



June 2016



All the need you cannot see...all the love, we can.

Our newsletter cannot begin without saying “Thank you.” Each and every one of you has helped us have a positive impact upon the Highlands-Cashiers community. Over the past nine years, your caring and compassion have allowed us to invest over \$855,000 to assist 31 local not-for-profit organizations to respond to the needs of the people and community around us.

Your generosity has allowed us to reach out to address those things we, inside our gated community, may not see, such as the economic struggles of local families, workers and the elderly. Yet, through our donor-advised fund, *Cullasaja Women's Outreach* has helped address the local need for medical and dental care, prescriptive therapies and counseling assistance. We have helped pay heating bills during cold winters, and have helped stock local food pantries. Our grants funded adult literacy and English-as-a-second-language lessons. Moreover, we have helped children struggling to read or learn mathematics. CWO grant funds have been directed to programs that encouraged kids to study and to dream bigger dreams with sound academic guidance and nurturing support. We have helped provide a safer environment for child care and after-school programs. We have helped bring the visual arts, theater and music to local children, who otherwise would not have had the opportunity to participate. Our outreach funds have helped nurture and protect our beautiful mountain environment, and have helped preserve Highlands history and educate young and old alike to appreciate our mountain grandeur, so that it can be enjoyed by generations for years to come.

All of this has been made possible these past nine years because of your incredible generosity—your donation of time and talents, the opening of your hearts, and at times your homes, as well as your wallets, to help support our grass-roots organization achieve its vision of making our little corner of North Carolina a better place to live for all. Thank you for serving on our committees, acting as hostesses, sharing ideas, supporting us financially and emotionally. Together, we have accomplished more than we ever dreamed possible.

Our Grants Committee is already receiving requests from local organizations. Lindy Colson and Joy Abney have graciously agreed to co-chair the Grants Committee this year. Under their guidance, the 2016 Grants Committee will strive to support local programs that are sustainable and responsible—those that have a real impact on the people who live and work in our community. But before they can get to work, we need you and your financial support. To see where your funds were invested last year turn to page 2.

We have had a great outpouring of volunteer support to keep our calendar of events vibrant. We are planning a special Tenth Year Celebration of Giving to thank our 2016 donors. It will be held on Sunday, August 28th at the Canyon Kitchen in Lonesome Valley. Invitations will be sent to donors in mid-August. Please consider supporting us again this summer!

2016 marks the tenth year of CWO reaching out to have a positive impact on the Highlands-Cashiers community. Once again, we need your engagement, your helping hands and your support. For this, and all we have accomplished, we are ever so grateful.

—Executive Directors
Fragor McCrory & Margu Eichman



Recipients of our 2015 Grants

The Bascom \$6,000 to help fund outreach programs that extend the art experience to children in Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Boys & Girls Club, home schoolers and the International Friendship Center.

Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic \$7,000 to provide partial or full dentures and crowns for individuals with no means for paid dental care. The Clinic operates with 14 volunteer dentists. They provided care via 10,560 patient visits last year, performing more than 36,000 procedures.

Boys and Girls Club of the Plateau \$7,000 to support an afterschool program in Cashiers —“Project Learn,” providing academic tutoring and personalized homework help for 194 local grammar school children, from kindergarten to the eighth grade primarily from the Blue Ridge School and Summit Charter schools.

Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society \$5,000 to help offset the costs of their spay and neuter program.

Community Care Clinic \$7,000 to help provide medical services for the poor in the community. (Serves over 500 under-insured individuals in the Highlands-Cashiers area).

Counseling & Psychotherapy Center of Highlands \$4,000 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 insurance coverage for mental care, the center provides the means for much needed services in the local area.

Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry \$6,000 to help supply food to 2200 households (6800 people) living below the poverty level in the Macon/Jackson county area. Last year, the Pantry fed 213 local households, supplying boxes of groceries to take home from its facility in Cashiers, which is manned entirely by volunteers.

Friends of the Founders Park \$6,500 to further develop the community park in the heart of Highlands.

The Gathering Table \$3,500 to assist this grassroots group in providing 45-60 meals each week to the impoverished and needy in the Highlands-Cashiers area.

Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music \$3,000 to sponsor two special free concerts, one for local children/families, along with the Highlands Community Child Development Center, and another for the general public introducing them to the beauty of classical instruments and music.

Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust \$6,000 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.

Highlands Emergency Council \$6,000 to provide heating assistance to those in need throughout the winter.

Highlands Historical Society \$2,000 to help restore windows in the oldest house in Highlands (c.1877).

Hospice House Foundation of Western North Carolina \$2,000 to support their campaign for a facility for dignified end-of-life care for Plateau-area patients.

Highlands Playhouse \$6,000 to help fund the replacement of an aging sound system for live performances.

