

NEWS RELEASE



CULLASAJA
WOMEN'S
OUTREACH

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CULLASAJA WOMEN'S OUTREACH DONATES \$130,500 in SUPPORT OF OUR COMMUNITY!

**Local women's organization has donated over \$855,000
to Highlands-Cashiers Not-for-Profits since 2006.**

HIGHLANDS, NC – September 23, 2015- *Cullasaja Women's Outreach* (CWO) today announced the results of its 2015 fundraising efforts to advance the charitable works of not-for-profit organizations in the Highlands and Cashiers communities. The grassroots organization raised **\$130,500** this past season. Since its inception in 2006, *Cullasaja Women's Outreach* has invested over **\$855,000** in the Highlands and Cashiers area not-for-profits—a phenomenal amount for an independent grassroots organization made up of about 80 women from the Cullasaja Club community.

Funds raised this year were awarded to 19 organizations in the Highlands-Cashiers area through a sophisticated grants process led by CWO Grant Co-Chairs Nancy Harrison and Annette Lovell. Individual awards ranged from \$2,000 to \$7,000. This year's grant recipients included: Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic; Boys and Girls Club of the Plateau; Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society; Community Care Clinic of Highlands-Cashiers; Counseling & Psychotherapy Center of Highlands; Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry; Friends of Founders Park; The Gathering Table, Inc. Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music; Highlands Emergency Council; Highlands Historical Society; Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust; Highlands Playhouse; Hospice House Foundation of Western North Carolina for compassion care for Plateau residents; Literacy Council of Highlands, Inc.; Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center; The Peggy Crosby Service Center; Summit Charter School and *The Bascom* children's outreach program.

"Our goal is to maximize the impact we, collectively, have upon the Highlands-Cashiers community," noted Mrs. Harrison. "We work to leverage our knowledge, insights and resources for a greater impact than any one of us can make alone," added her co-chair partner, Annette Lovell.

"*Cullasaja Women's Outreach* members and supporters, once again, have enthusiastically responded to voices of need around us," commented Executive Director Frazer McCrorey. "Together, we are touching the lives of many here on the plateau, by helping to cover costs for dental, medical and mental health services...by offering programs to children who otherwise might not have the opportunity to participate...and by supporting special cultural offerings here in Highlands."

"Moreover," noted Executive Director Margaret Eichman, "in giving, we transform our sense of self. Our members connect to the community in a special way. They truly feel a joy in giving."

Partnering with the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, CWO established a *CFWNC-CWO Charities* fund, which enables the group to raise funds each summer and award them through a judicious grants process to make a meaningful difference in the local community. To date, *Cullasaja Women's Outreach* has assisted thirty local not-for-profit and charitable organizations in their efforts to enhance the community.

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

