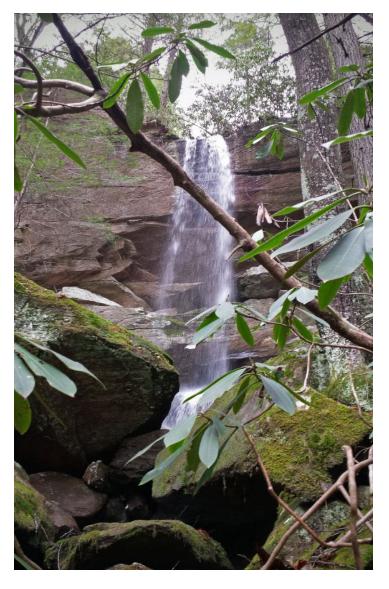
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Kentucký Homeplace

July 1, 2022 – September 30, 2022 Quarterly Report



Angel Hollow Falls-Laurel County, KY

Photo Credit: http://www.kentuckyboytravels.com/kentucky-waterfalls-laurel-county/

http://www.kyruralhealth.org/homeplace

Funding for the program is a joint collaboration of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services and The University of Kentucky and the Center of Excellence in Rural Health.

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Kentucky Homeplace

My Fellow Kentuckians:

During this quarter a portion of our service area suffered historic, devastating flooding. The areas impacted were all located within Kentucky Homeplace's service area. Kentucky Homeplace CHWs from across the service area immediately began the process of determining what the flood victims needed the most and worked to help with these needs. Several CHWs and their families and many clients were directly impacted by the flooding. Items such as: monetary donations, food, clothing, eyeglasses, medication, medical assistive devices, toiletry and cleaning supplies were gathered by the CHWs and delivered directly to the impacted communities. Nearly all of the shelters housing flood victims have been visited by the CHWs to assist those with services and many have participated in door to door needs assessment surveys.

Kentucky Homeplace CHWs have been active promoting the program at various fall events as well as assisting with Appalachian Community Health Days promoting COVID vaccination and health screenings during this quarter.

The program is currently staffed with 30 CHWs with two vacancies: one in Breathitt County and one in Wolfe/Powell County. Please review the data below and in the following pages which reflects the important work completed this quarter by the Kentucky Homeplace CHWs.

Quarterly Summary

For the period July 1, 2022 – September 30, 2022, the CHWs provided services for 2,634 clients. CHWs logged 6,165 hours on care coordination activities with a service value of \$146,789. The amount of medication accessed was \$2,683,496 and other service values (not medications) accessed were \$921,455 for a combined total of \$3,604,951.

The entire quarterly report is posted on the UK Center of Excellence in Rural Health's web page at http://kyruralhealth.org/homeplace. The report is found under the Kentucky Homeplace tab, Quarterly Reports and then click on July - September. If you wish to have a printed copy, please call 1-855-859-2374 or email me at mace.baker@uky.edu.

Sincerely,

William Mace Baker, RN

William Mare Baker

Director, Kentucky Homeplace Program



Community Health Worker Spotlight



Chyna Smith is a Community Health Worker with Kentucky Homeplace where she serves Knott County. She obtained a degree in Radiology from Hazard community college in 2016, following that she received diplomas in EKG technology and phlebotomy from American National University in 2018. She previously worked in the laboratory in a local clinic. She is a wife and mother of two children. When she is not working you can find her spending time with her children and family. She enjoys assisting and providing needs to the people of Knott County.



My name is Kathy Slusher and I serve Bell County Kentucky. I have been a Community Health Worker with Kentucky Homeplace for seven and a half years. I love to help my senior clients get their expensive medication at no cost. I also like working out in the community providing assistance that is needed.



Program Activities

Community Engagement Activities

The following are samples of meetings/event attended this quarter:

Community health needs committee meetings at local hospitals

Inter-agency meetings

Kentucky Association of Community Health Workers meetings

Various advisory council meetings

Health fairs

Appalachian Community Health Days Events

Diabetic Shoe Clinic/Diabetic Support Groups

CHW advisory workgroup meetings

Professional Development/CHW training

Asthma Healthy Homes training

CDC "2109" Community Health Worker Learning Collaborative

Institutional Review Board Training with Sydney Howard

Some CHWs completed Kentucky Prescription Assistance trainings

Other News

Kentucky Homeplace is now a proud secondary distribution site for Water with Blessings

Matt Hammons accepted the CHW position in Whitley County

Christopher Feltner accepted the CHW float position in Perry and surrounding counties

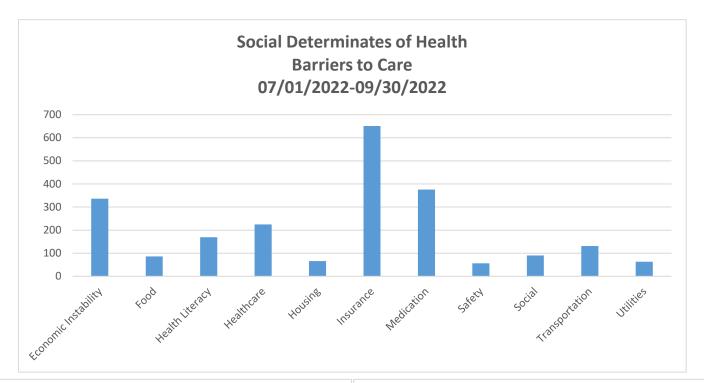
Current vacancies exist in Powell and Breathitt Counties

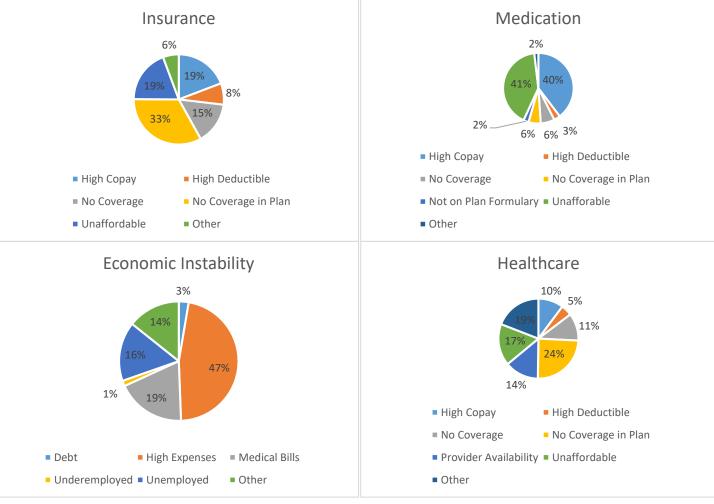
Six CHW students completed their summer apprenticeship at the CERH

Some CHWs conducted door to door needs assessments in flood affected communities

Kentucky Homeplace would like to thank Northridge Freewill Baptist Church in Dayton, OH and Wells Creek Baptist Church in Elkfork, KY for their generous donations to Eastern Kentucky families who were affected by the flooding in July.





