

## 2024 Community Non-Profit of the Year Finalists

**EXCHANGE CLUB OF HENRY COUNTY** – The Exchange Club of Henry County has demonstrated a deep commitment to supporting various community needs through numerous initiatives. They have provided essential resources, including food, clothing, hygiene products, school supplies, baby care items, and more, to organizations serving individuals and families in need. Their support extends to programs addressing food insecurity, child abuse prevention, senior care, and the needs of foster children. They also actively support youth development through scholarships and community engagement.

The organization's diverse fundraising efforts enable them to carry out these impactful projects. These efforts include unique events like their Celebrity Server program, which engages local figures to raise funds for various initiatives. Their commitment to the community is evident in their ongoing support of local organizations and their dedication to addressing a wide range of needs, from basic necessities to recreational opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

**KENNARD KRUSADERS** – This organization provides a wide range of essential support to individuals and families in need across multiple counties, including assistance to fire victims, homeless shelters, and re-entry programs. In the past year alone, they have organized numerous community events, provided food and clothing to hundreds of residents, established a second blessing box, and distributed school supplies, Thanksgiving baskets, and Christmas gifts. They also recently launched a scholarship program to support students in their academic and athletic pursuits.

Despite limited resources, this entirely volunteer-run organization has made a significant impact over the past decade. They operate through community donations and fundraising efforts, relying heavily on social media and community engagement for promotion. Their dedication to filling gaps in existing services and providing support without barriers sets them apart. Their passion and commitment to fostering hope and strengthening community bonds make them a deserving candidate for recognition.

**KIWANIS CLUB OF NEW CASTLE-HENRY COUNTY** - The Kiwanis Club of New Castle-Henry County began a shoe distribution program in 2017, starting with a small trial at a local elementary school. Since then, the program has grown significantly, providing new shoes and socks to hundreds of children annually. They have earned recognition for their impactful work, receiving awards and accolades for their dedication to ensuring that children have properly fitted footwear. The positive impact on the children is evident in their increased confidence and excitement when they receive their new shoes.

The organization funds this program through various fundraising activities, including pancake breakfasts, food sales at community events, and grants from local and international organizations. They actively promote their work through their social media presence and participation in community events and parades. Over the past

seven years, they have provided thousands of children with new shoes, working closely with a local shoe retailer to ensure proper fitting and a wide selection. Their commitment to improving the lives of children in the community makes them a deserving candidate for recognition.