The Center for Nonprofit Excellence announces $600,000 grant from the James Graham Brown Foundation

Grant will fund professional development opportunities for region’s fourth-largest sector by employment

December 9, 2022 (Louisville, KY) – The James Graham Brown Foundation has made a three-year, $600,000 grant to The Center for Nonprofit Excellence, funding professional development opportunities for the nonprofit sector, which is the Louisville region’s fourth-largest employer.

“The nonprofit sector is important because of its vast social impact,” said CNPE’s CEO Ann Coffey. “But it’s also important because of the economic value it brings to the region. This includes the employment opportunities it provides directly — and so much more. Helping someone recover from addiction, providing a child with something to eat on the weekend, providing job training — these services positively influence the economy as well as building a stronger social fabric.”

The James Graham Brown Foundation is a philanthropic foundation established to improve the well-being of Kentucky’s citizens and improve the image of the city and state. It has supported CNPE since its inception and recently supported the founding of Kentucky’s first fundraising school – CNPE’s School for Fundraising & Engagement.

“This is an investment in our nonprofit sector that ultimately impacts our entire region,” Coffey said. “By helping nonprofits improve board governance, staff effectiveness, organizational culture, and fundraising — this grant will pay dividends to the community over decades.”

“One of our goals is to strengthen the nonprofit sector and to provide the catalyst for nonprofits to be as effective as they can be in the work they do,” said Mason B. Rummel, President and CEO of the James Graham Brown Foundation. “We want to make investments in innovation and game-changing new approaches — and then we want nonprofits to find their footing and be self-sustaining. CNPE helps nonprofits work at peak efficiency for maximum social impact.”

The Center for Nonprofit Excellence serves more than 500 member organizations, mostly in a ten-county “Greater Louisville region” that includes Louisville, Southern Indiana, and nearby Kentucky counties. In Greater Louisville, the nonprofit sector includes more than 3,800 nonprofits, with more than 40,000 employees. The nonprofits provide a direct impact of about $4 billion in revenue in the area, including $1.7 billion in wages to nonprofit employees.
Many nonprofits also provide cultural opportunities that attract tourists to the region – such as museums and arts groups.

Coffey said that foundations like the James Graham Brown Foundation have been instrumental in allowing CNPE to grow – both in members and impact. “Increasingly, we are focusing on elevating the nonprofit sector,” Coffey said. “We always helped nonprofits become more efficient and effective internally, but we are also now working to create stronger external alliances for the sector. When business, government, and nonprofits collaborate – that’s when we can really make progress on the challenges we face.”

Coffey was pleased to see many nonprofit leaders named to Mayor-Elect Craig Greenberg’s transition team and looks forward to working with the administration.

“We are a member organization, and we want everyone to know that there is a place for you in CNPE whether you are nonprofit – or a business or an individual who believes in the work of nonprofits. We help nonprofits do good, better – and that takes everyone.”

Coffey said foundations invest in CNPE because they understand the value of helping all nonprofits in the community work at a higher level of efficiency and effectiveness. Other foundational partners – some of whom have been with CNPE since the beginning – include: Brown-Forman Foundation, the C.E. and S. Foundation, Owsley Brown II Family Foundation, Humana Foundation, Community Foundation of Louisville, Novak Family Foundation, Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence, Kosair Charities, The Gheens Foundation, Mildred V. Horn Foundation, and The Ginkgo Fund.

You can learn more about the benefits of joining CNPE as an individual, business, or nonprofit here. You can also sign up for its free newsletter – CNPE’s Nonprofit News – to keep apprised of education and training events, resources and information available to members and nonmembers alike.

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