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OUR MISSION
Strengthening community by connecting people, resources and needs.

OUR VISION
Community Foundation of the Lowcountry is the most respected and able provider of philanthropic direction, management, education and support to the people in the communities we serve.

OUR CORE VALUES
We are dedicated to the following core values: integrity, honesty, respect, fairness, caring, stewardship and responsiveness.
The aphorism “a rising tide lifts all boats” was made famous in a speech by John F. Kennedy.* Though economists claim initial ownership of the phrase, for most of us it carries the more universal and purposeful message that a good outcome benefits us all.

Some have modified the expression. Rahul Gandhi, an Indian politician, asserts, “A rising tide doesn’t raise people who don’t have a boat. We have to build the boat for them. We have to give them the basic infrastructure to rise with the tide.”

Community Foundation of the Lowcountry “lifts boats,” whether it is by directly undertaking initiatives like Project SAFE (see pg. 16) or by supporting local organizations that provide the “basic infrastructure to rise with the tide.” We do this through all the things a strong community foundation does: grantmaking, scholarships, nonprofit leadership and education, and offering a vast array of philanthropic vehicles that give people the tools they need to carry out their personal charitable aspirations.

In a region where the ebb and flow of the tides is as constant as the rising and setting of the sun and moon, it’s good to know there’s an organization that can be counted on to elevate the quality of life for us all.

*Interestingly, Kennedy’s speechwriter later revealed that he’d borrowed the phrase from a New England chamber of commerce slogan.
<table>
<thead>
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<th>BY THE NUMBERS</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NEW FUNDS IN FY2017</strong></td>
<td><strong>330 TOTAL # OF FUNDS</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,012 TOTAL # OF SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED SINCE 1994</strong></td>
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<td><strong>6,652 TOTAL # OF GIFTS RECEIVED IN FY2017</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,996,030 TOTAL CONTRIBUTED IN FY2017</strong></td>
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AT A GLANCE: BREAKDOWN OF GRANTS AWARDED IN FY2017

- ARTS & CULTURE: 6% ($286,042)
- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: 30% ($1,494,100)
- EDUCATION: 9% ($5,644,437)
- ENVIRONMENT: 5% ($280,511)
- HEALTH: 7% ($366,240)
- HUMAN SERVICES: 20% ($987,757)
- RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS*: 4% ($207,515)
- SCHOLARSHIPS: 14% ($680,340)

TOTAL IN GRANTS AWARDED: $5,020,856

100%

*From individual donor funds only

AT A GLANCE: BREAKDOWN OF GRANTS AWARDED SINCE 1994

- ARTS & CULTURE: 9% ($16,570,689)
- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: 13% ($8,359,447)
- EDUCATION: 25% ($17,799,837)
- ENVIRONMENT: 3% ($1,982,277)
- HEALTH: 13% ($8,624,480)
- HUMAN SERVICES: 27% ($17,799,837)
- RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS*: 3% ($1,734,307)
- SCHOLARSHIPS: 8% ($5,173,261)

TOTAL IN GRANTS AWARDED SINCE 1994: $65,888,737

100%

*From individual donor funds only
Riding OUT THE STORM

After many years of skirting damaging hurricanes, our region was battered in 2016 when Hurricane Matthew came ashore in the early morning hours of Saturday, October 8. Community Foundation board members and staff had evacuated to scattered locations, but with a detailed disaster plan in place, we were able to go to work before the winds receded.

By Sunday, October 9 our board of directors had voted to add $100,000 to our Disaster Recovery and Rebuilding Fund. Within the next 24 hours $45,000 in grants were awarded to three “boots on the ground” organizations providing direct support to our neighbors in crisis.

The deluge of donations to the Disaster Recovery and Rebuilding Fund, from both individuals and many generous businesses, demonstrated the charitable spirit that makes us proud to call this area home. With the help of these donations, the Community Foundation awarded $180,900 in grants to nonprofit organizations which were helping clients in our four-county service area recover from the devastation.

