

# NEWS RELEASE



CULLASAJA  
WOMEN'S  
OUTREACH

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## ***CULLASAJA WOMEN'S OUTREACH*** **INVESTS OVER \$100,000 in SUPPORT OF OUR COMMUNITY!**

**Local women's organization has donated over \$725,000  
to Highlands-Cashiers Not-for-Profits since 2006.**

HIGHLANDS, NC – September 22, 2014- *Cullasaja Women's Outreach* (CWO) today announced the results of its 2014 fundraising efforts to advance the charitable and good works of not-for-profit organizations in the Highlands and Cashiers communities. The grassroots organization raised **\$104,935** this past season. Since its inception in 2006, *Cullasaja Women's Outreach* has invested well over **\$725,000** in the Highlands and Cashiers area not-for-profits—a phenomenal amount for an independent grassroots organization made up of about 80 women from the Cullasaja Club community.

Funds raised were awarded to 18 organizations in the Highlands-Cashiers area through a sophisticated grants process led by CWO Grant Co-Chairs Lindy Colson and Cherry Tyde. Individual awards ranged from \$1,500 to \$6,000. This year's grant recipients included: Big Brothers/Big Sisters; the Blue Ridge Mountains Health Project (Free Dental Clinic); Boys and Girls Club of the Plateau; Community Care Clinic of Highlands-Cashiers; Counseling & Psychotherapy Center of Highlands; Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry; The Gathering Table, Inc. Highlands Community Child Development Center; Highlands Emergency Council; Highlands Historical Society; Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust; Hospice House Foundation of Western North Carolina; International Friendship Center; IFC/Food Pantry; Literacy Council of Highlands, Inc.; Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center; The Peggy Crosby Service Center and *The Bascom* children's outreach program.

"Once again, the wonderful supporters of the *Cullasaja Women's Outreach* have gone beyond the ordinary to listen to the voices of need around us. Our contributions have helped bring kindness and caring to those in need, at times when their needs have been the greatest," noted Executive Director Frazer McCrorey. "Through our grants process, we have touched the lives of many in our community," added Executive Director Margaret Eichman, "...extending support to local food pantries...covering some costs for free dental and medical clinics...offering programs to children that otherwise might not have had the opportunity to participate in the arts or after-school literacy, tutoring and esteem-building activities."

"I am blessed to be a part of this wonderful collective of women," remarked Lindy Colson, 2014 CWO grants co-chair, "and grateful for the opportunity to constructively give back to this beautiful community of ours. By its very beauty and serenity, these Blue Ridge Mountains—and the wonderful people who live and work here—have given us all so much. It is a joy to give back in such meaningful ways."

Partnering with the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, CWO established a *CFWNC-CWO Charities* fund, which enables the group to raise funds each summer and award them through a sophisticated grants process to make a meaningful difference in the local community. To date, *Cullasaja Women's Outreach* has invested over \$725,000 back into the Highlands-Cashiers community through its not-for-profit and charitable organizations.

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*Cullasaja Women's Outreach* is an independent collective of women, who believe in reaching out to each other and to local organizations through philanthropy, volunteerism and friendship to build a stronger community.