

PLATEAU

February / March 2021

MOUNTAIN LIFE IN HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS NORTH CAROLINA

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MOUNTAIN LIFE IN HIGHLANDS-CASHERS NORTH CAROLINA
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from the editor



Stay Stitch

My degree is in fashion—more specifically, fashion merchandising. I have always loved solving puzzles and, at some point, realized I could use this skill to watch customer behavior, translating interaction with product and space into strategic merchandising plans. I have also always been an artist and writer. Storytelling and communication in all creative forms are perhaps my greatest thrill. So as a fashion major, I eventually found myself longing for the world of fashion design. My degree coursework focused mostly on business, only lightly on fashion illustration and construction. Sewing basics did not allow me to bring my creations to life.

I met with the head of the university's costume shop and begged her to let a non-theatre major take junior and senior-level costume design. She took a chance on me. I quickly learned she was a stickler for historical accuracy and construction. The items we made went into archives for future generations of theatre majors. The costume shop was hallowed ground.

There are many metaphors that I gleaned about life from my two years learning to dream up, design and create costumes that ranged from historic to dramatic— for one, the stay stitch. The last thing a student on the brink of bringing a garment to life wants to do is take the time to stay stitch. Still, when you have spent countless hours

drafting, altering and perfecting a pattern, the absolute first thing you need to do is take the time to stay stitch.

A stay stitch is a single stitching line that stabilizes the fabric to prevent it from becoming distorted. Part of patterning includes considering the fabric bias and how it will lay across the body. Without a stay stitch, the bias will stretch, and you will spend many future hours, straight pins grinding between teeth, wondering what prevented your perfectly patterned pieces from aligning. Even worse, it may never lay properly.

In this issue of Plateau Magazine, we talk about businesses, historical preservation, nonprofits and nature conservation. In many ways, the plateau is like fabric, woven on a loom with warp and weft. Within these crossing threads are independent fibers, all coming together to create the incredible place we know and love. As we proceed to shape this masterpiece, let us remember the importance of the stay stitch. Without holding the fibers in place, the desired pattern will become unbalanced and stretched. If we hope for something worthy of archives and the study of posterity, we must both take the time to ensure the structure of the original fabric holds and consider the new silhouette taking form. Couture requires patience and thoughtfulness in every step.

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Circles

A nonprofit set on expanding possibilities

By KAT FORD

HOW BIG IS YOUR CIRCLE? Whose brain do you pick for an investment strategy? Which one of your thinks-outside-the-box entrepreneurial friends do you lean on for creative endeavors? A diversified circle is a powerful thing, so much so that tech companies have provided networking-minded individuals tools like LinkedIn. I can determine if I have an expert in quantum theory in my professional or social sphere in seconds. I can also see how many degrees they are away- navigating the likelihood of interviewing them for the sci-fi novel I'm writing. Synergy.

It is harder to do things within a smaller circle. What if you didn't have anyone to ask about the steps to buying a first home? What if the concept of saving for and attending college was foreign to many in your sphere? In this context, your circle might seem less like a world of limitless synergistic connecting points and more like a coral- small and fenced in.

Several years ago, eight Cashiers residents attended a fundraising luncheon for the Sylva chapter of CirclesUSA. A national organization, CriclesUSA, gathers adults who are motivated to move out of poverty and matches them with middle-income and high-income Allies who can support and encourage them on their journey. After hearing the testimonials of several Leaders from that chapter, they embarked on a quest to bring Circles to Cashiers. Between applying for grants and training, it took one year before the first cohort of Learners began in February of 2020.

After an interview and application process, Learners join a cohort, eventually graduating to become Leaders. Leaders are then assigned an Ally. Allies must complete two online training courses and a background check. They meet with their Leader two to four times a month to go over goals and discuss any hardships the Leader may be experiencing. This pairing is fluid;




PHOTOS IRVY WELLING

(Clockwise) Circles board member Peter Hall with facilitators Janie Crews and Laura Lankford and coordinator Laura Plush; 2020 Leader graduate, Mare Arenas; 2020 Leader graduate, Jairo Arenas, with facilitator, Laura Lankford; 2020 Leader graduate, Linda Bailey

with individuals building organic levels of friendship, the Leader's circle grows.

CirclesUSA ultimately seeks to reduce poverty, with a hope to cut the poverty rate by 10% in communities across America. They believe that a reduction of 10% creates a tipping point to wide-spread change. In 2020, poverty in the United States ranged from \$12,760 for a one-person household to \$30,680 for a household of five. In Jackson County, 19.3 percent of people live in poverty, in contrast to 13.6 percent in the state of North Carolina, according to Census.gov.

Circles Cashiers-Glenville, who also welcomes prospective Learners from nearby areas like Highlands, identifies some of the most critical factors that create a cycle of poverty on the plateau: the lack of both living-wage jobs and affordable housing. CirclesUSA also highlights the Cliff Effect as a significant hurdle when attempting to climb out of poverty. The organization defines this as the moment when a pay raise triggers a disproportionate loss of government assistance. Suddenly, a small raise can create a larger gap in subsidies for food, housing, healthcare or childcare. Even with a pay increase, the family finds themselves worse off financially.

