

# ACROSS *the* BOARD



**Blue Grass  
Farms Charities**

Supporting the Thoroughbred Racing Community

BLUE GRASS FARMS CHARITIES

SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER

## 4TH ANNUAL RELICS & RARITIES VIRTUAL AUCTION

*We are Smelling the Roses!*

We are excited to host our 4th annual Relics and Rarities from the Blue Grass Region Virtual Auction. 'Roses are Red' with the auction emphasizing the Kentucky Derby and other racing meets for 2024. The staff and Board of Directors are working hard to bring another set of wonderful relics and unique Thoroughbred industry memorabilia along with great regional experiences.



If your farm has an item(s) they would like to donate for bidding or would like to sponsor the online auction that supports the Festival of Christmas event in December, please give BGFC a call or email. Proceeds aid the men and women who work tirelessly with love and devotion to the Thoroughbred racing community in Central Kentucky. Call 859.219.0910 or email [info@bgfcky.org](mailto:info@bgfcky.org) for more information.

**Beginning Thursday, October 26th at noon with bids ending at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, October 29th**

Visit [www.bgfcky.org](http://www.bgfcky.org) for more information on the wonderful items available for bid. All proceeds to benefit Blue Grass Farms Charities. Auction powered by GiveSmart



## Kentucky Fish & Wildlife Season 2: Farm & Backstretch Kids Attend Camp!

The charity is celebrating its second year of taking part in the KY Fish and Wildlife Conservation camp by supplying fun experiences and summer games for our farm/backstretch kids. Kids from Fayette, Woodford, Scott, and Bourbon attend Camp Wallace and Camp Webb for conservation learning; outdoor activities like archery, boating, fishing, hiking; and making new friends. Thanks to KY Fish and Wildlife for making it happen and teaching the kids conservation and the great outdoors!



A special thanks to our sponsors: Godolphin, Inc. – registration scholarship and camp gear sponsor; Emily Alberti, Board member for the camp T-shirts; and Anonymous Donor through Blue Grass Community Foundation.





# DESIGNATED FUNDING AT WORK

## DELTA DENTAL OF KENTUCKY GRANT

A continual blessing has been given to BGFC from the Delta Dental of Kentucky's grant award for \$12,500 for each of the past three years. The charity is working to provide dental work for farms and track employees ranging from extensive cleanings, fillings, extractions to dentures for those who have been living with constant discomfort. To date, the amount of work totals \$7,682 for 13 workers receiving grant funding.

**BRINGING BIG SMILES FOR 2023**

Call Blue Grass Farms Charities  
859.219.0910 or email  
info@bgfcky.org  
for more information.  
Funding awarded to BGFC by  
**DELTA DENTAL** of KY.

**Blue Grass Farms Charities**  
Supporting the Thoroughbred Racing Community

Providing health and human services to those that work in the Central KY Thoroughbred Industry

## SNOWY OWL GRANT FUNDING VISION ASSISTANCE

The Snowy Owl Foundation has once again received funding for the charity's eye exams and vision wear program. For 2023, the charity has supplied \$3,495 in exams/glasses and cataract surgery assistance to 12 workers. Advertising in the KTFMC newsletter, TDN, BloodHorse and Facebook, farm managers and office staff have been notified of the availability of this assistance program. There is still funding available so please call today to make your appointment.

**Blue Grass Farms Charities 2023 Vision Assistance to Farm Work**

*Thank you to the Snowy Owl Foundation for providing the 2023 Grant for eye exams and eyewear.*

