

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
FY-to-date.....158

Donor-Advised Grants
FY-to-date...\$3,049,895
in 693 grants to 370 organizations



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Row by Row

The sweetgrass basket weavers who sit in the shade of their homemade stalls along Highway 17-N are probably well-known to you, but did you know that the first weaver to sell her wares along the road was Ida Jefferson Wilson? She, like many weavers in the local Hamlin community near Boone Hall, was a day laborer on the plantation in the 1930's. One day she was fired for "working slow". The new road had just been finished, so she pulled a chair out, threw a sheet over it and set a fruit basket in it that sold by day's end. Within a week, she and her husband, Jack, had built a basket stand and she was in business. In 1988 the community established the first organization for the preservation of the sweetgrass basket-making and today, the annual three-day **Sweet Grass Cultural Arts Festival** celebrates all forms of African American culture – from Jazz to Storytelling, Gospel singing to sweetgrass weaving. Look for it to begin on Friday, June 2nd this year and support this unique, cultural experience. www.sweetgrassfestival.com



Gullah hands weave history into each basket.

It's OK to Squirm a Little

Don't get too comfortable. **PURE Theatre** productions make you think and feel and react in ways you might not expect. The shows they present stir things up. The actors are four feet from you. The cutting edge works of the likes of Mamet and Sam Shepard are presented in a stark, black-box, minimal theatre space in the old Cigar Factory on East Bay Street. Few props, spare scenery and loads of professional drama. The forces behind PURE are Sharon Graci and Rodney Lee Rogers with a little sweetener added by Sharon's daughter, Sullivan, who sometimes sells her homemade cookies during intermission. The actors come from both in and out-of-state but a sweet ensemble core has taken shape that audiences depend on. This is indeed "pure" theatre from the plays selected to the high caliber of acting skill. Support PURE and don't miss the next curtain rising...even though you'll have to imagine a curtain!
www.puretheatre.org



Catch "The Man From Nebraska" now showing with Randy Neale and CCF's Tish Lynn in the cast.

Education

A Great Resource for All of Us

Next time you're in downtown Charleston looking for a place to have a cup of coffee or to spend 30-40 minutes between appointments, do yourself a favor and go visit the new **Addlestone Library** at the **College of Charleston** Library on Calhoun Street. There's a coffee shop inside, an attractive sitting area and garden out back, hundreds of thousands of books and periodicals, and some fascinating educational displays (e.g., the history of Jewry in SC, and memorabilia from the early days of the College – the oldest municipal college in the nation). There's no charge to use this great facility, and if you want to check out books like a student, it's only \$25 for your own library card if you're a SC resident. No pitch for money here – just an invitation to check out a resource most people simply drive by without thinking to stop in. www.cofc.edu/~library/

The Best and the Brightest



*A Taste of Campus Life to the Real Thing.
After a summer at U. of Maryland and Skidmore, (l to r)
Shantell Scott now attends Trinity College (CT), LaChrisba
LaSane - Skidmore College (NY), Catherine Frazier - Clemson,
and Keshia Colleton goes to Hampton University (VA)*

Charleston Futures is a program that has been profiled before, and it keeps getting better and better. Started by public schoolteacher Andrew HaLevi in 2002 to help the best and the brightest at Burke High School get into excellent colleges on scholarships, Charleston Futures has expanded to help students at Stall High in North Charleston and St. Johns High on Johns Island. SAT prep, college tours, tutoring, help filling out college applications and –

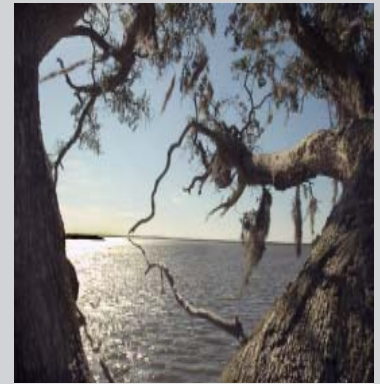
most important – personal attention and encouragement from caring adults can help even more of these disadvantaged students be accepted by and excel at colleges like Skidmore, Trinity, Georgetown, Hampton and Clemson. www.charlestonfutures.org

Environment

Personal to Proactive

The conservation community has learned a lot about the power of marketing, educating and communicating their passion with the help of organizations like the **Conservation Voters of SC**. It's not enough to be solitary "tree-huggers", as conservationists were often called in the 60's. People have to be mobilized and have the information to effectively communicate with media and decision-makers **before** the decisions are made. With training, technology and other tools, Conservation Voters' Education Fund helps conservation activists around the state get their "shared" message across using strategic communication plans, education outreach, resources materials and polling data. Right now, Conservation Voters is helping Beaufort County citizens monitor the actions of their County Council. Help this group take the passion of conservation activism to the next level. But...it's still OK to hug a few trees along the way. www.conservationvotersofsc.org

Loving This Place



*Protecting our unique Lowcountry
point of "view." - photo by Jack
Alterman*

Whether you are a "come-heah" or "been-heah", you quickly become a "stay-heah" once you've hung your toes off a dock at sunset or watched a regiment of brown pelicans glide inches above the wave break or hauled in your first shrimp cast. You're hooked. Luckily, a lot of landowners feel the same way and the **Lowcountry Open Land Trust (LOLT)** helps them preserve this unique sense of place through conservation easements that benefit them as well as our quality of life. Under easement, donors can claim income tax credit for up to 25% of the value of their land (capped at \$250 per acre). The uses of the land are limited to protect its future while the landowner continues to live on it, hunt, manage timber or farm, and may pass it on to the next generation or sell it to someone who is legally bound to respect all aspects of the easement contract. LOLT is the steward of 168 tracts of land encompassing over 45,000 acres. Much more land is threatened. Your gift to them is really a gift to yourself. www.lolt.org

