



**2022 Annual Report of
The Kentucky Center for
Grieving Children and Families**

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



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THE YEAR IN REVIEW

It has been an incredible experience seeing the capacity and programming of The Kentucky Center for Grieving Children and Families (KCGCF) grow in its second full year of operations. We doubled the number of school sites we serve (now 14). In the fall of 2022, KCGCF launched free community grief support groups for children ages 4-18 and their parents and caregivers. We also launched a pilot of an evidence-based, teen led grief support group, done in conjunction with the University of Chicago Medical School. By offering groups in schools, in the evenings, and online, we want to create as many ways as possible for us to connect with and support grieving children and their caregivers.

There is much work to be done. Kentucky ranks #5 in the nation in childhood bereavement, meaning that 10% of our students will lose a parent or sibling before the age of 18. Fully 25% of Kentucky's grieving children have experienced the death of a parent by overdose. Research shows that bereaved children are more likely to experience later Substance Use Disorder. Grief support programming will be necessary to help Kentucky's children and teens find healthier ways to cope with the stress, anxiety, and sadness of loss.

The good news is that, at last, Kentucky joins a nationwide network of children's bereavement centers. We are now in the process of building awareness, advocacy, trainings, and programs that will help reshape the experiences of grieving children across the Commonwealth.

Trainings are a key way the KCGCF staff can help equip those who work with children and adolescents with the

knowledge that will help them create more grief sensitive environments in their own spaces. The KCGCF has spoken to and trained more than 1,400 individuals, including staff and volunteers from many social service agencies, schools and educational cooperatives, government offices and programs, court-related programs, and foster care programs.

We invite you to be our partner in this work! We are available to speak to community organizations, churches, and many other types of groups. We are still new, so we ask for your help in spreading the word about us and the free services we offer for grieving children and families. We also welcome your volunteer hours and your financial support. Day by day, person by person, we are building a group of champions who can support children with loss.

**Leila Salisbury, Executive Director
KCGCF**



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- 2022 was our first full calendar year of operations, with total revenue of about \$256,000 and total expenses of about \$217,000, resulting in a change in net assets of about \$39,000.
- School group income increased from \$60,501 in 2021 to \$185,882. The number of school groups increased from 8 in 2021 to 14 sites in 2022.
- The KCGCF received a one-time grant from the Commonwealth of Kentucky under the Kentucky Nonprofit Recovery Assistance Act Fund, totaling nearly \$44,000.
- Expenses for group facilitators increased from \$4,500 in 2021 to \$25,100 in 2022, as the KCGCF ran more groups (sometimes multiple groups at a single school). We believe it is important to pay highly skilled, compassionate professionals to lead and support the students participating in our school-based groups.
- We added a part-time consultant, Laura Newsome, in 2022 to help with fundraising efforts.
- We worked with MG Consulting (funded by a grant from the New York Life Foundation) to help the KCGCF create a 5 year strategic plan.

