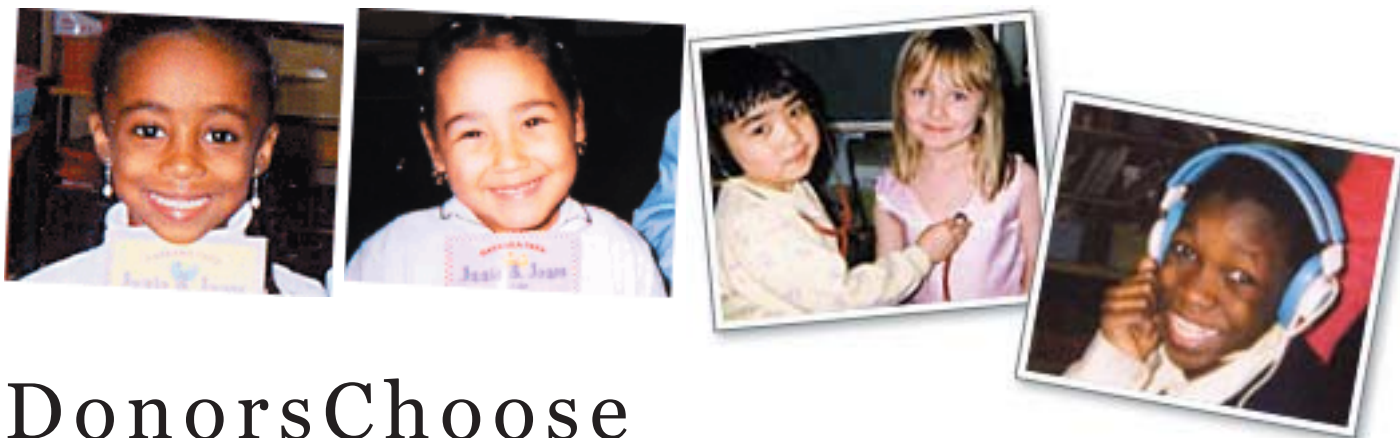




RICHARD'S REPORT



DonorsChoose

Get involved with public education – in your bedroom slippers - DonorsChoose is a simple way to provide students in need with resources that our public schools often lack. At this not-for-profit web site, teachers submit project proposals for materials or experiences their students need to learn. These ideas become classroom reality when concerned individuals choose projects to fund. Proposals range from “Magical Math Centers” (\$200) to “Big Book Bonanza” (\$320), to “Cooking Across the Curriculum” (\$1,100). Anyone with Internet access can search such proposals by areas of interest, geographic area or specific school and choose to fund the project(s) they find most compelling. In completing a project, donors receive a feedback package of student photos and thank-you notes, a teacher impact letter, and an expenditure report showing that their tax-deductible gift (or CCF Donor-Advised grant) was spent as proposed by the teacher.

www.donorschoose.org

About RR	Numbers...	Inside RR
<p><i>Richard's Report is a periodic review of programs and organizations worthy of charitable support. Donors and staff at Coastal Community Foundation (CCF) suggest the groups to be profiled. Many of these groups have received grants from Coastal Community Foundation (CCF), and their work has been evaluated by CCF program staff.</i></p>	<p>Donor-Advised Funds FY-to-date..... 146</p> <p>Donor-Advised Grants FY-to-date.....\$1,980,829 in 268 grants to 192 organizations</p>	<p>Page 2 Arts Education Edie's Editorial Page 3 Environment Health Page 4 Human Needs</p>

Edie Blakeslee
Program Officer

The true meaning of “community”

This idea of “community-based grant-making” comes in large measure from our name – Coastal COMMUNITY Foundation. We invite people from our community to become involved with our grantmaking by asking them to serve on the Open Grants committee, where they learn about local non-profit programs and help us develop funding recommendations.

These recommendations always reflect differing perspectives, allowing for richness and depth, as well as careful consideration and compromise. It’s no easy task, yet the most frequent comment after it’s all over is, “Wow! This was well-worth the time and effort, and I’m glad I was asked to serve”.

Donors who have established Funds or made a special gift to support Open Grants take a leap of faith in entrusting their grant dollars with the Committee, but it’s an informed leap. They can be confident that a lot of care and thought, by CCF staff and this ad-hoc community committee, goes in to deciding which deserving organizations will receive support.

