

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.....184**

**Donor-Advised Grants
FY-to-date\$4,413,397**

- In 726 grants
- To 404 organizations



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

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A People of the Land: Lowcountry Portraits

McClellanville-born artist Vennie Deas Moore intends to spread the traditions of the rich coastal culture through a travelling photographic exhibit titled *A People of the Land: Lowcountry Portraits*. This photographic essay documents native and local tradition such as fishing, timbering, and farming to preserve “what once was” in some rural areas of our coast that have undergone dramatic transformations in recent years. The photographic essay of twenty black and white prints, organized in conjunction with the McKissick Museum, will open December 2008 at Columbia’s Richland County Library and with seven sponsors of \$500 each, will travel to nine public libraries or community centers across the Lowcountry. Want your name listed next year as the sponsor of a month-long exhibit near you? We can give you the contact information.



Heading Shrimp. McClellanville 1999, Vennie Deas Moore

Working globally, doing locally



A misperception that isn’t surprising (but that is unfair) is that local non-profits that are affiliated with national “parent” organizations don’t really need local contributions – that “the National” can always step in if donations fall short. Excellent local non-profit offices of **The Trust for Public Land, American Red Cross, The Nature Conservancy, American Cancer Society** and others will tell you that’s not so. Each has a budget line-item for “Local Contributions”, and they need local support to deliver programs that benefit local communities. Given a choice between sending a contribution to a regional or national office, consider giving to a local affiliate.

HUMAN NEEDS

Growing Food Locally

That's the name of a program being launched by the **Lowcountry Food Bank** to get fresh fruits and vegetables to hungry people fed by food pantries and feeding programs that use the Food Bank. The Food Bank currently partners with 13 local farmers to assure them a fair market buying price for their crops, which the Food Bank then adds to their inventory of available food for distribution. Last year, farms on St. Helena Island (off Hwy 21 in Beaufort) supplied 89,000 pounds of tomatoes, squash and zucchini. This year, the Food Bank is aiming for 290,000 pounds of fresh produce in year-round plantings (collards & cabbages in the winter).

www.lowcountryfoodbank.org



Growing Food Locally Farmer, Josephus Smalls

Newborns in Need

We get phone calls all the time from non-profit groups asking about funding sources but we couldn't believe how modest the need was from one caller. "A couple thousand dollars would keep us going for months," she said. The program is **Newborns in Need**, and the money would be used to buy sewing and knitting supplies so that dozens of local volunteers can make things for newborn, premature and sick babies born to low-income families – blankets, quilts, clothing, booties and hats. Those benefitting are babies of mothers at Florence Crittenton Programs, Lowcountry Crisis Pregnancy Center, East Cooper Community Outreach and all local hospitals, at zero overhead. Grant funds can provide fabric, thread, lace or eyelet trim, batting, stuffing, yarn and crochet hooks for the women who get together monthly to work side by side but also to pick up more take-home materials to knit, sew, embroider and crochet.

www.newbornsinneed.org/sc



Fields to Families' volunteers glean produce from local participating farms.

New meaning to "low budget"

That's a wonderful new direction for the Lowcountry Food Bank, and there's another group called **Fields To Families** that's doing the exact same thing, but in a different way and on a smaller scale. With an annual cash budget of only a few hundred dollars, their volunteers glean farmers' fields of leftover crops (while also accepting produce from community and home gardens) and they delivered 20,000 pounds of it themselves last year in their own vehicles to soup kitchens, shelters and food pantries. Their only expense last year was filing for non-profit recognition, while their newsletter, brochures, mileage, food and everything else were all donated. They'd be happy if they could just find grant funds to pay for volunteers' gas expenses to get to the fields and then deliver the produce to food providers.

www.fieldstofamilies.org

HELP is on the way

When you need help who do you call on? What if they're not there to help? What if no one is there? **HELP of Beaufort, HELP of Summerville, Helping Hands of Georgetown and Helping Hands of Goose Creek** are four of even more charities that exist to provide emergency aid to individuals and families who may have no other place to turn. Clients are screened and assistance is tracked and monitored, with limits set to frequency and the amount given in order to prevent eviction, loss of utilities or provide critical prescriptions to be filled. The need for emergency assistance is growing due to rising fuel costs, growing populations, and changes in the Medicare system. If you want to get involved in your community's emergency outreach by donating or volunteering, give us a call and we'll steer you in the direction of those who are HELP-ing.



HELP is on the way for a those who need it most.