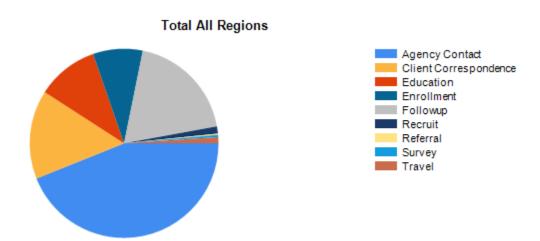




Activity Summary

(Clients visited: 07/01/2022 – 09/30/2022)

Activity	CHW Hours
Agency Contact	2,689.90
Client Correspondence	929.33
Education	646.67
Enrollment	521.70
Follow-up	1,159.72
Recruit	75.83
Referral	12.25
Survey	23.75
Travel	63.75
Grand Total:	6,122.90



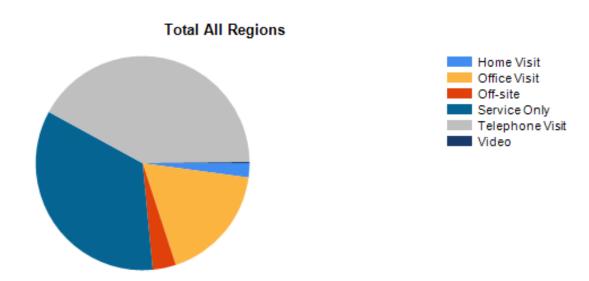
Total service value for 6,123 hours equals \$145,789



Visit Summary

(Clients visited: 07/01/2022 – 09/30/2022)

Visit Type	Client Visits
Home Visit	174
Office Visit	1,456
Off-site	286
Service Only	2,811
Telephone Visit	3,416
Video	15
Grand Total:	8,158



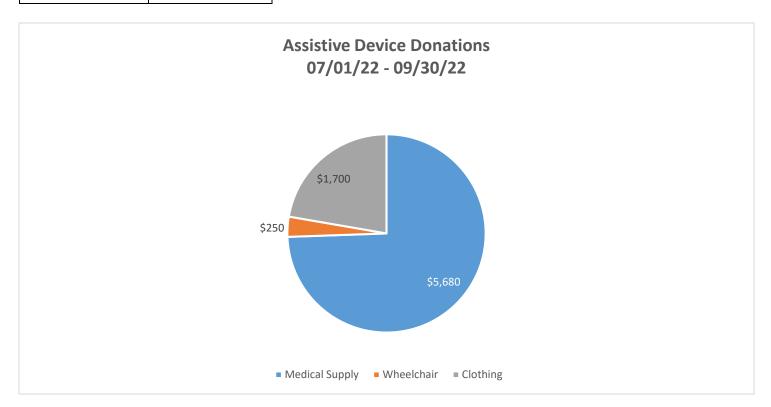
^{*} Service only involves any actions taken on behalf of the client while the client is not present.



Assistive Device Donations

(07/1/2022 - 09/30/22)

Category	Total
Medical Supply	\$5,680
Wheelchair	\$250
Clothing	\$1,700
Grand Total	\$7,630



^{*}Kentucky Homeplace collected a total of \$7,630 this quarter in charitable donations.

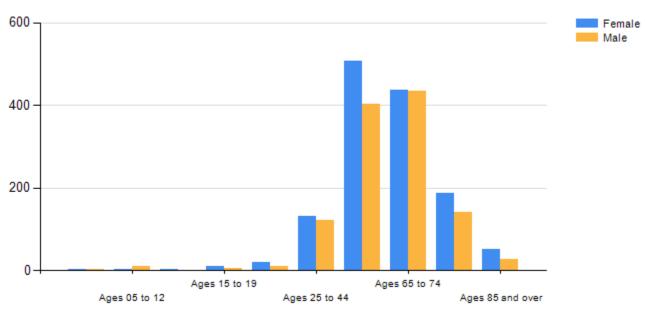


Age Gender Summary

(Clients visited: 07/01/2022 – 09/30/2022)

Age Group	Female	Male
Ages 00 to 04	1	1
Ages 05 to 12	2	10
Ages 13 to 14	2	0
Ages 15 to 19	10	6
Ages 20 to 24	19	9
Ages 25 to 44	130	122
Ages 45 to 64	507	403
Ages 65 to 74	436	433
Ages 75 to 84	187	141
Ages 85 and over	50	27

Clients by Gender and Age Group



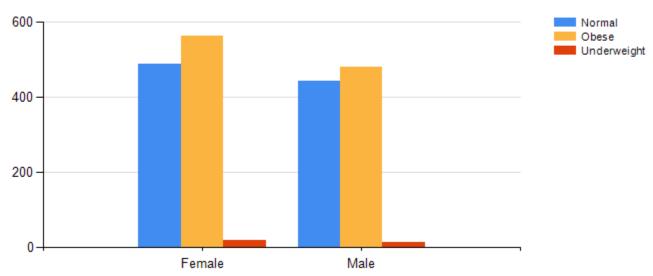


BMI Category Summary

(Clients visited: 07/01/2022 - 09/30/2022)

Gender	BMI Category	Clients
Female	Normal	564
	Obese	490
	Underweight	20
	Total:	1074
Male	Normal	444
	Obese	482
	Underweight	13
	Total:	875
	Grand Total:	2,013

Client BMI Category by Gender

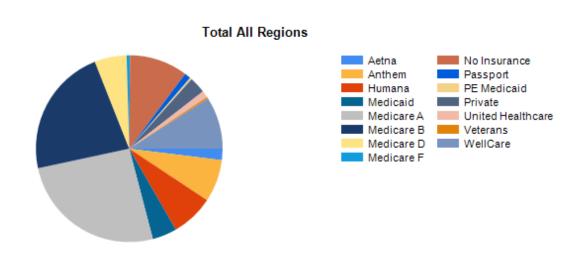




Insurance Summary

(Clients visited: 07/01/2022 - 09/30/2022)

Insurance Type	Clients
Medicare A	1,099
Medicare B	956
No Insurance	432
WellCare	385
Humana	315
Anthem	314
Medicare D	237
Medicaid	181
Private	122
Aetna	84
United Healthcare	51
Passport	46
Medicare F	25
PE Medicaid	14
Veterans	13

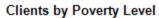


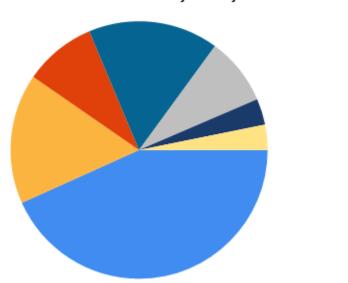


Poverty Level Summary

(Clients visited: 07/01/2022 - 09/30/2022)

	100%	101-133%	134-150%	151-200%	201-250%	251-300%	300Plus%	Total
Clients	1,080	408	226	409	212	82	79	2,496







100% 101-133%

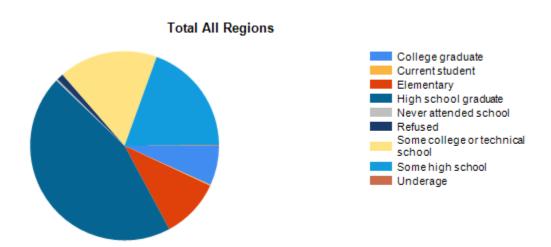
300Plus%

^{*}Grand total is unduplicated clients

Education Level Summary

(Clients visited: 07/01/2022 - 09/30/2022)

Education Level	Clients
Never attended school	7
Elementary	255
Some high school	483
High school graduate	1,123
Some college or technical school	423
College graduate	169
Refused	29
Underage	3
Current student	4
Grand Total:	2,496



^{*}Grand total is unduplicated clients



Kentucky Homeplace CHWs



Natasha West- Montgomery County and Beth Smith, CCHW- Carter County attend the Veterans Valor for Honor day in Bath County.



