



From the beginning, it has been the goal of The Center for Rural Development to create opportunity. Opportunity in Tompkinsville. Opportunity in Pikeville. Opportunity for young people. Opportunity for people who are affected by loss of jobs in the traditional, but faltering, industries of the hills and mountains of Kentucky.

Our goal — which is shared by many people in the 40-county area — is being met. It's not happening overnight, but it is happening. And it is changing the daily lives of individuals all across Southern and Eastern Kentucky.

Through programs like Rogers Scholars, our staff has touched the lives of 95 of the best and brightest high school students in The Center's 40-county service area. After a week of intense curriculum and daily interaction with regional business professionals, these Kentucky kids have graduated from the program and returned home with the challenge to not only improve themselves but to make a contribution to their home communities.

Last year, our educational training professionals developed a customized curriculum to retrain displaced coal miners and then implemented that plan to provide new job skills to over 400 people.

Our technological delivery systems have allowed our training specialists to work with and cost effectively train more than 5,700 employees of Appalachian Regional Hospitals in new computer literacy skills.

Our facility, featuring the largest exhibition hall and conference site between Lexington and Knoxville, has enabled more than 300,000 people in the region and beyond to gather for events as diverse as regional knife and gun shows to a conference hosted by the Export-Import Bank of the United States for Kentucky business owners to learn "hands on" how to do business in the global marketplace.

Please take a few moments to read about some of the individual **FACES FROM THE CENTER** and see how we are accomplishing our shared goal of creating opportunity for the people of Southern and Eastern Kentucky.

putting a face with

Hilda Gay Legg, Executive Director & CEO
The Center for Rural Development