

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 suggest the groups to be profiled. Many of these groups have received grants from the Foundation, and their work has been evaluated by our program staff.

Numbers:

**Donor-Advised Funds
Total.....186**

**Donor-Advised Grants
FY-to-date\$6,916,095**

- In 1,092 grants
- To 525 organizations



**COASTAL
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
OF SOUTH CAROLINA**
Give Back. Look Forward.

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ENVIRONMENT

Day trip anyone?

Looking for a fun-packed, education-based road trip some weekend? Check out the **Francis Beidler Forest** in Harleyville (upper Dorchester County). This 15,000-acre Audubon Sanctuary contains 1,500 year-old trees and the largest remaining virgin forest of bald cypress and tupelo gum trees. It recently made the news when it was added to the elite "Ramsar List of International Importance." It's the first privately-held site in the U.S. and the first in South Carolina to join this list of wetlands of international importance, named by a consensus of representatives from 157 nations. Last year, more than 12,000 people from SC and around the world visited the Audubon Center at Beidler Forest. It's not only worth checking out, it's also worth helping out. You can become an integral part of protecting habitats and expanding the amount of land protected in our state by

investing in Audubon South Carolina. See firsthand how you can make a difference by visiting the forest and their website at www.sc.audubon.org.

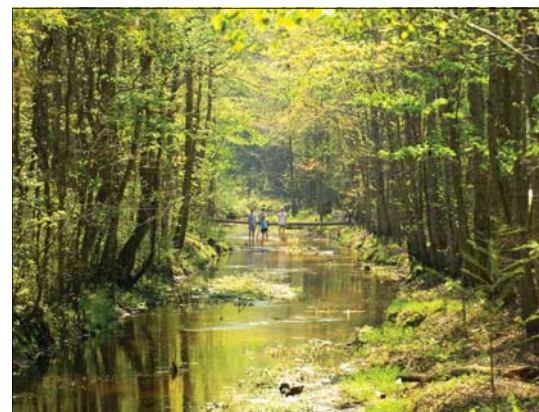


Fennell Elementary School children visit Beidler on a field trip.

And just around the corner...

Minutes from I-95 in the City of Walterboro is another sanctuary (842-acres) worth a visit from you or anyone travelling through the area. The **Great Swamp Sanctuary** in the ACE Basin is the East Coast's largest estuarine preserve. Planning, fundraising, and advocating have paid off so that Phases I and II are complete, offering a woodland trail system through the "braided creeks." The old Stagecoach Road, constructed by Indian tribes and instrumental in the development of the Lowcountry region, restoration is also complete. Still to come: the Discovery Center, an interpretive exhibit hall that will be the lynchpin for this eco-tourism entity, with pristine views of the blackwater ecosystem and classrooms' fieldtrips. Completion of the \$2 million Discovery Center (which will be outfitted with a butterfly garden, a beaver dam tunnel, and a river otter habitat, among other future exhibits) will help support "the 'clean'

industry of nature-based tourism" in the words of Walterboro Mayor Charles H. Sweat, Jr. "These resources are beyond renewable," he says. "They are inexhaustible, because we have protected these lands and they will not be diminished by their use." Visit www.thegreatswamp.org for details about the Sanctuary and to plan a day trip!



Braided stream through Great Swamp Sanctuary's blackwater

ARTS & PHILANTHROPY

“Primary jewel in Charleston’s artistic crown”

Professional performers dancing in their pajamas as they realize the environment is crumbling? Is this “South Carolina’s World Class Professional Dance Company?” Indeed it is, and the dance was choreographed by resident choreographer Jill Eathorne Bahr in response to the documentary “An Inconvenient Truth” as part of March 2008’s “An Evening of Pas de Deux.” In fact, the originality and freshness of this twenty-year old organization has inspired the *Post and Courier* to refer to the **Charleston Ballet Theatre** (CBT) as the “primary jewel in Charleston’s artistic crown” and Mayor Joe Riley to state, “We are indeed fortunate to have a company of this caliber in our city and in the Southeastern region.” With works in the 2008-2009 season ranging from *Carmen* to *Blast from the Past: Beatlemania*, the CBT boasts that they can serve as “your own personal travel guide” as gas prices skyrocket. However, even with years of experience delighting Charleston audiences, the CBT still has everyday needs. You can check out their wish list at www.charlestonballet.com.