Shirley Prater, CCHW-Elliott & Morgan Counties and Katrina Gilliam, CCHW- Breathitt County aid Breathitt County flood victims.



Linda Colwell, CCHW- Leslie County receives a large donation from Appalachian Regional Healthcare.



An Appalachian Community Health Day is held in Lawrence County.



Students Striving for Better Health in Self and Community Graduates



Six students from Perry County Central High School and Hazard High School graduated from the Center of Excellence in Rural Health's *Students Striving for Better Health in Self and Community* apprenticeship program in July. The students completed six Community Health Worker courses through Hazard Community and Technical College, followed by a paid apprenticeship at the UK Center of Excellence in Rural Health. The *Students Striving for Better Health in Self and Community* program is a joint collaboration between the UK Center of Excellence in Rural Health, Kentucky Homeplace, KTECH, Hazard Community and Technical College, and United Healthcare. Graduates pictured left to right: Zoe Holbrook, Laken Chaney, Kassidy Jones, Timothy Chase Calhoun, Kirby Melton.



CHW Response to Historic Flooding in Eastern Kentucky



Chyna Smith, CCHW- Knott County prepared a clothing donation valued at \$1,500 for students of Emmalena Elementary School who were affected



Chyna Smith, CCHW- Knott County shops for clothing to donate to students of Emmalena Elementary school who were affected by the flood.





An Emmalena Elementary student affected by the flooding receives a clothing donation from Kentucky Homeplace.

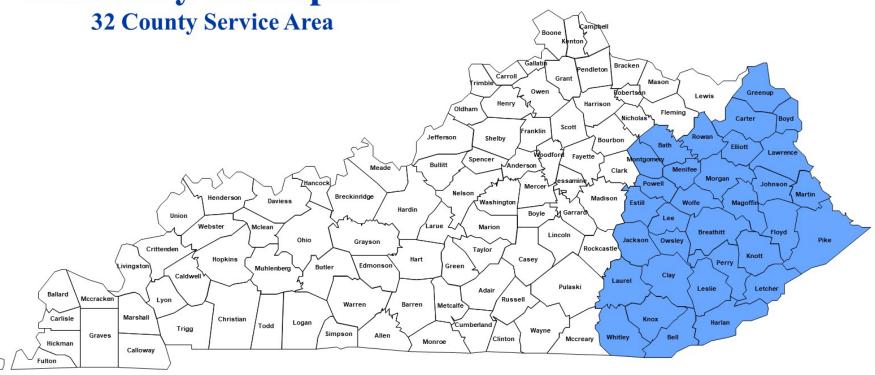
Kentucky Homeplace Congratulates Janet Kegley on Her Retirement After 19 Years of Service



A celebration was held on September 20th at the Morgan County Kentucky Homeplace office for Janet Kegley, who is retiring after 19 years with the Kentucky Homeplace Program. Janet served as a Community Health Worker, a Regional Coordinator, and then as the Project Manager for the program during her time with Kentucky Homeplace. Janet will be dearly missed by all and we wish her the very best in her retirement!



Kentucky Homeplace



Central Office Mace Baker, Director 750 Morton Blvd., Hazard, KY 41701 855-859-2374





Client Encounters-Actual Situations Encountered by Community Health Workers

July 1, 2022- September 30, 2022

-I recently had a new client referred to me needing help with all her medications, the initial process is always seeing what the needs are after enrolling them as a client. This lady was so special she said she had prayed for years for the Lord to make a way to help her get her medications. She like most typical clients was over income for Medicaid, not old enough for Medicare and couldn't afford Marketplace due to cost and a high deductible. She stated she had been sharing her mom's medication for years. Such a sad unfortunate situation. The 1st medication she needed help with was an injection for arthritis that was \$8,000 for a 30 days Qty. Then she needed help with 3 other insulins they she couldn't afford. Her glucose and A1C was out the roof due to her not taking her medications properly or even taking them at all. So, our target goals were of course to help get her back on track! We started working on the medications and once the medications are accessed then everything else has to get better to!

In our area we have two clinic sites that offer Sliding Scale if the client qualifies, so that was the next process to help get her signed up so she could get her medications through Slide and be able to be seen on normal visits at the Dr. where she once again had no insurance. I called the Clinic and Pharmacy helped get all set up for her until medications were approved through our Kentucky Homeplace programs. I also provided hypertension counseling and education for diabetes so she could get back on target with her glucose, blood pressure, and that A1C number. She was so excited and thrilled that she actually might would have her prayers answered after coming into contact with me at KYHP.

The next day after going to the clinic site and picking up her medication she called to let me know that she received all 4 of her medications for a total of 88.00! That her receipt print-out showed that she got \$10,000 worth of medications on slide for \$88.00! She was crying and so thankful! All these years of being a patient at the clinic no one had ever told her anything about sliding scale. She always thought she was over income and wouldn't qualify. I'm so thankful that my job allows me to take the time with my clients and break down the situation and get to the root of the problems these clients face every day. Then this week she called to let me know she got her 1st 90 QTY of that \$8,000 injection! We are still waiting on approvals for the other 3 medications but in the meantime, she can still get them at her discounted cost and be able to finally see her provider that sent her to me on a normal basis!

One client at a time we are making a difference and her story is always one of many that we see and address every single day at Kentucky Homeplace. We are the Barrier breakers and voice for our clients! I'm excited to follow-up and encourage her progress along the way.

⁻The month of August has been a really busy month in my office. I have had so many clients fall into the dreaded coverage gap, and needing assistance with very expensive lifesaving medications. One

particular story was a middle-aged woman that came into the Health Department needing to see a doctor. The Health Department that my office is located in does not have a medical doctor on call. I talked to this lady and found out that she had walked several miles and had no transportation. She had hurt her leg and it had become infected. The more we talked the more information she gave. This poor lady had Pancreatic Cancer and somehow, she was locked out of her insurance. I started calling clinics to get her in to take care of her infected leg. I called her insurance company to have it unlocked so that she would be able to access medical care and a pharmacy in the county where she lives and not 50 miles away. I was able to work with a program to get her a walking cane and a wig. I worked with her insurance provider to get her transportation and the local community action agency to get her a fan. She said she had no one to help her and didn't understand how to use a cell phone to look up numbers. I showed her how to dial my number and told her she wasn't alone, I would try and help with anything she needed. Helping assist clients like her is why I love being a Community Health worker.

-A couple of weeks ago I had a call from a very upset mother, she told me her eleven-year-old had broken his glasses and wouldn't be able to get another pair until next year due to his insurance guidelines. He didn't want to start school wearing glasses held together with tape. I called his Dr. and had them to fax me the prescription. We completed the New eyes for the Needy application and the young man picked out his frames. Within a week he had new glasses to wear on the first day of school.

-This quarter I have seen an increase need in medical and personal supplies for those household effected by the recent flooding in Eastern Kentucky. However, one individual in particular stands out to me. This client had lost everything in her home but thankfully she was able to repair the damage caused to the interior and exterior of her residence.