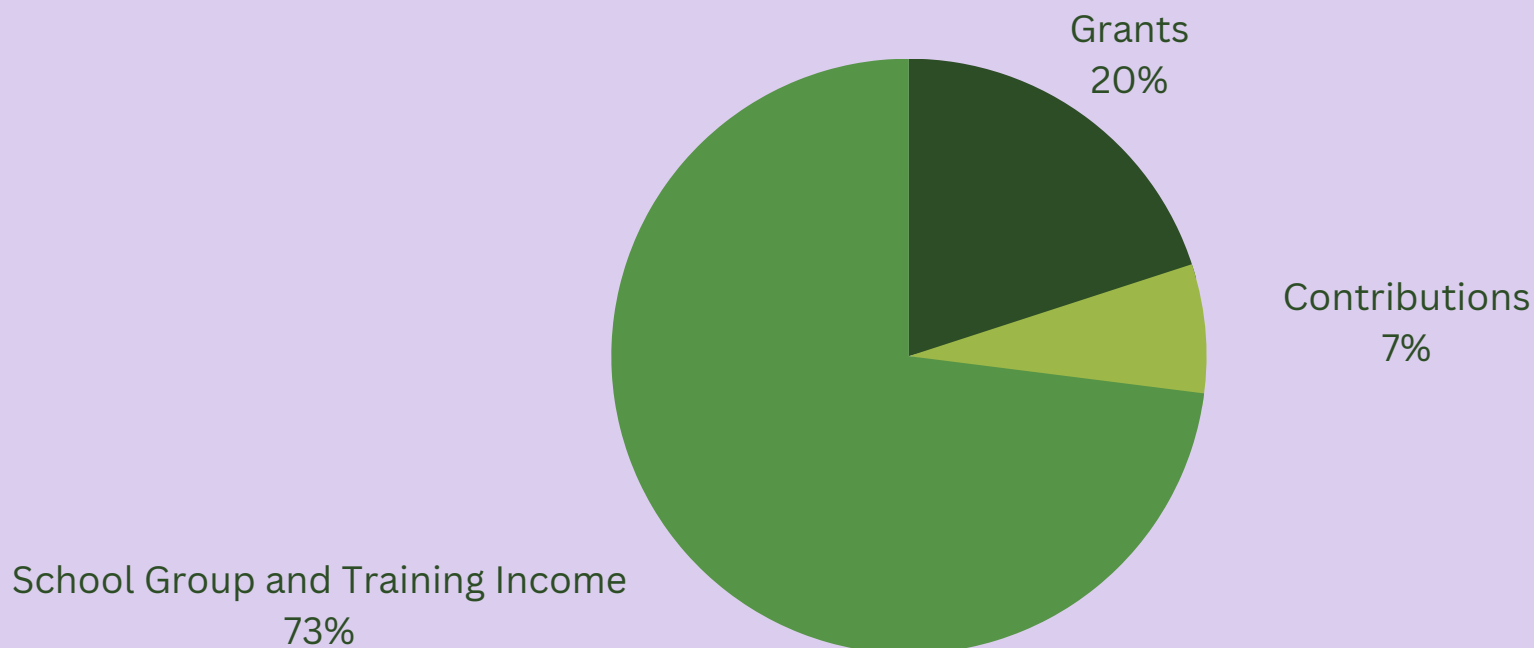


GRIEF IS A PROCESS.