Health

Healing Wishes

Little 7-year-old Chris Greicius wanted to be a policeman. So he was – for a day. On April 29, 1980, he rode in a helicopter, wore his own custom-tailored uniform and became the first and only honorary state trooper in Arizona history. That was the beginning of the **Make-A-Wish Foundation**. Since then, more than 97,000 children around the world have had their wishes fulfilled. Wishes are about hope and believing in the future. When children wish for things and they come true, something happens inside. Sometimes, very sick children get well. They are called miracles but hope in the future is a powerful antidote for despair. A gift to the Make-A-Wish Foundation may fulfill the last wish of a child or be the first of many to come true. Either way, it is worth making. www.sc.wish.org

Taking a Deeper Breath



Camp Puff'n Stuff - You'll breathe easier when THEY do!

The **American Lung Association's Camp Puff 'n Stuff** will hold its 30th week-long, overnight summer camp again this summer, with College of Charleston dorms as the home base – maybe. Maybe not. This program to educate children about their asthma has the most impressive pre-test/post-test rates we've ever seen, with dramatic decreases in the numbers of ER visits and school absences, and increases by the young campers in understanding their disease and how to live with it. For 35 children from local counties, the cost for the entire week is about \$17,500. Prior sponsors are declining this year or are cutting their contributions – including some drug companies who apparently are using their PR dollars for direct advertising rather than for this kind of “outreach” program. “I figure if I can get \$500 from a few people - that can make up the difference,” says

Sally Catlin, American Lung's sole employee for coastal SC and Savannah. This is one program that makes a dollar go far, with indisputable good done for a lifetime. www.alagra.org.

Basic Human Needs

Comfort in Crisis

Car crashes, hostage situations, suicides, fatal illnesses, incredible stress endured by emergency responders . . . We read or hear about them every day, say “so sad”, and then go on about our business. But behind every one of these so-sad-events are family members or friends who are devastated by the news and struggling to recover from the aftermath. Thank goodness, volunteer chaplains from virtually every local faith are on-call and available to respond immediately by delivering the news and by giving comfort and counseling to victims, the ill, the stressed, and their families. They form a group called the **Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy**. Each of these volunteers receives regular training and volunteers at least ten hours per month, either “on patrol” with police, fire or EMS personnel, or simply “on call” when someone needs their gentle help. With only two full-time paid chaplains and a bare-bones budget, donations are needed to maintain this



Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy provides an annual lowcountry feast for local police officers.

program that gives invaluable help to our fire, police and EMS workers, and to those affected by all kinds of trauma. www.coastalcrisischaplain.org

Giving a Lift

“ITN” stands for **Independent Transportation Network - Charleston/Trident**. It will address one of the most pressing needs in the community, and the logic of its operations makes it sound like a sure winner. People 65 and older and the visually impaired will be able (by this fall, if things go as planned) to call ITN and enjoy “taxi service” at a fraction of the cost, to take them anywhere in the community – shopping, appointments, church, etc. – 24/7. Supported by modest rider fees, donations, and volunteer drivers, the program provided 15,000 rides last year in Portland, Maine (which inspired Charleston’s ITN). So far, the local program has gotten start-up support of \$100,000 from five major donors, toward the \$125,000 needed to put things in motion. Older adults who join the ITN become dues-paying members. When they pick up the phone to schedule a ride, they are not asking for a favor – they’re making a reservation with their own transportation service. www.ITNcharlestontrident.org

Neighborhood & Community Development

Walking the Walk



The Metanoia and St. Matthews' crowd really know how to throw a "Block Party"

There’s a young married couple – both Reverends and both graduates of Princeton Theological Seminary – who chose three years ago to live in one of the most troubled communities in the nation in order to help it turn itself around. In North Charleston’s Chicora-Cherokee neighborhood, 98% of children are on free lunch, the crime rate is the 12th highest in the nation, and more than 85% of the properties are rentals. “**Metanoia**”, from the Greek, refers to making positive changes in our lives and in society, and that’s what the Revs. Bill Stanfield and Olivia Oliveira are doing, but not as Lone Rangers. Community members sit on Metanoia’s Board; parents are now engaged with the local elementary school; residents are enrolling in homeownership classes; homes are being rehabbed, and this summer a “Freedom School” (inspired decades ago by Septima Clark’s model and more recently by Marian Wright Edelman’s) will open, enrolling 50 Chicora-Cherokee children who have already been identified as present and future leaders, to help counter the fact

that a child who doesn’t read during the summer loses one-third of the previous grade’s learning. This is neighborhood organizing and positive change at its best – not just in theory, but in practice and in positive results. www.pushingforward.org

Home Works

A small number of non-profits do home repairs for those who can’t afford to pay for them, but the need for this kind of work far exceeds those who do it. In July you’ll read in the papers about a group of volunteer youth (ages 14-19) and adults who will work for seven straight days to repair the homes of fifteen low-wealth Johns Islanders on fixed incomes. They’re coming from a multi-state area to sleep on church floors at night and by day “to show God’s love for all through service to others” by working on roofing, plumbing, electrical, flooring, wheelchair ramps, railings, etc. with skilled adult oversight. Johns Island is one of 11 places in Georgia and the Carolinas that will benefit this summer. They need \$10,000 for building materials, of which CCF has so far provided half. Unhappy about some of today’s rudderless youth? Here’s a faith-based group of kids, unselfishly giving up their summertime to help others, in need of a few gifts of \$500. www.homeworks-sc.org

What to do now

If you want to learn more, contact program staff by phone, fax 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.

Please contact CCF's professional program staff with any questions:

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