When completing a home visit with her and assessing her needs I was able to help her with her immediate need of cleaning supplies, drinking water, personal care needs, and help with getting her pets some food.

This client was located in a part of a community that had suffered loss and devastation during the flood but it wasn't considered as bad off as some of the other counties or communities. This client said that she felt helpless and hopeless because no one had come to check on her or her family and she was truly thankful that someone with Kentucky Homeplace would even offer to come by to check on her.

The pure devastation that I witnessed that day will forever stay with me. Most of the people that were hit the hardest are those that had very little to start with but I am forever thankful to work at a place such as Kentucky Homeplace that allows me the ability to go out into the communities in which I live to help my very own neighbors.



-With temperatures around 100 degrees this summer, the need quickly arose for cooling options for people in my community. The usual sources for help with this were not available this year. I was able to arrange for a charitable organization (who asked to not be named) to donate three brand new window units to clients of Homeplace who had no cooling in their homes. All three clients were elderly and had respiratory issues that were greatly relieved with the placement of the new window units. I am so grateful to the organization who helped them, and I think we have developed a partnership that might allow us to address cooling issues again next year on a larger scale.

-One of the clients who was the recipient of a donated window unit is an elderly lady who has very little income and lives in a very underserved area in my county. When the flooding happened in the Eastern part of the state she was very upset. She called me and told me she had been watching the coverage on the news and she knew she had to do something to help. She chose to donate ALL of the clothes and household items that she had been preparing to yard sale with in October (during Court Days), and asked me to help her get it to those in need. My husband picked up her things and we helped her take it to the school here in town that was serving as a collection site for donated items. She really could have used that income from the yard sale herself, but she told me receiving the free a/c unit inspired her to pay it forward. I was so touched because sometimes it is those who have the least who give the most.

-In the past quarter, I had the pleasure of serving a client who initially needed help with insulin. This client had Medicare A&B and was paying \$73 monthly for a part D prescription plan through Human. This client is diabetic and had not seen an Endocrinologist in years because they could not afford the medications they had been prescribed the last time they went to the specialist. This client also had not been to a dentist or eye doctor in years because they had no insurance coverages for those services. After some initial conversations about options available to the client, I was able to enroll them in a Medicare advantage plan through Anthem MediBlue Plus. This plan gave the client insurance coverage for dental, vision, and hearing that they previously had no access to. IT also replaced their part D plan through Humana with no monthly premium. I scheduled a visit with the client's endocrinologist, eye doctor, and dentist immediately after enrolling with Anthem Mediblue Plus.

The client was so thrilled to have coverage for these much-needed services that they had done without for years. As an added benefit, the client was able to order \$400 per year in OTC (Over the Counter) medications and medical items from the Anthem catalog, and also qualified for a \$50 monthly food card for healthy groceries. After the client's first visit to their endocrinologist, they returned with a list of prescribed insulin that was better suited to control their diabetes and we ordered both medications through KPAP. The client was approved and received both orders. Without Kentucky Homeplace, this client's diabetes would have gone relatively unchecked under the care of their nurse practitioner and they would have done without much needed dental and vision service. Previous to our intervention, the client was paying \$125 monthly for insulin over the counter and \$73 monthly for Humana part D



premiums. After I completed the services, I was able to save the client a total of \$248 per month in medications, premiums, and the added food benefit.

-Recently I was able to enroll a client who had questions about her insurance coverage for an eye exam and glasses, but she doesn't like talking on the phone. She was also three years behind on her preventative screenings and she was going to drive almost 3 hours away to have a mammogram done on a mobile unit because that is what she was familiar with and where she had gotten them done in the past. I was able to save her that trip by asking her doctor to fax an order to the local hospital and making that appointment for her, which resolved a lot of anxieties because she has been treated at our local hospital. I also scheduled her an appointment to have her eyes examined, something she has never had done before.

-I have a client that was paying hundreds of dollars for his diabetic and heart medication. Even with insurance his copays were very high. He was on three diabetic medications and three heart medications. I was able to get all six of these medications through the pharmaceutical companies free for him. He has been very grateful and says it has taken a lot of stress away.

-A client came into my office upset that the apartment building he currently lived was being demolished for downtown revitalization. He said, I will be homeless I need your help. This gentleman is wheelchair bound with no transportation and limited income.

I assisted him with housing applications for local housing authority and other properties that were handicap accessible and based on income. We contacted social security for current documents needed for income verification and address change. All low-income based housing had waiting list that were months out. This gentleman, although his physical ability is very limited came to my office two to three times a week by his electric wheel chair to check on his application status with each property.

The deadline was quickly approaching that he had to be out of his current apartment. I began calling all landlords within our city limits for any vacancies that were wheel chair accessible. He needed within city limits so he would have access to shopping and his church by his electric wheelchair. In just a few hours I found a lady with a one room efficiency that was handicap accessible and within his income limits. This gentleman was so relieved tears rolled down his cheeks. I contacted his pastor about the news and his church moved all his belongings. He is so happy in his new place with access to all his shopping needs and his church.

This story is very dear to my heart and why I love being a Certified Community Health Worker.



-I have a man that has been a client for almost 7 years that I have been with Kentucky Homeplace. I have helped him navigate multiple programs over the years and he and his wife have become very close and dear to my heart. He has insurance and it had covered his medications in the past with small co-pays. However, he recently called me about one of his diabetes medicines that his insurance was no longer going to be covering. He was almost out and he could not afford to pay the full price for the medicine out of pocket on his fixed income. I checked some programs to see if his medicine was on any free programs. Luckily, it was and we completed the application. We then knew that he needed a way to have his medicine until he received it from the program. We called the free clinic in town and explained his situation and they said they would make sure he had his diabetes medication. He called me a few days ago to let me know that he was approved for the remainder of the year and can reapply after the first of the year to continue getting it free with the program.

-I had a man call me about dental assistance. The health department told him that I would be able to help. Once he came in for his appointment, I realized how desperately he needed help with his teeth. He was an elderly man that had not been to the dentist in many years due to not having dental insurance. He had been saving money to go to the dentist. However, every time he had a little money put back something would come up and he had no choice but to use what little he had saved. Many of his teeth started having pain and it had made it harder and harder for him to eat. He said he hated to ask for help but he knew he had to have something done because his health and wellbeing depended on it. We researched and was able to find a program that was sliding scale and because of his income being low, he met the guidelines. He would receive all dental work at no cost to him. He is having all of his teeth pulled and once he has healed, we will be working on getting him a complete set of dentures. He said he could not wait to be able to eat all the things he enjoys and has not been able to eat.

-I recently worked with a client that had been trying to get medication approved for a while. I had spoken with this client several times as we worked to find a solution to any issues that came up. When this medication was finally approved my client was ecstatic. When my client received the first shipment of medication, my client called to tell me. I could hear the relief in my client's voice over the phone. Before we got off the phone my client told me that they loved me. Days like that are what I love most about my opportunity to serve my county.

-I went on a home visit to collect documents from my client. While there my client had mentioned having an Over the Counter (OTC) card and not being able to use it. I was able to assist my client in



ordering her OTC items online, by teaching her how to add her OTC card to her account. My client was thrilled, she had a very large amount she could spend because she hadn't been able to order anything. She was able to get everything she needed delivered to her home and still had plenty of funds left over for next time. Her being able to learn how to complete her purchases online has made things a lot easier for her.

