



BLUE GRASS LIVING

FEBRUARY 2019

Making life better, the cooperative way®



Pennies *for purpose*

You can make a difference with Pennies for Purpose

In January, we launched Pennies for Purpose—a way to help our neighbors and communities for just pennies each month.

Pennies for Purpose will provide funding to charitable causes across our 23-county service area by giving you the opportunity to round up your electric bill to the next whole dollar.

For example, a bill of \$64.89 would round up to an even \$65. By rounding up, your yearly contribution would be approximately \$6.

If you would like to be a purpose partner and help support your local communities, visit bgenergy.com and select the “Pennies for Purpose” button on the left side of the web page; or call us at (888) 546-4243.

WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR
APPLICATION DEADLINE:
FEB 8, 2019.

CONTACT INFORMATION

24-Hour Service: (888) 546-4243
Automated payment: (877) 934-9491
Report an outage: (888) 655-4243
bgenergy.com

HEADQUARTERS

P.O. Box 990
1201 Lexington Road
Nicholasville, KY 40340-0990

LOCAL OFFICES

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Cynthiana, KY 41031-0730

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Richmond, KY 40476-0276

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ENERGY AS A SERVICE TO OUR MEMBERS.

Rachel Settles, Editor



This institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kentucky's growing economy

Over the past four years, Blue Grass Energy and Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have brought nearly 200 economic development projects to the state. These projects have attracted businesses that have created thousands of new jobs across the commonwealth. Some of these are commercial and industrial businesses that have located within our own communities.

To provide quality service to these commercial and industrial members, we have knowledgeable employees available to assist in providing power-quality solutions and managing their energy costs. We also provide competitive rates, while giving local companies excellent, reliable service.

One of the exciting ways we've been able to attract new companies is by using data, drones and apps that make the industrial sites in our service area highly visible around the globe. Using GPS mapping, it's all accessible on mobile devices in the palm of your hand.

The result is that many new industries are aware of Kentucky's ideal location, skilled workforce and low business costs—which include some of the nation's lowest electric rates.

These benefits have made Kentucky a great place for manufacturing companies to produce and ship products to every corner of the globe. Our purpose of making life better, the cooperative way is definitely working to create new opportunities right here at home—for you and the communities we serve.

By President/CEO
Michael I. Williams



CHARITY PARTNER

Kentucky Wounded Heroes

Last month we introduced the Kentucky Wounded Heroes (KWH) as our charity partner for this year. Now, we are pleased to share more information about this local organization.

KWH exists to serve Kentucky's current and former members of the United States Armed Forces, sworn law enforcement, sworn firefighters and sworn or affirmed EMS, all of whom have been injured during

combat operations or line-of-duty service. They provide opportunities to hunt, fish, travel and reconnect to nature's healing properties.

Their mission is to honor and empower the emotional wellness of military service members, police, fire and emergency medical responders through outdoor activities, programs and services.

KWH was established in 2008 by Chuck Reed, a retired Kentucky State Trooper and retired Kentucky Army National Guardsman. The mission, from the onset, was to provide quality outdoor programs to combat-wounded or disabled veterans returning home from the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan. Hunting and fishing trips were, and still are, the main focus.

In 2010, Brett Hightower, a combat-wounded Army Guard veteran and full-time police officer in Bowling

Green went on one of the first trips to Alaska sponsored by KWH.

Inspired by the trip, Brett discussed with Director Reed the possibility of including community first-responders—police officers,

"There isn't a replacement for an organization like the Kentucky Wounded Heroes."

—Wounded Kentucky State Police Trooper

fire fighters, and emergency medical technicians—that had been injured in the line of duty. That suggestion was soon adopted and is today what sets KWH apart from other similar programs. To date, over 800 Wounded Heroes have participated in the programs.

SEE MORE ON PAGE 28D



Left, Co-Director Chuck Reed; below, Kentucky Wounded Heroes attending the 2018 Army/Navy Football Game. Photos: Kentucky Wounded Heroes





WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT KWH?

- **All-volunteer staff.** No one receives any salary or other compensation.
- **All donations go directly in to the KWH programs,** with an absolute minimum of overhead or administrative expenses.
- **No brick and mortar or monthly lease.** Office space is located in a local city hall—at no cost.
- **A passenger van was donated through separate grants** by the

Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs and the United Auto Workers Union, Local 862.

- **KWH serves not only wounded or disabled veterans but also community first responders including firefighters, police officers and EMTs** that have been injured in the line of duty.
- **KWH includes veterans and first responders from any era or timeframe.** Many Vietnam-era

veterans say that this is the first time they have ever been recognized publicly or given the opportunity to participate in a program recognizing them for their service.

- **All programs are at no cost to the participating Wounded Heroes—**including transportation, lodging, meals and the program itself.

Kentucky Wounded Heroes, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity. Donations made directly to the organization are tax-deductible. KentuckyWoundedHeroes.net



Kentucky Wounded Heroes at the annual pheasant hunt in Marion County.

“Kentucky Wounded Heroes has personally allowed me to open up after my line-of-duty, career-ending injury as a police officer.”

—Rocco Besednjak

*“I’m not a **Wounded Hero**, but my husband is. The events he gets to participate in have really helped him as well as our marriage. He can discuss things with people who have been through stuff like he has. It’s a relaxed environment where these heroes can vent and unwind, without judgement.”* —Amy Weitzman Parker

BLUE GRASS ENERGY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED FEBRUARY 18.