Circles Cashiers-Glenville aspires to change the mindset of the community at large regarding poverty. If we can define areas of apathetic weakness, we can strengthen our community with empathetic change. Suppose we ponder the concept of circles and ask ourselves what freedom and endless possibilities a large circle provides compared to a small circle's constriction. Most of us would undoubtedly hear the soft chorus of Bing Crosby pleadingly strumming our heartstrings. "Give me land, lots of land under starry skies above. Don't fence me in." 

Circles of Cashiers-Glenville
828.553.5874
www.circlescashiersglenville.org



Venues

Je Le Veux

From venues to vendors, the plateau has what brides want

By KAT FORD

ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING EXPERIENCES IN CELEBRATING A UNION IS WITNESSING HOW the couple chooses to express their uniqueness—from setting to attire, food to flowers. Every detail is selected to create a day of romance and magic for the bride, groom, friends and family. We've highlighted a handful of the plateau's vendors and venues ranging from elopements to elevated nuptial backdrops. With a professional dream team like this at your side, a special day becomes the memory of a lifetime.

Castle Ladyhawke

833.522.7853

www.castleladyhawke.com

Romance abounds at Castle Ladyhawke, tucked away on 60 acres in Tuckasegee, about 20 minutes from Cashiers, and surrounded by the Blue Ridge Mountains. At over 10,000 square feet, Castle Ladyhawke has wedding options for less than 15 and up to 140 people. No matter which package you choose, your wedding affords you the exclusive use



Photo: Aaron Hogsed

of the entire Castle and grounds including the use of the Great Hall, Carriage House, tower deck, kitchen, pub and garden for the duration of your event. With that type of royal treatment, all that's missing are the glass slippers.

Flat Mountain Farm

828.487.4174

www.flatmountainfarm.com

Purchased in 2019 by the husband and wife duo of Shutze Studio, this newly renovated 28-acre haven will house up to

17 and host between 100-125 guests when it opens in the summer of 2021. Margaret Shutze worked as a designer for Wilson Associates out of Dallas, working on prestigious projects such as the Boca Raton Resort and Club, a Waldorf Astoria Resort, while Chris Shutze has been creating specialty homes with award-winning architects for 20 years. With this all-star duo at the helm, a retreat property complete with three cabins, barn, private lake and lawn has never felt so luxurious.



Julia Wade Photography

Greystone Inn

828.966.4700

www.greystoneinn.com

The Greystone Inn is a historic mansion, built with love by Lucy Armstrong in



Photo JCM Photography

1910 as an escape to the healing waters and mountains of Lake Toxaway. As a

venue, it offers nine wedding backdrops, destined to send your imagination soaring, including saying "I do" while cruising on a handcrafted mahogany boat with 20 of your nearest and dearest. With options ranging from rooms that accommodate as many as 120, a boathouse, grassy outdoor lawn or an indoor library with stone fireplace, the Greystone Inn has all the magic to make your dream come true—no matter the size.

Julep Farms

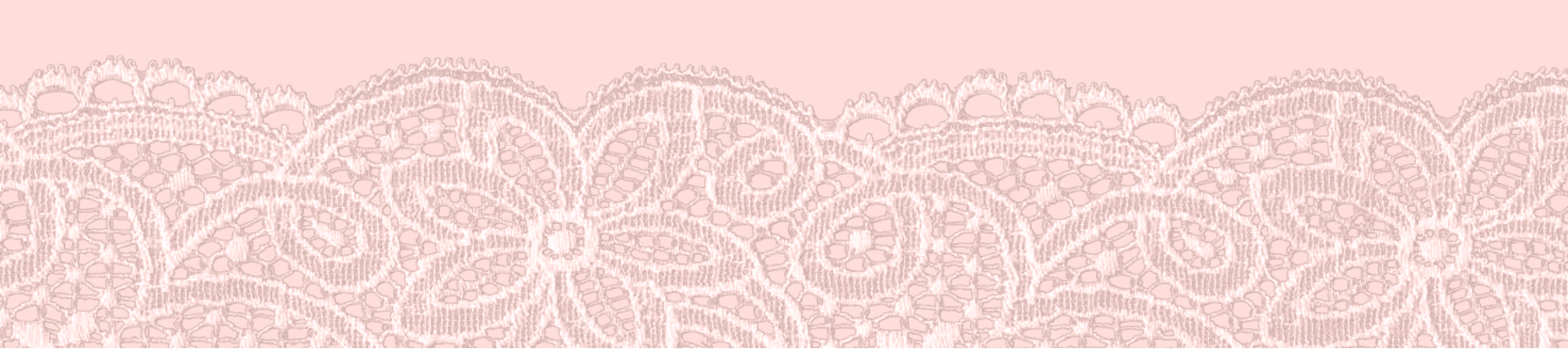
706.960.9600

www.julep.farm

Sitting on 22 acres in Dillard, GA, about 30 minutes from Highlands, Julep Farms is a modern farm resort complete with picturesque pastures, persimmon lined creek beds and ever-changing mountain vistas. Two venues are available that can host 45 to 200 depending on your event size, and accommodations available on the sprawling location will create lasting memories for guests. Stay in one of the four cottages, purchase freshly grown flowers



Photo Vue Photography



from the market, sip espresso at the coffee bar, enjoy a cocktail in the formal gardens and enjoy games or dancing under the stars on the Julep Croquet Lawn- all while never stepping foot off property.

