

RICHARD'S REPORT

A grantee spotlight of **COASTAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

About RR:

Richard's Report is a periodic review of programs and organizations worthy of charitable support. Donors and staff of Coastal Community Foundation (CCF) suggest the groups to be profiled. Many of these groups have received grants from CCF, and their work has been evaluated by CCF program staff.

Numbers:

**Donor-Advised Funds
Total.....178**

**Donor-Advised Grants
FY-to-date ...\$2,287,000**

- In 536 grants
- To 281 organizations



**COASTAL
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Give Back. Look Forward.

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HEALTH

Without good health, what matters? If you look at Berkeley County on a map, it's larger than the state of Rhode Island – the largest county in SC. Most of the county is rural, and access to health care is such a problem for many citizens that they just don't seek medical attention when they're faced with a 60-mile round trip to get it. Instead, they end up in a far-away emergency room when things are serious (and often too late). So it is that work is underway to re-open a rural health clinic in Pineville called the **Maude Callen Health Center**, shuttered 20 years ago. It was named for the Berkeley County nurse-midwife made famous 50 years ago by a Life magazine photo essay that described her as a combination doctor, dietitian, psychologist, and friend to 10,000 clients. Maude Callen will be smiling from heaven when this Health Center reopens to serve the residents of Pineville, St. Stephen, Russellville and the surrounding community, and things are looking good. Berkeley County donated the building and the State of SC gave \$100,000. There's also a major USDA grant in the works for renovations and \$35,000 has already been received in private donations. More is needed, but once in business, patient fees are expected to cover operating costs.



Photo courtesy of the Waring Historical Library, MUSC, Charleston, S.C.

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS



Providing services to the working poor.

For underserved and uninsured neighbors in our service area, two groups are addressing the dire need for medical and dental services. **Our Lady of Mercy (OLOM)** and **East Cooper Community Outreach (ECCO)** both started out as relief providers after Hurricane Hugo to help folks in the rural areas of James, Johns, and Wadmalaw Islands and east of the Cooper River, respectively. Today, these community outreach organizations continue to offer free services to the working poor who have no other way of receiving help. OLOM's Wellness House offers prenatal care to women and a dental clinic. The demand for these types of services is growing yet the facility can only provide so many services. ECCO's programs include a dental clinic, Med-I-Assist (which supplies individuals with prescription medicines), a "free store" to provide furniture and house wares to those who have suffered a loss, and an emergency food pantry. According to ECCO's Executive Director, Jack Little, the services are designed to assist the "working poor that have fallen between the cracks." OLOM and ECCO deserve praise and donations to keep offering free services to our neighbors who need them most.

www.eccocharleston.org and www.olomoutreach.org



In 1863, Union troops successfully assaulted Battery Wagener on Morris Island.

American History 101

Morris Island is not visited like the other Lowcountry islands of James, Johns, Sullivan's, etc. Accessible only by boat and the focus of a preservation struggle, the 126-acres that make up the island have most recently been visited by historians, preservation-ists and real-estate representatives. This is not to mention the 19th century soldiers that fought in battle there and those who have been buried under the changing coastline. **The Trust for Public Land** is in the final stages of securing the permanent preservation of Morris Island. The \$4.5 million purchase from Florida-based The Ginn Company, is 2/3 met and the February 2007 settlement date is quickly approaching. Conservation, historic preservation, and making it passively accessible to the public will make this Lowcountry jewel, where some of the first shots of the Civil War were fired, a national treasure for generations to come.