And there’s more good news: Funds from our Disaster Recovery and Rebuilding Fund will be available for qualified organizations in the event of future natural disasters.

BY THE NUMBERS – 2017

$ raised for the Disaster Recovery & Rebuilding Fund $262,903
16 grants from Disaster Recovery & Rebuilding Fund $180,933
3 grants from Lowcountry Strong Foundation Fund $6,000
# of donations to our disaster fund 300 donations made from 283 donors
# of fundraisers held at least 35 businesses, organizations or groups participated in fundraisers for our Disaster Fund

If you’d like to make a donation, click on the Donate Now button on our home page and select the Disaster Recovery and Rebuilding Fund.
Byron Sewell with his “Welcome Home” sign that touched the hearts of an entire community coming home to Hilton Head Island after evacuating for Hurricane Matthew.

Photo by Mike Ritterbeck • Reprinted with permission of Hilton Head Monthly

DISASTER RECOVERY & REBUILDING GRANTS

American Red Cross—Lowcountry emergency response and assistance.
Bluffton Self Help disaster assistance, including food and clothing.
Coastal District Council of the St. Vincent DePaul Society emergency financial assistance and food to families.
Deep Well Project disaster assistance, including food and clothing.
Evangelical Free Church of America building materials and supplies to rebuild homes.
Free Born Deliverance Temple transportation, food and exterior home cleanup for families.
Hilton Head Island Recreation Association childcare scholarships for families experiencing financial hardship after Hurricane Matthew.
Hospice Care of the Lowcountry lodging, supplies, equipment and medication for evacuated patients.
Lowcountry Food Bank food distribution of produce in Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper counties.
Lowcountry Legal Volunteers expansion of office hours and community outreach efforts for low-income families experiencing legal issues related to housing.
Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Achievement School scholarships for families who experienced financial hardship due to Hurricane Matthew.
Neighborhood Outreach Connection housing assistance to displaced clients.
St. Stephen’s Outreach Food Bank replenishment of food supplies lost as a result of the hurricane.
Sandalwood Community Food Pantry providing food and assistance with debris removal.
The Children’s Center scholarships for families experiencing financial hardship following Hurricane Matthew.
Volunteers in Medicine—Hilton Head Island facilities repairs, enabling VIM to continue to provide patient care.
Hurricane Matthew ravaged Talbird Cemetery. This historic Gullah landmark, on the water’s edge in Hilton Head Plantation, was practically destroyed by the hurricane. When Ned Allen heard about it after returning from evacuation, he investigated.

“I didn’t even know it was there,” he admits. “But it was a disaster.” He flagged down the workers from Reagan Site Work & Construction, who were removing storm debris from The Cypress. He convinced them to follow him to the cemetery. Once there, he made a deal with them: If they’d clean up the cemetery, he’d ensure they got paid. They shook hands and the deal was sealed.

“I had no idea how I’d raise the money to pay for the clean-up,” Allen says. “I just knew I should do something.” Allen turned to the Community Foundation. “I knew that working with the Community Foundation would legitimize the effort and assure people that their donations would be tax deductible.” Within 24 hours the Talbird Cemetery Fund had been established as a vehicle to pay for the cemetery’s clean-up costs.

At about the same time Reverend Ben Williams, longtime pastor from Mount Calvary Baptist Church, passed away. He would be laid to rest at Talbird Cemetery seven days after Matthew came to shore. It was all hands on deck: Members from the church worked alongside the crew to ensure the cemetery was cleared for the Reverend’s funeral. And it was.

Allen is still raising money for the fund in the hopes of endowing it so there’s money available for maintenance and in the event of another disaster. But he’s a bit uncomfortable being in the limelight. “The Community Foundation deserves a lot of the credit for making this happen,” he says. “We couldn’t have accomplished this without them.”