-This quarter I was able to assist an adolescent boy get a new pair of glasses. The young man was my first adolescent I had served. I completed a New Eyes for The Needy form and he was able to start school with a new pair of glasses. I also gave the young man and his mother COVID education and referred them to the health department for their vaccines.

-The July 2022 flood destroyed many home and lively hoods but during this disaster we were able to be of help to those in need. I secured a food delivery truck that had everything from frozen foods to shelf stable items. This truck was delivered directly to a school that was cooking hot meals for flood victims in Knott county. Sysco food delivery donated \$5000.00 of food items on that truck. Many community members benefited from this service. The school was able to provide hot lunches out of this generous donation from Sysco. We also hand delivered some food items from this donation.







We also provided 80 outfits for flood victims that are enrolled in the Emmalena Elementary school during this time. The outfits consisted of a full outfit with socks. We also provided them with several coats for the children that would need those in winter. This was due in part to a generous donation to our indigent fund from Northridge Baptist Church in Dayton Ohio and Wells Creek Baptist Church in Elkfork, KY





-I had a new client came in after being referred by her cardiologist. The doctor said go see if the Kentucky Homeplace girl can help you. So, she waited a few days and called me, and told me she was needing two medications but didn't know how she was going to afford them when she couldn't afford to buy gas and pay for food much less buy these two really expensive medications.

So, I did her intake heard her story, got the applications completed for the medications and faxed to the doctor's office and I thought all was done. Then she asked about what other program did KHP have to offer? I told her what programs were available. She asked about the hearing aids and I told her that the programs were different since COVID, I could tell she didn't need them. So, she told me her husband works but between the two of them they couldn't afford her meds or him a pair of hearing aids and he had no insurance at all.

So, she called her husband and I got verbal consent and mailed the release and IRB to the client sign and return. Started his intake and contacted Voc. Rehab. And they said all they needed from KHP right now is a contact number so they could set up the appointment for an application and do his intake. The husband was taken care of and I received all his paperwork back and he is completed.



Now back to the wife she called a few days later telling me she was going to be out of meds the next day. So, I called the local office here in town for samples or any ideas on how to assist her with her dilemma. No answer so I called the main office close to the hospital. This was worst then getting no answer – the person that answered told me to call the hospital pharmacy and ask for an emergency supply of the medication – I told her without a script this can't be done. So, I called like I was asked to and I told a script was needed but it wasn't free... Then the client said the local office called and said that they might have something worked out, but wasn't sure but if it worked then it would only be a few dollars. Then the nurse called and was asking about some other meds and I told her I could see if there was something else, I worked up a med review of meds and called her back. She said she would work with her doctor to see what he has to say – the nurse said the doctor was good with one and the other was already in the same family so there wasn't any question on it. So, two generic medications to help client over the hump till her medications come in. Savings to this client for two medications is \$3,178.76 for 90-day supply –

The client back called and said her husband was approved for hearing aids, and is waiting for his appointment with the audiologist for his hearing test.

She said she has thanked her doctor and his office staff for helping her to get her meds needed but also for sending her to Kentucky Homeplace for helping her but for helping her husband that has needed hearing aids for years and didn't know that he qualified for any program.

-I had a client referred to me from the clinic next door to my office. The case worker came to the appointment with the client. The client has fallen on hard times and didn't know that there was any help for her. She was feeling very discouraged and unsure of what to do. She had low self-esteem from needing dental work and could not smile because she was embarrassed for anyone to see her teeth. I was able to get her an appointment to have a dentist do an initial exam and see what needed to be done. As I was doing the interview with her I also found out that she had not seen an eye doctor in many years. So, we called and got her an appointment with an eye doctor and was able to get her some glasses. I spoke with her sometime after and she sounded upbeat and happy to have her new look. She has a new smile and can see a bright future.

-During the recent flooding in the community, I was able to go to a nearby distribution center and discuss with some of needs of the victims of the flood. Most had lost everything. One gentleman stands out to me the most from all the stories that I had heard. He had gotten out of his home just as the water had lifted his home from the foundation and was starting to float. He ran to the mountain and climbed as high as possible and turned around and his home was gone. He started helping his neighbors clean up when the waters receded. When he came up to the center he wasn't getting supplies for himself, he was getting supplies to help neighbors to clean their homes. He didn't have any home



insurance and didn't know what he needed to do to get help. We were able to get him in contact with help and discussed all the different programs to help with other needs. He was very humble and gracious.

-The first client that I want to talk about is an elderly woman who lives by herself in a low-income apartment and a fixed income of \$776 per month. She takes 12 medications, and some of them had a \$4 copay. Although that don't seem like much, but in total, it was costing her about \$36 a month. At first, I looked at different pharmacies and compared prices, but the pharmacy she was using was the cheapest. All of her medicines were generic, so I started looking into name brands to see if she could get any prescription assistance, however, the ones that offered them wouldn't help her because she had Medicaid and needed to pay a percentage out of pocket up front. At first, I felt like I had failed her, but then I started looking at other ways I could help her. She had told me she had received her COVID vaccine, so I looked up her insurance, and realized she was eligible for a \$100 Walmart gift card for getting both of her COVID vaccines. I filled out the online request, the gift card was sent to my email, I printed it out, and she came to the office and picked it up. She was so excited! She was going to fill her car up with gas and use the rest to get groceries and hygiene products. Although I didn't save her any money on her medications, I was able to save her money on other things, giving her the extra money for her medications.

-A client had called me needing help paying for glasses. He and his wife only had Medicare and no supplemental plan, so they had to pay out of pocket for their glasses. He also wanted help getting his teeth extracted; he only had 4 left and they were really bothering him but didn't have any dental coverage with their insurance. As I started enrolling him and taking his income information, I realized that his income was very low for two people in the household. I looked online and realized that he may eligible for Medicaid and possibly SNAP benefits as well. At this time, I wasn't trained to enroll anyone into Medicaid, however I did give him the information to contact DCBS to apply for Medicaid and SNAP benefits. I finished enrollment, got him free glasses, and about a week later, he called me back and told me he was, in fact, eligible for Medicaid and SNAP benefits! From there, I was able to call and schedule him a dental appointment with a local dentist that I know accepts Medicaid for adults. Being able to help someone is a blessing; but being able to help them with even more than they ask for is very rewarding.

-This month was a very hot and humid month and to say the least we had a lot of box fans that were giving away. One in particular was an elderly lady that called and said she lived in a trailer and these hot days were just wearing her down. I told her I had some box fans that the Rotary Club had donated me to give out to my Lawrence county clients that could use one. She said she had a ride to town the day and



would come and get it. The friend she had given her the ride needed one as well. Nether had air conditioning in their homes. So I enrolled her friend and gave her a fan as well.. During my visit with the first client she seen I had brought some produce from my garden for lunch. She said, boy I sure do love tomatoes and cucumber but I am just not able to garden like I used to. Of course, I gave her what I had. The next day I got a phone call from her saying thank you so much for the box fan it sure made a difference yesterday evening and those were the best tomatoes I have had in a long time, it sure did bring back some good long forgotten memories. I just want to thank you these may not seem like huge gifts but they were priceless to me. Needless to say, my heart just melted. There are great needs in our rural community and I am so glad I had a partnership with a group that was so giving to me and my clients in need.