Lonesome Valley

828.743.7696

www.lonesomevalley.com

Exchange your vows against the backdrop of the largest box canyon east of the Mississippi at Lonesome Valley, located in Cashiers.



Parker J Photography

The rustic and elegant Jennings Barn serves up an exceptional culinary

experience for guests, who during April, May, September, October and November will have a rare chance of experiencing the serene solitude and open spaces that residents of Lonesome Valley refer to as canyon living.

Oakleaf Home Farm

828.526.8000

www.oakleafstyle.com

A long champion of the intersection of history, nature, the arts and horticulture, Oakleaf Flower & Garden has partnered with a forward-thinking landowner in Highlands to create Oakleaf Home Farm. Situated on 17 acres at the base of Black Rock in beautiful Horse Cove, this experiential development will create a backdrop for elopements,



Photo Kirk Moore

weddings, sportsman's weekends and cherished family gatherings. Enjoy a combination of pristine pastureland, historic apple orchards, ponds, streams, and flora and fauna so

rare that a Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust Conservation Easement protects the property.

Old Edwards Inn & Spa

828.787.2610

www.olderwardshospitality.com

Old Edwards Inn & Spa has become a wedding favorite for many visitors to the plateau, known for their rustic-inspired elegance. The Orchard House offers natural light through massive retractable glass doors, creating an open-air pavilion opening to a lush English-style garden. The Barn, built in the 1900s, stands on heart pine flooring with a stone fireplace reaching up to soaring beams and chandeliers. Half-Mile Farm features an expansive green lawn, gently sloping to a charming lake dock, creating a breathtaking backdrop. With a stunning 15 venues to choose from, there is an option to meet any bride's style with guaranteed Old Edward's flair.

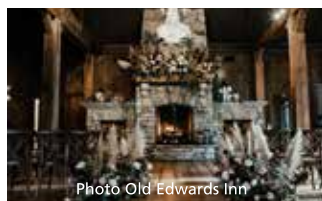


Photo Old Edwards Inn

Rockwood Lodge

828.526.8919

www.rockwoodlodgenc.com

Atop one of the highest peaks in Highlands sits Rockwood Lodge, a 350-acre family-owned retreat that features eight bedrooms and multiple gathering areas, including a chef's kitchen, dining room and outdoor fire pit. Designed with natural wood and stone and furnished with fine antiques, Rockwood Lodge utilizes natural elements within its luxury design to offer a rustic aesthetic with mod-



Photo Macy O'Connell Jepsen

ern comforts. If you are looking to make the intimate memory of a lifetime, look no further.

Sawyer Family Farmstead

828.743.5456

www.sawyerfamilyfarmstead.com

An active Christmas tree farm, Sawyer Family Farmstead overlooks Lake Glenville on 80 acres of rolling hills accented with fields of evergreen trees, grapevines and blueberry bushes framed by mountain laurel and rhododendron. Surrounded by nature that exhilarates the senses, guests leave a hilltop ceremony with refreshed hearts and minds as they make their way to the reception barn, cocktail area, porch and firepit for a romantic and cozy feel. Farmstead weddings can be as intimate as 12 or as large as 250 guests. Every wedding is unique, and at Sawyer Family Farmstead, you are free to design your day your way.



Photo Leandra Creative Co.

Secret Waters Highlands

404.520.9279

www.secretwatershighlands.com

Located on a privately-owned property for decades, the owners of this awe-inspiring waterfall were so enthralled with its natural beauty that they felt obligated to share it. Secret Waters Highlands offers a breathtaking waterfall venue to tie the knot for those seeking intimate weddings and elopements. Perhaps the most stunning feature, the stone staircase that leads to a moss-cov-



Trinity Photography

Venues

ered alter beneath the waterfall, creates a scene straight out of a motion picture. Memorable photo opportunities are found throughout the venue, like their doorway to nowhere, whimsical rope bridge and spectacular lower falls.

