



The Outreach

June 2018

Help us sow the seeds of possibility. . .

to bring services, caring, guidance, warmth and joy to the people of the Highlands-Cashiers plateau. Your donation to CWO Charities (our donor-advised fund of the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina) provides much needed resources for local charities and not-for-profits to do their good works.

Since 2006, *Cullasaja Women Outreach* has helped nurture a “garden” of much-needed services, gathering resources to help local organizations make a positive difference in the lives of those around us. In essence, we re-nourish the soil and sow the seeds of possibility, especially for those less fortunate than we. We have built a reputation for touching the lives of people who live and work in the area, by helping provide medical, dental and mental health care to those with limited finances. We have reached out to local children, to help provide after-school programs that encourage and nurture academic and personal growth. We have paid for tools to enable learning for those with special-needs. We have subsidized winter heating bills for those who otherwise would go without. We have provided food when pantries were bare and helped house charitable organizations.

Our collective investment in the community has done even more. We have brought the joy of the performing and visual arts to local children and their families. We have helped preserve our local history and our natural environment, and have inspired new generations to understand, respect and cherish the same. We have funded classes to inspire local children to engage their imaginations, creating art all their own.

The needs around us are ever-evolving. Much like a growing garden, it is a never-ending process. Yet, strengthening our community, embracing its people, and addressing their needs has a reward and beauty all its own. Rest assured that we will do the “heavy tilling and sowing.” [See page 3 to better understand our process.]

Our 2018 Grants Committee, headed by Co-Chairs Lindy Colson and Nancy Harrison, has already begun receiving grant requests from local not-for-profits. Site visits by our Committee members will be scheduled soon. And, our review process will follow in September. Each year, we put our hearts and minds into the task of effectively allocating the resources you have donated. Last fall, we were recognized by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce and received their prestigious *Robert B. Dupree Award* for Outstanding Community Service 2017.

Once again, we ask that you help us to embrace, empower and enhance the community which we so enjoy. Thank you, in advance, for considering a donation to the CWO Charities Fund. We will invest your dollars wisely, where they truly can make a difference. Truly, our collective giving has done more than any one of us could dream of doing alone.

***Cullasaja Women's Outreach* is a collective of wonderful women,
who believe in reaching out to each other and to local organizations
through philanthropy, volunteerism and friendship
to build a stronger community.**



It has been said that a garden gives back far more than it receives. How true for those who supported our efforts. We have found that when we interact with our community, we share, heal and honor those around us. In doing so, we leave a mark of goodness—a lasting beauty. We become more whole. We flower and grow.

~Margi Eichman
2018 Executive Director

Thank you to our incredible 2017 donors! Since 2006, we have invested over \$1.2 million into the Highlands-Cashiers community, funding programs to enhance the education of our youth, to extend medical, dental and mental health care to the under and uninsured. We have embraced the needs of our fellow citizens for food and warmth. Beyond that, we have supported a love of nature, the preservation of our town, and a joy of the visual and performing arts, all in the name of making our Highlands-Cashiers community vibrant for generations to come.



The Numbers Tell Our Story

21

local organizations received CWO grants in 2017.

The Bascom ♣ Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic ♣ Boys and Girls Club of the Plateau ♣ Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society
Cashiers Albert Calton Library ♣ Cashiers Historical Society ♣ Community Care Clinic of Highlands-Cashiers
Counseling & Psychotherapy Center of Highlands ♣ Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry ♣ Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust
Highlands-Cashiers Players ♣ Highlands Emergency Council ♣ Highlands Community Child Development Center
Highlands Historical Society ♣ Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team ♣ Highlands School Parent-Teachers Organization
Hudson Library ♣ Literacy Council of Highlands ♣ Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center
The Peggy Crosby Community Service Center ♣ Summit Charter School

79%

of those Grants funded Educational, Health & Humanitarian Services.

112

incredibly generous donors made this possible.

Since 2006

Over \$1,230,000

has been invested in Highlands-Cashiers through our *Outreach*.

One

It all begins with you.

OUR GRANTS PROCESS

**FOR A GRASS-ROOTS ORGANIZATION, WE INVEST YOUR DOLLARS WITH A
REMARKABLE SOPHISTICATED AND PURPOSEFUL INTENT.**

We take the investment of your financial donations seriously. Highlands-Cashiers area organizations are invited to submit grant request through our website up until July 31. Once requests are received, our Grants Committee begins its work. Site visits are made. Interviews conducted. Program and organization objectives reviewed. Financials and board participation are scrutinized. This vetting work is done to ensure that organizations receiving CWO grants are in a position to use our funds effectively and for their stated purpose.

In September, the Grants Committee meets to share their findings, outlining organizational needs, past effectiveness and future plans. Committee members individually, and then collectively, evaluate requests against our grant criteria. Their goal: To spread our collective dollars to address a diverse array of projects and pressing needs. In many ways, we are a “mutual fund”— looking to do a breadth of good, inspired by a love of our community and guided by knowledge. We follow-up with a Use of Funds report, to help ensure our effectiveness.

We are not a foundation or a 501(c)-3. We are a donor-advised fund of the *Community Foundation of Western North Carolina*. This relationship assures the proper direction of our grants. It also removes CWO from the complexity of accounting, investing, disbursing and IRS reporting of funds, keeping our overhead costs to a minimum. If you have an interest in serving on our Grants Committee please contact Lindy Colson or Nancy Harrison for more insight.



1371 Cullasaja Club Drive #291
Highlands, NC 28741

www.cullasajawomensoutreach.org

Upcoming CWO Events

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| Friday, July 13
Noon | CWO Annual Luncheon
at the Cullasaja Club |
| July
through August 15 | Annual Fundraising Drive
2018 donations accepted by
Treasurer Frazer McCrorey |
| Friday, August 31 | Member Art & Estate Affair
To display art or donate items
contact Margaret Lauletta or
Emily Adkins |
| Sunday, September 16 | Thank You! Celebration of Giving
at the Canyon Kitchen |

REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR \$50 CWO DUES!

To cover the costs of this newsletter, our website and incidentals for member events, we need your support. (If by check, make payable to: "CWO". Dues are not tax-deductible. Give or send your dues to our Treasurer Frazer McCrorey at 100 Bee Tree Lane #166, Highlands, NC 28741 or drop off at the Club Reception for Frazer.

Want to be more involved? Even if just to lend a helping hand at any of our events, we need you! Contact Margi Eichman or any of our CWO Planning Committee members: Jo Hill, Gail Hughes, Kathy Bowman, Cris Hayes, Lindy Colson, Nancy Harrison, Beth Moore or Joy Abney.