

2024 Community Impact Report





DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

PRESENTADO POR CAFE AMERICANO, THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, PARIS-BOURBON COUNTY LIBRARY, FAYSC

DOMINGO 31 DE OCT. DE 2021

PALACIO DE JUSTICIA 4PM-8PM

ACTIVIDADES GRATIS

COMIDA

música por

Rel Delgado

Disney's COCO

Troiga una foto enmarcada de un ser querido que haya muerto para colocarlo en el altar de nuestra comunidad. El altar permanecerá hasta el 2 de noviembre para celebrar la Fiesta Mexicana del Día de los Muertos

KANSAS CROSS COUNTRY STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30

Bourbon County Park

Paris-Bourbon County CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Letter from the President



I am proud to present the Blue Grass Federal Community Impact Report—a snapshot of how we supported our communities in 2024.

Because of you, our customer, we were able to go beyond reinvesting a percentage of our profits into our communities. You helped us provide opportunities to our local neighborhoods and community members to help them thrive—both financially and personally. That’s what it means to bank local.

As a mutual bank, we don’t answer to stockholders—we answer to you. Every decision we make is guided by our mission to serve the long-term well-being of our customers and communities. When you choose to bank with a mutual institution like Blue Grass Federal, you’re choosing a partner with a community purpose—not just a financial one.

In 2024, we reinvested 32% of our profits back into the community. But our impact didn’t stop there. Every single one of our employees volunteered their time to support local causes, organizations, and neighbors. We believe that true community investment means showing up—not just with dollars, but with dedication.

I am incredibly grateful to work alongside such wonderful people and am inspired every day by their hard work and heart. Our mutual message is amplified with every customer interaction as they demonstrate our purpose: to provide solutions that support our colleagues, customers, and communities for life.

Thank you for your continued support and for choosing to be part of the Blue Grass Federal family.

Warmly,

Shanda Smith
President and CEO
Blue Grass Federal

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Leadership Team



Shanda Smith
President and CEO



Tyler Duncan
VP, Senior Loan Officer



Subrena Crump
Operations Officer

Board of Directors



David A. Yeiser
*Chairman, Retired Owner
& Insurance Agent*



Shanda Smith
President and CEO



Kelli Mulberry
Attorney and CPA



David T. Shaw
*EVP, Chief Operating Officer
First Mutual Holding Co.*



Richard Taylor
*Consultant, Audit
Assurance and Risk*



Patrick Watson
*Attorney at Watson
& Watson Law*

Who We Are


As a depositor-owned bank, we are accountable to our customers — not shareholders.

We reinvest your deposit dollars into our communities, so we collectively help the local economy thrive while helping you reach your financial goals. That's what sets Blue Grass Federal apart from other banks.

We pride ourselves on our dedication to community involvement, as well as our deep understanding of our customers and their needs. We live in your neighborhoods, know you by name and listen to you because we genuinely care. Because we are stronger together, you can count on Blue Grass Federal to serve as your trusted hometown bank for years to come.



10
employees

\$52.9
**million**
in assets

12 
organizations
supported

32% of
profits are
reinvested
back into our
communities

100%
 of employees
volunteered

Helping our Employees Further Their Education



Melissa Rassenfoss,
Senior Customer
Service Specialist

Melissa Rassenfoss, senior customer service specialist, graduated from Kentucky Bankers Association's (KBA) General Banking School in 2024. According to the KBA, their General Banking School is designed for bank employees who want to understand the business of managing a bank.

Their curriculum walks students through making financial decisions, learning about how each department works together, and focusing on the economic environment of banking.

"My program had 50 students and 10-to-12-hour long lectures," Rassenfoss said. "I became a student because I wanted to gain a more well-rounded education on banking as a whole since my main role at Blue Grass Federal focuses on the deposits and operations side of the house."

The skills she learned included a deeper understanding of deposit-to-loan ratios, higher efficiency when utilizing Excel, and the knowledge of running a bank through a specialized banking simulation, a long-term project she recalls as being her favorite part of the course work.

Investing in our employees' education is a cornerstone of our commitment to excellence at Blue Grass Federal

—President and CEO Shanda Smith

This project allowed her to take a multifaceted approach to banking, using course materials and team collaboration to make judgements on expenditure, estimated economic growth or decline, and risk taking.

"I'm very grateful for the opportunity to further my education," she said. "The experience was very fulfilling. I'm excited to see all the possibilities and different paths this degree can open for me."

"Investing in our employees' education is a cornerstone of our commitment to excellence at Blue Grass Federal," continues President and CEO Shanda Smith. "Melissa's recent graduation exemplifies our dedication to fostering professional growth and enhancing our team's expertise. By supporting her pursuit of a comprehensive banking education, we not only empower her to excel in her role but also strengthen our institution's ability to navigate the complexities of the banking industry. We are incredibly proud of Melissa's achievements and look forward to the innovative contributions she will bring to our team."

Fridays on Main: A Summer Series

We were proud sponsors of the Fridays on Main block party events in 2024. These events began in 2019 when downtown district business owners wanted to create an atmosphere of family fun while giving back to the community with a steady, lively place for residents to gather on summer Friday nights.

