

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.

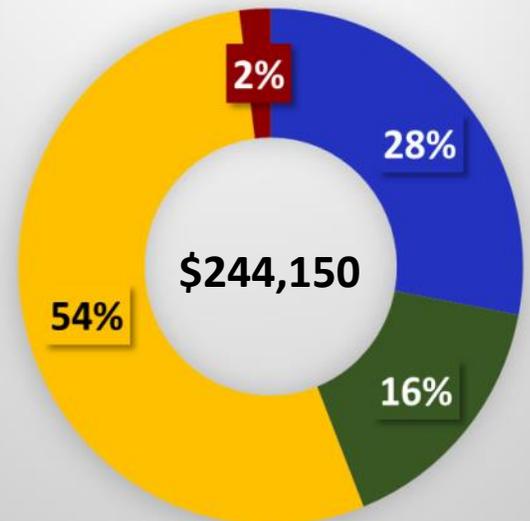
**Member Art & Estate Affair**

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 McCreary*