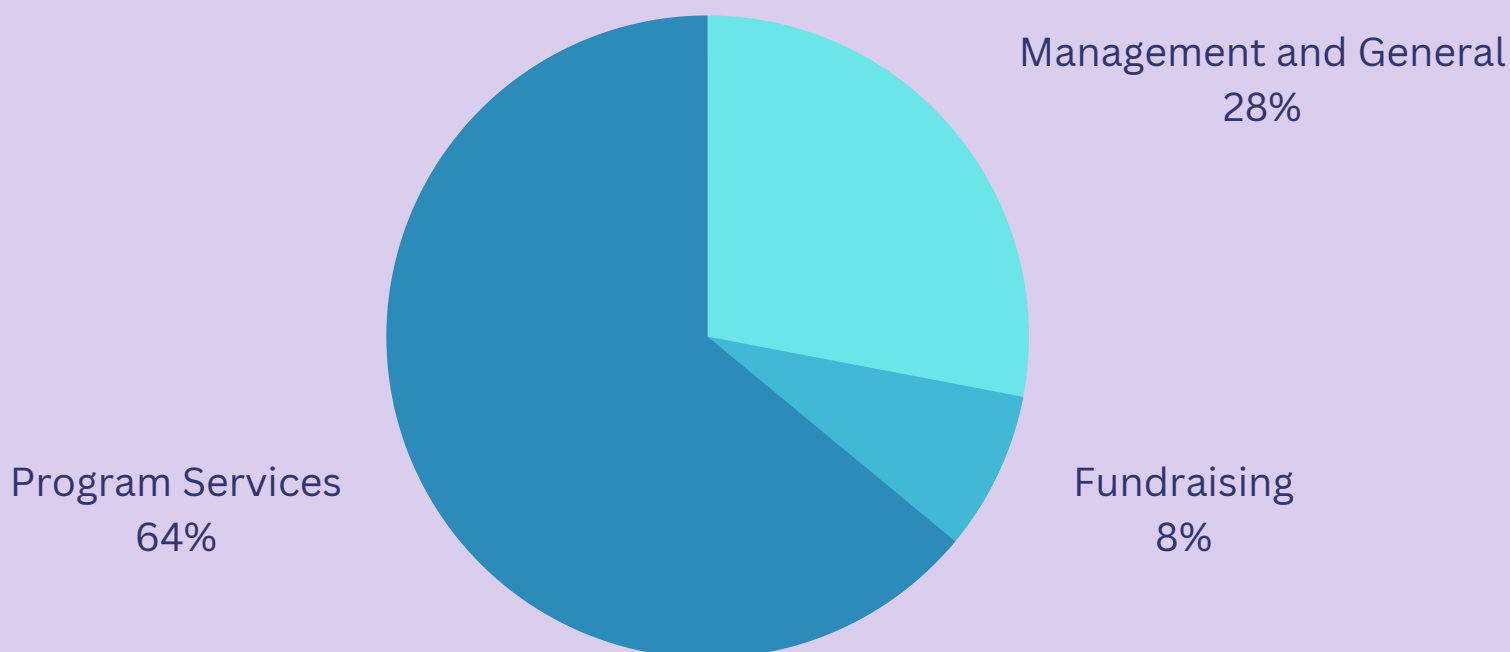
FINANCIAL CHARTS

2022 Statement of Activities

Income



Statement of Functional Expenses

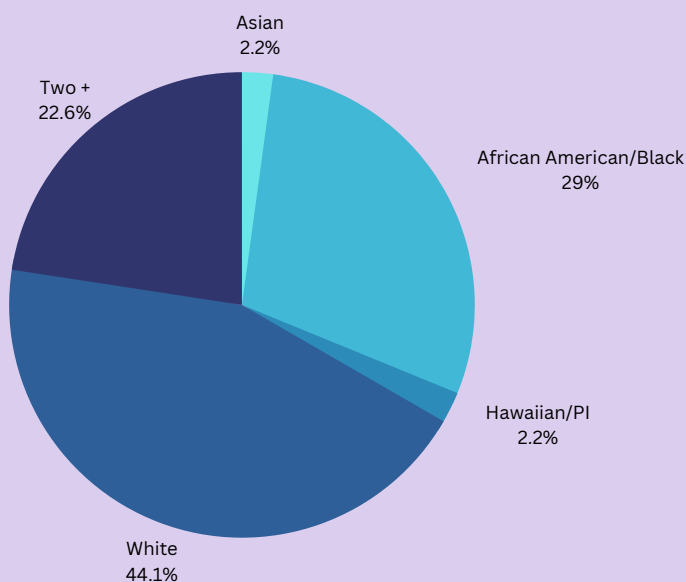


WHO WE SERVED

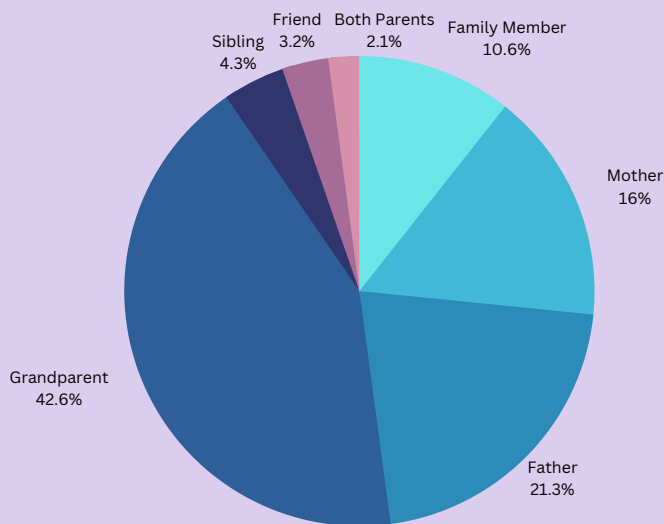
Through our support groups, especially our school-based programs, the KCGCF served a racially and economically diverse group of children and teens in Central Kentucky. The types of deaths our students in groups are dealing with mirror the social and public health challenges Kentucky families face. In 2021, we saw many children affected by overdose deaths. For 2022, we are serving many more students and families affected by gun violence. Fewer overdose deaths were specifically identified in calendar 2022, but they may also likely be reflected in the "Prefer Not To Say" category of loss.