This is so important!
www.tpl.org

HUMAN NEEDS

ALL ALONE

Imagine you're a 9 year-old child removed from your home because of charges of abuse or neglect. You're about to go to court, where a judge will decide whether you will be best cared for by your parent(s), in a foster home, or in a group home. Most adults would be scared to death of going to court; how's a child supposed to know what to say, and how to act? In cases like this, a Guardian ad litem ("Guardian for the suit") is a child-friendly,

court-appointed volunteer who advocates for the best interests of the child. It's no easy job for the GAL, not only because it takes a great deal of time (court hearings, sometimes with two hours' notice), but also because GALs come to care deeply for children in these situations. **The Berkeley County Foundation for Volunteers for GAL** is only one of several such organizations that try to raise money to provide school supplies, clothing, summer camp or other very

basic things that most children can take for granted. Last year, there were 601 GAL children in Berkeley County alone. The Berkeley County GAL Foundation is operating on a \$15,400 budget this year – not enough to do all that needs doing, but thank heaven they're doing what they can. A gift of a couple hundred bucks could provide a windfall of help for GAL kids.

HEROES TO THE RESCUE



Did you know that approximately 20 house fires occur every month in the Charleston area? Our houses are more than just bricks. They become our homes where time with family is spent

and memories are made. Can you imagine losing all that in a devastating incident? The **American Red Cross/ Carolina Lowcountry Chapter** helps affected families with direct and indirect services--shelter, food, clothing, and medications. Responding to house fires had not previously been in the Lowcountry Chapter's budget but they had made

the rescue in every case. Today they have a restricted fund called "Heroes for Fire Victims," designed to raise the support needed for individuals and families that suffer from this heartbreaking loss. You can become a "Hero" by pledging \$1250 to cover costs of all services for one house fire. "Together, we can save a life."

www.lowcountryredcross.org

MORE FUEL NEEDED

The need for affordable housing is growing at staggering rates in the tri-county area, with \$228,000 being the average price for a home in Charleston County. One in three people spends more than 30% of their annual income on monthly housing, which is the suggested HUD amount. Some spend over

50%. That doesn't leave much for anything else, like food, gas, or medical care. **Lowcountry Housing Trust (LHT)** is the only nonprofit agency in the tri-county area whose goal is to stimulate the production of affordable housing for area residents. LHT has several loan programs designed to encourage developers to

incorporate affordable housing options into their plans. This is one non-profit whose work is needed by tens of thousands of area residents. Help fuel this effort by becoming a "foundation" for the LHT with a gift of \$250.

www.lowcountryhousingtrust.org

THE ARTS HAVE YOU CONNECTED?

Today's media and information technology gadgets allow us countless ways to connect to people and places across the globe. But it's with the real connections to our neighbors and Lowcountry communities that we often struggle. "Building a more compassionate mind" is the simple goal of **The Connection**, an independent television program which broadcasts on Comcast. Host Pat Jobe and executive producer Alice Gray Gregory have been on the air for just over

two months and have big plans for bringing the stories, issues, and local entertainment of South Carolinians to the comforts of our homes. By connecting groups of people around diverse issues such as race, economic opportunity, human empowerment, and social justice, The

Connection speaks to all of us. Tune in to The Connection and tune into South Carolina. www.TheConnectionShow.org



HIPPITY HOP



There are special times of the year when families, especially children revel in the magic of imagination. In the spring of 2008, with

your help, the tale of a determined brown female bunny who longs to become the Easter Bunny in a world where the tall, elegant, white male bunnies dominate, will come to life. The Charleston Concert Association will bring the magic to stage in **The Country Bunny Ballet**. Written by Dubose Hey-

ward of Charleston in 1939 for his daughter, Jennifer, the story has been marveled for its daring commentary on racial equality and women's rights. The ambitious realization of this charming ballet will help make it a springtime tradition for all ages. www.countrybunnyballet.org

EDUCATION

Go to college for \$600.

We received a grant application dealing with 20 low-wealth students in Berkeley or Dorchester County, all determined to attend college to make something of themselves. They've been accepted to **Clafin University** and are ready to study hard, but they lack the final

few hundred dollars needed to pay the balance of their bills for books, tuition or course fees. They've tapped into all the financial aid available from Clafin and from state funding sources like Pell Grants, and they're too poor to qualify for loans. Clafin started the "FOCUS100" Program as a funding resource for cases

like these. Given the specter of someone who wants to attend college having to drop out for lack of funds, Clafin is working to persuade friends of the University – and of youth – to donate to their "FOCUS100" Fund to provide the last bit of help needed toward total tuition and fees of about \$12,000. www.clafin.edu

We saved *that* one.

