

The Outreach

July 2019

Elevate your Experience!

We come to these beautiful mountains to renew our spirits, lighten our hearts and make memories. We come to experience the magic of nature, gaze on wondrous panoramas and delight in the splendor of the sun dancing through the trees. Upon arrival, we are anxious to share the experience with our families and friends. There is so much to uncover, so much to explore!

But the Highlands-Cashiers area offers unseen treasures buried deep in its lush landscape. Here, one can find more than little shops, fine restaurants and quaint theaters. Beyond the gates, into the woods, off the well-worn paths, behind the boutiques and places of worship, tucked into the roads less travelled, there is so much more to discover. Schools and charities. Places that house afterschool and safety-net programs. Medical and dental clinics. Food pantries, historical sites, libraries and literacy centers. Theatres of performing and visual arts. Community, nature and discovery centers. These are the focus of *Cullasaja Women's Outreach*.

In each of these places, our *Outreach* has uncovered a trove of resources dedicated to nurture, repair, elevate and sustain our community. On site visits, our members have had the honor of meeting those who work tirelessly to create a stronger, more vibrant, more caring community amidst this beautiful mountain plateau.

Since 2006, *Cullasaja Women's Outreach* has embraced the broader Highlands-Cashiers community by investing in programs, projects and provisions needed to assist our local not-for-profits. [See page three for the destination of our 2018 grants.] Each summer, the women of our *Outreach* have pooled their resources to help local organizations make a positive difference in the lives of those around us.

Lives are fraught with challenges, and our Highlands-Cashiers community is no exception. CWO has built a reputation for touching people's lives by providing grants for much-needed medical, dental and mental health care. We have directed grants for inspirational after-school programs striving to help children appreciate the power of education, the joy of creative performance and the sense of accomplishment through teamwork. Our grants have helped provide safety-net services for people in need of emergency help—like heating in the winter or food for the table when cupboards are bare. Through grant requests, we have helped fund literacy. We have paid for tools to enable learning for those with special needs. We have invested in the preservation of local history, surrounding forests, and musical and theatrical performance for the benefit of current and future generations.

Please consider donating to the CWO Charities Fund this summer. Together, we can and do make a positive difference, collectively touching local lives one grant at a time. Isn't it time to take your shared Highlands experience to a whole new plateau?

“Seems that everyone today is looking for the next 'experience.' Why not consider helping us build a stronger, more vibrant, more caring community? It's a destination for your charitable giving that will imprint a smile upon your heart. Now, that's a priceless experience.”

Margi Eichman
2019 CWO Executive Director

***Cullasaja Women's Outreach* is an independent 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.**



Our Impact upon the Community by the numbers...

27

local organizations received CWO grants in 2018.

The Bascom ♥ B.E.A.R.♥ Big Brothers Big Sisters ♥ Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic ♥ Boys and Girls Club of the Plateau Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society ♥ Center for Life Enrichment ♥ Community Care Clinic of Highlands Counseling & Psychotherapy Center of Highlands ♥ Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry ♥ Friends of Panthertown, Inc. Gordon Center for Children ♥ Highlands Biological Foundation ♥ Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust ♥ Highlands-Cashiers Players ♥ Highlands Emergency Council Highlands Community Child Development Center ♥ Highlands Historical Society ♥ Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team Hudson Library ♥ International Friendship Center (IFC) Food Pantry ♥ Junior Appalachian Musicians Literacy Council of Highlands ♥ Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center ♥ Peggy Crosby Center ♥ Summit Charter School

73%

of those grants funded Educational, Health & Humanitarian Services.

107

incredibly generous donors made this possible.

Over \$1,420,000

has been invested by CWO in Highlands-Cashiers since our founding in 2006.

One

It all begins with you.

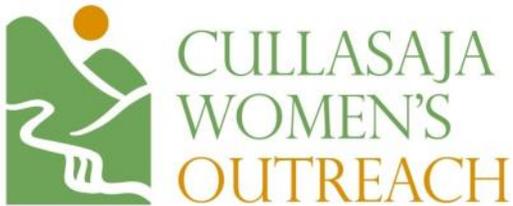
Our Grants Process ensures that your donation matters.

Though our grants are not the size of large foundations, CWO funding of special projects and programs truly makes a difference for organizations in Highlands and Cashiers, touching the lives of local people.

Area 501(c)-3 organizations submit grant requests through our website up until July 31. Once received, our Grants Committee begins its work. Site visits are made. Interviews conducted. Program objectives reviewed. Financials and Board participation are scrutinized. This thorough vetting is done to ensure that organizations receiving CWO grants are able to effectively put those funds to work for their stated purpose.

In September, our Grants Committee meets to share site visit findings: outlining organizational needs, past effectiveness and future plans. Committee members individually, and collectively, evaluate requests against our grant criteria with the goal of spreading the year's donated dollars to address a diverse array of projects and pressing needs. In many ways, we can be likened to a "mutual fund"—seeking a breadth of positive impact, inspired by love of community and guided by knowledge. In the Spring, we follow-up with a Use of Funds report to help ensure our investment proved effective.

CWO Charities is 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, which keeps our overhead costs to a minimum. If you have an interest in serving on our Grants Committee, please contact Lindy Colson Harrison or Nancy Harrison, our 2019 Committee Chairs, for more insight.



1371 Cullasaja Club Drive #291
Highlands, NC 28741

www.cullasajawomensoutreach.org

UPCOMING CWO EVENTS

Friday, July 12 11:45am	CWO Annual Luncheon at the Cullasaja Club. Call Club for reservations.
July through August 31	Annual Fundraising Drive 2019 donations accepted by Treasurer Frazer McCrorey
Friday, August 30	Member Art & Estate Affair To display art or donate items contact Deb Kabinoff or Linnea McManamy
Sunday, September 29	Thank You Celebration for Recognition-level donors 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 just to lend a helping hand, we need you! Contact Margi Eichman, Lindy Colson Harrison, Nancy Harrison, Jo Hill or Gail Hughes for an interest in the Grants process. Contact: Deb Kabinoff, Linnea McManamy, Dawn Van Fleet, Mary Alice Collins, or Liz Wilson to help with the upcoming *Member Art & Estate Affair*.