



The Outreach

July 2020

Our Unfinished Symphony

As you read this edition of OUTREACH, consider it an overture—a prelude to a much larger work. It previews important themes, many of them appearing time and again. Yet, our efforts are not contrived, set or rehearsed. Each year, our “symphony” evolves into a new set of movements and melodies, as we invite not-for-profits and charities in and around the Highlands-Cashiers community to tell us of their imminent needs. From there, we explore, examine and evaluate. We build harmonies as we compose our orchestrated response in the fall—all with the help of your generosity. Please consider supporting us again this year. Help us keep the music playing.

In 2006, a small ensemble of women got together to form *Cullasaja Women’s Outreach*. Creating a simple song, their works of outreach softly echoed through the hills, reaching the ears and hearts of those who needed a little uplifting. Today, CWO is nearly 100 women strong, joined in chorus to reach out and make a difference in the lives of those who call this beautiful mountain plateau home.

Our concerted efforts have allowed us to have an impact upon the lives of local children, families, workers and elderly residents, whether in the form of after-school programs or in-school learning aids, or assistance with medical, dental or mental health care, or food or heating fuel in times of financial distress. Our grants have helped provide access to social services, as well as educational programs promoting literacy or experiences in the performing or visual arts. We have supported projects that enhance shared public spaces, and that protect and preserve our forest, its inhabitants and history.

Since its founding, CWO has funded forty, 501(c)-3 organizations with an amazing \$1.64 million in grants, thanks to your generosity. *[To review the recipients of our 2019 Grants see page three.]*

Across the Plateau, non-profits, by their very nature, rely on the generosity of others to complete their missions of outreach. Our lives—especially after sequestering this winter—make it more apparent just how much we rely on each other. After all, a community is only a truly vibrant community if it works together to lift each other up for the good of all.

Our Grants Chairs for 2020, Lindy Colson Harrison, Nancy Harrison and Jo Hill, have composed a Committee of nearly twenty CWO members to review new grant requests and to conduct site visits to understand organizational needs for the coming year. Local grant requests are accepted through July 31 and the Committee begins its work in August, completing it in mid-September, so that grants are disbursed by October 1st.

By design, our “symphony” will never be completed, as our world is not static and our community ever-evolving. But the strains of our song linger in our hearts each season and reinforce that we are making a difference, by joining our voices together as one resounding expression of hope, charity and love.

***“We are not about drama
or opulent arias.
We are a quiet voice,
reinforcing the good.
With gentle and generous
hearts, we reach out to make a
difference in the lives of those
around us. Thank you for
being part of our endeavor.”***

*Margi Eichman
2020 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.***



How we compose our Grants...

Area 501(c)-3 organizations submit requests through our website up until July 31. In August, site visits are made. Interviews conducted. Program objectives reviewed. Financials and Board participation are scrutinized. Grant Committee members perform this thorough vetting to ensure that organizations receiving CWO grants are in a position to effectively put those funds to work, for their stated purpose, within the community.

In September, the Committee convenes to share its findings. Members individually and collectively evaluate requests against grant criteria with the goal of disseminating donated dollars raised that season to address a diverse array of projects and pressing needs. In many ways, CWO may be likened to a “mutual fund” that seeks a breadth of positive impact, inspired by love of community, and guided by knowledge of its needs. In the Spring, we follow up with a Use of Funds report to help ensure our investments have proved effective.

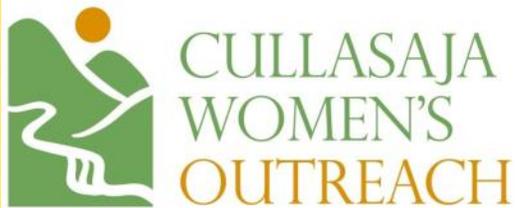
CWO is not a foundation; we are a donor-advised fund of the *Community Foundation of Western North Carolina*. This relationship assures the proper direction of our grants. It also removes CWO from the complexity of accounting, investing, disbursing and IRS reporting of funds, keeping our overhead costs to a minimum.

Opus 2019

Twenty six local organizations received CWO grants in 2019.

The Bascom ♥ B.E.A.R. ♥ Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic ♥ Boys and Girls Club of the Plateau
Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society ♥ 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 Community Theater/Playhouse
Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team ♥ Hudson Library ♥ International Friendship Center (IFC) Food Pantry
Junior Appalachian Musicians ♥ Literacy Council of Highlands ♥ Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center
PAC Youth Theater ♥ Peggy Crosby Center ♥ Summit Charter School





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Highlands, NC 28741

www.cullasajawomensoutreach.org

UPCOMING CWO EVENTS

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| Friday, July 10
11:45am | CWO Annual Luncheon
at the Cullasaja Club.
Call Club for reservations. |
| July
through August 31 | Annual Fundraising Drive
2020 donations payable to:
"CFWNC" accepted by
Treasurer Frazer McCrorey |
| Friday, September 4 | Member Art & Estate Affair
To display art or donate
items contact Deb Kabinoff |
| Sunday,
September 20 | 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, or Jo Hill. To donate something for the upcoming *Member Art & Estate Affair* contact: Deb Kabinoff, Linnea McManamy, Dawn Van Fleet, Mary Alice Collins, Lori Earman or Liz Wilson.