EDUCATION

Help Wanted: Teachers & Nurses

We've had separate visits from Dr. Fran Welch, Dean of the School of Education at the College of Charleston and from Dr. Gail Stuart, Dean of the College of Nursing at MUSC. Each helped us better understand the urgency of recruiting more students into their Departments. There's no arguing about the need for more people of talent and dedication to enter the teaching and nursing professions, and each School has plans for recruiting greater numbers of promising students – including but not limited to scholarship assistance (which of course takes money). If teachers and nurses are educated here in the Lowcountry, the chances are better that they'll enter careers here in the Lowcountry – to the benefit of all of us, into the future.



If not you, who?

Every public school falls short in one way or another (some in lots more ways than others), and every public school would benefit from greater personal involvement by private citizens. The most successful school/civic partnerships seem to result from citizens taking the initiative to offer help to a school rather than the school begging for help from local businesses, houses of worship or civic groups. Mary Ford Elementary's partnerships with Westminster Presbyterian Church and with *School's Out!* is a great example, as is the broad-based group that calls itself "Friends of Sullivans Island School". If you'd like to know which schools are especially eager for help from you or a group you're involved with, give us a call. And if you'd like to underwrite a program or a purchase that a school teacher needs, pull up www.DonorsChoose.org and invest anywhere from a few dollars on up. Give us a call if you'd like help navigating their website to find a particular school.

ART

Yo Art Project

The **Yo Art Project** is a low-budget mentoring program that provides students ages 8-15+ the opportunity to work with professional or amateur volunteer mentors who teach kids computer and writing skills to better enable them in life. Art is the common denominator to all they do and teach, with art workshops, exhibitions and public art projects infused into each interaction. Founded by Gene Furchgott (also founder of **Charleston's Kids with Cameras**) and powered by volunteers, the project is a partnership between the City of Charleston's Recreation Department, Housing Authority and the Palmetto Project. Like the Kids with Cameras project, students are provided with skills, experience and opportunities that may otherwise not be available in the confines of their existing neighborhoods. www.yoartproject.org



Yo Art instructs youth on computer and writing skills.

Extraordinary Arts Exhibit

This art exhibit/competition invites middle and high school special education students to submit and exhibit their artwork in a competitive, yet friendly environment. Because no other competition like this existed locally, The Charleston Artist Guild, serving the Tri-County area, adopted the program (modeled from the Very Special Arts national nonprofit) in 1997 as an annual event that disabled and/or special education students can look forward to year after year. Sixty students from over ten schools participated in the exhibit this past December, culminating with cash awards, ribbons and certificates of participation during a special gala honoring the participants. With sponsorship, these students who may otherwise be reluctant to enter art competitions now have an annual event designed to encourage and showcase their extraordinary talents.

HEALTH



Chemo Duck Program at MUSC for children

A kid's best friend

The “Chemo Duck” program provides play therapy for children with cancer (over 200) at the Medical University. Pediatric patients are equipped with a stuffed animal equipped with chemotherapy accessories like those of a pediatric cancer patient in order to educate and comfort the child. By providing a familiar-looking toy, this unique approach helps not only to promote positive healing but also to help the children understand their medical situation – all thanks to the local **Ascend Foundation**, which aims to make sure that every child with cancer receives a Chemo Duck free of charge. A \$200 grant would underwrite 8 Chemo Ducks. www.ascendfoundation.org

The bravest person we know

Our co-worker's M.S. was manageable a year ago, but it has been unrelenting in its progression since then. If your life hasn't been touched by someone with a disability, be grateful. If your life has been affected by someone with a disability, you may already know of the **disAbility Resource Center**, which serves the Tri-County as well as Williamsburg and Orangeburg Counties and is now led by a dynamic, savvy and experienced new Executive Director – Gwen Gillenwater. They provide four core services (and more): Peer support from someone with experience dealing with your situation; Advocacy (sorely needed on the state level for people with disabilities); Information and referral to housing, jobs and services; and Independent living skills to maximize abilities and to function as independently as possible. They operate largely with public funds, but private donations can help them do more. www.drcilc.org

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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Cooper River Bridge Run

It's that time of year – time to get out the old running shoes and start training for the **Cooper River Bridge Run**. Each year, professional and amateur athletes come in droves to run over the Cooper River, sometimes in rain but hopefully in sunshine. Promoting a healthy lifestyle through exercise and healthy living is

not only a goal of the Cooper River Bridge Run but it is their mission. And they put their money where they walk—and run. The Bridge Run now has a charitable arm (managed by CCF) that provides competitive grant funding to nonprofit and charitable groups to keep in line with their motto, “Promoting a healthy



Photo credit Rick Rhodes

lifestyle”. Whether through running clubs, participation in the Bridge Run or just being able to buy running shoes for less fortunate children so they too can experience the joy of exercise and learn its rewarding elements, the Cooper River Bridge Run folks are challenging us all to push it a little harder. Have you registered for the Bridge Run, the Bridge Walk or the Kids' Run?

www.bridgerun.com