-The flooding of East Kentucky in 2022 will never be forgotten. So many homes were destroyed and families left devastated and in despair. My county was a neighboring County of some disaster flood but we didn't have any homes destroyed that have been reported but I wanted to just say, the people that came to my office wanting to donate supplies, food and their time was just so overwhelming. One man was in my office asking where he would unload his truck of donations. I called the county judge executive and he said they were taking a lot of things that way tomorrow and he would have someone meet anyone at the community center. I told this man and asked what group or church he was with, he said I am not. I just simply want to help in any way I can. He was on his way to get the stuff that was just suggested to get and he said he would be back in two hours with three truckloads. I told him that was so good of him, he said if we can't help our fellow Kentuckians in a time of need what good are we? It is just amazing of the people that gave such love and compassion for the victims of this flood. It is good to see there are still good-hearted people out there that is willing to help others.

-I had a man come into my office and his pharmacy had told him to come see if I could assist with his insurance. The client had been dis-enrolled from his Medicare prescription drug plan back in March. He had apparently when signing up for the plans selected for the payment to be taken directly from his social security check, but instead the plan was billing him, but he didn't receive the first bill until March and when he attempted to pay the insurance told him it was too late they took the payment, but terminated his coverage. Together we called Medicare directly to see what options we had, because it was too late to utilize a special enrollment period and open enrollment won't be available until October. We filed an appeal with Medicare due to the circumstances that led up to the termination, it took a few weeks but he received notification that his plan had been reinstated.

-After the flooding in Eastern Kentucky, I had a man come in to see if Kentucky Homeplace could help him. He had irrevocably damaged his hearing aids during the flood clean up, he took them to the



audiologist that had made them for him 6 years ago and they told him that it would be \$6,000 to get them replaced. He was sure that he had no hearing benefits on his Medicare plan, but I called to verify and he had a policy that would cover up to 2,000 on a pair of hearing aids, and the provider assured us that they have hearing aid devices that fall into that price range. So, he will get a new hearing exam and new hearing aids.

-I met a gentleman at one of my Appalachian Community Health Days that was a severe diabetic. He had no glucose monitor to check his glucose levels and I knew that I could help him obtain a glucose monitor for free. I gave him my information and a few days later was able to schedule him to come in and see me. After making him a client, I also educated him on his diabetes and also recruited him to one of my diabetic shoe days so that he could obtain a pair of diabetic shoes for free. He had no idea that diabetics were supposed to wear certain shoes, especially if they have neuropathy. He set a goal for himself to lower his A1c by 1 point for his next visit to his doctor. After educating him, I was able to obtain him a free glucose monitor with 100 strips and lancets so that he could be able to monitor his levels. He had been months without one and had no income to purchase one. He was thankful to be able to have a monitor and was thankful for the education I gave him on his diabetes. I will be following up with him and will continue to educate him to achieve this goal.

-I had a client to come by and see me. She recently moved into my county and came to my office with her brother whom was already a client. After assisting her brother, she and I began to talk and she also needed assistance. She had been having some problems with her ears and since she just moved here, she will need to be seen by a new doctor. I enrolled her as a client and after further assessment, this lady needed more than established care. She was recently diagnosed with diabetes and hadn't had any of her medications for a while. This was concerning because of her medical history and not having her medications. I was able to get her an immediate appointment that day with a family doctor here in the county and also recruited her for a pair of diabetic shoes. I was able to educate her on diabetes, educated her on not smoking, educated her on the COVID19 booster and obtained her two free gas cards so that she had enough gas to be seen at her doctor appointment that day. My client had no idea about Community Health Workers and what we do to help people. Her previous county of residence didn't have a CHW there. She was grateful for my assistance and helping her. I am continuing to work with this client and get her other assistance that she didn't know about.

-A client came to me for assistance with dental extractions. I got him approved for free dental extractions through a program but, the problem is he has no phone to get in touch with him. I asked if he had ever gone through the government program to get a free cellular phone, he replied he had but it had been over 10 years ago. Without a cell phone, it was difficult to get in touch with him and follow up



with him on his appointments. I was able to go online and fill out the application for him to get a free government phone. The phone was delivered and I assisted on getting it completely set up. Now, I can call my client and the dental agency can follow up with him on his appointment date and time and for future appointments. My client was thankful that I was there to help him and get him a phone again.

- I received a call from a medical facility, social worker. She had a patient whose insurance was denying to pay for her medication! The patient was not going to be discharged from the hospital due to not having access to her medication, one which was insulin. I spoke with the social worker and we set a time to meet at the patient's room. I went and met with the patient and social worker and did my interview and spoke with her about her situation. The patient had been in the hospital for quite a while. She had a stroke at a very young age, not only is she a stroke victim, she has an amputated leg and finger due to her diabetes. If her situation wasn't sad enough she was now homeless due to family members not wanting to care for her, which absolutely broke my heart. As I was listening to her story she told me that about a month ago she had a hearing with the social security office and she had won her disability (SSI) and of course I was taking notes! I asked her social worker when had the insurance which was one of the Medicaid MCOs stopped paying for her hospital stay and it was Tuesday of this week. I thought to myself they can't just cut her insurance off without the other one in place. I had a feeling that the insurance had switched where she won her SSI, but since the patient had been in the hospital for so long, she hadn't received any mail. I told the patient that I would take the information back to my office and work on it, and let them know what I can find out. I came back to my office and started dialing numbers, I called the MCO first! They advised me that the patient no longer had passport she now had long term care Medicaid, I said awesome! After calling a million numbers it felt like I spoke with a Medicaid representative, she confirmed that the client now had Medicaid and gave me all the information I needed to have her medicine approved, she even did a trial charge just to make sure it would approve it. I took my information into the pharmacy along with my IRB and consent to serve just in case I had any issues. I spoke with the pharmacy tech and she advised me that they had worked all day yesterday trying to get this ladies medicine approved and was unsuccessful. I told her that I had been working on it for hours today and figured it out! She looked at me and said how did you do that! A smile just came across my face and I said, "hard work and determination", and a splitting head ache from all the phone calls. I accessed 580.00 worth of medicine today that this patient desperately needed! This is by far the best day of being a Kentucky Homeplace CHW. I felt so much joy, I was so happy, and you couldn't smack the grin off my face! I accomplished what others was unable too! Why, was I able to do this when other was not! I can tell you, my training, what my co-workers have taught me, my bosses! This has been one the best, the most rewarding day since I have become a CHW!

-I have a client who was diagnosed with Padgett's disease, a form of cancer. She has been treated with radiation and chemo-therapy. She is still fighting this battel and goes every three weeks from more



chemo. She has had cyber-knife surgery three times on her brain to remove the lesions, and the last MRI showed no new lesions. The spots in her lungs are gone and the treatments and prayers are working. Thanks to a partnership with Kentucky Homeplace and WellCare I was able to help her get gas cards to help with her travel to Lexington. She was very thankful for the assistance.