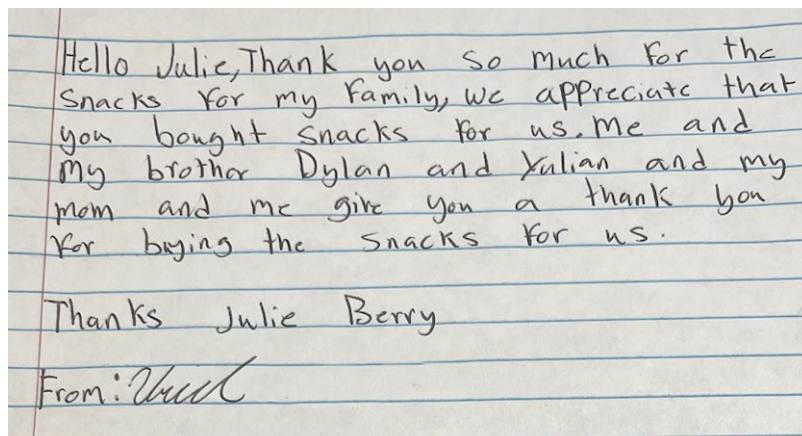
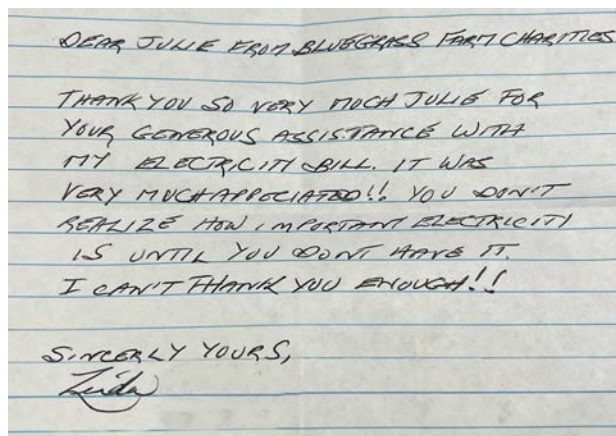
Please have your farm office call to schedule appointment for the horsemen.  
Please call us at 859.219.0910 or info@bgfcky.org to schedule an appointment today!

**Blue Grass Farms Charities**  
Supporting the Thoroughbred Racing Community

## BENEVOLENT SERVICES PROVIDED

The charity has seen an increase in housing and utility assistance this year. Why may you ask? Utility companies have raised their monthly rates; the Covid19 renters' assistance moratorium has ended; and all-around inflation. People have

to choose between buying groceries and medications or paying their utility bill. We at BGFC continue to help those that need assistance the most in our industry. If you have a worker in need, remember the charity is here to help.



## Back-to-School Backpack Program 2023:

A HUGE thank you to the Charles R. Jelm Foundation; Country Boy Brewery's 'Keeneland Spring and Fall Meet' initiative with KY Eagle and Keeneland, Inc.; The Junior League of Lexington; and The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels providing funding for the needed 2023 backpack order. The charity will distribute 1,156 backpacks in late July/early August so the kids will be ready for the first day of school. Fayette County schools start August 16 — just to give you an idea how time is flying by!





## BY THE NUMBERS:

- ◆ 47,549 pounds of food provided to farm/track totaling 1,514 people served through food distribution (GP Meal Connect Program) and pantry since January;
- ◆ \$16,569 paid for Medical/Housing/Utilities/Bereavement assistance since January 1st;
- ◆ 14 Farm and track workers scheduled for dental procedures through the Delta Dental of Kentucky grant;
  - ◆ Vision assistance was given to 11 workers through the Snowy Owl Foundation; including support for cataract surgeries.
- ◆ Thirteen farm/track children between 10- and 12-years old attending KFW camp;
  - ◆ \$23,119 paid in full to BluSource for the Backpacks.

