



Let's do what we can...to build a better world.

For over ten years, the women of *Cullasaja Women's Outreach* have joined forces, listened intently and pooled funds to thoughtfully respond to the needs of the Highlands-Cashiers community. Our goal has been simple: to help support not-for-profit organizations that work to better the lives—and life experiences—of those living and working on the plateau. Thanks to your incredible generosity, last year, we were able to invest a record \$177,850 in local community organizations through our sophisticated Grants process. Your dollars worked to:

- **Bring healing.** Through grants to the Community Care Clinic of Highlands, the Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic, and the Counseling and Psychotherapy Center of Highlands, we helped many get the personal care that they needed and simply could not afford.
- **Bring encouragement.** By funding special after-school programs at the Boys & Girls Club of the Plateau and upgrades to the music classroom at the Blue Ridge Elementary School, we reinforced the importance of education, letting local children know that we care about their future. We also helped supply equipment for special needs children at the Summit Charter School to enhance their ability to learn and grow.
- **Bring warmth.** Through the Highlands Emergency Council, we helped pay winter heating bills for local people, who struggled to have funds for this home essential.
- **Bring nourishment.** By helping to fund the needs of the International Friendship Center Food Pantry, the Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry and The Gathering Table, we helped families in need put food on their tables.
- **Bring shelter.** Our support to the Highlands Community Child Development and Peggy Crosby Centers, and the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society helped keep each of their facilities safe and up-to-date.
- **Bring inspiration.** By funding special music programs for children at the Blue Ridge Elementary School and at the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival, in addition, to supplying needed equipment for the Martin-Lipscomb P.A.C. and the Highlands Playhouse, we have helped extend the joy and beauty of the performing arts.
- **Bring a sense of stewardship.** By granting funds for the Kids & Nature Program (Highlands-Cashier Land Trust), the completion of the Highlands community park, the construction of quiet space at the Hudson Library and the preservation of Highlands Historical Society sites, we have furthered a sense of shared community space, as well as, respect and responsibility to each other and our local environment.

Our 2017 Grants Committee, led by Lindy Colson and Joy Abney, has already begun receiving requests from local organizations and is scheduling this year's site visits. We will continue to strive to support sustainable and responsible programs—those that have a real and positive impact upon the local population.

The road to a stronger community *is* constantly under construction. With your generous contributions, we have been able to help pave the path with possibilities. Working together, our pooled resources have allowed *Cullasaja Women's Outreach* to make a significant and positive difference in the Highlands-Cashiers community.

Please consider “investing” with us, once again, as we work to make our little corner of the world that much better. The dividends are substantial...the return-on-investment, more than uplifting.

We need your engagement and support to continue reinforcing the good works of the not-for-profit organizations in the area. Together, we are making a difference.



2016 Grants Committee: Jo Hill, Gail Hughes, Anna Guffey, Joy Abney, Lindy Colson, Emily Adkins and Annette Lovell. **FRONT ROW:** Marilyn Cooper, Kathy Bowman, Nancy Harrison and Beth Moore-Patzke.

Thank You to All of Our Supporters!

Your generosity from 2006-2016 made it possible to top the \$1,030,000 mark!



Our Grants Process

Directing your dollars to effective community programs is a serious undertaking.

Thanks to the hard work of our Grants Committee and its Chairs, CWO uses a sophisticated, thorough and thought-filled grants-making process. We take the investment of your dollars seriously. Highlands-Cashiers area organizations are invited to submit grant requests through our website up until July 31. Once requests are received, our Grants Committee goes into action.

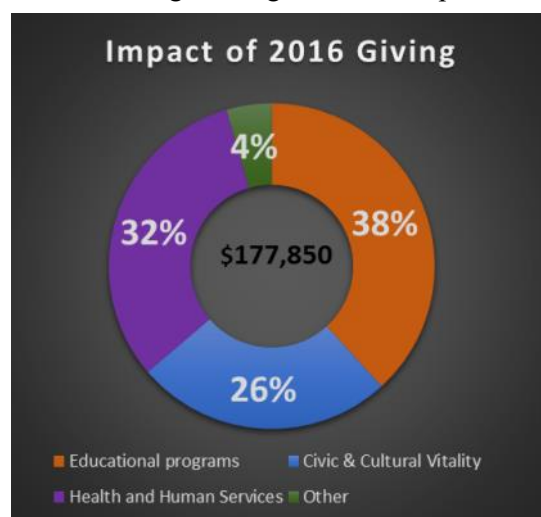
Site visits are made. Interviews conducted. Program and organization objectives reviewed. Financials and board participation scrutinized. This pre-work helps ensure that organizations receiving CWO grants are in a position to use our funds effectively and for their stated purpose.

Mid-September, our Grants Committee meets to share its findings, outlining organizational needs, past effectiveness and future plans. Committee members individually—and then, collectively—evaluate requests against our grant criteria. Grants amounts are determined and distributed in the early fall. A Use of Funds report is requested to help us to follow-up on grant effectiveness.

Should you know of a Highlands-Cashiers area not-for-profit organization needing support, encourage them to submit a grant request. As a matter of policy, we do not give to capital funds, nor do we give to political or religious funds.

We are Partnered With Professionals.

Recipient organizations and amounts of grants are determined by our Grants Committee. Those grants, however, are disbursed through our donor-advised fund “CWO Charities” by the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina. This relationship not only assures the proper direction of our grants, it also removes CWO from the complexity of accounting, investing, disbursing and IRS reporting of funds, thereby keeping our overhead costs to a minimum. Being a donor-advised fund of the Community Foundation allows us to tap into its extensive research and contacts. *Cullasaja Women's Outreach* is not a 501(c)-3 organization. If you have an interest in serving on our Grants Committee or learning more about local not-for-profit organizations, please contact Joy Abney or Lindy Colson for more insight and information.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Friday, July 14
12:00 noon

CWO Annual Luncheon,
featuring special guest speaker
Carol Seymour .

July
through August 15

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DRIVE
2017 donations accepted by our
Treasurer, Frazer McCrorey.

Sunday, September 10

Thank You! Celebration of
Giving at the Canyon Kitchen

Friday, September 22
5:30-7:00pm

CWO's Fall Festival





1371 Cullasaja Club Drive #291
Highlands, NC 28741

www.cullasajawomensoutreach.org

Our 2017 donation drive is well underway. Donations should be turned in **by August 15, 2017**, so that our Grants Committee will know the total amount of funds available for distribution through the grants process.

Please make your donation check payable to: **CFWNC, and on the memo line note: CWO Charities Fund.** Mail to: CWO 1371 Cullasaja Club Drive, #291, Highlands, NC 28741, or give it to Frazer McCrorey, our treasurer.

Letters for tax-deductibility purposes will be mailed to you directly from the *Community Foundation of Western North Carolina*.

REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR \$50 CWO DUES! (If by check make payable to "CWO".)

To get our operating fund up and running to cover our overhead costs, we really need your support! Our operating fund covers the costs of this newsletter, our website, incidentals for member events. Thus, checks payable to "CWO" are not tax-deductible. Give or send your dues to: Frazer McCrorey at 100 Bee Tree Lane #166, Highlands, NC 28741. Or drop off at the Club Reception desk for Frazer.

NOTE: If you wish to make a donation for the benefit of local not-for-profits, your check must be made payable to: "CFWNC" noting "CWO Charities" on the memo line.