The Vineyards at Bettys Creek

828.506.3139

www.thevineyardsatbettyscreek.com



Hartman Outdoor Photography

Located between Sylva and Franklin, The Vineyards at Bettys Creek offers five ceremony locations, each with a unique background. Hundreds of acres on the property have been placed into conservation protection to preserve the

vast plants and animals that make this venue incomparable in natural beauty. Couples seeking the ultimate wedding experience can rent the entire venue out for a full weekend, including the Groom's Barn, Honeymoon Cottage and five en suite bedrooms at the Dunkard Barn Lodge. With manicured gardens, orchards, vineyards, creeks, waterfalls and trout ponds, guests will have a hard time determining which enchanting stroll to take next.

The Vineyard at 37 High Holly

828.482.5573

www.thevineyardat37highholly.com

With 13 different varietals under vine, The Vineyard at 37 High Holly decided to share their alluring 45-acre venue with future brides and grooms after the property



Peter Nguyen Photography

became the stage of their own daughter's wedding. A 5,400 square-foot open-air pavilion is equipped with a full-service commercial kitchen and can accommodate 299 guests. The main ceremony area is within

the vineyard and orchard. Property lodging can accommodate up to 64 people and amenities like a wine cellar, award-winning dahlia garden, pond and spring house make this an idyllic mountain vineyard getaway.



Experience the wedding of your Western North Carolina dreams with venues like the 22 acres of modern farm resort at Julep Farms.

PHOTO VUE PHOTOGRAPHY

Vendors

Altaterra Events

828.200.1211

www.altaterraevents.com

With over a decade of global industry experience working on the event teams of



Photo Federico Bigazzi

Martha Stewart Weddings and Old Edwards Inn & Spa, Altaterra Events brings expertise, poise, connections and creative thinking to plan your momentous day. Knowing that you have that kind of powerhouse ensuring

each and every detail is carefully curated and executed is enough to make any bride, or mother of the bride, sigh with relief.

Floressence Flowers

828.490.1231

www.floressenceflowers.net

Building on the concept of a sense of place and pulling inspiration from the moun-



Anna Shackelford Photography

tains surrounding them, Floressence Flowers uses lush biodiversity and seasonal touches to manifest works of blossomy art. If your special day calls for arrangements that are truly show-stoppers- the kind of statement pieces that

transform a room and spring forth into the heart of your guests etched into their memories forever, Floressence Flowers can bring your fairy tale to life.

Marty Rosenfield

828.421.1789

With 40 years of food service experience, Marty brings the culinary savvy of a seasoned professional capable of planning for an event serving 2,000 to his clients. Serving between 25 and 100, he strives for optimum customer satisfaction and works with couples to create a custom menu

for their guests. If you ask a local lucky enough to have attended one of his private dinner parties, they will be the first to tell you that his are meals worth celebrating.

Oakleaf Flower & Garden

828.526.8000

www.oakleafstyle.com

With a passion for making every event stylish with a unique and whimsical botanical twist, Oakleaf pulls from their deep reservoirs of horticultural, historical and artistic knowledge to invoke elegant charm for brides and grooms. Striving for a col-



Photo Nick Breedlove

laborative creative experience, whether for an intimate elopement or an elaborate soirée, Oakleaf gives great thought and imagination to every event, making sure that your florals effortlessly express the love you are celebrating.

Rosewood Market

828.526.0383

Chef Tim Lundy brings 35 years of combined classically trained culinary and event design experience to a couple's wedding, where farm-to-table menus are his forte. An international professional speaker on the subjects of Culinary Design, Event and Wedding Design & Décor, Tim launched his first book as a collaboration with ten other chefs titled "Inside the Recipe Box of the Catering Chef" in 2009. Swing by Rosewood Market and find out what locals already know, there's catering, and then there is Rosewood.

Sweetlife Highlands

shoksi2002@yahoo.com

Pastry chef and chocolatier Oksana Shchelgachova has been wowing the plateau with her edible petits gâteaux since she started

Sweetlife Highlands at the urging of her private clients in 2017. You likely have seen her creative confections at Midpoint Highlands, displayed in all of their delicious, whimsical glory. With all-natural ingredients and mostly gluten-free, these cakes are guaranteed to be the icing on top of an already perfect day.



Oksana Shchelgachova

Terri Clark


828.399.0338

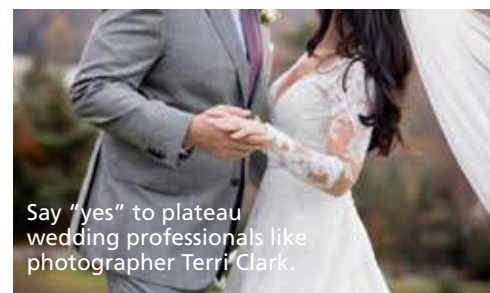
www.terriclarkphotography.com

With a degree in commercial photography and over twenty years of experience, Terri views wedding photography as a form of photojournalism. Offering photography packages for both elope-



Photo Terri Clark

ments and weddings, Terri stresses the importance of finding the right photographer as a couple will relive the memories of their wedding day through the eye of their photographer for the rest of their lives. Terri builds strong relationships with each wedding client which may be why she's received WeddingWire's five-star Couple's Choice award for the past four years. 