In CCF’s Grants and Programs Department, Edie is lead staff on several of CCF’s competitive grants programs that focus on the Tricounty area. She is charged with matching available resources with community needs, conducting site visits, and providing technical assistance to non-profit, governmental and grassroots groups. Before moving to South Carolina and joining CCF, she was an English Instructor for the State University of New York’s Educational Opportunity Program. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in English and History from the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Arts

Beautiful Berkeley - The Town of Moncks Corner began as a trading post where the road from Charleston to St. Stephen and Murray’s Ferry on the Santee crossed the road from Stoney Landing on the Cooper River to the Congarees. It now has police, fire, recreation, planning and public service departments that serve the community, but there’s no arts facility within twenty-miles, preventing the citizenry from enjoying various arts and cultural opportunities. The Moncks Corner Depot Visitor and Cultural Arts Center – the old train station, beautifully restored – needs donations to support bringing artistic experiences to residents of Moncks Corner, Jamestown, St. Stephens, Macedonia and Bonneau in Berkeley County. Whether or not you live in that area, it’s an effort that deserves support.



Music to my ears - Irrefutable data prove that infusing the arts into education accelerates academic improvement across core subjects. Charleston Symphony Orchestra (CSO)’s Bringing Music to Schools brings professional musicians into local, low-performing schools for an up-close and personal view of the musicians’ lives and work. CSO will also offer six Young People’s Concerts at Gaillard Auditorium for close to 7,500 elementary and middle schoolers in the

region. Each student who attends will receive two performance vouchers to use at future CSO performances, and lots of students redeemed those vouchers last year. CSO doesn’t make money on this kind of outreach but we all know no child should grow up without being exposed to fine music. If you haven’t given to support the CSO’s regular repertoire, give to support this aspect of their work. www.charlestonsymphony.com

Education

Who would have thought? - Cynics said, "It’ll never work!" but last spring, Trident Technical College (TTC) took a chance by offering its first "Clemente Course" – a free, college-level humanities course – to 17 adults drawn from the client bases of Crisis Ministries, Star Gospel Mission, Charleston Center or Lowcountry AIDS Services. Clemente Courses began at Bard College in New York and today are offered at over 40 sites across the U.S. The goal is to open students’ minds and give them the confidence to pursue other challenges. TTC’s program had a 72% completion rate (national average was 56%). Some participants have enrolled in more college courses and some have begun new jobs. All of them have broadened their horizons. CCF staff has audited some of the classes and came away astounded at the course material (very demanding) and at the students’ seriousness of purpose. Stop and think about this one. Then think about sending a few hundreds bucks for what might be the most important scholarship any person ever received.

Environment

Attorneys for the people - Our coastline is rapidly changing and developers have become more sophisticated in dealing with regulatory agencies. Private citizens, grassroots and environmental groups concerned about development need expert legal advice, too. South Carolina Environmental Law Project (SCELP) has been providing expert legal assistance for over 18 years. The two environmental attorneys at SCELP review all public notices issued weekly by state and federal permitting agencies regarding wetland fills, docks, piers and transportation projects. When appropriate, they issue a comment letter to the appropriate agency detailing non-compliance with regulations, and then they track its progress until final resolution. SCELP is helping all of us prevent the deterioration of our environment before it begins. Support this lean, smart staff and their important work if you can. www.scelp.org



What price beauty? - Have you ever gone to Edisto Island and thought how lucky you were to drive such a beautiful, unspoiled road to get there? That's Highway 174 – miles of open farmland bordered by deep woods, where you might see a white-tailed deer, raccoon or even a bobcat, and the most spectacular marsh/water views! Recently the Edisto Island Open Land Trust (EIOLT) saved

24 acres along that road from being developed into a mobile home park, with help from CCF's Lowcountry Conservation Loan. EIOLT's reputation for conserving and beautifying lands has exploded in recent years. If you've ever enjoyed the vistas, thank EIOLT by sending a check, either for general operating support or maybe to plant a tree along Highway 174 in an area that could use one. www.edisto.org

