

September 2019

## \$223,000 Invested in Highlands-Cashiers!

**26**

local organizations  
will receive 2019 CWO grants.  
(See page three for details.)

**\$223,000**

dollars granted,  
thanks to your incredible generosity.

**71%**

of 2019 Grants will fund  
Educational, Health & Humanitarian Services.

**21**

conscientious women  
conducted site visits, evaluated proposals,  
reviewed organization effectiveness  
to determine the destination  
of those Grants.

**130**

incredibly generous  
2019 donors made this possible.

**100**

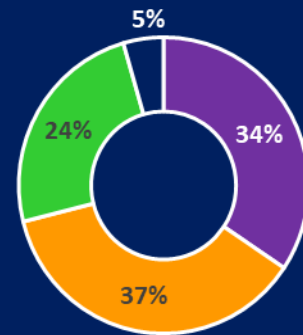
wonderful dues-paying CWO members  
supported our outreach mission.

**Over \$1,645,000**

has been invested in Highlands-Cashiers  
non-profits and charities  
by CWO since its founding in 2006.

**Member Art & Estate Affair**  
an astounding success  
thanks to member contributions  
of talent, treasures and time!

### Impact of Total 2019 Grants



■ Educational programs
 ■ Health & Human Services  
■ Civic & Cultural Vitality
 ■ Other

“Your response to our simple ‘ask’ is extraordinary, echoing throughout the mountains a unified voice of support, love and charity. On behalf of the Highlands-Cashiers community, Thank You.”

~Margi Eichman



**OUR 2019 GRANTS COMMITTEE** Front row: Donna Thoele, Kay Neslage, Kathy Bowman, Cherry Tyde, Beth Moore and Deborah Kabinoff. Back row: Jean Hyde, Judith Bobo, Donna Waltzen, Emily Adkins, Lindy Colson, Nancy Harrison, Jo Hill, Gail Hughes, Dawn Van Fleet and Margi Eichman.

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# Thank you to Our Incredible 2019 Recognition-level Donors!

## Dedicated Believers in the Power of Positive Change \$15,000

Ron and Leslie Ezerski  
Marianne and E.G. Lassiter

Donna Philips

## Beloved Benefactors \$10,000-\$14,999

Louree and Bill Greehey  
Cris and Jerry Hayes

Nancy and Charles Harrison  
Kay and Bruce Johnson

## Cherished Champions \$5,000

Elva and Tom Brady  
Lisa and Ken Carrig  
Anna and Thomas Guffey

Lindy Colson Harrison and Robbie Harrison  
Gail and Tim Hughes  
Veronica Meuser

## Incredible Investors \$2,500-\$4,999

Joy Abney  
Jane and Andy Adams  
Linda and Jim Brown  
Pam and Frank Burge  
Lyn and John Darden  
Berty and Victor Fransen  
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Anne Julian

Deborah Kabinoff  
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Linda and Bob Taylor  
Sharon Woods

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Emily Adkins and Ben Smith  
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London and Jerry Andes  
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Marty and Dan Boone  
Kathy Bowman  
Linda and Hines Brannan  
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Sheila and Ken Cone  
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Faye and Irwin Siegel  
Donna and Larry Thoele  
Debbie and Jim Thompson  
Cherry and Stephen Tyde  
Dawn and Bruce Van Fleet  
Jen and Mike Williams  
Patricia and Billy Williamson  
Lisbeth Wilson

## Treasured Supporters \$750

Esther and Jim Stokes

Sammy and D.R. Smith

## Very Best Friends \$500

Meredith and Michael Baragona  
Julienne and Phil Clowdus  
Jane and John Dew  
Connie and Hugh Dillingham  
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Fran and Hicks Dave Hicks  
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Laura and William Walker  
Peggy Pepper and Greg Wilkinson  
Ann and Morris Williams  
Donna and Hugh Woltzen  
Betsy and Wright Turner  
Julie and Tim Wright

## Best Friends \$250-\$499

Melba and Larry Ainsworth  
Susan and John Bauknight  
Harriet and Clarence Bauknight  
Jonny and Deane Briggs  
Linda and Scott Calahan  
Millie and Tom Coleman  
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Deborah and Ed Hartman  
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Kay and Tom Neslage  
Jan and Paul Pavlis  
Linda and Ellis Skinner  
Joy Turner  
Peggy and Scott Turner  
Mary and Ernie Wilding  
Jill Wolfe

# 2019 Grant Recipients

**The Bascom \$10,000** to provide educational arts experiences and education through a need-based scholarship program for children and adults in the Highlands plateau area.