Allen wasn’t looking for a reward for his good deed, but he got one anyway. “This has given me an opportunity to learn about the Gullah culture and to get to know people I wouldn’t have otherwise met,” he says. “It’s made me feel like a part of the community.”
In recent years child development experts have discovered that free play is an integral building block of a child’s cognitive and physical development.

When Boys & Girls Club of Hilton Head Island applied for a Community Foundation competitive grant to build an interactive playground, we learned how free play inspires cognitive development and problem-solving skills and how the imagination, experimentation and collaboration that bloom on the playground lay a natural foundation for STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) education.

As if that’s not enough, Kim Likins, unit director of the Club, shared another important reason a playground was important for the future success of kids. “We’ve noticed through the years that by middle school, many of our members start showing signs of obesity. An interactive playground is a way to tackle that issue while giving them the freedom to play and just be a kid.”

The new playground, which was dedicated November 18, 2016, honors Kahlil Singleton who was a member of the Boys & Girls Club of Hilton Head before he was tragically killed while playing outside his home. The irony is not lost on Likins. “The Boys & Girls Club is a safe place to be. Providing a safe outside play environment seemed like a special way to honor him.”

In addition to innovative structures like the “mud puddle,” which is similar to a stand-up sandbox with a controllable water feature (and is a favorite with many of the kids), the area has green space that Likins hopes will one day house a garden and birdhouses.

For now, the kids are happy climbing and jumping and running and playing. They don’t know they’re improving their fitness, enhancing their social skills, learning collaboration and teamwork, building a foundation for STEAM and gaining skills that will help them develop into healthier adults. But that’s okay. The Community Foundation is just glad we can play a part in their future success.

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BY THE NUMBERS - 2017

- # of competitive grants awarded: 10, total: $386,714
- # of foundation-directed grants awarded: 6, total: $26,000
- # of field-of-interest grants awarded: 14, total: $83,000
- # of scholarships: 172, total: $680,340

To learn more about our grants, including the application process and a list of recent grants, go to: www.cf-lowcountry.org/Grants

Photo Credit: Arno Dimmling
Laura Bush didn’t foresee the path her life would take. As one of 13 children, the Bluffton native didn’t expect to go to college; she assumed she’d work in the hospitality industry like most of her friends. Then a fortuitous opportunity changed her life.

In 1968, as the War on Poverty gained momentum, Bush was hired as a field researcher for southern Beaufort County. She traveled door-to-door, convincing parents to allow their children to participate in a study on malnutrition and intestinal parasite infestation. Her lifelong commitment to community service had begun. It later included work at Beaufort-Jasper Comprehensive Health, the Women’s Economic Development Project, Beaufort County and 26 years serving on the Beaufort County School Board.

Bush’s four children have followed her lead. “My mom instilled a sense of community service in all her kids,” Bush’s son, L.J., says. One of L.J.’s current projects is Changing Our Image Now, or C.O.I.N., a mentoring program for young men at Hilton Head High School. Her three daughters each have their service projects, as well. All four children were recipients of scholarships from First Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Bluffton, which heightened Bush’s commitment to share the good fortune.
“So much has been given to us,” Bush says, “I wanted to find a way to give back.” This desire, along with L.J.’s intention to expand the C.O.I.N. program, led to Bush’s latest community service effort: the It’s Better to Give Back Fund at the Community Foundation.

All four children have gotten involved in supporting the fund, as has Myla Mitchell, a friend and fellow congregant who’s helped organize fundraisers. Mitchell was familiar with the Community Foundation, so when Bush raised the idea of creating the fund, Myla steered her to us. We listened to what she wanted to accomplish and worked with her to find the right giving vehicle.

Bush’s vision for the new fund is as inspiring as her story. “I want to give back to the church and provide scholarships. I want to support L.J.’s efforts. I want to empower parents and provide enrichment programs for kids,” she says. And we have no doubt she’ll make that happen.

If you’d like to learn more about establishing a fund at the Community Foundation, call our office at 843.681.9100.