Health

Looking good makes you feel better - Good dental care is essential to good health, but it's also important for one's self-esteem. Battered women who seek the safety of shelter at My Sister's House arrive with black eyes, broken bones, burns and broken teeth. "My Sister's Smile" is helping these women hold their heads up high and not be ashamed to smile. East Cooper Community Outreach (ECCO) has joined with Trident Tech's Department of Dental Services, and so far, volunteer dentists have provided over \$100,000 worth of dental services to 623 patients. Help put a confident smile on the face of a woman who is working hard to believe in herself again. www.eccocharleston.org

Respect (and safety!) for our elders - Trident Area Agency on Aging works to enhance the quality of life for older individuals, and boy, do some local elderly need their help! This past summer, the Agency on Aging agreed to take responsibility for operations of the Low Country Elder Shelter, which provides temporary care to elderly individuals removed from their homes by the police, courts or Adult Protective Services because of abuse or neglect. In 2003, 82 local people were removed in such a way and for some of them, the photos of their conditions are just horrifying. 75% of the abuse/neglect victims have incomes below the poverty line. The Area Agency on Aging will continue to provide a safe, welcoming home for these people during their time of crisis. If you're glad they're doing it, grant support would be a great way to show it. www.tridentAAA.com



Ticket to ride

Susan B. Anthony wrote, "I'll tell you what I think of bicycling. It has done more to emancipate women than any one thing in the world."

While many Americans today see bicycles as toys for children, they continue to be a source of freedom and empowerment for many – both around the world, and right here in the Lowcountry. It could be said that a society is only as free as it is mobile. Charleston Moves' youth bicycle recycling program will teach Burke High School students about bicycle mechanics and repairs by refurbishing donated and used bikes. In exchange for a certain number of hours of service in the shop, students will earn a bike and the excess bikes will be sold at low cost to generate income for the program. The result: increased leadership skills, individual empowerment, environmental/recycling education and mobility to and from school and jobs! The program has plans to be self-sustainable in two years with events like Charleston Cycle Fest and maybe even a bicycle-operated juice blender to raise funds; but they'll need a financial push until then. They can make a small grant go far. www.charlestonmoves.org

Didn't your kids have these chances?

For 70 kids with special needs in the foster care system, SC Youth Advocate Program (SCYAP) works hard to place them in good foster homes. All of these children have some degree of emotional and/or behavioral problems and many have suffered from abuse and/or neglect, so it's no surprise that they are often isolated and alienated from their community, doubling their chances of dropping out of school. To help these children reconnect and re-charge, SCYAP needs financial support to provide special activities that the foster parents can't pay for, but that every child should have the chance to try – things like dance classes, the school band, or painting lessons. The results are happier, less anxious kids with a more positive outlook and sense of self. A grant of \$500 could be a kid's ticket to a lifetime interest in something special. www.scyap.org

Human Needs

Off the streets and into reading, arts, health, sports and fun - The Boys and Girls Clubs of the Trident Area have been around since 1957, providing young people with caring adults in a safe and constructive alternative to hanging out in the streets after school hours. No babysitting service, this – thanks to the B&G Clubs' national organization, they can provide brilliantly designed programs to support character and leadership development of 750 club members, plus arts programming, health and life skills education, and daily sports and fitness opportunities. A fifth-grader who received poor grades went through one-on-one homework mentoring and improved his grades by 55 total points. He now looks forward to going to school. To their credit, B&G Clubs are reaching out beyond their Metro Charleston base to open Clubs in Cainho, North Charleston and other underserved areas. But sound after-school programs for this many kids cost money. If you're glad the Boys & Girls Clubs are doing this work, consider some level of grant support. www.bgclubta.org

Someone to talk to - If you are a younger sibling, you know how important it was for you to have a big brother or a big sister to play with, to get help with that super-complicated math problem or to get you through a tough time. If you're a child growing up in disadvantaged circumstances, having a Big Brother or a Big Sister can change the course of your life. With a "Big", a "Little" is eight times less likely to be arrested and 50% less likely to use drugs. They'll earn better grades and stay in school longer. They'll get along better at home and with their peers. The BB/BS program of the Carolina Youth Development Center has helped 17 children of Memminger Elementary (downtown on Beaufain Street) get mentors and improve academically and socially as a result. With a grant of \$750, you can underwrite an ongoing mentoring relationship that could make all the difference in a kid's life. www.becomeabig.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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