

The Outreach

A Milestone: OVER \$500,000 INVESTED IN HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS !

What fantastic generosity! What a difference made in our community! When Cris Hayes and Faye Siegel got a small group of ladies together in 2006 to form CULLASAJA WOMEN'S OUTREACH, they only dreamed of the impact our organization could have on our surrounding communities.

Today that dream is a reality. This season, CWO put \$90,850 into local area not-for-profits and charities. It was accomplished through direct grants of \$62,000 and member-directed donations of \$28,850, which brought our grand total of giving since inception to well over \$500,000!



Sally Wallace, Meredith Curtis, Jody Lovell, President Gail Hughes and Frazer McCrorey.

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.

“**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 parking lighting.

“**IFC/Food Pantry \$2,000** for food for the needy.

“**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.

Where do we go from here?

Looking ahead to next year, we are incorporating a new "leadership team" in place of a single "president" to share responsibilities for the year. Margi Eichman and Frazer McCrorey have agreed to help me get this new team concept established in 2013. Jody Lovell has agreed to spearhead member development in the hopes that more information in the hands of our members, and more casual bonding and friendship building will keep our outreach invigorated. Joy Abney has a keen interest in helping in any way that she can.

All of us are receptive to new ideas to keep CWO vibrant, enjoyable and effective. We look forward to getting more of you involved in whatever ways fit your schedule. We will be in touch with you with more information in the coming months.

Please feel free to contact any one of us with your suggestions in the "off-season." Our goal is to keep the structure of the organization simple, focused and fun.

As many of you are aware, the lackluster economy has exacerbated the needs around us. This past year, we received grant requests totaling over \$120,000 from local not-for-profits. Federal, State and local government funding is virtually non-existent, making the impact of our donations more meaningful than ever, to struggling Highlands-Cashiers organizations.

Fortunately, we have an incredibly generous and giving membership. We also have a well established and comprehensive grants process that includes: the solicitation of requests; the audit of past giving effectiveness; and the criteria for meaningful grant-making. This keeps our giving impactful.

In the coming season, we are ready to consider new venues and ideas for fundraising. It's a natural need for a six-year-old organization, especially one that has done so well with limited resources.

I look forward to working with you to continue to evolve CULLASAJA WOMEN'S OUTREACH to an ever more meaningful and vital organization as we begin our journey to our next milestone. Again, thank you for your unselfish support. Together, we have made a tremendous impact upon the community.

Gail Hughes, 2012 President

Host and Hostesses with the Mostest

Event Chair Donna Philips literally knocked the socks off the attendees of this year's annual fundraiser **Leisure Afternoons, Knock-out Evenings!**—a casual, flip-flop summer dine-around the homes along Lake Villas Way. Donna corralled a team of volunteers that decorated the street, created flower arrangements, tended bar and graciously greeted attendees.

Special thanks to the incredible generosity and graciousness of our hosts, who opened their homes, supplied the food and entertainment for the evening of fun. They included: Martha and Bill Caire, Wicke and Rufus Chambers, Mary and Wally Patzke, Donna and Jim Philips, new-on-the-block Diana and Mark Sanderson, and Donna and Larry Thoele (and their stand-in hosts *Peggy and Scott Turner*).

Nearly 140 attendees enjoyed summer-time fare from gazpacho to pulled pork, hot dogs and burgers to ice cream bars, along with some of the hottest oldies hits. Thank you for opening your homes and hearts to the CWO fund-raising cause! Over \$60,000 was raised for Highlands-Cashiers direct grants on that beautiful August evening.

In Memory of Mary Patzke

One of our dear members, Mary Patzke passed away on August 16, 2012 after a hard fought battle with cancer. Despite her health issues, Mary participated in the early planning of this year's *Dine Around* and was a contributing host. Her husband Wally remains an active member of the Cullasaja Club and community.



Wally and late CWO member Mary Patzke.

Lake Villas Dine Around A Big Success!



Thank you, thank you to all!

Over 100 individuals and families contributed through the CULLASAJA WOMEN'S OUTREACH and its CWO Charities fund this season—allowing to really make a difference in helping Highlands and Cashiers area not-for-profits. We know that our members have been overwhelmed with requests for funding from charitable organizations across the country. It is a wonderful testament to the kind hearts and generosity of each and every one of our members to have reached the incredible milestone of investing over \$500,000 into our mountain community over the past six years!

Special thanks to our **2012 Recognition-level Donors** for donating over and above our fund-raising event ticket price.

\$10,000 and above

Leslie and Ron Ezerski
Louree and Bill Greehey
Cris and Jerry Hayes

\$5,000-\$9,999

Gail and Tim Hughes

\$2,500-\$4,999

Joy and Mike Abney
Karen and Phil Leabo
Donna and Jim Philips
Pat and Billy Williamson

\$1,000-\$2,499

Emily Adkins & Ben Smith
Linda and Jim Brown
Lyn and John Darden
Anna and Thomas Guffey
Nancy and Charles Harrison

\$1,000-\$2,499 (continued)

Anne Julian
Fank and Margie McComas
Berdina and Tommy Morgan
Nancy and David Stonecipher
Sally and Bill Wallace

\$500-\$999

Harriet and Clarence Bauknight
Rufus and Wicke Chambers
Sherry and Doug Chapman
Melinda Colson
Margaret and Rick Eichman
Bonnie and Ed Evans
Colleen Flinn
Victor and Bertie Fransen
Joe and Jodene Giegel
Patricia and Wayne Jones
Margaret and John Lauletta
Bob and Ginny May

\$500-\$999 (continued)

Geoff and Nancy Parker
Joe and Joan Payne
Larry and Mary Ann Ray
Ben and Rebecca Rook
Nell and Charlie Seaton
Stephen and Cherry Tyde

\$250-\$499

Merrie and Dan Boone
Patricia Brown
Susan and Mike Buchanan
Ann and John Day
Beth & Jeffery Elzemeyer
Jo and Jack Hill
Lana Jordan
Ruth Clark Hooper
Brenda & Stewart Manning
Judy and Kent Mergler
Betsy and Wright Turner
Ed and Sharon Woods

Another Fabulous Member Art & Crafts Show!



Quite a crowd gathered to view the inspired talents of our very own Cullasaja artisans on August 31. Works ranged from original oils and watercolors to photography, pottery, multi-media, wood carvings, furniture and specialty prints.

Exhibitors included: Kathy Bowman, Sharyn Chapman, Victoria Clark (daughter of Member Services manager Gary Clark), Jim Davis, Jeff Elzemeyer, Colleen Flinn, Jodi Graves, Club staff member Ana Jovanouska, Kathy Trice and Jill Wolfe-Hill.

As a special surprise, well-known Atlanta artist, Susan Roberts generously donated one of her original works for the benefit of our outreach!

Laura and Matt Schroeders of *Highlands Gem Shop*, once again, offered unique jewelry, donating a portion of proceeds.

Thank you to all who participated and contributed to our organization. A special thank you to Jim Davis, who donated 100 percent of proceeds from his hand-crafted pieces to help fund our CWO annual operating expenses.