We get more requests for support for after-school programs than for anything else. Some are good ones, but many are weak. People often underestimate the time and talent it takes to run an effective after-school program that kids will want to come to. If you'd like to know if there are any strong ones in your area, give us a call – we may know of one. Three that we've been impressed with are **YLCO (Young Ladies Conquering Obstacles)**, whose more than 100 Charleston County girls enjoy college tours, mentoring, and social events on an annual budget of \$58,000; **Agape Family Center**, serving 20 at-risk Berkeley County youth with homework help, diet, exercise, and healthy recreation on an annual budget of \$30,000; and **Youth Empowerment Services**, where we've seen scores of volunteers working with kids from Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester Counties in a great new facility in North Charleston. Here are two websites where good things are happening on lean budgets: www.ylco.org, and www.yescouncil.org.



70's are what 50's were.

America is aging. In just five years, 2011, a boom in the elderly population will drive the number of individuals over the age of 65 from 35 million recorded in 2000 to a projected 72 million. Providing quality programming, volunteer opportunities, and an outlet for educational, mental, social, spiritual, and physical well-being is the mission of **Dorchester Seniors**, a non-profit agency in Summerville. Not only do they operate two senior centers, but they also coordinate over 200 volunteers to help deliver meals and organize activities, games, and physical wellness programming. With a conservative budget, Dorchester Seniors relies on their volunteers to help make these services and programs available. Consider a gift to boost their volunteer program.

www.dorchesterseiors.com

What to do now?

To learn more, please contact our program staff by phone or e-mail, and you can:

- Receive more information;
- Recommend a grant (Donor Advisor Form for grant recommendations is available on our website); or
- Visit one of these charitable groups or others with a CCF staff member.

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NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

SEPARATE TRADITIONS, SHARED TRADITIONS

Ever hear of two places in Dorchester County called Indian Field (all White) or Shady Grove (all Black)? We hadn't, until we got a grant application from **Upper Dorchester County Historical Society** for a documentary called "**Hallowed Ground: Camp Meetings of Dorchester County.**" American Film Festival winner/filmmaker R. Stanley Woodward is documenting the traditions of four historic camp meetings – week-long religious reviv-

als, held annually and dating back to 1794 in Upper Dorchester County. These camp meetings are still active, 200 years later, in a 20-mile radius near St. George. The traditions of the 4 separate camp meetings – 2 Black and 2 White – stem from the same late 18th century Methodist roots and share many of the same religious and folk traditions, including the food, the music and permanent "tent" buildings in a circle around a tabernacle. By examining these

common roots and experiences, the documentary will illuminate the common ground on which these racially exclusive gatherings stand. A community premiere and panel discussion/forum for all camp meeting participants and their extended families will open dialogue among the diverse community members and demonstrate how the camp meetings can be a force for good, carrying over into the community at large the beliefs and values they all have in common.

IF NOT NOW, WHEN? IF NOT US, WHO?

CCF doesn't *run* programs; it *funds* them. But sometimes, there's been a need to *do something* and we've stepped in because no one else would. Such was the case in 1989, when we began a program called **The N.E.W. Fund** (*Neighborhoods Energized to Win*) of CCF, to provide small grants (\$400-\$4,000) to low-income neighborhood associations throughout multiple counties. These groups lack 501(c)(3) non-profit status but are always organized by residents determined to improve conditions where they live. As their Fiscal Sponsor, CCF tracks all expenditures to guarantee

that dollars are spent on charitable projects for the public good – things like Crime Watch programs, beautification projects, tutoring/mentoring for youth and, sometimes, helping them with various Goliaths that threaten their neighborhoods and their ways of life. Association

leaders attend a Leadership Development Institute to learn how to operate more effectively. 100% of any donation to CCF's N.E.W. Fund is spent to benefit these neighborhoods. CCF staff and the N.E.W. volunteer Advisory Committee do all the work, with zero administrative budget.

