



September 2020



The Outreach

Granted a record-breaking \$244,150!

22

local organizations
will receive 2020 CWO grants.
(See page three for details.)

\$244,150

dollars granted,
thanks to your incredible generosity.

82%

of 2020 Grants will fund
Educational, Health & Humanitarian Services.

19

conscientious women
conducted site visits, evaluated proposals,
reviewed organization effectiveness
to determine the destination
of those Grants.

116

incredibly generous
2020 donors made this possible.

112

wonderful dues-paying CWO members
supported our outreach mission.

Over \$1,888,500

has been invested in Highlands-Cashiers
non-profits and charities
by CWO since its founding in 2006.

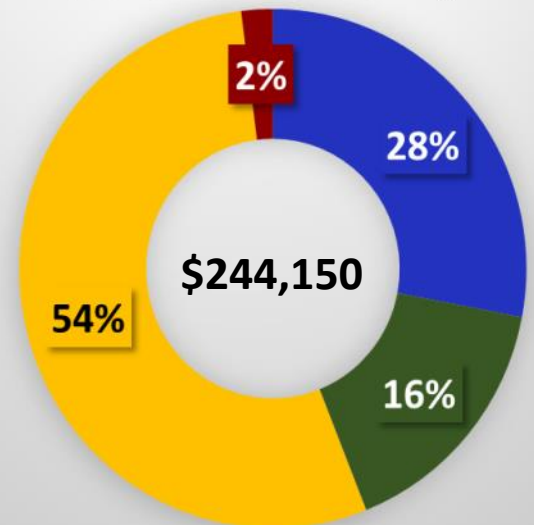
Member Art & Estate Affair

an astounding success
thanks to member contributions
of talent, treasures and time!

*“In a year of challenges,
your incredible generosity
allowed us to help ease burdens,
support safety net services,
and preserve a strong sense
of community and caring
here on the Plateau.
Thank you for enabling
our outreach of love.”*

*~Margi Eichman
Executive Director*

Cullasaja Women's Outreach
Impact of Total 2020 Giving



- Educational programs
- Civic & Cultural Vitality
- Health and Human Services
- Other

Dedicated Believers in the Power of Positive Change \$15,000

Leslie and Ron Ezerski
Cris and Jerry Hayes
Kay and Bruce Johnson

Marianne and E.G. Lassiter
Donna Philips

Beloved Benefactors \$10,000

Jane and Andy Adams
Elva and Tom Brady
Colleen Flinn

Louree and Bill Greehey
Nancy and Charles Harrison

Prized Promoter \$8,000

Sharon Woods

Cherished Champions \$5,000

Patricia and David Brown
Anna and Thomas Guffey

Lindy Colson Harrison and Robbie Harrison
Linda and David Stetson

Incredible Investors \$2,500

Sheila and Kenneth Cone
Lyn and John Darden
Berty and Victor Fransen
Jean and Edd Hyde

Deborah Kabinoff
Sue and Steve Mendenhall
Flossie and Tom Mobley
Lisbeth Wilson

Preeminent Partners \$1,000

Emily Adkins and Ben Smith
Lynda Alford
London and Jerry Andes
Judith and Ron Bobo
Marty and Dan Boone
Linda and Hines Brannan
Linda and Jim Brown
Susan and Michael Buchanan
Rosalen Cline
Ann and John Day
Margaret and Rick Eichman
Caroline and Frank Ellerbe
Shana and Rick Elliott
Bonnie and Ed Evans
Mary Evelyn and Don Feibelman
Lisa and David Floyd
Jacquie and Joe Harris
Jo and Jack Hill
Gail and Tim Hughes
Patricia and Wayne Jones
Lana Jordan
Lynne and Chip Keener
Margaret and John Lauletta
Karen Leabo

Margie and Frank McComas
Judy and Kent Mergler
Charlene and Tony Palmisano
Beth Moore and Wally Patzke
Joan Payne
Judith and Bill Petrie
Alice Quinif
Mary Ann and Larry Ray
Nelly and Brian Rice
Becca and Ben Rook
Sarabeth and David Rountree
Louise and Clifton Saik
Anne and Mitty Schaeffer
Nell and Charlie Seaton
Deborah and Peter Sellars
Sammy and D.R. Smith
Esther and Jim Stokes
Donna and Larry Thoele
Debbie and Jim Thompson
Cherry and Steve Tyde
Dawn and Bruce Van Fleet
Peggy Pepper and Greg Wilkinson
Jen and Mike Williams
Patricia and Billy Williamson

