



## **Kentucky Lawmakers Announce \$1.5 Million Investment to Expand Housing for Medical Volunteers at The Center for Courageous Kids**

*State investment, donor match to fund new medical volunteer lodging at free camp for children with disabilities and lifelong illnesses*

SCOTTSVILLE, KENTUCKY (September 08, 2026) – Kentucky lawmakers joined The Center for Courageous Kids on Tuesday to announce a \$1.5 million state investment that will help fund a new medical volunteer lodging facility at the nonprofit's 168-acre campus in Scottsville.

The state funding will be matched by private donors and will fully fund a new housing lodge for doctors, nurses and other medical professionals who provide around-the-clock care that allows children with complex medical needs to attend camp and family retreats at no cost.

The new facility will help ensure CCK can continue bringing children with serious and lifelong medical conditions to camp and family retreats in a safe, medically inclusive and accessible environment.

“Our mission is to replace limitations with possibilities, and support like this helps us do exactly that,” said Darren Dannelly, president and CEO of The Center for Courageous Kids. “This new lodging will strengthen the care that allows children to simply play, explore and connect, many for the very first time. We are deeply grateful to our state leaders and to the donors whose match makes this project a reality.”

Kentucky State Sen. Max Wise, who represents the 16th Senate District, and Kentucky State Rep. Shawn McPherson, who represents the 22nd House District and lives in Scottsville, joined CCK leaders and camper families for the funding presentation. Both lawmakers previously visited CCK and supported its mission of creating opportunities for children who often face limitations because of their medical conditions.

“The doctors, nurses and other medical professionals who volunteer here give children an opportunity their families may not have thought was possible,” Senate Majority Floor Leader Max Wise said. “By giving those volunteers a place to stay, we’ll help the Center for Courageous Kids safely welcome more children, and with the private match, every state dollar will go twice as far. I’m proud we could help move this project forward.”

“CCK is a very special place where children that have heard all their life sorry you can’t, to a camp where they hear ‘yes you can,’” Representative Shawn McPherson said. “Seeing people with similar conditions hearing ‘yes you can’ is a life changing mindset! I love that this is in our country.”

Medical volunteers are central to CCK's ability to serve children with complex medical needs. They donate hundreds of hours each year and provide 24-hour medical supervision, allowing campers to participate in activities that might otherwise be out of reach, including horseback riding, archery, swimming and other traditional camp experiences.



Since opening in 2008, CCK has served more than 46,000 children and family members living with complex medical conditions. The organization continues the vision of founder Elizabeth Turner Campbell, who believed every child should have the opportunity to experience the joy, independence and adventure of camp, regardless of their medical condition.

For CCK, the new facility represents more than additional lodging. It is an investment in the medical professionals whose presence makes it possible for children to experience camp not as patients, but simply as kids.

For more information about CCK, visit [courageouskids.org](https://www.courageouskids.org).

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#### **About The Center for Courageous Kids**

Founded in 2008, The Center for Courageous Kids (CCK) is a not-for-profit medical camp facility located in Scottsville, Kentucky, offering specialized recreational programs for children with disabilities or lifelong illnesses with no cost to their families. The 168-acre camp hosts nine separate week-long summer camp sessions that can serve up to 128 kids per week with each week designated to a different illness. In addition to summer camp, CCK hosts family weekend retreats in the spring and fall seasons for kids, siblings and parents and provide joy, respite and lasting memories. Now in its 19th year, CCK has served more than 46,000 campers and families living with medical diagnoses and IDD (intellectual and developmental disabilities) from 46 U.S. states and 13 countries. <https://www.courageouskids.org/>