TNCO

TENNESSEE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Award of Excellence

Leadership In Fundraising Excellence

Presented to

Knights of Columbus

In recognition of exceptional fundraising leadership and generous support of nonprofit agencies serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Presented by

Tennessee Community Organizations
September 16, 2026

It is my honor to nominate the Knights of Columbus Council 16088, representing St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, for the TNCO 2026 Leadership of Fundraising Excellence Award.

The Knights of Columbus is an organization founded on the principle of charity and service. They are long-time benefactors of Hilltoppers, Inc., and are devoted to improving the quality of life for developmentally challenged persons in our community. Fundraising is a big part of their contribution, and donations come from local residents who support their many activities.

Charity is at the heart of the Knights activities. The organization has been active in Cumberland County for over four decades raising funds to support the lives and agencies who serve the disabled. Its most recent contribution is a donation of $20,000 that will be used for to help purchase a handicap equipped van. Several smaller donations are made regularly throughout the year—every year--$5000 here and there. It adds up quick. Since their inception in our community, the Knights have raised funds in excess of a half-million dollars for Hilltoppers, Inc.

Music concerts, golf outings, and corn hole tournaments are just a few of their fun-filled activities that raise both awareness of, and monies for, the developmentally disabled. The events are consistent and well-advertised. Part of the effectiveness of their process is that they skillfully use the parameters of grant writing to augment their local fundraising. All local monies collected by the Knights are deposited into a fund at KIND Charities of Tennessee, a non-profit organization set up to disperse funds throughout Tennessee. 75% of those monies are given back to the local council for donation to charity. 25% is kept to fund grants from which all participating Councils may apply. Council 16088 regularly receives these KIND charitable grants. Invariably, the grants far exceed the 25% of monies withheld by KIND, increasing their donations to Hilltoppers.

The Knights' leadership in fundraising is testament to their on-going support of people with disabilities and we are grateful for their unfailing service.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lamugnano
Hilltoppers, Inc.