

The Outreach

Ladies, we thought we would touch base early this “season.” There is much to share regarding our plans for the upcoming summer months.

First, on behalf of **all** the not-for-profits and charities we have touched, we want to say thank you. Collectively, what we have done is nothing short of phenomenal! **CULLASAJA WOMEN'S OUTREACH hit the half-million-dollar mark in giving**, thanks to your generosity.



*Ginny May and
Joan Bailey*

It is not just the money. Our thanks extend to the many who, over the years, have given their time, contributed their talents, opened their homes, and served on committees to make CWO a significant benefactor for Highlands and Cashiers communities.

This is truly incredible for our little grassroots organization. It shows that we the women (and our families), connected through the *Cullasaja Club*, are aware of the need for *community* in the lives of those around us. We understand the lasting effects of our giving—the ability to bring “good” to many—whether through the free dental clinic, prescription drug assistance, the gift of heating fuel for the winter, the sponsorship of literacy, the support of the local library, programs to bring arts to local children, or to bring encouragement to young girls, to name just a few of our grant

recipients. (See our 2012 Grants list on page 4.)

The question is: *where do we go from here? How do we keep the spirit alive? How do we stay connected as a group? How do we keep the enthusiasm alive?*

We got some great feedback last season regarding the *Dine Around* format. On the upside, members loved the fun and informality of the home-neighborhood parties...they provided a great sense of community. On the downside, the format relied heavily on the generosity of our individual hosts... planning took away leisure time with our families and started to feel a little imposing.



Linda Brown and Leslie Ezerki

We have thought long and hard about the questions and the feedback we received. As a result, we are going to try a little different approach to our 2013 season.

Our goal this season is to reach out a bit more personally to you, to keep the spirit of support and community outreach alive and well in each of us. As life goes on—we all begin to realize just how much we need each other, even if only for a smile and a kind word.

So, in addition to our start of season “**Welcome Back Coffee**” on Friday, **June 14th**, Jody Lovell and a few others are going to host a few get-together “Afternoon Teas” throughout the season to bring smaller groups together to get better acquainted and to talk about the opportunities around us, and especially to welcome those new to our community and our organization. We need to meet each other.

Mark your calendars for September 8! To keep celebrating together, we are putting together a special **Celebration of Giving** gala to celebrate our \$500,000 milestone. We invite you all to purchase your tickets early.

We have a special events committee including Martha Caire, Marilyn Cooper, London Andes, Joan Payne and Donna Philips, who together are going to create a cocktail and hors d’oeuvres Sunday evening at the Club that you won’t want to miss. **Tickets will go on sale later in May for \$150 per person**, with \$25 going to partially cover the cost of the event, the remaining \$125 being the tax deductible donation used to help fund our 2013 grants.



Pam Merrill and Tracy Shawhan



Left: Marilyn Smith . Above: Margi Eichman and Margaret Lauletta

Help us get an early start!

We also are hoping that many of you will consider making your donations to the CWO-Charities fund early. In fact, as soon as you feel comfortable. We want to do this so our Grants Committee can begin its work earlier this season in June and July, instead of late August.



Gail Hughes, Louree Greehey & Lyn Darden

In the past years, we struggled to keep our Grants Committee together as the season wound down and many people began returning to their “other” homes. Ideally, we would like to give our Grants Committee a budget for its giving by July —so that it can work in full force much earlier in the summer.

You can still donate later. But the Committee’s workload will be lighter, if it can designate grants earlier and not rush to complete a fall deadline.

We can’t say enough about the conscientious work of our Grants Committee in identifying those most in need and programs that really make a difference. This year, our Grants Committee will be headed up by Stevie Hinel as Chair, supported by Lane Dawkins and Joy Abney. We need more volunteers to fill out the full committee. Please call Stevie, or any one of us, if you are interested.

As always, we encourage you to give to your favorite local not-for-profits, too. Please consider taking the step of doing so through the CWO-Charities account if your donation is \$250 or more (*see attached form*). Our administrative partner, the *Community Foundation of Western North Carolina*, sends a letter along with your donation identifying **you** as the donor, but also acknowledges that you are a part of the CULLASAJA WOMEN’S OUTREACH. This highlights our overall commitment to those in need and the community around us.

