

\$59,000 in Grants From HCWF

Written by Steve Frank
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The High Country Women's Fund (HCWF) has announced \$59,000 in grants this year for 10 area agencies to support women and children in need. "In Watauga and Avery counties, there are over 15,000 women and children living in poverty," said Becka Saunders, Allocations Chair for HCWF. "HCWF aims to help other women move toward self sufficiency by connecting them with local resources.

"Our funding is focused on programs that provide childcare, education, prevention, housing, transportation, and personal needs," Ms. Saunders explained. "Programs can range from providing childcare for some women to achieve a GED and scholarships to the Children's Playhouse to transitional housing for women in a violent situation."

The 10 agencies that have been allocated funding are:

Children's Council

Children's Playhouse

Community Care Clinic

Daymark Recovery Services

Hospitality House

Mountain Alliance

New Opportunities School for Women

Opposing Abuse with Service, Information, and Shelter (OASIS)

Watauga, Avery, Mitchell, and Yancey Community Action (WAMY)

Watauga Crisis Assistance Network (WeCAN)

Since its founding in 2006, HCWF has raised and distributed over \$450,000 in funds to women and their families in Watauga and Avery counties. The major fundraisers for 2013 include the Power of the Purse ((POP) luncheon held recently on June 14 and the upcoming Croquet for a Cause on August 11 and Holiday Shopping Spree on November 9-10.

The High Country Women's Fund is a dedicated giving circle of caring and committed women, whose mission is to affect positive change for women and their families in Avery and Watauga counties. The organization endeavors to inspire, educate, and empower women moving toward self-sufficiency by connecting them with local resources and with other caring women in our community. The theme of the organization is "circles of women making a difference one woman at a time". The HCWF is an initiative of the High Country United Way.

For more information on the High Country Women's Fund, go to www.hcwf.org and like us on Facebook.