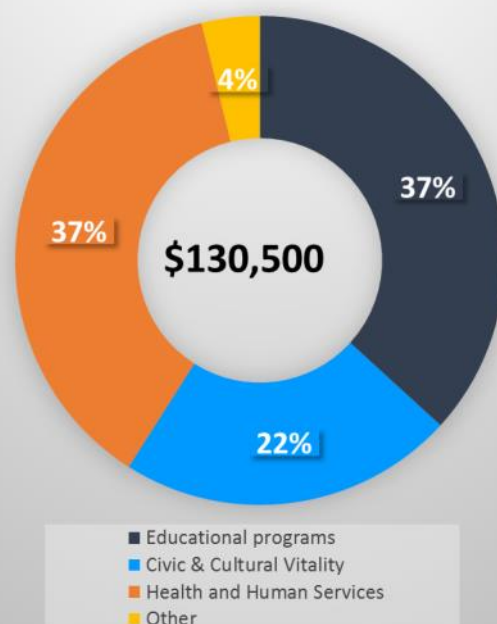
Literacy Council of Highlands, Inc. \$6,000 to help provide an after-school enrichment program, including book distribution. Reaches approximately 375 individuals.

Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center \$5,000 to support a special Paul Taylor Dance Program to reach local high school students and a free morning performance for local children, introducing them to modern dance.

Peggy Crosby Center \$5,000 to purchase new awnings for the 65-year-old Center, which houses local charities, non-profits and start-up organizations.

Summit Charter School \$6,000 to purchase two interactive projectors, as well as integrated listening system devices for special needs children, who comprise about 20 percent of their student body.

**Cullasaja Women's Outreach
Impact of Total 2015 Giving**



Mark Your Calendars!
Our Tenth Year Thank You Celebration of Giving will be held on
Sunday, August 28th at the
Canyon Kitchen in Lonesome Valley, Cashiers, NC.

To celebrate our tenth year of giving back to the Highlands-Cashiers community, we will be hosting a special Thank You Celebration at the Canyon Kitchen this year. Invitations for this special evening will be sent to 2016 donors in mid-August. It promises to be a special evening— thanks to Kay Neslage and Fran Hicks for their hard work in creating a very successful 2015 Arts & Crafts Show, and to Matt and Laura Schroeders of Highlands Gem Shop for donating back a portion of jewelry sales, and special thanks to our 2016 underwriters for making this upcoming event possible!

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS!



HOW DO WE DETERMINE WHO WILL RECEIVE CWO 2016 GRANTS?

Local organizations are invited to submit grant requests to the CWO through the end of July. Once requests are received, the Grants Committee goes into action. Site visits are made. Interviews conducted. Program and organizational objectives, as well as financials, are reviewed. These procedures help ensure that organizations are prepared to use our granted funds effectively and for their stated purpose. If you know of a Highlands-Cashiers area organization needing support, let us know and encourage them to submit a request. As a matter of policy, we do not give to capital funds, nor do we give to political or religious funds.

HAVE AN INTEREST IN SERVING ON OUR GRANTS COMMITTEE? OR LEARNING MORE?

Contact our 2016 Grant Co-Chairs Joy Abney or Lindy Colson for more insight and information.

WHEN IT COMES TO GRANT DISTRIBUTION, WE'RE PARTNERED WITH PROFESSIONALS.

The recipients of funds we raise through the *CWO Charities-CFWNC* are determined by our CWO Grants Committee. Those grants, however, are disbursed by The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina (CFWNC). This not only assures the proper direction of our grants and donations, it also removes CWO from the complexity of accounting, investment, IRS reporting and disbursement of funds, keeping our overhead costs to a minimum. In addition, being a donor-advised fund of the CFWNC allows us to tap into the Community Foundation's extensive research and contacts. CWO is not a 501(c)-3 organization.



1371 Cullasaja Club Drive #291
Highlands, NC 28741

www.cullasajawomensoutreach.org

JOIN US FOR LUNCH ON FRIDAY, JULY 8, 2016 at the Clubhouse to learn more about our grant-giving, our special Thank You Celebration, and our September 2nd *Member Showcase Gallery*, an orchestrated cocktail reception featuring member canvases, photography, jewelry, wood and wine. **Call the Club Reception at 828-526-3531 for your lunch reservation now!**

Our 2016 donation drive is well underway. Donations should be turned in **by August 10, 2016**, 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: **CWO Charities-CFWNC** and 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*.

R **EMEMBER TO PAY YOUR \$40 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, member-donor activities and the Member Arts & Crafts Showcase. Thus checks payable to "CWO" are not tax-deductible. Give or send 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 checks must be made payable to: "CWO Charities-CFWNC."