Photo Credit: Sue Carlson; Left to right: Myra, L.J., and Laura
In last year’s annual report we told you about Betty Days, a soft-spoken woman who received a Project SAFE (Sewer Access For Everyone) grant, from the Community Foundation, to connect her home to public sewer. Since that time, significant progress has been made to get low-income families on Hilton Head connected to public sewer.

There are still about 300 low-income families on Hilton Head Island that rely on septic systems. A high water table, poor soil quality and a dense system of tree roots shorten the lifespan of these systems. And when they fail, they wreak havoc not only for that family, but for neighboring families, on the environment, on our public health and on our local economy.

Community Foundation of the Lowcountry has been working closely with Hilton Head Island Public Service District (PSD) and the Town of Hilton Head Island to get main sewer lines installed, to increase the number of pump stations and to raise the $3 million needed to pay for qualified homeowners’ connection costs, which average $6,700 per household.

**BY THE NUMBERS - 2017**

- Dollars raised: $539,892
- Number of homes connected: 56
- Grants paid: $370,047

Left to right: Denise Spencer, President & CEO, Community Foundation of the Lowcountry; Pete Nardi, General Manager, Hilton Head Island PSD; David Bennett, Mayor, Hilton Head Island

In April, Community Foundation of the Lowcountry was honored to receive the HUD Secretary’s Award for Public-philanthropic Partnerships for our Project SAFE initiative. We share the award with the Hilton Head Public Service District and the Town of Hilton Head Island. The award honors innovative and impactful cross-sector initiatives that have increased the quality of life for low- and moderate-income Americans living in urban, suburban and rural communities.

Improving the quality of life for these families improves the quality of life for all of us. Our goal is to have all qualified homes connected by the year 2020. If you’d like to help us, please visit our website to learn more: www.cf-lowcountry.org/projectsafe
New Funds in 2017

We live in a place where our friends and neighbors understand the positive impact they can make in addressing our community’s most pressing needs. Establishing a fund at the Community Foundation connects a passion for change to a meaningful cause. To learn more, contact our office at 843.681.9100.

Here’s a list of new funds established during our 2017 fiscal year:

**DONOR ADVISED FUNDS** operate like a personal or family foundation, with grant recommendations made by the donor. These funds can be endowed or non-endowed.

Carly’s Kids – A Foundation for Education Fund created in honor of Carly Elizabeth Hughes, will support nonprofit organizations providing educational programs for children in need, educational research for the prevention and treatment of esophageal and gastric cancers, and support other charitable work of the Carly’s Kids – A Foundation for Education program.

Peter and Sheila Strand Charitable Fund will provide grants to nonprofit organizations in support of the charitable interests of the Strands.

Susan and Jim Allhusen Charitable Fund will provide grants to nonprofit organizations in support of the charitable interests of the James and Susan Allhusen family.

**DESIGNATED FUNDS** support one or more specific organizations.

Beaufort County Clubhouse Fund will provide the resources for the development, programs and services of the Beaufort County Clubhouse, a free membership-based program providing a safe, welcoming and productive place for individuals living with persistent mental illness.

Gregory’s Playground Presented by the Kiwanis Clubs of Hilton Head Island Fund will support the planning, development, construction and maintenance of a new playground to be located at the Hilton Head Island Recreation Association.

Heroes of the Lowcountry Mission Support Fund will support the programs and services of Heroes of the Lowcountry, a 501(c)(3) organization providing educational scholarships for high school graduates in Beaufort and Jasper Counties.

Neighborhood Outreach Connection Endowment Fund will provide grants in support of the programs and services of Neighborhood Outreach Connection.

Polaris Tech Charter School Fund will support the development, programs and services of the Polaris Tech Charter School. Polaris Tech Charter School is a college- and career-focused middle/high school with a unique personalized learning model.

Sandbox Children’s Museum Endowment Fund will provide sustaining support for the programs and services of The Sandbox Children’s Museum, an Interactive Children’s Museum.