Snow at Charleston Ballet Theater production of the Nutcracker

Artists see (but not always everything)



south
carolina
arts
commission

Fiddlin' around.

We get calls from artists, asking if we provide funding for training, supplies, or education for individual artists (we do, but it’s minimal and only bi-annually) or for arts organizations. It’s incredible to us that, when we ask if they’ve tried the **SC Arts Commission** (SCAC), so many don’t know what it is. SCAC provides small grants to individual artists and arts organizations, training opportunities, advocacy, and more. If you know a talented artist who might benefit from a small grant or from advice from people in the business, suggest that they contact SCAC. Whether you’re an artist or not, you’ll be interested to see from their website who they are and the good they do with our tax dollars. www.scac.org

A lesson in philanthropy

Receiving a gift – to then be given away – is a concept that many children on their birthday may initially be averse to. As generational philanthropy becomes more mainstream with MySpace and Facebook, giving doesn’t seem so bizarre after all; it’s actually the “in” thing. We know of at least 22 children who are giving away birthday money to charitable causes important to them. They are grandchildren of Billie and Alan Houghton of Pawleys Island. This creative lesson in philanthropy – in particular on the celebration of a birthday – gives the Houghtons an opportunity to **give a gift...to be given away**. The Houghtons give \$10 per year of age to each grandchild, for them to give as a “grant” to any charity they choose. Whether it’s in response to a natural disaster or to a chronic issue in their hometown, it benefits the community and subsequent generations. You, too, can involve family members in fostering charitable giving. Contact Donor Services Officer Angel Johnson-Brebner at ajohnson@CCFgives.org.



Left to right: Cate, Tucker, Ruth, and John Carr, Billie and Alan Houghton.

EDUCATION & HEALTH

With liberty and justice for all

After getting a grip on the news that they have a child with special needs, the real work begins when parents learn that systems and services for disabled children aren't always easy to access. Unnecessary obstacles can exist between their child and the services they need. The **Family Resource Center (for Disabilities & Special Needs)** has seen it all. Their *Parent Training and Resource Center* gives parents of children with disabilities the knowledge to work through a complex system of laws that govern services available. The program features a Peer-Parent Mentor program in which an average of 150+ new parents per year receive in-home training as well as a written manual, *Parent's Guide to Special Education Services*. Although more and more families are served each year, funding from the US Dept. of Education has not increased in eight years. (Just the cost of gas for the mentors to get to families' homes has increased astronomically!) If you know someone with a special needs child, tell them about this group. And if you don't, consider donating to help those who do. www.frcdns.org

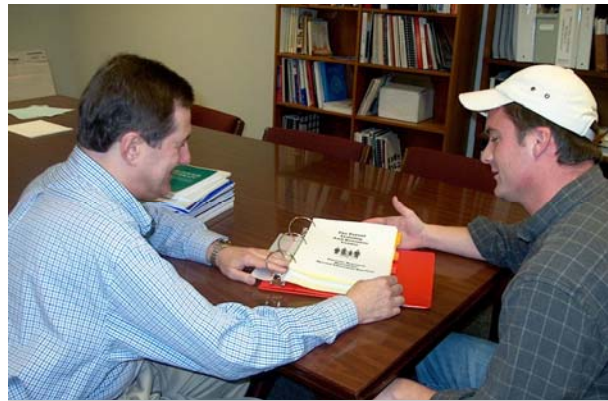
For the next generation



For cousins Harriet Williams and Harriet Rigney, helping to ensure that all women can obtain reproductive health information, especially the poor and uninsured, is not just a passion – it's a family mission. 70 years ago, Williams' mother, Harriet Stoney Simons, established Charleston's first Maternal Welfare Clinic at Roper Hospital and Rigney's mother, Louisa McCord

Planned Parenthood
Health Systems, Inc.

Popham, was warned a second pregnancy could be deadly. In 2005, Williams and Rigney, inspired by their mothers, each pledged \$50,000 to help establish a Charleston-based center of **Planned Parenthood Health Systems**, the private nonprofit reproductive health care organization (an affiliate of Planned Parenthood Federation of America). Now their dream is coming to fruition. In fall 2008, a new health center will open. Its mission is to provide medical and educational services to clients, serve as an advocate and educator, and complement existing prevention efforts in the community. Donors can contribute to the Foundation's Harriet Stoney Williams Endowment, established by Harriet Williams specifically for this endeavor, or by visiting www.pphsinc.org.