"A lot of businesses are located in the downtown district where the event is held, so as a mutual bank, we're putting back into the community what customers are putting into us," says Martha Claypool, mortgage loan officer at Blue Grass Federal. "Additionally, the exposure of being the main sponsor opened the door for a lot of people to discover us."

Claypool details how these events have significantly increased foot traffic to local businesses. "It's helping everybody all the way around," she says. "The overarching goal of these events is to bring more awareness to the downtown area and try to grow and develop the area more in order to help our local businesses thrive which, in turn, helps the community thrive."



Friday on Main Summer Events in Paris:

Beach Party

Who doesn't love a beach party? The Beach Party theme celebrated summer with volleyball, food, beverages, a live DJ, and more!

Back to School Bash

The Back to School Bash highlighted the back-to-school season where local schools like St. Mary's School, Paris Schools and Bourbon County Schools participated and had tables set up to answer any questions.

Taste of Paris

The Taste of Paris was the last Friday on Main event where community members could walk around downtown Paris and try the different food the city has to offer. With tasting menus from a bunch of different restaurants, this night out was a foodie's dream.



Living the Mutual Mission

Our community means everything to us, and living the mutual mission is something we strive for every day.

Supporting Our Local Businesses

As a mutual bank, we're committed to supporting our local businesses. One way we delivered on our commitment was giving away a gift card to a Paris-based business when a customer opened a checking account with us. We're excited to continue supporting business owners through this initiative!



Watch the owner of Bourbon Boot Supply talk about why banking locally matters.



Bourbon County 4-H Youth Livestock Show & Sale

We were excited to sponsor two 4-H livestock exhibitors, Blake D. and Macey S., for the Bourbon County 4-H Livestock Show and Sale. They both won Grand Champion in their livestock judging!



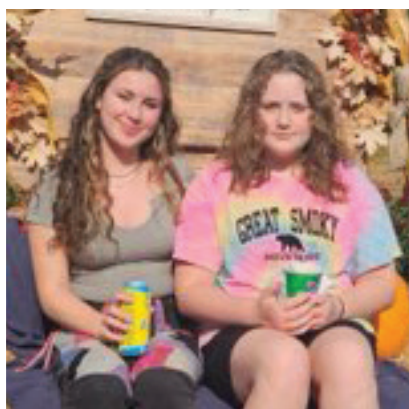


Pumpkin Festival

The Pumpkin Festival is a long-standing, annual Bourbon County tradition, and we were thrilled to be the sponsor.

With a strong presence in the community since 2014, the event was held September 21 and was one of the most attended Pumpkin Festivals to date, according to Martha Claypool, mortgage loan officer at Blue Grass Federal. Many community members flocked to the one-day event that featured family-friendly activities like pumpkin painting, arts and crafts, food trucks, prizes, and a musical lineup consisting of Station 22 ½, Chris Weiss, Beth Burden, Sorry Atari, Five Below Band & Jo Jo Gunn.

“The event was incredibly successful, with over 200 entries into our giveaway and tons of people using the photobooth,” says Claypool. “There were many fantastic conversations and connections with local families and the community.”



Supporting Local Schools: High School Internship Program

When the opportunity came to take on high school interns at the bank, it was an easy decision to partner with the Paris City School District.

The partnership began when Shanda Smith, president and CEO, approached Stephen McCauley, district superintendent, at a Chamber of Commerce event. The duo began discussing how they can make internships work with local students.

"Working with the school gives students a chance to gain real world experience," says Smith. "We're looking for those students who are college bound and those who aren't."

Internships give young people the knowledge they need to excel in a professional environment, learning valuable skills like money management, bank operations, communication and professionalism. The partnership with the school and the bank's community-oriented mission

go hand in hand, giving the bank an opportunity to be involved in local neighborhoods. Most importantly, internship opportunities can be life changing when communities come together to support students.

"We are grateful for our partnership with Blue Grass Federal," says McCauley. "We appreciate the commitment Shanda and the team has shown by modeling what a school and community partner can accomplish when we work together."

"These young people are our future," continues Smith. "I see it as us giving back and investing into the youth of the community."

Paris High School Basketball Donation

Supporting our local schools is top of mind for us. We were honored to donate \$250 to the Paris High School Basketball program.



Student Scholarships

We were happy to present two students, Jose and Marie, with \$500 scholarships.



Paris Elementary School Trunk or Treat

To celebrate Halloween, we spent time handing out candy in costumes to children at the Paris Elementary School.



Getting into the **Holiday Spirit**

The holiday season kicked off with Thanksgiving, a time to reflect on the things you're most grateful for. We wanted to show our appreciation to our community this year by hosting our first Thanks-giveaway, held November 11–15 on

our Facebook page. Each day, our audience had to follow directions on the captions to be entered to win. From favorite Thanksgiving traditions to what they're most grateful for, we sure did learn a lot about our community!

Holiday Open House

We invited our community to come visit the branch for our Holiday Open House in December. We provided family fun, prizes, giveaways, refreshments, pictures with Santa and also encouraged people to vote for a charity to win \$1,000 donation.





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