Say "yes" to plateau wedding professionals like photographer Terri Clark.

Helping Hands

2021's nonprofit fundraising roundup

By KAT FORD

THE NONPROFITS OF THE HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS PLATEAU WORK TIRELESSLY TO ENRICH quality of life and help navigate rough waters. At the same time, every nonprofit spends countless hours raising money to help fulfill its mission. Depending on the organization, this can include applying for grants, memberships, ticket sales, programming, donations, contributions, campaigns and fundraising events. Raising money means dedicated hours of planning, marketing and execution by board members, staff and volunteers. In 2020, most nonprofits were unable to fundraise with their usual events and galas. With the uncertainty of how COVID-19 will continue, many are facing a similar situation in 2021. Plateau Magazine reached out to several of our nonprofits and asked for mission, budget, fundraising efforts and events. If your heart aligns with the mission of any of these organizations, we encourage you to call or visit their websites so they can tell you more. In editing this story, I read through thousands of words describing great deeds and efforts. To paraphrase the sentiment of a better-known author in a much more famous publication- these nonprofits do many great things. If every one of them were recorded, I suppose even the whole plateau would not have room for the words that could be written.

Advance Highlands Education Committee

Hilary Wilkes, hbwilkes@gmail.com

In 2018, the Advance Highlands Education Committee (AHEC) was formed by a group of community leaders to address critical infrastructure and technology deficiencies at Highlands School. Working alongside administration and faculty, AHEC works to fund the further development of resources to help the entire student body succeed and realize their fullest potential. Since its inception, AHEC has raised over \$300,000 for Highlands School. All contributions to AHEC are 100% tax-deductible and can be mailed to PO Box 2095, Highlands, NC 28741.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cashiers and Highlands

828.399.9133

www.bbbswnc.org

Transforming children's lives through mentoring and supportive services, we work to ensure every child in WNC has an enjoyable, long-term relationship with a caring adult who believes in them and sees their potential.

Annual Budget: (July-June 2021) \$50,000

Fundraising: 100%

Events: *Annual Croquet Tournament at Sapphire Valley Country Club: Early to mid-June 2021* Sponsors and donors come together for a croquet tournament, lunch and informational session.

Bowl for Kids' Sake: Visit our website for more information on this creative new virtual take of our annual fundraiser, sign up by March 1, 2021.

Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic

828.743.3393

www.brfdc.org

The Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic delivers compassionate emergency, restorative and preventative dental care to people who cannot otherwise afford these critically needed services. We estimate that over 17,000 people in our serviceable counties meet the financial qualifications of the Clinic making them eligible for our services. The Clinic has performed over 66,000 procedures over 19,270 patient visits with a value exceeding \$10 million.

Operating Budget: (2021) \$507,900

Fundraising: (2021) Special Events: \$22,500; Annual Campaign: \$111,000

Events: The Clinic is not planning an in-person event for 2021, we will present a creative way for our donors to contribute to the Clinic in lieu of a special event.

Blue Ridge School Education Foundation Inc.

828.743.3586

www.brsfoundation.com

The Blue Ridge School Education Foundation provides supplemental resources for Blue Ridge School and Early College to ex-



pand educational experiences for children and staff in order to achieve and maintain a world-class education environment.

Annual Budget: Approx. \$150,000

Fundraising: (2021) \$200,000 (2020 cancellations creating a shortfall of about \$60,000)

Events: *Annual Nashville Songwriters' Round: August 21, 2021* Featuring Hall of Fame songwriter Mr. Rivers Rutherford and his selected fellow entertainers and songwriters and held at Trillium Links and Lake Club in Cashiers, NC.

Boys and Girls Club of The Plateau

828.743.2775

www.bgcplateau.org

The Boys and Girls Club of the Plateau provides after-school activities and programs

to enhance the experience of children in southern Jackson County. Through use of The Boys and Girls Club's nationally proven curriculum, working parents are equipped with affordable daily after-school programming and full-day summer programming for their children.

Annual Budget: \$600,000

Fundraising: (2021) Annual Fund: \$400,000, Grants: \$200,000, Events \$0

Events: Due to possible COVID-19 restrictions, BGCP will not be making decisions on fundraising events until later in the year. Please check their website for fundraising updates or to make a donation.

Cashiers Historical Society

828.743.7710

www.cashiershistoricalsociety.org

Through thoughtful educational platforms and preservation of the Zachary-Tolbert House, Colonel John's Cabin, the dependency and the Hampton Schoolhouse, CHS is maintaining the legacy of a historical place. Celebrating its 25th anniversary, CHS has grown to become one of the most successful preservation, civic and interpretive organizations in Western North Carolina.

Annual Budget: \$306,000

Fundraising: (total revenue) from Showhouse 80.6%, Showhouse donations 56.22%

Events: *24th Annual Cashiers Designer Showhouse: August 20 - September 4, 2021*

On an annual basis, leading local, regional and national interior designers grace one of Cashiers' most storied properties with a collective aesthetic vision for a must-tour showhouse. Guests enjoy special events, shopping, industry panel discussions and celebrate all things design and history.

Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society

828.743.5752

www.chhumanesociety.org

The Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society rescues, provides compassionate care, and finds forever homes for abandoned and neglected animals, reunites lost pets with their families, and makes a positive difference in the lives of people and pets through community outreach programs including low-cost spay/neuter, rabies vaccinations, free food pet pantry, pet therapy and humane education.

Annual Budget: \$550,000



Fundraising: \$550,000

Events: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, plans for our two annual fundraisers (*Pawsitively Purrfect Party at The Country Club of Sapphire Valley* and *Bark, Beer & Barbeque at The Farm at Old Edwards*) are unknown at this time.

Circles of Cashiers-Glenville

828.553.5874

www.circlescashiersglenville.org

The mission of CirclesUSA, a national program with chapters across the country, is to end poverty. They serve the low-income citizens in Cashiers, Glenville and the surrounding plateau who are motivated to create a change in their lives, from "surviving to thriving," by committing to Circles Training and partnering with a supportive Ally. Circles also aspires to change the mindset of the community at large regarding poverty.

Annual Budget: \$60,000

Events: Circles started right before COVID-19 affected the country, and to date has not created a fundraiser. It is currently using resources from grants received.

Counseling and Psychotherapy Center of Highlands (CPCH)

828.482.0304

www.counselingcenterofhighlandsnc.com

Our mission is to provide counseling and psychotherapy services for adults and children on the Highlands-Cashiers plateau. Four licensed counselors are affiliated with CPCH to provide outpatient counseling, educational workshops and group counseling. These counselors maintain private practices and also donate up to (50%) of their fees to clients who cannot afford the full hourly fee.

Annual Budget: \$50,000

Fundraising: \$50,000

Give: The CPCH board raises funds to supplement therapists' fees for clients who need fees based on a sliding scale, visit our website for more information.

Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry, Inc.

828.508.0378

www.fishesandloavescashiers.org

The mission of Fishes & Loaves is to provide free food to persons in Jackson County and the surrounding area who fall below the federal poverty line based on family size and monthly income, thereby helping to alleviate hunger in our communities.

Annual Budget: (2020) \$213,100

Grants/Fundraising: \$213,100

Events: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Fishes & Loaves will not hold their annual *Big Ol' Mountain Country Breakfast* in 2021 and have not made final plans for their annual *Empty Bowls* event. With an overwhelming response from their last food drive, future drives are anticipated. Please check their website for information about Empty Bowls, future food drives and additional ways to give directly.



Friends of the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library

828.743.5745

www.cashiersfriends.com

Enriching the library through advocacy, fundraising and activities. We work to obtain and provide funds which enable the library to acquire books, periodicals, equipment, digital and other materials, and supplies needed to make the library one of the most important providers of education for the communities of Cashiers, Glenville and Sapphire.

Annual Budget: FY 2020 - 2021: \$41,675
Fundraising: FY 2020 - 2021: \$30,900

Events: *Book Clearances:* Returning in June 2021 and held over a four-day period, take a book while donating to the Friends of the Library. ***Book Store:*** Visit our used bookstore, open during library hours, within the library facility.

Friends of Founders Park, Inc. www.foundersparkhighlands.org

Founded in 2007 for purchase and construction of a downtown green, our goal is to protect, inform and represent the park. Our mission is to generate and apply financial resources for maintenance and improvement in cooperation with the town. In daytime, the park is used as a downtown retreat for workers and visitors. Also, the facility supports events such as concerts, ice skating, arts and crafts, market days and nonprofit fundraisers.



Annual Budget: \$27,000

Events: Although some revenue is direct donations, our ***Low Country Shrimp Boil*** fundraiser provides 90% of our resources. Please visit our website for dates and times.

Friends of Panthertown 828.269.4453 www.panthertown.org

Friends of Panthertown maintains 30 miles of public trails and works in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service to conserve while improving the quality and experience of recreational opportunities in Panthertown Valley, an American black bear sanctuary containing the pristine headwaters of the east fork of the Tuckasee River.

Annual Budget: Approx. \$100,000 (trail maintenance completed by volunteers not reflected)

Fundraising: 50%

Events: In past years, Friends of Panther-



town has held annual fundraising events during the summer and fall featuring presentations by nationally recognized speakers, knowledgeable local guides, authors and experts on the history and natural features of Panthertown. In 2021, those will likely be virtual online presentations.

Highlands Biological Foundation

828.526.2221

www.highlandsbiological.org

Our mission is to foster research and education focused on the rich natural heritage of the Highlands Plateau, while preserving and celebrating the biological crown of the southern Appalachian Mountains. We help young campers connect to nature, provide free public youth and adult programs and events all summer long, and educate over 10,000 visitors on Highlands' natural history through the Highlands Nature Center and Botanical Garden.

