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## **Kentucky Nonprofit Network Announces 2015 Award Recipients**

*Kentucky Nonprofit Network honors Lexington-based FoodChain and leaders from National Corvette Museum and Colon Cancer Prevention Project with 2015 Nonprofit Awards*

**LEXINGTON** – [Kentucky Nonprofit Network, Inc.](#) proudly announces the winners of its 2015 Nonprofit Awards, to be presented October 28 at the 13<sup>th</sup> annual [Kentucky Nonprofit Leadership Forum](#) Awards Luncheon at the Lexington Convention Center. FoodChain of Lexington; Wendell Strode, executive director of the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green; and Dr. Whitney Jones, board member of the statewide Colon Cancer Prevention Project based in Louisville, have been selected as the recipients of the 2015 awards.

The **Innovative Nonprofit Award** was created by [Kentucky Nonprofit Network](#) to recognize a nonprofit organization in the Commonwealth implementing inventive, nontraditional programs or methods that effectively meet community needs. The award winner is required to demonstrate creativity and vision in finding unique solutions to community issues.

[FoodChain](#) was selected as the recipient of the 2015 Innovative Nonprofit Award. FoodChain aims to reconnect people with their food by providing education and demonstration of innovative, sustainable food production. Operating the state's only indoor aquaponics system inside an abandoned bread factory in downtown Lexington, FoodChain takes a different approach to "teach a man to fish" - instead "teaching a man to grow and harvest fish." Since being founded in 2012, the organization has harvested tons of lettuces and 1000 pounds of fish, and hosted over 6000 visitors through tours, workshops and educational programming.

The **Distinguished Nonprofit Leadership Award** recognizes outstanding leadership among Kentucky nonprofit chief executives. The award recognizes achievement in the areas of strategic leadership, community building, ethical integrity, innovation and commitment to strengthening the nonprofit sector.

Wendell Strode, executive director of the [National Corvette Museum](#) in Bowling Green, was selected as the recipient of the 2015 **Distinguished Nonprofit Leadership Award**. Strode has served in this position since 1996 and is noted for growing Museum membership and increasing visitors to Bowling Green and Kentucky, resulting in an economic impact in excess of \$35 million to the local and state economy. He is also recognized for his exceptional leadership during the sinkhole incident that occurred at the Museum in February 2014, using the disaster as an opportunity to gain world-wide media attention and experience record Museum attendance during repairs.

The **Outstanding Board Leadership** award highlights the work of a board leader who is strategic-thinking, works cooperatively with other board members and the executive director to further the mission of the organization and is actively committed to best practices and succession planning.

Dr. Whitney Jones of Louisville, a board member and founder of the [Colon Cancer Prevention Project](#), was selected as the recipient of the 2015 **Outstanding Board Leadership Award**. The Colon Cancer Prevention Project has a mission to eliminate preventable colon cancer death and suffering by encouraging people get timely screenings. Dr. Jones has served an active role on the board through many “firsts” including the first screening program for low-income, uninsured Kentuckians and legislative victories related to screenings. The organization credits his vision and commitment to the mission as a key factor in Kentucky's rise from 49th to 32nd in the nation for colon cancer screening rates - no other state has improved that much in a decade.

The [Kentucky Nonprofit Leadership Forum](#) is hosted annually by [Kentucky Nonprofit Network](#). Early registration savings for the [Kentucky Nonprofit Leadership Forum](#) on October 27 and 28 are available until October 3 and final registration is due by October 19. Individual tickets and tables at the awards luncheon on October 28 are also available. Additional information is available at <http://www.kynonprofits.org/forum> or by calling 859-963-3203.

[Kentucky Nonprofit Network](#) is the state association of nonprofits, existing to strengthen and advance Kentucky's nonprofit community. The association serves as a resource for nonprofit leaders, board members and other volunteers, an information center on effective nonprofit organizational practices, and an advocate for the nonprofit sector. For more information about the Kentucky Nonprofit Network, visit <http://www.kynonprofits.org>.

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