Treasured Supporters \$750

Julienne and Phil Clowdus

Very Best Friends \$500

Joy Abney
Meredith and Michael Baragona
Ginny and Elliot Dunwody
Terry and Dennis Fisher
Fran and David Hicks
Dorothy and Dan Lyles
Ginny and Bob May
Frazer and Roy McCrorey
Pam and Dan Merrill

Susan and Dale Miller
Kay and Tom Neslage
Dorianne and Drew Norwood
Jan and Paul Pavlis
Barbara and Gary Roberts
Monica and Doug Treadwell
Betsy and Wright Turner
Donna and Hugh Woltzen

Best Friends \$250-\$499

Melba and Larry Ainsworth
Susan and John Bauknight
Jonny and Deane Briggs
Maureen and Kevin Browne
Martha and Bill Caire
Linda and Scott Calahan
Millie and Tom Coleman
Janie and Mickey Crews
Judi and Rick Davis
Becky and Eddie Fielding
Toddie and Hensell Harris
Deborah and Ed Hartman

Angie Hill and Tom Iversen
Jill and Jim Huston
Donna and Bill Lathem
Annette and Jerry Lovell
Jill and John Marshall
Linnea and Phil McManamy
Brandly and Earl Monroe
Phyllis and Mel Sherman
Faye and Irwin Siegel
Judy and Terry Tindel
Mary and Ernie Wilding
Ann and Morris Williams
Jill Wolfe

2020 Grant Recipients

The Bascom \$10,000 to help fund need-based scholarships and to help cover costs associated with supplies and staff for public programs, such as child-oriented “S.T.E.A.M.” (*science, technology, engineering, art and math*) learning packets. Funding will be directed to the S.T.E.A.M. program, until such time that scholarships and in-house learning can be resumed.

Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic \$13,000 to provide partial or full dentures for individuals with no means for paid dental care. Operating with 11 volunteer dentists, providing care annually to over 500 patients, the Clinic performed 5,623 procedures in 2019.

Cashiers Historical Society \$5,000 to help support the upkeep and preservation of four historical structures open to the public.

Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society \$6,000 to help defray cost for their spay and neuter program.

Community Care Clinic Highlands-Cashiers \$25,000 to help five volunteer physicians 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. Nearly 500 people are served annually in this year-round facility, representing 1,400 patient visits.

Counseling & Psychotherapy Center of Highlands \$13,000 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 coverage for mental care, the Center brings much-needed services to local children, families and individuals on the Plateau.

Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry \$15,000 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 experienced a 20 percent increase in need and has adapted its distribution dramatically. It is manned entirely by 12 local churches and volunteers.

Friends of Albert Carlton Library \$7,500 to assist in covering the operating costs for this well-used community center in Cashiers which in addition to books, CDs, DVDs and magazines, supplies internet access for many in the community.

Panthertown, Inc. \$6,000 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 underwrite a public education effort teaching “*Leave No Trace*” conservation practices.

Highlands Biological Foundation \$4,500 to fund summer camp scholarships for local children in 2021, 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 Land Trust \$8,000 partial funding to support the continuance of the Kids & Nature Program in 2021, 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 Community Child Development Center \$10,000 to provide funding for a new commercial dishwasher, individual children supplies (now mandated) and for new playground equipment. The Center provides high-quality, safe and essential childcare for 74 local infants and toddlers.

Highlands Emergency Council \$22,150 to provide heating assistance, by directly paying propane, oil and wood bills for local people and families-in-need throughout the winter. An extra supplement was given to purchase fresh foods for those in need.

Highlands Historical Society \$2,500 to fund an architectural proposal to correct a sagging ceiling in their museum building.

Hudson Library \$5,000 to purchase and install new ceiling lighting for the entrance, foyer and reception area of this community library and public meeting space.