Strub Family Fund 2017 will provide grants in support of select nonprofit organizations as designated by the donors.

**FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS** support specifically-defined charitable interests or geographic areas.

BackPack Buddies of Greater Bluffton and Hardeeville Fund will address childhood and youth hunger through the work of BackPack Buddies of Greater Bluffton and Hardeeville area.

Grace Sulak Youth Community Engagement Fund will encourage young people to learn about local community needs and create innovative solutions and/or projects of their own design to meet these needs. The projects will be implemented in partnership with a nonprofit organization currently working to address these needs. The Fund will also provide support for the Amazing Grace Sulak Scholarship Fund.

It’s Better To Give Back Fund will provide support for It’s Better To Give Back’s programs serving Beaufort County, South Carolina youth and families; including but not limited to, supporting youth in the development of their interests in the areas of arts and entertainment, education, and sports.

Lowcountry Strong Foundation aims to assist and enrich the lives of Beaufort and Jasper County families, and partner with community members, to serve those less fortunate. Initial efforts will address disaster assistance and/or emergency hardship relief for individuals, families and communities within Beaufort and Jasper Counties.

One Island. One Community Fund strives to build an all-inclusive Hilton Head Island community through programs, service efforts and projects of the One Island. One Community group.

Rotary District 7770 Disaster Fund provides support and assistance for community-based disaster and/or emergency relief programs, with a preference for supporting impacted communities located within the eastern South Carolina region.

SC Lowcountry Oyster Trail Fund supports the mission, vision and programs of the SC Lowcountry Oyster Trail in the preservation and sustainability of the fragile South Carolina Lowcountry ecosystem.

Sea Turtle Preservation Fund supports the mission and programs of the Turtle Tracks group, whose mission is to assist with the preservation efforts for endangered sea turtles nesting on Hilton Head Island, and to educate the public for the protection of our sea turtle hatchlings heading to the ocean.

Sigma Pi Phi Epsilon Mu Boule Charitable Fund supports the charitable projects and programs of the Sigma Pi Phi Epsilon Mu Boule Fraternity.

Spartina Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Stranding Response Fund provides support for the rescue of injured sea turtles, along with the collection of data from necropsy of deceased sea turtles and dolphins in Beaufort County to allow further analysis in monitoring the health of the population and educating Lowcountry residents and visitors regarding these federally protected species.

**SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS** support deserving students. Donors can determine selection criteria and can serve in an advisory role, recommend an advisory committee or allow the Community Foundation to select students based on the established criteria.

Amazing Grace Sulak Scholarship Fund established in memory of Grace Sulak by her family will provide annual scholarship awards to assist qualified recipients in pursuit of a post-secondary education.

Arco Music Academy Scholarship Endowment Fund will provide scholarship awards to assist qualified students in the pursuit of music education and training, with a preference for supporting orchestral string instrument study.

Beth McNeer Scholarship Endowment Fund established in memory of Beth McNeer, will provide scholarships for eligible members of the PEARLS’ Girls program to participate in enrichment opportunities which provide skills enhancement, personal growth and potentially life-changing experiences, based on each recipient’s individual interests and passions.

John A. Kirkpatrick Memorial Scholarship Fund, established in memory of John A. Kirkpatrick by his family, will provide annual scholarship awards for Marines based out of Parris Island who wish to pursue a post-secondary education during or after their active service.

**OTHER FUNDS**

The Community Foundation offers a variety of funds that allow you to practice philanthropy in a way that’s most meaningful to you. Below are several other types of funds that are available, but for which we had no new funds established in FY2017:

Unrestricted Funds are flexible and allow grants to be made in areas that have the most impact in our community.

Supporting Organizations are charities that support other exempt organizations.