-This quarter I received a referral from a local clinic, a patient needing housing assistance. After several attempts to contact the patient, I was able to schedule a in office appointment, upon arrive the patient walked in with a hand full of paperwork, and said "I need help". After I got him seat and got paperwork signed, I looked over all the paperwork he was carrying. I found that he had been given several housing applications, but with no help he couldn't not complete them. So, I went over the three different ones he had, and we narrowed it down to two, and from there I went over and helped him to fill out and complete them. I also called and spoke with the housing management to see what his next step would be, I was able to schedule his appointments with both and make copies of all his needed information to take to his appointment. I have since followed up with him and he has been put on a list for housing at both and whichever comes available first he will be taking. He thanked me and said I was his blessing, because he had no one to help him.

-I was able to get help from our local church and help a client that was devastated from the flooding. He lost everything; we were able to get him a heater a new winter coat, some food, and several other items needed for daily living. The church dropped it off to me and I was able to arrange a drop off to take it to the client. He was so happy to receive the items saying he didn't know how quick it was going to get cold and this was a huge blessing. He even called me later to thank me again.

-I had another client who has horrible well water and buys bottled water and gallon waters to cook with. She was thrilled to get the portable water filtration system from Water with Blessings. She also had an upcoming Dr. appointment I had made for her and knew she would benefit from the WellCare gas cards. She was very grateful for both, saying the gas card would help so much.

-I had an elderly male came in with no insurance in desperate need of insulin and other medications. I explained our services to him and talked to him about Medicaid. I signed him up on KOG and got him approved for Medicaid. I explained to him that he would need to find a physician to write his current prescriptions. I also told him about our upcoming diabetic shoe day. He was then able to obtain a primary care physician at a local clinic and his Medicaid MCO paid for his insulin and other prescriptions. He came to our diabetic shoe clinic and ordered himself some shoes.



-I worked the Rural Area Medical event at East Ridge High School. A gentleman walked over to our table to discuss what we do and how we can assist our clients. He was telling us about him having a heart attack not that long ago. He had a bad coloring to his skin and was sweating profusely. He was exhausted and not breathing well. After talking to him for some time we finally convinced him to go through the medical part of the event. We later found out that he was in the middle of a heart attack and was flown out to the hospital on a helicopter.

-A middle aged male called our office in need of medications and health insurance. He is homebound and unable to travel hardly at all. I told him about the transportation provided by our local community action agency that could come and take him to his doctor's appointments and that they were handicapped accessible. I talked to him about Medicaid and was able to go through KOG and get him approved for Medicaid. I followed up with client to find out that he was utilizing transportation provided by the action agency and now able to see his doctor.

-I have been working with clients that have Medicaid. Clients have now been able to get eye exams but can't afford to get the glasses. I have been working with several clients on getting their glasses.

During the time of the initial interview with the clients I have determined they are having problems getting some of their medicines. This quarter I was able to assist with some of their needs and help with getting the medicines the insurance would not pay for or they have a high copay.

It has been hard getting clients to come in because of the COVID and getting them to wear masks. It has become a new time that everyone is scared and losing loved ones and having to pick up the pieces to start over. It has been an important part for KY Homeplace to assist in many ways to assist with this process.

-I have been working with clients with Diabetes in getting diabetic shoes and medicines that the insurance doesn't pay or they have a high copay. Education on importance of getting yearly eye exams and testing for their A1C. Clients have been really excited about learning more about ways to improve their health and have been willing to keep a record to report back to their doctors.

-We have all seen the effects the recent flood had on all of us in these recent months. This has brought many challenges to everyone at Kentucky Homeplace and our clients. Among the lives lost and homes destroyed, there was also a great loss of medical equipment for many of the people we serve. I had the



pleasure of assisting this young woman who had come to me from a neighboring county seeking a wheelchair. As an amputee she depended on her wheelchair that had been donated to her second hand to get around. It had signs of wear and the client stated that it was uncomfortable. Unfortunately, it would have been far too expensive for her to get a new one through her insurance.

I knew immediately to call our representative at Project Carat. Within 24 hours I was able to get her a refurbished like new wheelchair and was able to deliver it to her personally. She was overjoyed to be able to sit comfortably in her chair and even donated her own to be repaired by the program for another person in need. She was very grateful and called to tell me that it was very comfortable for her as well. It's interactions like these that are commonplace for Kentucky Homeplace. Whether it be medication, insurance, or quality of life changes. We will do the best we can for our communities.

-Being a community health worker has been very rewarding. Although I haven't been with KY Homeplace for very long I have already been able to see how important community health workers are to our community. Recently I had a client come in inquiring about help with some medication. He lives on a very fixed income. He was diagnosed with diabetes not long ago but has been going without the medication due to the high monthly cost. He was having to choose food over his medication. Unfortunately, I feel this situation happens often. However, with the help of his doctor I was able to apply for the diabetic medicine he needed for free through KPAP that would have cost him \$300 monthly. Now he is able to afford basic living expenses and is able to obtain the medication he needs to live a healthier life. This medication was essential for him. He was very thankful and continues to call me just to check and see how I am doing while always expressing to me how thankful he is for my help. Watching this client go from feeling defeated to hopeful for a longer healthy life truly touched my heart. It inspires me to want to spread the word more about KY Homeplace in hopes of helping many other people in my community.

-This short story is about one of my Appalachian Community Health Days. We had several people that was there to get their COVID vaccination. The youngest person that wanted to get vaccinated was an adolescent boy. He was very brave and unlike what his big brother was saying, he did not cry one bit. His little sister which jumped in the seat after he was done. She was wanting her vaccine too, but she was too young, the age limit was 5 years old, she was so sad. She was the cutest little girl and she cried because she couldn't get her vaccine.

-I had a lady come into the office for help with dentures. She had seen another CHW and was referred to me to be placed on the list for a grant opportunity. We completed the necessary paperwork for the grant and she was placed on the list. We began discussing other needs and she asked about food. She



said with three teenagers and limited income, her SNAP benefits didn't go very far. I looked up a food pantry that does food drops every other week, just so happened they were having one that had just started. She was so excited, she told her daughter to call her brothers and tell them they would be later on coming back home because they were going to the food drop. I found out later that on this particular day they were giving Angus hamburger patties, restaurant style frozen mac & cheese, Queso cheese dip, frozen packs of Chicken Noodle soup, etc. She was very grateful to be able to receive this food.



Client Satisfaction Surveys

"I live alone and am 76 years old and I do appreciate the help I'm getting."

Darla Shepherd

"Darla has done a great job on getting my diabetic shoes, glasses and dentures. We really appreciate the work she does."

Chyna Smith

"Chyna has went above and beyond to try and help me, she's a wonderful person. Need more like her."

Angela McGuire

"She is such a good person and is always up on everything. Thanks to her."

Kimberly Napier

"100% satisfied helper. Very loving, caring lady."



Kentucky Homeplace CHW Contact Information

Bath County

Amanda Goolman ago263@uky.edu

Phone: 606-674-9297
Fax: 606-674-9298
Kentucky Homeplace
Rath County Health Depart

Bath County Health Department 68 Oberlin Street Rm. 232

P.O. Box 1198

Owingsville, KY 40360

Bell County

Kathy Slusher

Kathy.Slusher@uky.edu
Phone: 606-273-9493
Fax: 606-337-7183
Kentucky Homeplace
Total Care
121 W Virginia Ave. Suite B100
Pineville, KY 40977
Boyd County

Boyd County

Misty Rambo

Misty.Rambo@uky.edu Phone: 606-420-4457 Fax: 606-420-4459 Kentucky Homeplace 2901 Winchester Ave.

