senator Ralph Alvarado (R – Winchester); Senator Tom Buford (R – Nicholasville); Senator Danny Carroll (R – Paducah); Senator C.B. Embry, Jr. (R – Morgantown); Senator Rick Girdler (R – Somerset); Senate Majority Floor Leader Senator Morgan McGarvey (D – Louisville); Senator Stephen Meredith (R – Leitchfield); and Senator Alice Forgy Kerr (R – Lexington) received Nonprofit Advocacy Partner Awards.

Kentucky Birth Coalition of Louisville received a Nonprofit Voice Award for passage of Senate Bill 84, legislation that licensed certified professional midwives. Senator Tom Buford (R – Nicholasville), Senate Majority Caucus Chair Senator Julie Raque Adams (R – Louisville) and Representative Russell Webber (R – Shepherdsville) received Nonprofit Advocacy Partner Awards.

Partnering with Kentucky Nonprofit Network to host Kentucky Nonprofit Day at the Capitol were KNN Advocacy Alliance members: Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges & Universities, Family & Children’s Place, Fund for the Arts, Goodwill Industries of Kentucky, Homeless & Housing Coalition of Kentucky, Hosparus Health, Kentucky Alliance of YMCA’s, Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence, LexArts, Metro United Way, Mountain Comprehensive Care Center, New Vista, Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky, The Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence and University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Foundation. The event was sponsored by Traditional Bank.
About the Kentucky Nonprofit Network: KNN is the state association of nonprofits, existing to strengthen and advance Kentucky’s nonprofit community. Celebrating 17 years of service to the sector and over 750 members strong, 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.