In 2015, KEHA members donated 82 quilts and 380 pillowcases to CCK to meet an urgent need for new linens for the camp bunks, with many of these items handmade by KEHA members. A second collection of quilts and pillowcases is underway, and will culminate in May 2017.

Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association (KEHA) Empowers Youth through Volunteer Service and Outreach

KEHA supports youth development through volunteer service, outreach and scholarship programs. KEHA members are dedicated to empowering our next generation by serving as 4-H club leaders, promoting literacy programs through public libraries, volunteering in local schools, supporting the Center for Courageous Kids and more.
Outreach and service are key components of Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association work. The organization has provided ongoing support for the Center for Courageous Kids (CCK) near Scottsville, Kentucky since it opened in 2008. CCK is a camping facility dedicated to children with serious illness. KEHA clubs and counties councils facilitate statewide projects that routinely provide:

- financial support
- quilts to use as wall art and for camper bunks, with many of these handmade (ongoing with a special collection of 82 quilts in 2015)
- gift cards and cash (statewide collection totaling $4,000 in 2011)
- sports equipment and other wish list items (statewide collection valued at $1,500 in 2011)
- pillowcases (statewide collection of 380 pillowcases in 2015)

In addition, the ten-county Mammoth Cave Area has engaged in wide-ranging activities to provide support. The CCK hosted the 2009 Mammoth Cave Area Extension Homemakers Annual Meeting where members made cash donations totaling $1,700 along with donations of towels and washcloths valued at $500. In 2016, cash donations from the area totaled $700. Allen County Extension Homemakers have provided intensive focus on the CCK since its inception. Members volunteer on a weekly basis and donate camper bed quilts on an annual basis. Metcalfe County Extension Homemakers led a service learning project in summer 2016, teaching basic sewing skills to youth. Forty youth participated, each making a bright, colorful pillowcase for the CCK.

Joanie O’Bryan, President and CEO of The Center for Courageous Kids, shared, “We cannot thank KEHA enough for the many gifts that we have received since we opened in 2008. It continues to be a blessing to receive the quilts for camper beds, delightfully decorated pillowcases, as well as toys, gift cards, and funds. The KEHA truly use their gifts and talents to bring comfort and care to the medically fragile children we serve at The Center for Courageous Kids.”

KEHA is a volunteer organization that works to improve the quality of life for families and communities through leadership development, volunteer service and education in partnership with Kentucky Cooperative Extension. Building a strong future for Kentucky youth is an important part of the organization’s focus.

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