During 2022, the KCGCF served 177 children and teens in our programs (for a total of more than 625 service hours). KCGCF staff also trained and educated more than 1,450 individuals about how to support and advocate for grieving children.

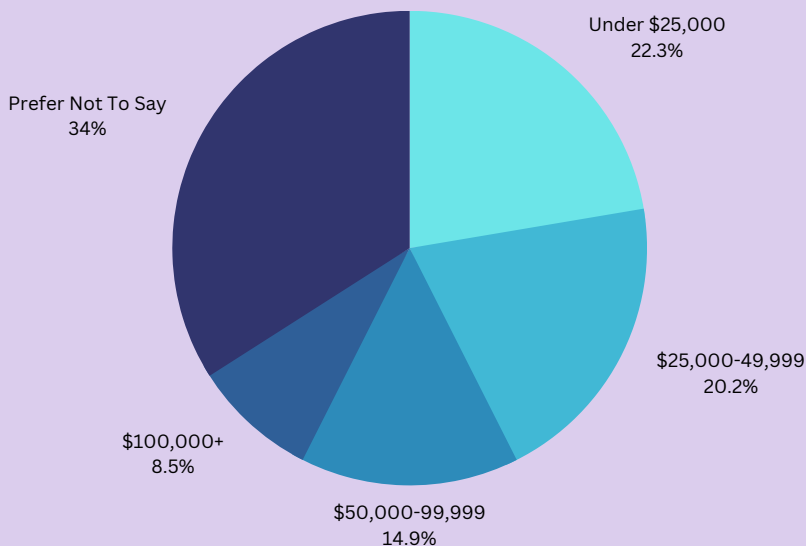
Race



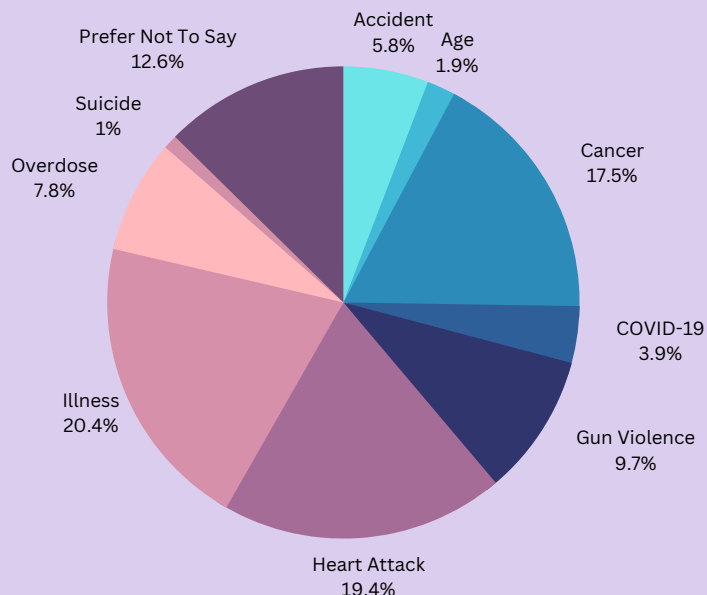
Who Died



Income



Type of Death



GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

In 2022, the KCGCF entered the second year of service to Fayette County Public Schools through GEER grant funds from the state of Kentucky, administered through Family Resource and Youth Service Centers. We continued our partnership with the FRYSCs at Meadowthorpe/Sandersville Elementaries, Leestown and Beaumont Middle Schools, Bryan Station Middle and High Schools, Dunbar High School, Hayes Middle, LTMS, Bates Creek Elementary, Mary Todd Elementary, Coventry Oak Elementary, and Booker T Washington Elementary. Our FRYSC partners have done incredible work in identifying eligible students for groups and getting family permissions, coordinating schedules for teacher trainings and Family Fun Night events, and helping coordinate the implementation of groups at their schools. We are so grateful for these partners who saw the potential and vision of what supports we could begin to create for grieving students in their schools.