To see a list of most of our over 330 funds, visit our website at: www.cf-lowcountry.org/ViewOurFunds

To visit our website at:
## Combined FINANCIALS

### ASSETS

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<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>2,611,366</td>
<td>1,762,374</td>
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<td>Pledges receivable, net</td>
<td>140,000</td>
<td>140,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assets held - charitable remainder trusts</td>
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<td>2,120,533</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>49,947,811</td>
<td>47,007,562</td>
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<td>Capital Counsel</td>
<td>1,793,679</td>
<td>1,975,653</td>
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<td>The Jim and Margaret Krum Foundation, Inc.</td>
<td>10,335,839</td>
<td>9,718,657</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property and equipment, net</td>
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<td>Other assets</td>
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<td>29,555</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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### LIABILITIES

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<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>151,226</td>
<td>102,832</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants payable</td>
<td>1,236,680</td>
<td>1,694,851</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annuities payable</td>
<td>2,407,272</td>
<td>2,475,276</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funds held for others - agency funds</td>
<td>3,341,202</td>
<td>3,067,351</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,136,380</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,340,310</strong></td>
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### NET ASSETS

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<td>Unrestricted</td>
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<td>55,871,319</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>60,407,273</strong></td>
<td><strong>55,871,319</strong></td>
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### INCOME-UNRESTRICTED

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<tr>
<td>Contributions received</td>
<td>3,928,097</td>
<td>4,438,558</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net realized gains/losses</td>
<td>(494,064)</td>
<td>(1,656,751)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net unrealized gains/losses</td>
<td>5,910,685</td>
<td>(1,408,075)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>1,356,763</td>
<td>1,576,412</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rental income</td>
<td>18,550</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>730,222</td>
<td>730,219</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,450,253</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,692,663</strong></td>
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### EXPENSES AND SUPPORT

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<td>Grants paid</td>
<td>4,313,799</td>
<td>4,201,411</td>
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<td>Program expenses</td>
<td>247,079</td>
<td>293,569</td>
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<td>Salaries and benefits</td>
<td>871,388</td>
<td>801,580</td>
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<td>Professional and administrative fees</td>
<td>995,818</td>
<td>1,010,936</td>
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<td>Supplies and other</td>
<td>176,137</td>
<td>201,245</td>
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<td>Fundraising*</td>
<td>163,638</td>
<td>87,336</td>
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<tr>
<td>Changes in value of split interest agreements</td>
<td>109,265</td>
<td>130,001</td>
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<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>37,175</td>
<td>37,175</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,914,299</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,763,253</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase (decrease) in unrestricted net assets</td>
<td>4,535,954</td>
<td>(3,070,590)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase (decrease) in net assets</td>
<td>4,535,954</td>
<td>(3,070,590)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets beginning of year</td>
<td>55,871,319</td>
<td>58,941,909</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets end of year</strong></td>
<td><strong>60,407,273</strong></td>
<td><strong>55,871,319</strong></td>
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*The expenses listed are cumulative among Community Foundation of the Lowcountry’s more than 330 funds. Fundraising expenses are a cumulative total of all funds that have organized fundraising events/activities and not a representation of Community Foundation operating expenses.*
About US

2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
John Weymouth, Chair
Jeri Farren, Vice Chair
Beth Mayo, Treasurer
James Allhusen
Donna Bafundo
Sandy Benson*
Rabbi Brad Bloom
Denis Bonnett
Marva Brooks
Cheryl Comes
Dudley King
Kim Kord**
Michael Marks
Allen Ward***
David Wetmore***
Eric Woods

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
John Weymouth, Chair
Jeri Farren, Vice Chair 1
James Allhusen, Vice Chair 2
David Wetmore, Treasurer
Donna Bafundo
Sandy Benson
Rabbi Brad Bloom
Denis Bonnett
Cheryl Comes
Kim Kord
Michael Marks
Shirley “Peaches” Peterson
David Rosenblum
Jackie Rosswurm
James Wagner
Allen Ward

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE LOWCOUNTRY STAFF
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