

2021

Morris Foundation Impact Report



The Morris Foundation is a Lexington, Kentucky-based and Kentucky-focused charitable organization devoted to hands-on philanthropy and providing financial assistance and practical support to nurture and inspire charitable institutions.

The Morris Foundation was established by Rubicon Founder & CEO Nate Morris and his wife, acclaimed entrepreneur and author Jane Morris. It's mission is to promote the cherished American value that a better life is possible to those who seek it, investing in causes that provide opportunities for self-advancement, with an emphasis on youth leadership development, the alleviation of rural poverty, girls' and women's empowerment, and access to higher education in Kentucky.

As part of this mission, the Morris Foundation enriches the lives of Kentuckians through charitable contributions to organizations that address Commonwealth-specific challenges and by providing organizations with access to resources and relationships to accelerate their development both within Kentucky and on a national scale.

The following organizations have received direct support from the Morris Foundation.



Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels

MISSION STATEMENT

The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels support worthy nonprofits by actively engaging Colonels; fostering strong relationships with Colonels and grant recipients; maintaining high grant vetting standards; being good stewards of our resources and traditions...all with integrity and compassion.

WHO THEY HELP

Kentucky nonprofits who have had their 501 (c) 3 designation for at least five years. These nonprofits provide the following services: cultural and historic preservation, social services, youth services, community services, veterans services, education and health, rehabilitation and mental illness. This grant program is called the Good Works Program.

HOW THEY HELP

Provide grants that help them purchase items that directly affect their beneficiaries. Examples include food for food pantries, clothing for homelessness, handicapped vans, roofs for shelters, medical equipment for clinics, preservation of artifacts, hearing assistance devices for theaters, among other important items.

OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY

THE MORRIS FOUNDATION

The Morris Foundation grants have been entirely used for the the Good Works Program. All the dollars contributed by Kentucky Colonels or their foundations, such as the Morris Foundation, go into the Good Works Program. In 2021, the Kentucky Colonels provided \$2.1 million dollars in grants to 275 nonprofits in the Commonwealth.

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The Grace Hopkins Ruml Children's Fund

MISSION STATEMENT

Strengthen the region through inspired philanthropy and outstanding stewardship by:

- partnering with donors to ensure lasting impact
- leveraging their knowledge of communities across the Commonwealth
- offering it's constituents an unmatched level of personal engagement

WHO THEY HELP

The Grace Hopkins Ruml Children's Fund has several programs that are aimed at helping children and families.

HOW THEY HELP

The Fund has several programs. The primary one is Grace's Books, which is administered through Norton Children's Hospital and gives books and support to families with infants in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). Each family gets a book that is language appropriate and instructions on how to read to their infant, because even the youngest child benefits from hearing words and being held and touched.

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**ALL OF THE FUND'S
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OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY

THE MORRIS FOUNDATION

The Morris Foundation helps by funding the expansion of the Grace's Books program, including funding the distribution of picture books to enable the program to include families who may use less widely-spoken languages or who come from less literate backgrounds. We are also expanding the Grace's Books program to Norton Suburban hospital and hope to expand it to all newborns in the Norton system.

Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR)

MISSION STATEMENT

Bring Appalachia Kentucky back to prosperity.

WHO THEY HELP

The 54 Appalachian Regional Commission counties in Kentucky.

HOW THEY HELP

They convene, connect, and collaborate around ideas and projects related to a seven pillar blueprint plan for the future of Appalachia Kentucky.

OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY

THE MORRIS FOUNDATION

Thanks to the generosity of the Morris Foundation SOAR was able to bring together more than 15 women from across Eastern Kentucky for its first ever Women's Founders Cohort. They heard from inspirational females starting, running, or leading businesses in the region and how, no matter where any of them were currently in their own entrepreneurial journey, were capable of making a different and continuing to be trailblazer for other women in Appalachia.

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WE HELP AMERICA BY SHOWING HOW SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS POSSIBLE IN RURAL AMERICA.

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Gattton College of Business and Economics at the University of Kentucky

MISSION STATEMENT

The Gattton College of Business and Economics prepares principled leaders for the global economy, produces impactful research, and elevates economic growth in Kentucky and beyond.

WHO THEY HELP

Undergraduate and graduate students as well as business executives through providing classes and instruction. They also help alumni through networking and job placement. They help the business community and government through our research.

OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY THE MORRIS FOUNDATION

Nate Morris has generously donated both money and time to help the success of students.

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Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress Presidential Fellows Program

MISSION STATEMENT

Promote leadership in the presidency and the Congress to generate innovative solutions to current national challenges, preserve the historic memory of the Presidency by identifying the lessons from the successes and failures of such leadership, draw on a wide range of talent to offer ways to better organize an increasingly compartmentalized federal government, and educate and inspire the next generation of America's leaders to incorporate civility, inclusiveness, and character into their public and private lives and discourse.

WHO THEY HELP

The next generation
of national leaders.

OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY

THE MORRIS FOUNDATION

The Morris Foundation has endowed the Nate Morris Fellowship, awarded to one student from the Gatton College of Business and Economics at the University of Kentucky to attend the CSPC Presidential Fellows Program.

The Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress (CSPC) created the Presidential Fellows Program in 1970 to inspire college students to become the public servants that would guide our nation's future.

Today, the program continues that mission by providing top collegiate students in the United States and around the world with the opportunity to study the U.S. Presidency, the public policymaking process, and our President's relationships with Congress, allies, the media, and the American public. Over the course of an academic year, the Fellows learn about leadership and governance, share their outstanding research, and explore careers in public service.

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The Governor's School for Entrepreneurs (GSE)

MISSION STATEMENT

To complement teenagers' traditional learning environments, immersing them in a creative space and arming them with the tools needed to unleash their innate entrepreneurial spirits for the betterment of Kentucky.

WHO THEY HELP

They serve 9th, 10th, and 11th grade entrepreneurially minded Kentucky teens.

HOW THEY HELP

They want to give more teens the opportunity to go from high school students to business owners - for free. GSE alumni have launched more than 20 new businesses, filed multiple patents and developed new ideas and relationships that lead to business formation.

OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY THE MORRIS FOUNDATION

The Morris Foundation has provided funding that paves the way for additional Kentucky teens to participate in the GSE program for free.

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**ENTREPRENEURSHIP
HAS BEEN THE
ENGINE OF AMERICA'S
ECONOMY SINCE ITS
FOUNDING, AND GSE
KIDS ARE ITS FUTURE.**

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The University of Kentucky (UK)

MISSION STATEMENT

The University of Kentucky facilitates learning, informed by scholarship and research; expands knowledge through research, scholarship and creative activity; and serves a global community by disseminating, sharing and applying knowledge.

WHO THEY HELP

There were 31,110 students enrolled at UK for the 2020-21 school year. Of those, 20,748 were in-state students, 21.9 percent are first-generation college students, and 15.4 percent are underrepresented minority students as defined by the Council on Postsecondary Education. The 724 bed UK Albert B. Chandler Hospital and Kentucky Children's Hospital, along with 221 beds at UK Good Samaritan Hospital, are supported by a growing faculty and staff providing the most advanced subspecialty care for the most critically injured and ill patients throughout the Commonwealth and beyond. The number of patients served by the medical enterprise has increased from roughly 19,000 discharges in 2003 to more than 38,000 discharges in 2017. UK Chandler Hospital includes the only Level 1 Trauma Center for both adult and pediatric patients in Central and Eastern Kentucky.

HOW THEY HELP

Established in 1865, the University of Kentucky (UK) is a public land grant university dedicated to improving people's lives through excellence in education, research and creative work, service, and healthcare. As Kentucky's flagship institution of higher education, the university plays a critical leadership role by promoting diversity, inclusion, economic development, and human well-being. In fall 2020, UK enrolled more than 31,000 students on its 784-acre urban campus in Lexington, Kentucky. The University is one of only a small number of U.S. institutions having a major academic medical center with all six health sciences colleges and the full spectrum of academic colleges on a single campus.

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The University of Kentucky (UK)

OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY THE MORRIS FOUNDATION

The Morris Foundation's financial support of the Gatton College Capital Campaign had significant impact on building the renovation and expansion of the Gatton College. The Gatton College space increased size to hold 1,200 more students, 20 new classrooms, more than 40 study rooms, 100 new faculty offices, and see a 40 percent enrollment growth. The expansion itself increased space by 40 percent to a total of 210,000 square feet. The new facility fosters more in-depth interactions among students and faculty and encourages students to learn, network and socialize in a business community and environment.



Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation

MISSION STATEMENT

To ensure that law enforcement personnel who are killed in the line of duty in the state of Kentucky are provided for financially and are honored in a fitting manner. The monument holds names of the lost in the front of the state training academy where they may be given respect at any time by their peers.

WHO THEY HELP

Kentucky Law
Enforcement personnel

HOW THEY HELP

The foundation awards educational scholarships to dependents yearly, provides medical and emergency assistance to officers/deputies who have unexpected expenses come up and provide a line of duty death benefit to the family of a slain law enforcement within 48 hours of the death.

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KLEMF IS SUPPORTIVE OF THE NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL FOUNDATION AND MANY OF OUR BOARD MEMBERS ATTEND THE ANNUAL SERVICE IN WASHINGTON SUPPORTING OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT ORGANIZATIONS.

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OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY THE MORRIS FOUNDATION

The financial support from The Morris Foundation as an anchor sponsor for the annual golf tourney provides a day of fundraising and camaraderie for Kentucky law enforcement. The golf scramble is in the 21st year and at times has barely been able to sustain funds to use for the next year. Since The Morris Foundation has stepped up, funds have been available to begin a public awareness campaign and encourages other business to participate as well.