**B.E.A.R. \$2,000** to educate and promote human-bear safety practices among Highlands citizens and visitors.

**Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic \$10,000** to provide partial or full dentures for individuals with no means for paid dental care. Operating with 11 volunteer dentists, providing care to 711 patients, the Clinic performed 5,326 procedures in 2018.

**Boys and Girls Club of the Plateau \$15,000** to support afterschool and summer programs focused on Academic Success, Healthy & Active Lifestyles, and Good Character & Leadership. Enrollment includes over 245 local grammar school children, from the Blue Ridge School and Summit Charter schools.

**Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society \$10,000** to fund 14 scholarships for local elementary school children in their 2020 Critter Camp and to help defray cost for their spay and neuter program.

**Community Care Clinic Highlands-Cashiers \$15,000** to help provide medical services for the poor in the community, focusing on diabetes and hypertension, as well as OB/GYN Board-certified care. Patients are individuals with family incomes well below Federal poverty levels. Over 550 people served annually in this year-round facility.

**Counseling & Psychotherapy Center of Highlands \$10,000** to help subsidize therapists' fees for individuals in need, who can only pay on a sliding scale based on means. With no government subsidies and meager coverage for mental care, the Center brings much-needed services to local children, families and individuals provided by seven professional counselors/therapists.

**Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry \$7,000** to help supply food for 2,058 local households (over 6,900 people) living below the poverty level in the Macon/Jackson county area. The Pantry supplied 3,588 boxes of groceries to take home from its facility located in Cashiers in 2018. It is manned entirely by area churches/volunteers.

**Friends of Panthertown, Inc. \$5,000** to help fund the purchase of new tools and safety equipment for volunteers, who maintain hiking, cycling and equestrian trails in this 6,295-acre forestry treasure open to the public year-round. In addition, to help underwrite a public education effort teaching "Leave No Trace" conservation practices.

**Gordon Center for Children \$5,000** to help fund a special bi-weekly preschool program for 3-5 year-olds that strives to prepare each child with the tools needed to have a successful school experience and a life-long love for learning.

**Highlands Biological Foundation \$3,500** to fund summer camp scholarships for local children, who otherwise could not afford to participate. The summer programs teach children to appreciate, live within, and to protect the eco-system of the Highlands Plateau.

**Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival \$7,000** to fund a special in-school experiential program for children of the Blue Ridge, Summit Charter and Highlands Schools, featuring a string quartet in Residence at the Florida International University, as well as a concert for seniors at the Chestnut Hill Retirement Community and a free concert open to the public at the Highlands Presbyterian Church.

**Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust \$7,000** partial funding to support the continuance of the Kids & Nature Program, which builds children's appreciation of our natural surroundings and the importance of conservation, reaching students from the Highlands-Cashiers area schools, the Gordon Center, the Sunshine Center, the Literacy Council and the Boys & Girls Club of the Plateau.

**Highlands-Cashiers Players \$10,000** to help defray costs for four community theater productions in the coming year.

**Highlands Emergency Council \$15,000** to provide heating assistance, by directly paying propane, oil and wood bills for local people- and families-in-need throughout the winter.

**Highlands Community Child Development Center \$9,800** to provide funding for a new security/computer system throughout the facility. The Center provides high-quality, safe and essential childcare for 81 local infants and toddlers.

**Highlands Community Theater/Playhouse \$5,000** to upgrade the theater computer and computer-connected security systems.

**Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team \$8,000** to provide funding for this after-school youth program—which includes competitive swimming instruction, as well as life-lessons of teamwork, self-discipline and perseverance. Funds will purchase practice equipment, provide fee-subsidies for children of families-in-need and help cover some costs of swimmer AAU competition.

**Hudson Library \$3,000** to purchase and install an ADA water fountain to further bring this private community library and public gathering space into ADA compliance.

**International Friendship Center (IFC) Food Pantry \$15,000** to provide groceries to supplement local workers/families facing hardship and to fund their "back-pack" program for kids, as well as services to assist the working poor navigate life issues.

