

NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact:
Margaret Eichman
margareteichman@earthlink.net
828-787-1260

Cullasaja Women's Outreach Invests a Record \$200,000 in Highlands-Cashiers Community!

Donating over \$1,230,000 to Highlands-Cashiers Not-for-Profits since 2006.

HIGHLANDS, NC – September 18, 2017- *Cullasaja Women's Outreach* (CWO) today announced the results of its 2017 fundraising effort. This independent collective of women is awarding a record **\$200,000 in grants**, solely for the benefit of Highlands and Cashiers area not-for-profit organizations. Since its founding in 2006, CWO has invested over **\$1,230,000** in the local community—a significant accomplishment for a grassroots group of 83 women from the Cullasaja Club community.

Funds raised this year are being awarded to 21 organizations in the Highlands-Cashiers area through a sophisticated grants process led by CWO Grant Co-Chairs Joy Abney and Lindy Colson. Individual awards range from \$5,000 to \$16,000. Grant recipients for 2017 include: Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic; Boys and Girls Club of the Plateau; Cashiers Albert Carlton Community Library; Cashier Historical Society; Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society; Community Care Clinic of Highlands-Cashiers; Counseling & Psychotherapy Center of Highlands; Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry; Highlands Community Child Development Center; Highlands Emergency Council; Highlands Historical Society; Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team, Inc.; Highlands~Cashiers Players; Highlands School Parent-Teachers Organization; Hudson Library; Literacy Council of Highlands, Inc.; Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center; Peggy Crosby Community Service Center; Summit Charter School; and The Bascom.

“Our grants seek to support organizations that positively impact people lives,” noted Grants Co-Chair Lindy Colson. “Seventy-nine percent of CWO grants this year are focused on educational, health and humanitarian services here on the Plateau.” “These grants help to fund safety-net services for those in need,” added counterpart Joy Abney, “including medical and dental care, counseling support, food for families, and something as simple as fuel for winter heat. Moreover, this year’s educational grants support programs that strive to inspire our local children to develop their academic, leadership, teamwork and character-building skills. Helping children reach their fullest potential is one of the most important things we can do.”

Highlands and Cashiers have many wonderful volunteers and not-for-profit organizations working to bring joy and beauty into our lives. For this reason, CWO also supports preservation of local heritage and the arts—from live theater and musical performance to the visual arts. “Our grants help to make classes and performances accessible to all, regardless of age or affluence,” cited Executive Director Frazer McCrorey. “In all our grant-making, our goal is to touch the lives of those around us in a meaningful and positive way,” added Margaret Eichman, executive director. “By demonstrating the power of collective giving, our *Outreach* hopes to inspire others to lend a helping hand to enhance the quality of life for those less fortunate, and in doing so, create an even greater sense of community across our beautiful mountain plateau. Together, we can make a difference.”

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 judicious grants process to make a meaningful difference in the local community. To date, *Cullasaja Women's Outreach* has assisted 39 local not-for-profit and charitable organizations in their efforts to enhance the community.

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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