

2019 Cullasaja Women's Outreach Grant Recipients

The Bascom: 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.: To educate and promote human-bear safety practices among Highlands citizens and visitors.

Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic: 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: 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: 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: 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: 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: 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. 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

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underwrite a public education effort teaching "*Leave No Trace*" conservation practices.

Gordon Center for Children: 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: 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: 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: 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: To help defray costs for four community theater productions in the coming year.

Highlands Emergency Council: 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: To provide funding for a new security/computer system through-out the facility. The Center provides high-quality, safe and essential childcare for 81 local infants and toddlers.

Highlands Community Theater/Playhouse: To upgrade the theater computer and computer-connected security systems.

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Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team: 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: 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: 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: 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.: 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: To purchase a new Midas digital sound board to replace an obsolete system.

PAC Youth Theater: 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: 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: 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.