

## 2020-21 KEHA Presidents Report

It is hard to put into words what the last year has been like for everyone and particularly for KEHA. Normally at this time I would be telling you about all the places I have been and all the people I have met in representing our wonderful organization. But, like the rest of you, I have stayed home and visited from afar and have learned a lot about Zoom, which I had barely even heard of prior to the pandemic. I am so thankful for Zoom because that has made it possible for us to stay in touch, conduct business and at least see each other's smiling faces in the last year, if even through a computer or cell phone screen.

With COVID-19 affecting club, county, area, and state meetings we expected to lose members and our membership is down to 10,747 members but that just gives us incentive in the coming year to get those numbers back up by attracting new members with all the great things we do. We have so many creative minds in our organization who have already come up with new, fun ways to do things and make things happen. Please continue to tap that inner creativity and see how much we can grow in 2021!

Even when we could not get out in the community, we still managed to help them. We ordered fabric and elastic online, swapped supplies and did porch drops when needed to get thousands of face masks, surgical gowns and caps made and distributed. When our local hospitals needed cloth face masks who did they turn to first? Our local Homemakers. Once we started making these needed supplies we did not know how to stop, and many other community organizations reached out to enlist our skills. Those who couldn't sew delivered supplies safely and helped to get them to their destinations. The First Lady of Kentucky reached out to our organization to partner in the Coverings for Kids initiative, so we made thousands of masks or purchased masks for use by the schools across the state.

Even with the restrictions in place, I am amazed at what we were able to accomplish in our educational areas. Here are some numbers to tell that story:

- Cultural Arts & Heritage-Approximately \$37,000 in funding to support Extension and community projects was generated through the sales of craft items.
- Environment, Housing & Energy-More than 1100 members implemented at least one water saving practice learned through a KEHA lesson or activity.
- Family & Individual Development-Approximately 300 fidget mats were made and donated to facilities or programs that nurture aging.
- 4-H Youth Development-KEHA members reported more than 40,000 volunteer hours supporting positive youth development.
- Food, Nutrition & Health-More than \$45,000 was raised and donated to the UK Ovarian Cancer Screening and Research Program.
- International-KEHA counties and clubs implemented programs addressing all 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

- Leadership Development-\$51,000 in scholarships for higher education were awarded through KEHA clubs, counties, and areas.
- Management and Safety-2,120 KEHA members learned methods to manage their holiday expenses through KEHA and Extension programs.

Isn't that amazing? We also provided more than 500,000 volunteer service hours with 190,000 going just to community efforts.

We are looking forward to exciting things happening in 2021 and will need all your help. There is one thing I am excited to report. For the first time ever, KEHA will have a one-day track at the 2022 Extension Volunteer Forum to be held February 24-26, 2022. There have been many KEHA members that have participated in this event in past years by attending and even presenting, but this year we are planning to include a specific KEHA track so stay tuned for further information!

We are also hosting the 2021 National Volunteer Outreach Network Conference at the Owensboro Convention Center July 20-22 so please plan to join us at that.

I am looking forward to an exciting 2021 and being able to get back to some sense of normal with all my KEHA friends and I hope you are too!

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Hill, KEHA President