



## 2018-2019 Year-In-Review

With the close of the school year we are also approaching the close of our annual reporting period (August 1 to July 31). It has been an exciting year with the extension of full CRO support to another elementary school; the addition of many new CRO council members; and - **thanks to the generosity of our donors** – a solid financial foundation. We welcome this opportunity to highlight a few of the activities and programs CRO has supported through volunteers and financial grants.

Of the 14 elementary schools in Pickens County, half of them are Title I schools. Title I is targeted to schools with a high concentration of low-income students and provides federal supplemental funds to assist in meeting student's education goals. CRO-V, through their support of Pickens and Hagood Elementary Schools, supports two of the seven Title I elementary schools in the district. Our support this year ranged from field trip scholarships, to emergency shelter for families, to robotics kits! Not to mention assisting in the schools with various volunteer activities. Please read on for highlights from the school year and a few facts about the schools we support

CRO is a 100% volunteer organization focused on literacy, nutrition and mentoring of school age children in Pickens County. We are committed to helping the children of Pickens County receive the educational start in life that will point them toward success. We do not want to simply pass money through from donors to recipients, but instead we strive to be good stewards of the funds you give to CRO-V, looking for significant impacts we can make with your donations. We hope you will continue to support CRO-V in any way you can, financially or with the gift of your time. We have made a difference this past school year and strive to do more in the coming years. (Full report on the next 5 pages).

***With deep gratitude for all you do for our Pickens County children,***

**Cliffs Resident Outreach - Vineyards Council:**

**Dick and Jean Ann Bollman**, CRO-V Directors

**Ann Ackley**, Treasurer

**Stephanie Cookson**, School Representative

**Mary Whitaker**, School Representative

**Lou Brand**, Mentoring

**Mary Steele**, Communications

**Laurelle Williams**, Corporate Partners

***P.S. Save-the Date***

*Once a year CRO reaches out to the Vineyards' community for financial support. Mark your calendars for this year's **Giving-Back-2-Schools** campaign, which will kick off on August 1<sup>st</sup> with the school supply drive and wrap up on Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup> with our dinner and auction event. Stay tuned for more details and the auction guide which will be posted on Vineyards Connections in early August.*



## Our Schools – The Report Card:

	PICKENS ELEMENTARY	HAGOOD ELEMENTARY
<b>SERVING GRADES</b>	PK - 5	PK - 5
<b>STUDENT ENROLLMENT</b>	556 students	485 students
<b>PRINCIPAL</b>	Donna Harden	Paula Alexander
<b>PERCENT OF STUDENTS IN POVERTY</b>	71%	75%
<b>STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO</b>	21:1	22:1
<b>TOTAL # OF TEACHERS</b>	33 63% with advanced degrees	30 63% with advanced degrees
<b>PERCENT SERVED BY GIFTED &amp; TALENTED PROGRAMS</b>	16.7% of students in programs	13.75% of students in programs
<b>ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT % MET AND EXCEEDING</b>	<i>Based on 2018 Test Scores:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Language Arts – 41%</li> <li>• Mathematics – 47%</li> </ul> Overall – Average	<i>Based on 2018 Test Scores:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Language Arts – 45.7%</li> <li>• Mathematics – 49.1%</li> </ul> Overall - Average

Additionally, Pickens Elementary School is one of 3 schools that is open all summer to provide free summer meals (breakfast and lunch) for children. A very large percentage of the students we support, receive two meals a day from the schools.

## Financial Support:

The CRO Council voted in September, 2018, to allocate the 2018-2019 funds as follows.

### 1. School Allocations - \$36,435

Working with the principals of Pickens and Hagood Elementary schools, funds were allocated equitably on a per-student basis using 2018-2019 enrollment figures. Funding was disbursed throughout the school year in the following categories:

- a) Parents as Learner Programs
- b) Summer Academy & Academic Camp Scholarships
- c) Robotic/Stem Club Materials & Kits
- d) Field Trip Scholarships
- e) Health and Wellness Needs
- f) Emergency Fund for Families

Examples of our support this year:

- Two Hagood students were able to attend an overnight field trip for Gifted & Talented students as a result of CRO scholarships
- Multiple students will attend summer academic camps as a result of CRO scholarships

- Temporary shelter for a mother and her two children (Hagood students) who were briefly homeless until housing could be arranged. CRO covered the cost of the temporary housing so the children could remain in the school district.
- Pickens Elementary held a “Boys Summit” with local leaders with the goal of inspiring 5<sup>th</sup> grade boys to academic achievement. Local leaders were engaged to help them imagine and understand how their schooling shapes their future possibilities. Lou Brand was one of the local leader participants. CRO provided financial support for materials.
- A mother and her two boys (Pickens Elementary students) that had resorted to living out of their car due to financial constraints, was placed in housing and emergency funds were provided by CRO to cover electrical bills.
- Robotics kits were purchased for the Robotics club

## **2. New Initiatives Fund - \$15,000**

A New Initiatives Fund was established and funds reserved. These funds are intended to help seed, start or fulfill on a one-time basis a new educational program. The CRO Council is currently evaluating pre-school and early childhood development programs. It is estimated that 74% of Pickens County kindergartners are not ready to start school. Meanwhile, research indicates early childhood education yields an enormous return on education investment. CRO Council members attended and observed multiple “Pre-School Pages” reading programs, which is an initiative supported by Women’s United, a group within the United Way. Discussions are underway between CRO and the United Way regarding how to expand this program so it reaches a larger percentage of Pickens County preschoolers.