The KCGCF is also thankful for Bates Creek Christian Church, which generously donates space to the KCGCF for its community group evening programming. We are grateful for their hospitality and the supportive environment they help us create for the families we serve.

The Junior League of Lexington has also supported the KCGCF through a generous grant of \$5,000 to purchase supplies, games, and recreational activities for our community group programs. They have helped bring the fun to our Thursday night gatherings!



OUR PEOPLE



People are at the loving heart of what we do at the KCGCF. Our Clinical Program Manager, Emily Johnson, LMFT, oversees our school and community children’s programming, as well as the collection and reporting of our clinical impact data and assessments. Johnson is a clinician who is also completing a PhD in Family Sciences at the University of Kentucky.

Our school group facilitators are an incredible group of individuals with both clinical and school-based experience. These caring men and women conduct the weekly sessions of our school-based grief support groups, creating supportive listening spaces for grieving children in K-12 settings. We love how they bring their own unique insights, ideas, and experiences to this work as they help students process and problem solve. They are some of the greatest advocates and allies we have in this work,

and we could not serve as many schools as we do without them.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our community-based work with children and their caregivers. Our trained volunteers facilitate our groups for children and teens, listening with empathy and playing alongside them. One of our volunteers even brings Bucky the therapy dog to visit with us on group nights! We are also incredibly grateful for our volunteers from the UK chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma, who have helped serve dinner at Family Fun Nights at our local schools, helped pack and prepare school group supplies, and supported us financially. We have also had several volunteers from UK’s Child Life program, and these students’ specialized knowledge and expertise have made them a valuable addition to our community groups.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Our work intersects with that of many other valuable agencies and initiatives in Central Kentucky and across the state. In 2022, we were honored to present at the first grief camp hosted by Mountain Comprehensive in Prestonsburg. We offered trainings to volunteers for local CASA, foster care, and other youth support organizations, and spoke to students at UK. We presented to a large session at the annual Grandparents As Parents conference, offering information on how kinship carers can support their children who are grieving losses and relationships.