P.O. Box 450 Ashland, KY 41101

Breathitt County

Austyn Feltner

Christopher.Feltner@uky.edu Phone: 606-439-3557 Ext: 83423

Fax: 606-666-5984 Kentucky Homeplace 1154 Main Street Jackson, KY 41339

Carter County

Beth Smith

easm222@uky.edu

Phone: 606-474-2742 Fax: 606-474-2592 Kentucky Homeplace

101 Fraley Miller Plaza, Suite B

P.O. Box 546 Grayson, KY 41143

Clay County

Kimberly R. Smith

KimberlyRSmith@uky.edu

Phone: 606-599-1039 Fax: 606-598-4315 Kentucky Homeplace 105 Main Street

Manchester, KY 40962



Clay and Surrounding Counties

Austin Carnahan

Austin.carnahan@uky.edu

Phone: 859-562-3697 Kentucky Homeplace 105 Main Street

Manchester, KY 40962

Elliot County

Shirley Prater

sdpr223@uky.edu Phone: 606-738-5927

Fax: 606-738-6078 Kentucky Homeplace Senior Citizens Building

101 S. KY 7 P.O. Box 67

Sandy Hook, KY 41171

Elliot and Surrounding Counties

Kyle Burnett

Kyle.Burnett@uky.edu Phone: 606-738-5927 Kentucky Homeplace Senior Citizens Building

101 S. KY 7 P.O. Box 67

Sandy Hook, KY 41171

Estill County

Kimberly Napier ktna223@uky.edu

Phone: 606-723-9902 Fax: 606-723-9903 Kentucky Homeplace 152 Richmond Road P.O. Box 654 Irvine, KY 40336

Floyd County

Katherina Hamilton kha225@uky.edu Phone: 606-263-8024 Fax: 606-263-8025 Kentucky Homeplace 104 S Front Street PO Box 2234

Prestonsburg, KY 41653

Greenup County

Misty Rambo

Misty.Rambo@uky.edu
Phone: 606-473-6496
Fax: 606-473-1039
Kentucky Homeplace
Greenup County Health Department

U.S. Highway 23 P.O. Box 916 Greenup, KY 41144

Harlan County

Darla Shepherd

Phone: 606-574-0239
Fax: 606-574-9268
Kentucky Homeplace
313 Central Street
P.O. Box 1418
Harlan, KY 40831

darla.shepherd@uky.edu



Jackson County

Austin Carnahan

Austin.carnahan@uky.edu

Phone: 859-562-3697 Kentucky Homeplace 338 Main Street

Mckee, Kentucky 40447

Johnson County

Judy Bailey jbail2@uky.edu

Phone: 606-349-8842 Fax: 606-349-8841

Heather Bailey

heatherbailey@uky.edu Phone: 859-562-3565

Knott County

Chyna Smith

Chyna.Smith@uky.edu Phone: 606-785-9884

Fax: 606-785-0270 Kentucky Homeplace June Buchanan Clinic 59 Cowtown Road Hindman, KY 41822

Knox County

Regina Blevins Rhbl223@uky.edu

Phone: 606-277-0018 Fax: 606-277-0078 Kentucky Homeplace 320 High Street PO Box 1029

Barbourville, KY 40906

Laurel County

Jowana Jackson

Jowana.jackson@uky.edu

Phone: 606-862-9749 Fax: 606-862-9767 Kentucky Homeplace

188 Dog Patch Trading Center

London, KY 40741

Lawrence County

Angela McGuire

angela.mcguire@uky.edu Phone: 606-638-1079

Phone: 877-213-7161 Fax: 606-638-4941 Kentucky Homeplace 108 Bulldog Lane, Rm. 161

Louisa, KY 41230

Lee County

Samantha Bowman

samantha.bowman@uky.edu

Phone: 606-464-2156 Kentucky Homeplace 120 Main Street PO Box 1540

Beattyville, KY 41311

Leslie County

Linda Colwell



Linda.Colwell@uky.edu

Phone: 606-672-2464 Fax: 606-672-2517

Kentucky Homeplace

LKLP

121 Maple Street P.O. Box 1540 Hyden, KY 41749

Letcher County

Ashley Francis

<u>ashley.gilbert@uky.edu</u> Phone: 606-633-7441 Fax: 606-633-7458

Kentucky Homeplace

Letcher County Health Department

115 East Main Street Whitesburg, KY 41858

Magoffin County

Judy Bailey jbail2@uky.edu

Phone: 606-349-8842 Fax: 606-349-8841 Kentucky Homeplace

Magoffin County Health Department

119 East Mountain Parkway

P.O. Box 1569

Salyersville, KY 41465

Martin County

Angela McGuire

angela.mcguire@uky.edu Phone: 606-638-1079

Phone: 877-213-7161 Fax: 606-638-4941 Amanda Dials

Amanda.Dials@uky.edu Phone: 606-562-3567 Kentucky Homeplace

Roy F. Collier Community Center

387 Main St. Inez 41224

Menifee County

Amanda Goolman ago263@uky.edu Phone: 606-674-9297 Kentucky Homeplace

Menifee County Health Department

1919 Main Street Frenchburg, KY 40322

Montgomery County

Natasha Thomas
Nnwe223@uky.edu
Phone: 859-562-3568
Kentucky Homeplace
108 E Locust St

Mt Sterling, KY 40353

Morgan County

Shirley Prater sdpr223@uky.edu

Phone: 606-743-4005, Ext. 312

Fax: 606-743-4002 Kentucky Homeplace 151 University Drive West Liberty, KY 41472

Owsley County



Samantha Bowman samantha.bowman@uky.edu

Phone: 606-464-2156

Perry County

Carole Frazier

carole.frazier@uky.edu Phone: 606-439-3557 Fax: 606-439-0237 Kentucky Homeplace 750 Morton Blvd. Hazard, KY 41701

Perry and Surrounding Counties

Austyn Feltner

Christopher.Feltner@uky.edu Phone: 606-439-3557 Ext: 83423

Kentucky Homeplace 750 Morton Blvd Hazard, KY 41701

Pike County

Barb Justice

barbara.justice@uky.edu

Phone: 606-433-0327 Fax: 606-433-0440 Kentucky Homeplace Pike County Health Department

119 W River Drive Pikeville, KY 41501

Annette Saylor

Annette.Saylor@uky.edu Phone: 606-433-0327 Fax: 606-433-0440 Kentucky Homeplace Pike County Health Department 119 W River Drive Pikeville, KY 41501

Powell County

Pollyanna Gilbert

pollyanna.shouse@uky.edu

Phone: 606-663-7660 Fax: 606-668-7661 Kentucky Homeplace 351 North Main Stanton, KY 40380

Rowan County

Kala Gilliam

kgi232@uky.edu

Phone: 606-784-3881 Fax: 606-784-3498 Kentucky Homeplace

People's Clinic

751 West 1st Street

P.O. Box 812

Morehead, KY 40351

Wolfe County

Pollyanna Gilbert

pollyanna.shouse@uky.edu

Phone: 606-668-7900 Fax: 606-668-3539 Kentucky Homeplace Wolfe County Courthouse

P.O. Box 236

Campton, KY 41301