## **3. Reserve Fund - \$12,000**

A reserve fund of \$12,000 was established and will be maintained to buffer future years in a poor economy when fund raising may not be sufficient or to assist in a catastrophic emergency situation

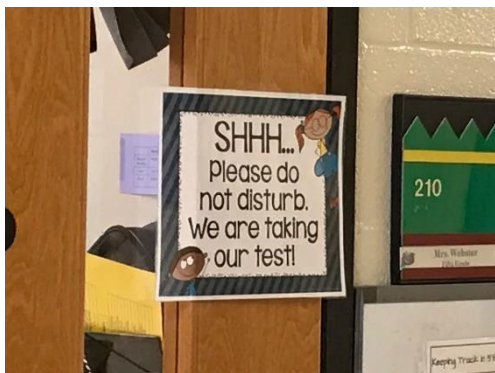
## **Volunteers are Priceless!**

Volunteers are always welcome and always appreciated. Here is a recap of some of our volunteer activities.

### **Mentoring**

Lou Brand joined the CRO Council in March and is working to reinvigorate our school mentoring support. Lou personally mentors 2 students and has been engaged as a mentor for years. Mentors can be provided at all school levels, but ideally starts with students in elementary school and transitions with them through middle and high school. The Pickens County School District has adopted the YMCA mentoring program and Lou is working to recruit additional mentors from the Vineyards. Thank you, Lou!

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## Test Proctoring

As in year's past, CRO provided volunteers to assist during the standardized test days. The tests are conducted for several hours in the morning and volunteers monitor the halls and supervise students needing bathroom breaks. Thank you to Ken and Sharon Smith, Mary Whitaker, Mary Steele, Dick and Jean Ann Bollman

## Angel Tree

We had more willing volunteers than we had children to provide for this past year! In total, 26 children were provided with new clothing items and a toy for Christmas. Profiles of the children were provided by the schools to help the donors with their specific needs and wishes. Thank you to the following donors: Linda McGimpsey, Toni Daup, Sally Sargent, Carol Frese, Char Burgner, Louise Spheeris, Shannon Tugwell, Kris Lilienthal, Maxine Botti, Lynn Kasper, Linda Lett, Sandy Krug, Wendy Giblin, Linda Govreau, Bonnie Saxton, Christy Wistar, Jan Heppe, Janet Benton, Kathy Gostanian, Don Buckley, Mary Whitaker, Vicki Hansen, Natalie Putman, Barbara Washington, Darlene Keelor, Jeanette McCarthy, and Stephanie Cookson.



## School Supplies

Last August \$2,500 in school supplies were donated and delivered to Pickens and Hagood Elementary schools. Everything from pencils to emergency clothes were supplied to the schools at the beginning of the school year.



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## *Smile! Picture Day*

In September, a number of volunteers assisted with Pickens Elementary school photo days. Pickens Elementary takes their own school pictures in lieu of hiring a school photography company. This is one of many ways they work to make an annual tradition affordable for their students and families. Thank you to Bob Giblin, Paula Nesbitt, Mary Whitaker, Dick and Jean Ann Bollman

## *Eagle Store*

Hagood Elementary students earn points for good citizenship, behavior etc. Students can then spend their points on various items at the Eagle Store. Thank you to the many volunteers who supervised the store throughout the year: Ann Ackley, Jan Mann, Sally Sargent, Mary Steele, Paula Nesbitt, Jean Ann Bollman, Mary Whitaker.



## *Book Fair*

The Book Fair is always a popular event. Volunteers are needed to assist with sales and selections over multiple days. Times are allotted for children and their parents. Many thanks to the following volunteers who assisted: Sally Sargent, Louise Spheeris, Stephanie Cookson, Paula Nesbitt, Mary Steele, Laurelle Williams, Mary Whitaker, Ann Ackley, and Jean Ann Bollman.



## *Santa Shop*

Every year, Pickens Elementary provides a “shop” so students can buy affordable gifts for their families. The PTO sponsors this shop and if you are lucky, you can volunteer to help the little ones shop. Sometimes the help comes in the form of steering them to an appropriate gift for Mom and other times it is helping them count their pennies to determine how much they have (or have left) to spend. This year’s snow “event” rearranged our volunteer days/schedule, but a few of our volunteers were able to make the rescheduled days.

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## [Christmas Tree and Ornaments](#)

Many thanks to Tim and Debbie Leporowski who donated a Christmas Tree and Ornaments to Hagood Elementary and to Ann Ackley who assisted in setting up the tree.

## [Beautiful Displays](#)

Penny Barr volunteered countless hours assisting Pickens Elementary School with their displays. She helped the school stay current with their display boards and supported events by decorating hallways, doors and more!



## **Corporate Partners**

Cliffs Resident Outreach – Vineyards would like to acknowledge the following Corporate Partners who provided donations of cash or in-kind gifts:

***The Cliffs***

***Fairview Builders***

***Justin Winters Sotheby Real Estate***

***Kroeger Marine***

***Luxury Lake Living Real Estate***

***Meritus Signature Homes***

***Retracta Screen***

***Singleton Marina***

***Southern Outlaw Adventures,***

***Steve White Audi***

***Villa Verona Interior Design***

***.... And the many individual auction item donors.***



**Without you, we would not be where we are today! THANK YOU!**