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Veterans VA5K Donates Proceeds to Veterans Lexington Event Has Raised \$144,720 To Date

LEXINGTON, KY – Feb. 2, 2021 – The organizers and sponsors of the Lexington VA5K presented donations from the proceeds of the 2020 race to two area veterans organizations today.

During a virtual presentation, the Lexington VA Health Care System and Lexington Friends of the Fisher House each received checks for \$11,592.79 from the fifth annual race, held virtually last November.

To date, the race has raised \$144,720 to support local veterans. Columbia Gas of Kentucky and the Lexington Division of Community Corrections revived the race in 2015 and have since been joined by a growing number of sponsors and volunteers.

Race Director Susan Murray applauded participants, sponsors and volunteers – many of whom are veterans – for their “labor of love” in overcoming the challenges of putting on a virtual race in the midst of a pandemic. The 2020 race raised \$23,185, which was equally divided between the two organizations. The event is usually held on the grounds of the healthcare system’s Franklin R. Sousley Campus on Leestown Road and features the landing of a Black Hawk helicopter.

“We turned a box of 2020 lemons into a cooler full of lemonade,” she said. “We had no idea what to expect, but we found our way together to a successful outcome for our beloved veterans.”

Mark Henderson, treasurer of the Lexington Fisher House, said proceeds will go to the construction fund for the facility, which will provide lodging for the families of veterans being cared for at the two veterans healthcare facilities in Lexington. Construction is expected to begin this fall.

“The VA5K has been a major, and often the largest, contributor each year,” Henderson said. “We appreciate the work of the all involved on behalf of veterans and their families.”

Patrick Sinclair, voluntary service officer for the health care system, said this year’s gift will help purchase, train and care for a service dog that will help patients receiving care for post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse and mental health at the facilities on Leestown Road and Veterans Drive. The Aussie Doodle puppy is expected to be introduced to patients within the next few months.

Sinclair, a Marines veteran who also serves on the race committee, applauded the dedication of volunteers and generosity of sponsors.

“This is a true testament to your dedication,” he said. “It really takes an army to put on an event like this.”

Murray said the sixth annual race will be held Nov. 7. For updates, follow Veterans VA5K on Facebook and Twitter.