**Junior Appalachian Musicians \$5,000** To help fund an afterschool program giving children, particularly from the Blue Ridge and Summit Charter Schools, the opportunity to experience a sense of community through the joy of participating in traditional mountain music, teaching them to play the fiddle, banjo, mandolin or guitar in concert together.

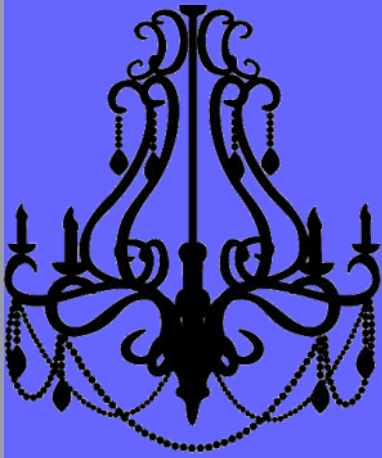
**Literacy Council of Highlands, Inc. \$15,000** to help fund general operating support for after-school enrichment, individual tutoring, GED preparation, English-as-a-Second Language classes and the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, serving 2,500 people at no charge.

**Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center \$7,500** to purchase a new Midas digital sound board to replace an obsolete system.

**PAC Youth Theater \$6,200** to help cover the costs of this Saturday program—free to area students in seventh to twelfth grade—which teaches technical skills (*lighting, sound and staging*), as well as the literary and performance aspects of live theater production.

**Peggy Crosby Center \$7,000** to purchase and install a security system for this 65-year-old Center, which houses local charities, non-profits and start-up organizations.

**Summit Charter School \$10,000** to help fund the "Step Up to Kindergarten" and "Brain Pop" programs, as well as funds supporting special learning/tools for students with learning disabilities.



## *An Affair to Remember!* CWO Member Art & Estate Affair a phenomenal success!

Thanks to a high-energy committee led by Deb Kabinoff—including: Dawn Van Fleet, Mary Alice Collins, Linnea McManamy, Jo Hill, Lisbeth Wilson, and Julie Wright, the success of this year's *Art & Estate Affair* was off-the-charts! Supporting the event were several other key individuals, who gave of their time and talents, including: Ansley Tolleson, Steve Tyde, Jim Shuford, Bruce Van Fleet and Phil McManamy. The turn-out was great for this high-spirited event. Through silent auction

and an enticing game of wine roulette, funds were raised to help cover CWO operating costs, including our website, newsletters, events and thank you celebration, for the year ahead.

Thank you to all—member artists, donors of fine art, designer goods, collectibles and exquisite wines! Special thanks to Chef Marie and Head Mixologist Rocky for donating their services for two special private “Best of Service” dinners—for silent auction. And, of course, thank you to all who valiantly bid on our fabulous caché of silent auction items!

A special thanks to members Matt and Laura Schroeders, who once again, brought jewels and estate pieces from their *Highlands Gem Shop*, and to Alice Quinif for her gorgeous handmade jewelry; both contributed a substantial portion of their proceeds back to support *Cullasaja Women's' Outreach*.

The energy of the supporting crowd made it an exciting evening—creating smiles, laughter and the exhilarating thrill of seizing a new-found treasure.



Overwhelmed...describes our reaction to your incredible support.  
From the depths of our hearts, thank you for making a difference.

The impact of our 2019 grants will be broad-reaching across the Plateau. Funds will be put to work to strengthen local safety-net services. They will provide medical, dental and counseling care, in addition to food, heating fuel, literacy support and guidance for those facing measurable financial hardships.

Fifty-two percent of our grants will touch the lives of area children, giving them access to programs for in-school and after-school academic help, in addition to music, theater, art, conservation, athletic and camp experiences of which they otherwise could not afford to be a part. For the very youngest, funds will help provide safe and stimulating childcare, nurturing and encouraging their earliest development. All of these programs have the end-goal of creating thriving and caring students and citizens in the years ahead.

Our grants also help broaden the horizons of many—young and old alike—by supporting a vibrant community in touch with the gifts of nature, as well as the beauty of performing, visual and fine arts.

Truly, our Grants Committee is privileged to have your trust. Individually and collectively, we have given thoughtful consideration to the task of investing every donated dollar meaningfully to respond to the needs around us. On behalf of all touched by your generosity, thank you.

Margi Eichman    Lindy Colson Harrison    Nancy Harrison    Jo Hill    Frazer McCrorey