This year BGFC will give out 196 kindergarten packs, 500 grade school packs, and 400 middle school packs! Farm signups are available and delivery/pick up the first week of August;



In Kentucky, **1 in 8** people are unsure about where they'll get their next meal. In Central and Eastern Kentucky, it is **1 in 6**. Per God's Pantry's Website

## Farms/Tracks/Facilities Served with Food Distribution, Healthcare, and other needs:

Airdrie Stud  
Ballyrankin Stud  
Blackwood Stables  
Brookledge Transport  
Darby Dan Farm  
Dixiana Farm  
Don Alberto Corporation  
Castleton Lyons  
Crestwood Farm  
Calumet Farm



Gainesway Farm  
Jackpot Farm  
Juddmonte Farm  
Keeneland  
(biweekly)  
McPeck Stables  
Middlebrook Farm  
Mill Ridge Farm  
Mt. Brilliant Farm



Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital  
Rose Hill  
Shadwell Farm  
Spy Coast  
Stable Recovery  
Three Chimneys  
Thoroughbred Training Center  
(biweekly)  
WinStar Farm  
Woodline Farm



## Executive Director's Notes

The dust has settled in most of our lives. What I mean by this is Covid is over, or not as threatening. People are working remote hybrid, which is half time at both home and office. The good news is companies are finding this as a 'cost-saving idea' for offices to turn the lights out half the time and reduce their utility bills. On the flipside, the average family of four is dealing with the utility bills, which has become the main benevolent need this year. The charity calculated a 36% increase for utility assistance from the previous year. Extreme hot and cold months are causing the family to pay triple their normal bill. Electricity and gas are not the only utility to increase. It was reported that "Ky American Water will be increasing their rates by 22%", per Channel 36, WTVQ digital news.

Cost of living expenses are at their highest for everyone, and the charity is doing its part to help the workers and their families who are struggling due to illness, injury, and other specific cases. By relieving their food cost with God's Pantry Meal Connect, weekly distributions to area farms, and in-person pantry requests, BGFC has aided in reducing their financial needs. Our steady outreach has become a welcome relief for the workers on the farms and training facilities.



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Ms. Grace Hamilton, a Senior with the UK Equine Program and Intern with Godolphin helped out the charity this summer by delivering camping gear to Dixiana Farm. Having someone to run a quick errand is much appreciated. In conversation the charity found out that Grace's internship was coincidental since Godolphin is the presenting sponsor for the BGFC Camp for Kids! Thank you, Grace!

## strong and steady

In July and August, BGFC volunteers will distribute backpacks once more to the Central Kentucky Thoroughbred farms. Please make sure to sign your farm up to receive a portion of the 1,156 backpacks that are allocated to K through 8th grade students. Check out our website at [www.bgfcky.org/programs](http://www.bgfcky.org/programs).

The Fall months will be busy for the charity. Donuts will be delivered to the September Sales like last year – more information to come! We will celebrate our *4th Annual Relics and Rarities from the Bluegrass Region* online auction, prepare for Thanksgiving day meal deliveries, and end 2023 with the Festival of Christmas celebration at the Thoroughbred Training Center scheduled for December 6. The 2024 new year will be an exciting one with the charity celebrating its **20TH ANNIVERSARY** of supporting the horsemen and women in the Thoroughbred Community!

Please check the schedule of events for dates and locations in this newsletter. In the meantime, thank you for your continued support. We love our horsemen and appreciate you.

Have a great summer everyone and be safe!

*Julie*

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### BACKPACK DISTRIBUTION

Last week of July and first week of August

### DOUGH DADDY'S DONUTS AT THE SALES

TBD at the September Sales

### 4TH ANNUAL RELICS & RARITIES VIRTUAL AUCTION

October 26 thru October 29

### BLUE GRASS HOSPITALITY'S THANKSGIVING MEALS

November 23

### FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS

December 6 at Thoroughbred Training Center

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jesse Ullery, President  
Tom Thornbury, Treasurer  
Emily Alberti, Secretary

Sharon Bradley  
Julie Cauthen  
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David Smith, CPA  
Adrian Mansergh-Wallace  
Kari West  
Gibson Wilhite

## STAFF

Julie Kwasniewski, Executive Director  
Bob Baney, Food Distribution Manager

**Donate Today!**  
**[www.bgfcky.org](http://www.bgfcky.org)**