Annual budget: \$300,000

Fundraising: \$275,000

Events: *Summer Soiree: Late July,*

TBD 2021 Our largest annual fundraiser held at a different home each year.

Highlands on the Half-Shell: First Sunday in October, TBD 2021 This Cajun celebration features a feast of steamed oysters, gumbo and jambalaya and is a sell out each year!



Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival

828.526.9060

www.h-cmusicfestival.org

The Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival enhances the cultural life of Western North Carolina by sponsoring performances by acclaimed musicians and promoting education, outreach and audience development programs that foster an appreciation of chamber music. The Festival's regular concert series runs July 2 - August 8, 2021.

Annual Budget: \$380,000

Fundraising: 18% (does not include contributions)

Events: *Martinis and Mozart at Old Edwards Orchard House: July 13, 2021*

A special quartet will perform Mozart in Old Edwards Farm's beautiful gardens. Martinis, wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Gershon/Cohn Final Concert and Dinner: August 8, 2021 Renowned violinist David Coucheron and The Eroica Trio, along with the Festival Chamber Orchestra, will perform at the lovely new venue at The Village Green Commons in Cashiers. Dinner follows at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club.



Highlands Emergency Council (HEC)

828.526.4357

Our mission is to assist low-income residents of the Highlands area, senior citizens, young families, single parent families and disaster victims of any age. Help includes food, clothing, household goods, appliances and fuel as they are available.

Annual Budget: July 2020 - June 2021 \$45,522

Fundraising: (2020-2021) \$7,000; prior years \$18,000

Events: Future dates for our ***Bluegrass Bash*** and ***Food for Fuel*** fundraisers in 2021 are currently uncertain.

Highlands Historical Society

828.787.1050

www.highlandshistory.com

Highlands Historical Society preserves and promotes the rich heritage of Highlands for present and generations to come. Open to the public free of charge June-October, the Historic Village welcomes visitors, both out-of-town and local residents.

Annual budget: \$70,000

Fundraising: Traditionally 70%

Events: Future dates for fundraisers in 2021 are currently uncertain, please visit our website for updates and to donate directly.

Highlands Performing Arts Center

828.526.9047

www.HighlandsPerformingArts.com

Our mission is to provide a first class, low-cost facility for our local 501(c)(3) organizations and to promote and encourage the performing arts.

Annual Budget: \$300,000

Fundraising: Approx. \$155,000

Give: Donations and memberships are needed and greatly appreciated until we can get fully reopened due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Membership Campaign will begin the first of March-watch your mailbox and our website! The new Highlands Performing Arts Center will begin construction late spring with a completion date of June 2022. Capital Campaign donations can also be made online.

Highlands Plateau Greenway

www.highlandsgreenway.com

Our mission is to develop a system of walking and hiking trails that protect and connect the natural settings and historic sites of the Highlands Plateau. Through this mission, we serve everyone in the Highlands community, residents and visitors alike.



Annual Budget: roughly \$10,000 per year

Fundraising: Up to 25%

Events: *The Kelsey Trail Hike* was last held in 2019 and we hope to hold this fundraising hike again in July of 2021. Participants walk upon the historic trail and follow in the footsteps of Samual Kelsey, one of the founders of Highlands, who began working on the Kelsey Trail in 1877.



Highlands Playhouse

828.526.2695

www.highlandisplayhouse.org

The Highlands Playhouse is one of the country's oldest professional summer stock theaters. Over the years, the local ensemble began to bring in professionals and mounted sophisticated plays and musicals. In addition to offering first run movies and three to four live plays each summer, The Playhouse offers a summer camp for children with fun, hands-on exposure to the magical experience of writing and performing a play.

Annual Budget: \$700,000

Fundraising: Almost half

Events: We are excited about the possibility of hosting our annual dinner/auction, *Starstruck*, in 2021 in addition to a patron event thanking those who helped support us during the public health crisis.

Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust

828-526-1111

www.hicashlt.org

Our mission is to conserve valuable natural resources for all generations. We serve all who live on and visit The Highlands-Cashiers Plateau as we protect the quality of the air we breathe, the water we drink and healthy habitat for all who live here.

Annual Budget: \$358,000

Fundraising: 85%

Give: We currently rely on individual dona-

tions for the majority of our income rather than major fundraising events. Checks can be made out to HCLT and mailed to P.O. Box 1703, Highlands, NC 28741. To donate by credit card or to give gifts of stock and planned gifts, visit our website.

Hudson Library of Highlands, NC Inc.

828.526.3031

www.fontanalib.org/hudsonboard

Our mission is to make available to everyone the recorded knowledge of civilization and thus promote and encourage the free flow of information, the enjoyment of reading and an appreciation of the challenge of ideas. We accomplish our mission by providing for, and maintaining, the library's land, building and furniture, as well as supporting the purchase of all books, e-books, books on tape and other media.