Peer-Parent Mentor sharing resources with a parent of a disabled child

YouthBuild builds more than academics

Sea Island Youth Build – the Charter School that had been on Johns Island – has been in the papers a good deal for the past year as they've tried to find a permanent home. In a visit to Johns Island's Mt. Zion Elementary this spring, we were interested to see that the hallways were lined with very cute little wooden bookcases hand-painted by the Mt. Zion students, but constructed as gifts from older students at YouthBuild. That's a story that didn't make the papers, but it was splendid to see. Faculty at Mt. Zion are resourceful (verging on fanatical) about locating free or affordable books for the students to take home to read and then store in their bookcases. If you want to make a small gift to any public school to delight the faculty and help the students, earmark it for books either for the library/media center or for the students to take home as their own. www.siyouthbuild.org

Infrastructure vs. conservation: Catch 22?

We just had a call from someone working in the Sewee-to-Santee area (north of Mt. Pleasant, toward Awendaw and McClellanville) asking if we know of any donors or funding sources who might be interested in giving money to repair septic systems for low-wealth people in Awendaw. Yeah, right – we've got a list of people who are just waiting for someone to ask them to fund septic tanks. But it's a real and serious need. Sewer systems installed in rural communities almost inevitably presage development and growth, and most people in Awendaw don't want that. Charleston County received \$200,000 in state and federal funding to spend on repairs to septic tanks this year, but only \$50,000 next year. At \$2,500 per septic system, that's enough for 80 throughout all of Charleston County this year but only 20 next year – and there are 54 applications for septic tank repairs from the little Town of Awendaw alone. Put in sewer lines and change the place they live, or don't put them in and pollute the place they live and love? It's a dilemma. Anybody want to give a few million to give a working septic tank to everybody who needs one – or \$2,500 to help one family?

HUMAN NEEDS

Common cause

“Why can’t non-profit groups partner more? It would avoid duplication of services and surely would result in cost-savings.” That’s exactly what the **Lowcountry Continuum of Care Partnership** does. It’s a consortium of dozens of organizations from seven coastal counties, all working together to provide coordinated services for people who are homeless, were recently homeless, or are at high risk of being homeless. HUD makes large grants available for communities throughout the nation to address homelessness, but only on the condition that the applicant group is a collaboration of area service agencies. So the Lowcountry Continuum, in addition to fostering collaboration, serves as a magnet for federal dollars to come to coastal SC rather than elsewhere – more than \$11.5 million in just over two decades, shared by the Continuum’s nonprofit members. To see all the groups that one donation can help support, go to www.lowcountrycoc.org.



Continuum-funded projects serve thousands in the Lowcountry.

The simplest gift

Italian author Luciano de Crescenzo wrote, “We are each of us angels with only one wing, and we can only fly by embracing one another.” **HALOS** (Helping and Lending Outreach and Support) was founded on the idea that we can each make a difference in the life of an abused or neglected child in DSS care with even the simplest of gifts. Charleston-based HALOS relies on its community partners (including houses of worship and private donors) to fulfill its mission of providing resources and special opportunities to these children. Even something as basic as a gift certificate to a local restaurant or a fun park can bring an inexpressible amount of joy to a child who needs a special angel. The nonprofit has plenty of success stories. To read them and learn about ways to help visit www.charlestonhalos.org.



Hard at work in the HALOS Resource Closet.

Safe Families Initiative

SC is ranked 6th worst in the nation for domestic violence cases. Last year law enforcement, judges, victims’ advocates, and concerned citizens met in Georgetown to talk about spousal abuse, and there a seed was planted for what the our Donor Services Officer, Angel Johnson, calls a “true grassroots effort that has taken off in Georgetown County.” The **Safe Families Initiative** (SFI) founders, Gillian Roy and Carol and Garvey Winans, decided that for too long the victims of domestic violence, child abuse, and sexual assault have not received the range of critical services that they need. Using the nation’s most successful Family Justice Center in San Diego as a model, SFI is creating a similar center that will be a “one-stop shop” with law enforcement, criminal prosecution, and health services in the same building as nonprofit agencies offering social services, counseling, child-care, etc. Everyone can have a hand in ending domestic violence, and you can help them get started. www.safefamiliesc.org



Strategic planning is paving the way for a family justice center.

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 Foundation staff member.

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