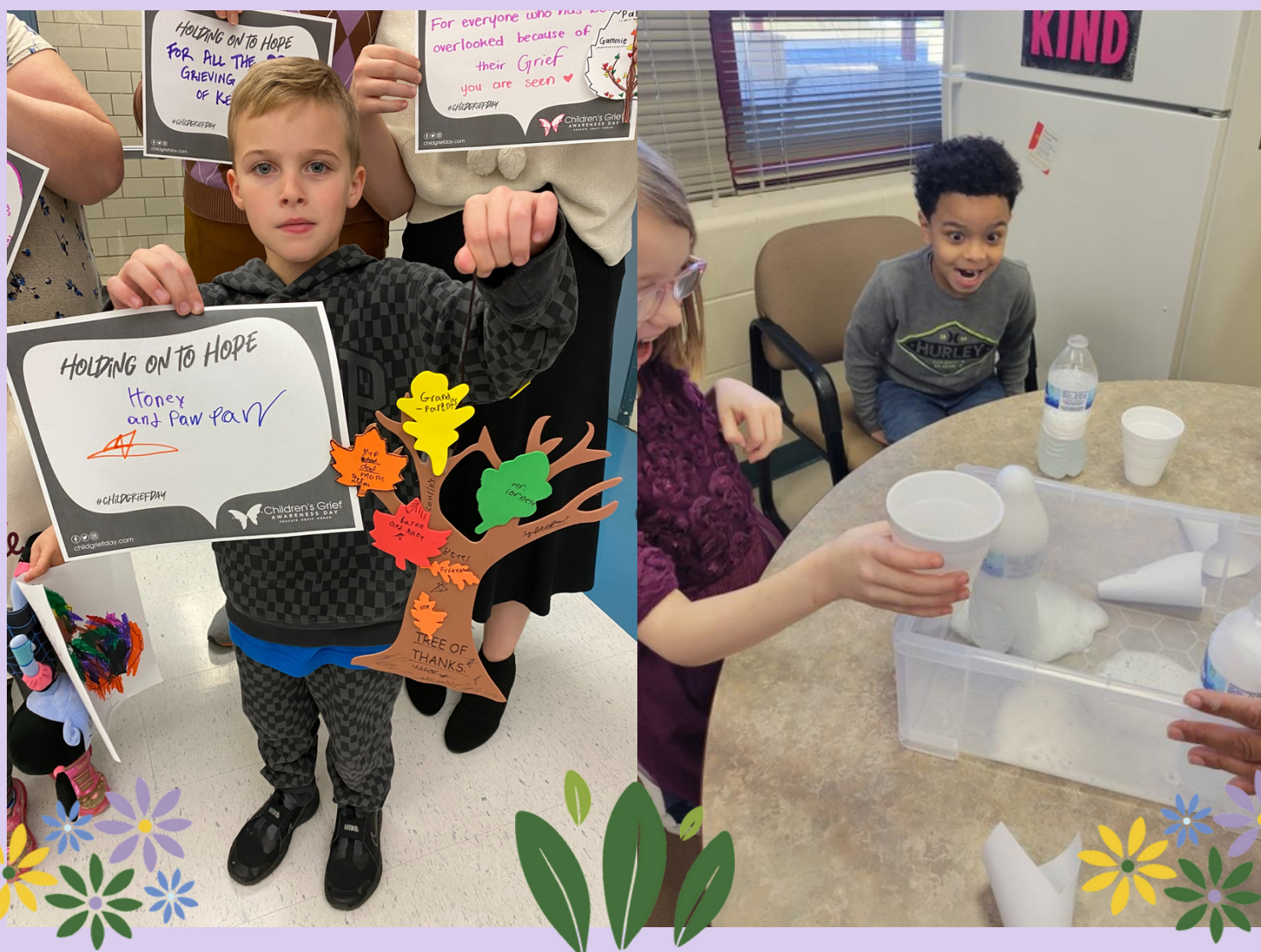
We participate in community mental health and youth resource meetings, are working with school districts and educational cooperatives around the state to offer information and trainings, and are building important relationships with organizations such as Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky and The Nest. We are eager to begin the work of building policy and trainings that will help create a larger support infrastructure for grieving children, and we are glad to be doing that in the company of so many supportive partners.

SUPPORT

We are excited to begin building a network of individual donors. The work we do is not formal therapy and therefore is not insurance billable. Our groups and programs are always free of charge to children and their families. Our operating funds come from:

- Grants
- Contract work
- Individual donations and corporate matching funds
- Stocks and equities
- Planned gifts
- Community giving programs, such as Kroger Community Rewards and KCGCF Wish List on Amazon's registry page

Please consider volunteering time with us, either directly with children or in support of our outreach, fundraising, and social media work. Most of all, please help us spread the word about our free services. There are still many people who do not know that these programs are now available for our children and their families.



STAFF AND BOARD

Leila Salisbury
Executive Director



Emily Johnson, LMFT
Clinical Program Manager



2022 KCGCF Board of Directors:

Derek Humfleet, Attorney McClelland and Associates

Elizabeth Owens, Retired School Counselor, First Lady of Shiloh Baptist Church

Evelyn Latta, Attorney McBrayer PLLC (Board Secretary)

Dr. Heather Risk, Licensed Clinical Psychologist

Jessica Mohler, Kentucky Pharmacists Association (Board President)

Katherine Adams, Retired Attorney

Kathryn Ryan, Retired Attorney

Lauren Broadbent, Counselor/Therapist

Dr. Lindsay Ragsdale, CMO UK Children's Hospital

Dr. Nathan Vanderford, Director of the Appalachian Center Training in Oncology
Program at the University of Kentucky

Dr. Nicole Breazeale, Professor of Community Leadership Development, UK

Raine Minichan, Assistant Director of Student Support for Fayette County Public
Schools

Ryan Adams, Accountant, Blue & Co. (Board Treasurer)

Ryan Butler, New York Life Agent