Annual Budget: (FY 2020-2021) \$120,000

Fundraising: (FY 2020-2021) \$108,000

Give: We have two direct written appeals, at the end of June and end of November, and the year-long sales revenue from the board-and volunteer-staffed used bookstore, *The Bookworm*.

The International Friendship Center

828.526.0890

www.internationalfriendshipcenter.org

Our mission is to assist people experiencing hardship and to address concerns and challenges facing the immigrants in our community by fostering understanding

among all people, facilitating social and human services, and providing nutrition to the needy through the Highlands Food Pantry. We serve the immigrant, international and low-income members of Highlands and the surrounding communities.



Annual Budget: \$237,000
Fundraising: Events: 10%
Events: *Empty Bowls* and *Christmas Barbecue*

Literacy Council of Cashiers
 828.743.0215
www.cashiersliteracycouncil.org

The mission of the Literacy Council of Cashiers focuses its efforts to support and promote emergent literacy and literacy throughout the population of the community of Cashiers, NC, from birth through adulthood.

Annual Budget: About \$18,000
Fundraising: About \$2,000
Events: Please check our website for updates on our annual *Lunch for Literacy* fundraiser in July. Donations can be mailed to: Literacy Council of Cashiers, PO Box 1398, Cashiers, NC 28717.

The Literacy & Learning Center (TL&LC)
 828.526.0863
www.maconncliteracy.org

The mission of The Literacy & Learning Center is to enrich lives and expand the knowledge of children, adults and families through diverse educational programs that advance literacy in its many forms and to promote lifelong learning, which results in an informed and empowered community. TL&LC currently serves people of all ages with literacy needs in Macon County.

Annual Budget: \$400,000
Fundraising: 33%
Events: The date for the 2021 gala is yet to be determined, please visit our website for updates on 2021 events or to give directly.

Summit Charter School
 828.734.5755
www.summitschool.org

We raise money to support Summit Charter School, a tuition-free K-12 public charter school in Cashiers, NC, currently serving 239 students and 45 teachers, representing four counties.

Budget: \$3,044,773
Fundraising: Development (21%) Festival of Trees (6%)
Events: *Moët & Chandon Toast of the Trees: July 29, 2021* A VIP preview party to celebrate the inaugural Cashiers Festival of Trees, hosted by the Summit Charter School Foundation. Sponsored by Moët & Chandon at The Orchard restaurant in Cashiers, Ross Copperman, Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter and producer, will host the music component.

Cashiers Festival of Trees: November 26-27, 2021 A family-friendly event where guests bid on decorated trees and holiday décor, enjoy performances, create children's crafts, shop one-of-a-kind gifts and more!

The Bascom: A Center for The Visual Arts
 828.526.4949
www.thebascom.org

The Bascom creates visual art experiences that inspire and empower individuals and communities through seeing, thinking and doing. The continuous goals of The Bascom's programming are building essential creative skills for area youth and adults, increasing professional development opportunities for artists and educators and becoming a key player in the creative economy in Western North Carolina.

Fundraising: Approximately 22% of The Bascom's annual budget
Events: 2021 dates to be determined, please visit our website for more information or to give directly.
Concert and Cuisine: A seated dinner and vocal performance by Candace Glover.
BBQ Fundraiser: A casual gathering where guests can enjoy delicious Southern fare and fellowship.

The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center
 828.526.5838
www.TheMountainRLC.org

The Mountain enriches lives, fosters an appreciation of the natural world, honors the interconnectedness of all things and inspires people to build inclusive, meaningful, sustainable communities throughout their lives. In summer we host MountainCamp for youth across the Southeast to experience an enriching safe environment where campers are treated with respect, kindness and consideration, and are celebrated for their individual talents. We also offer outreach and education through our farm and nature based educational programming.
Annual Budget: Approx. \$1,000,000
Fundraising: Historically 25%, in 2020 more than 70% with limited programming and camps
Give: Visit our website to donate directly!

The Village Green of Cashiers
 828.743.3434
www.VillageGreenCashiersNC.com

For more than 25 years, The Village Green has served as the green heart of the mountain community of Cashiers, NC. These 13-plus acres of privately held parkland provide a gathering, recreational and event space open to the public to enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors to the area alike.

Annual Budget: \$150,000
Fundraising: \$125,000
Events: *Joy Garden Tour: July 16 and 17, 2021* Enjoy a special patron-only dinner and garden shops with 35 vendors offering plants, garden-related merchandise, unique gifts, antiques and more. Tour exclusive, stunning private gardens in the Cashiers area with lunch included.

Warrior Survival School
 850.814.0694
www.warriorsurvival.org

Warrior Survival School is a situational and mental resiliency training nonprofit. While primarily focusing on veterans and first responders, we also offer corporate, family and small group coaching. Learn how to process, adapt and prevail during both minor and severe situational abnormalities. (Due to COVID, we have expanded our training to the general public in teaching Mental Health First Aid).
Annual Budget: (2021) \$35,000
Give: Our funds have come from foundations and individuals we have helped. For more information and donations, visit our website. 📍