International Friendship Center (IFC) Food Pantry \$25,000 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. Nearly 6,000 individuals are helped by this facility.

Junior Appalachian Musicians of Blue Ridge \$6,000 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.

Literacy Council of Highlands, Inc. \$25,000 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 2,800 students free of charge. The Council works closely with referrals from Highlands School teachers.

Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center \$10,000 to help fund the costs of technical support staff as the PAC adapts its theatrical/musical offerings to outdoor screenings and compliant-spaced performances.

Peggy Crosby Center \$3,000 to construct a special recycling bin system for this 65-year-old Center, which houses local charities, non-profits and start-up organizations.

Pisgah Legal Services \$7,500 to help establish a much-needed office in Highlands to provide access to pro bono legal services and advice to low-income people living and working on the Plateau.

Summit Charter School \$15,000 to help fund a new math curriculum, tools to support the learning of English language-art skills and the purchase of several *Chromebooks* for student in-school library use.



2020 Grants Committee Back row: Gail Hughes, Dawn Van Fleet, Jean Hyde, Martha Caire, Marianne Lassiter, Emily Adkins, Margaret Lauletta, Co-Chair Jo Hill and Donna Woltzen. Second row: Nelly Rice, Judith Bobo, Cherry Tyde, Deb Kabinoff, Debbie Thompson, Kay Johnson and Co-Chair Lindy Colson Harrison. Seated: Co-chair Nancy Harrison and Donna Thoele.

An Afternoon Affair to Remember!



The CWO annual *Member Art & Estate Affair* was a resounding success. Skillfully led, once again, by Deb Kabinoff, the socially distanced and spaced silent auction succeeded in attracting new homes for countless treasures. Many thanks to those who supported us with donations and bids! Special kudos are extended to: Hector Adler for skillfully curating as he transformed the Sweet Water Room into an elegant gallery; and to Steve Tyde and Dean Briggs, who lucratively manned our popular Wine Wheel Roulette. Further thanks to The Van Fleets, Dennis Fisher and Tom Cooper, who most graciously collected the cash. Deb and her line-up of volunteers ensured that everything ran smoothly —the team also included: Chuck Baier, Jonye Briggs, Mary Alice Collins, Lindy Colson Harrison, Terry Fisher, Jacquie Harris, Eve Hyatt, Barbara Jay, Linnea McManamy, Beth Phillips, Jane Sheridan, Linda Stetson, Cherry Tyde, Lisbeth Wilson and Julie Wright.

Thank you to contributing artists and artisans Jeff Elzemeyer, Jo Hill, Gail Hughes, Jill Huston, Nancy Harrison, Alice Quinif, Sammy Smith and Jill Wolfe, and to Sister Barnes for donating the sales of her cookbooks. Many thanks to our darling Rocky and Chef Marie for donating their talents for two private dinner services. Also to Matt and Laura Schroeders, who, once again, donated back a portion of proceeds from their fine jewelry sales.

Obliged to postpone our *Celebration of Giving* to next season, the proceeds of this incredibly successful event will go far in funding a spectacular Thank You, which we *hope* to host at The Old Edwards Farm next September.



Words of unending gratitude. . .

Somehow “thank you” falls short of the overwhelming emotion produced by your generosity. Contributions this season allowed us to respond to the needs of the Highlands-Cashiers community with an unprecedented impact.

Every non-profit organization CWO encountered this summer was working under a new paradigm; one that shook confidences and unsettled normal operations. Each entity faced uncertain revenues and fund-raising support. With diminished resources, their outreach efforts had to be reconfigured, and in many cases, redefined.

Our grants this year have more meaning than ever before, expressing our unfaltering support of the Highlands-Cashiers community and its people, especially those in need. With this in mind, 54 percent of our grants went to Health and Humanitarian Services. Your generosity enabled us to provide support above and beyond the humble requests of many charitable organizations, particularly those reaching out to people in dire need. Truly, together, we have been able to do so much. Our heartfelt thank you for seeing us through 2020 with unceasing, unselfish and absolutely unbelievable support.

Margi Eichman Lindy Colson Harrison Nancy Harrison Jo Hill Frazer McCreery