We have come so far...and touched the lives of so many. Let’s keep that legacy going. Please consider buying your CWO *Celebration of Giving* gala tickets as soon as they are available.

Many, many thanks—your 2013 CWO “Executive Team,”

Margi Lichman

Frazier McCreary

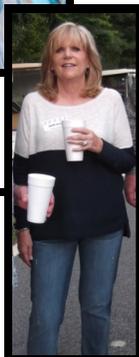
Gail Hughes



ABOVE: Donna Philips and Kathy Bowman



*TOP LEFT: Cris Hayes
TOP RIGHT: Pat Williamson
BOTTOM: Colleen Flinn and Martha Caire*



*Bettie Ingram, Connie Dillingham and Ann
LEFT: Debbie Fulton*

Recipients of our 2012 Grants

After careful evaluation of grant requests, our Grants Committee invested our donations as follows:

Big Brothers/Big Sisters \$1,900 to provide funds for the participation of 20 children in special garden, Bascom holiday and school graduation programs.

Blue Ridge Mountains Health Project (Free Dental Clinic) \$5,000 to provide partial or full dentures for individuals who have no means to pay for dental care.

Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society \$2,000 to help cover costs for spay/neuter procedures.

Community Care Clinic \$5,000 to provide medical care and prescription medicine assistance for the poor.

Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry \$5,000 for food for those in need.

Girls on the Run of Western North Carolina \$3,000 to sponsor 30 girls in track programs in two schools, promoting self confidence and character development.

Highlands Biological Station \$4,000 to co-sponsor the construction of a Highlands outdoor science classroom.

Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust \$4,000 to assist the Stewardship Coordinator program working to protect, preserve and promote the natural beauty of Highlands.

Highlands Community Child Development Center \$4,000 to assist in the funding of two programs: Infants & Toddlers Program and Teachers' Higher Education.

Highlands Emergency Council \$5,000 to provide heating assistance throughout the winter.

Highlands Historical Society \$1,000 to purchase a mannequin for display of historical dress.

Highlands Plateau Greenway \$1,200 to help this new non-profit organization increase awareness of events on its walking/hiking trails which protect and connect Highlands nature to local historical sites.

Hudson Library \$500 toward new lighting.

IFC/Food Pantry \$2,000 for food for those in need.

International Friendship Center \$2,000 to help fund the English as a Second Language Program.

Literacy Council of Highlands, Inc. \$3,000 to help provide childcare and support for women attending the English-as-a-Second – Language program.

Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center \$4,200 to help underwrite a youth play production.

Peggy Crosby Center \$5,000 to assist in the renovation of the Center, which serves as home for area charities.

The Bascom \$4,200 to assist in the costs of a children's Community Outreach Program.



Emily Adkins, Joy Abney & Stevie Hinel



Diane Warren & Berdina Morgan



Sherry Chapman



Lindy Colson



Barbara Knight



Joan Payne



Sammy Smith

CONSIDERING GIVING \$250 or more TO A LOCAL CAUSE?

If you would like to donate \$250 or more to your favorite not-for-profit organization, write your tax-deductible check to: **CWO Charities-CFNWC** (our donor-advised fund at the *Community Foundation of Western North Carolina*), naming your charity as the beneficiary. Your charity will receive the funds, along with your name, designating you as the individual donor and a CWO member.

By donating through the **CWO Charities-CFNWC**, CULLASAJA WOMEN'S OUTREACH is able to track the success of our cumulative efforts, encouraging and inspiring community giving amongst its members. It's such an easy way to make a difference!

Donation checks of \$250 or more, can be mailed to: The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina at the address listed in the form below.

CULLASAJA WOMEN'S OUTREACH MEMBER-DIRECTED DONATION FORM *Donor-Advised Fund*

Enclosed is my donation for

501(c)-3 ORGANIZATION NAME:

DONATION AMOUNT (*minimum \$250*):

Check total:	

Make your check payable to: CWO Charities/CFWNC
Mail to: The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina
P.O. Box 1888
Asheville, NC 28802

Please send my donation receipt to me at:

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State Zip Code: _____