

September 2015



The Outreach

A record \$130,500 raised for local charities!

The results of this year's fundraising were astounding! Together, through the generous contributions of nearly 100 individual donors, our *Cullasaja Women's Outreach* was able to aid 23 Highlands-Cashiers area community organizations. We raised **\$99,000** for 2015 grants, which were awarded to **19** organizations through our Grants Committee and its thoughtful grants-making process. An additional \$31,500 was donated through member-directed giving, touching four more non-profits. Combined, CWO member donations totaled an incredible **\$130,500** for the year!

Thank you one and all! Our grassroots efforts have enabled us to have a significant impact on the people of the Highlands-Cashiers community.

Each and every dollar of your donation to CWO Charities goes to local not-for-profit organizations to aid in the support of their charitable works, outreach programs and projects for the betterment of our community.

Special thanks go out to our 2015 Grants Committee, led by Nancy Harrison and Annette Lovell, for their passion and dedication of time to conduct site visits and review grant requests, analyzing their merit, feasibility and impact upon the Highlands-Cashiers community. Our process is both thorough and thoughtful with ample discussion on how best to invest your dollars.

Since its inception in 2006, *Cullasaja Women's Outreach* has donated over **\$850,000** to Highlands-Cashiers area charities and not-for-profit organizations.

For a complete summary of this year's grant awards and the focus of our funding, turn to Page Three.

2015 Grants Committee

FRONT ROW: *Marilyn Cooper, Co-Chair*
Nancy Harrison, Co-chair
Annette Lovell, Kathy Bowman and Sharon Loos.

BACK ROW: *Cris Hayes,*
Gail Hughes, Jo Hill, Lindy Colson, Stevie Hinel, Lee Driscoll and Martha Caire.



All we did was ask—
you made it happen!
Thank you on behalf of
all the Highlands and
Cashiers area
not-for-profits and
charities that open
their doors to serve
our community's
needs.

Margi Eichman and
Frazer McCrorey,
2015 Executive Directors

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

TO OUR INCREDIBLY GENEROUS RECOGNITION-LEVEL DONORS

Beloved Benefactors \$10,000

Leslie and Ron Ezerski
Louree and Bill Greehey
Nancy and Charles Harrison

Cris and Jerry Hayes
Marianne and E.G. Lassiter
Donna and Jim Philips

Cherished Champions \$5,000

Gail and Tim Hughes

Donna and Larry Thoele

Preeminent Partners \$1,000-\$4,999

Emily Adkins and Ben Smith
London and Jerry Andes
Harriet and Clarence Bauknight
Kathy and Bob Bowman
Linda and Hines Brannan
Linda and Jim Brown
Pamela and Frank Burge
Wicke and Rufus Chambers
Lindy Colson
Lyn and John Darden
Margaret and Rick Eichman
Caroline and Frank Ellerbe
Beth and Jeff Elzemeyer
Martha Eubank
Colleen Flinn
Anna and Thomas Guffey
Fran and David Hicks
Kay and Bruce Johnson

Patricia and Wayne Jones
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Margaret and John Lauletta
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Flossie and Tom Mobley
Berdina and Tommy Morgan
Wally Patzke
Joan and Joe Payne
Judith and Bill Petrie
Sarabeth and David Rountree
Nell and Charlie Seaton
Faye and Irwin Siegel
Nancy and David Stonecipher
Kathy and David Trice
Cherry and Stephen Tyde
Patricia and Billy Williamson
Sharon and Ed Woods

Treasured Supporters \$750

Susan and Mike Buchanan

Bonnie and Ed Evans

Esther and Jim Stokes

Very Best Friends \$500

Joy Abney
Judith and Ron Bobo
Martha and Bill Caire
Beth and W.G. Dement

Lee and Robert Driscoll
Toddie and Hensell Harris
Jo and Jack Hill
Jody and Wood Lovell

Becca and Ben Rook
Alice and Nick Quinif
Sammy and D.R. Smith
Betsy and Wright Turner
Veronica Vogt

Best Friends \$250-\$350

Lynda Alford
Susan and John Bauknight
Joyne and Deane Briggs
Marilyn and Tom Cooper
Meredith Curtiss
Judith and Rick Davis
Lane and Clint Dawkins
Ann and John Day
Jane and John Dew
Connie and Hugh Dillingham

