

NEWS RELEASE



CORRECTED RELEASE

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CULLASAJA WOMEN'S OUTREACH INVESTMENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY HIT THE **HALF-MILLION-DOLLAR** MARK!

Cullasaja Women's Outreach Donates \$84,850 to Highlands-Cashiers Not-for-Profits in 2012

HIGHLANDS, NC – October 10, 2012- *Cullasaja Women's Outreach* (CWO) today announced the results of its 2012 efforts to raise funds for charitable and not-for-profit organizations in the Highlands and Cashiers communities. Through a combination of direct grants totaling \$62,000 and individual member-directed donations of \$22,850, the women's group raised \$84,850 this past season. Since its inception in 2006, *Cullasaja Women's Outreach* has invested over **\$511,000** to the Highlands and Cashiers area not-for-profits—a phenomenal amount for a grassroots organization made up of about 80 women from the Cullasaja Club community.

The highlight of this year's fundraising was a progressive dining fundraiser along the homes of the Lake Villas Way in the Cullasaja Club. The community event brought CWO members and their families into the spirit of giving. The fundraiser was attended by 140 generous donors from the Cullasaja Club. Funds from the event were awarded to 19 area organizations in CWO grants totaling \$62,000. Individual awards ranged from \$500 to \$5,000, following a thoughtful grants process headed up by CWO Grant Co-chairs Joy Abney and Stevie Hinel. This year's grant recipients included: the Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic, Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society, Community Care Clinic of Highlands-Cashiers, Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry, Girls on the Run of Western NC, Highlands Biological Station, Highlands-Cashiers Community Child Development Center, Highlands Emergency Council, Highlands Historical Society, Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, Highlands Plateau/Greenway, the Hudson Library, International Friendship Center, IFC/Food Pantry, Literacy Council of Highlands, the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center's Youth Program, The Peggy Crosby Center and *The Bascom*.

Working with the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, CWO established a *CFWNC-CWO Charities* fund. This special fund allows members to designate the recipients of their donations directly, or to make donations to the CWO Charities General Fund, which are disbursed each fall when the organization completes its annual grant process.

"The outpouring of love and generosity for the broader Highlands-Cashier community by our members has been phenomenal," noted 2012 President Gail Hughes. "We are an independent grassroots organization—about 80 women strong—who share a mission of reaching-out to each other and to the community through philanthropy, volunteerism and friendship. The fact that we raised over \$500,000 for the Highlands-Cashiers community in six years is truly an accomplishment! We are determined to build a legacy of love and sharing that grows stronger each year."

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Cullasaja Women's Outreach is a 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.