Berty and Victor Fransen
Bob and Debbie Fulton
Peggy and Bill Gissendanner
Linda and John Hart
Stevie and Jim Hinel
Ruth Clark Hooper
Donna and William Lathem
Annette and Jerry Lovell
Dorothy and Dan Lyles
Susan and Chris Mangum

Jill and John Marshall
Ginny and Bob May
Pam and Dan Merrill
Kay and Thomas Neslage
Nancy and Geoff Parker
Joy Turner
Bette and Chris Van Den Heuvel
Carol and Charles Whitelock
Mary and Ernest Wilding
Jill Wolfe

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.

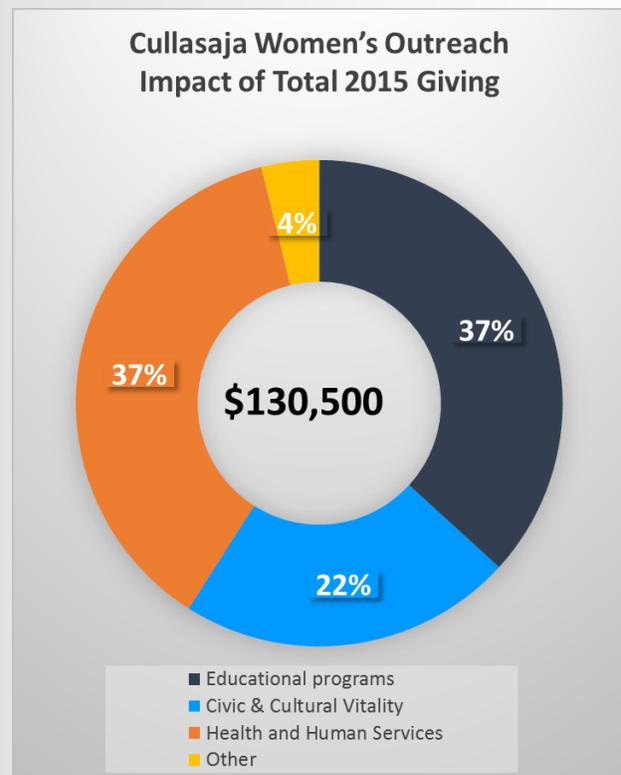
Highlands Playhouse \$6,000 to help fund the replacement of an aging sound system for live performances.

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.



Truly a Celebration of Giving!

Special Thanks to event underwriters Bill and Louree Greehey, John and Lyn Darden, Cris and Jerry Hayes, and Donna and Jim Philips for making our donor thank you event at The Farm at Old Edwards on September 8th an incredibly special evening! It was a beautiful way to say thank you to everyone for their support of our outreach efforts.





A Phenomenal
2015 Art & Crafts Show
sets us up for 2016!





Above: 2015 Art & Crafts Co-Chairs Kay Neslage and Fran Hicks.



Thanks to Fran Hicks and Kay Neslage,

our 2015 Art & Crafts Show co-chairs, for showcasing our local artists and more! Fran and Kay brought great energy and effort to this year's Member Art & Crafts Show and it really made a hit! Cullasaja artisans: Susan Bauknight, Kathy Bowman, Vickie Carroll, Clint Dawkins, Jeff Elzemeyer, Colleen Flinn, Nancy Harrison, Jo Hill, D.J. McPherson, Alice Quinif, Tee Smith and Kathy Trice brought works for display and sale that were absolutely beautiful. Millie Coleman offered her books on Scotch-Irish life in the South, and Matt and Laura Schroeders offered some fabulous jewelry from their Highlands Gem Shop on the Hill—contributing a substantial portion of their proceeds to the CWO.

Fran and Kay also brought in a carefully selected group of artists from outside of our gates to bring extra excitement, color and art forms to our exclusive gallery, including some fabulous retro Nancy Lee Andrews photography, a pet portraitist, one-of-a-kind pottery, wood turning and art. Their exhaustive efforts not only made for a great evening, but also brought significant funds, which will help CWO to create another wonderful thank you event next year for 2016.

Thank you to all who came out to support this special event!

