



August, 2021

Dear Cliffs Resident Outreach (CRO) Supporter,

As I write this annual report for CRO's activities during the 2020-2021 school year, Pickens County School District has started the 2021-22 school year (on August 3rd) and almost as quickly shifted to temporary remote learning for one week. We all hope this situation due to the unexpected spread of Covid-19 in the schools is short-lived.

Last year (2020-2021 school year) the Pickens County School District managed to navigate the challenges of Covid and keep the elementary schools open for in-person instruction 158 of the 180 school days. This was a significant accomplishment. ***Thanks to YOU and your sustained support, we were able to assist during this unprecedented time.*** While we were unable to hold an in-person fundraising event or auction in 2020, you nonetheless supported us during our annual appeal with donations to our June *Phantom Phundraiser*. Our residents and our corporate partners together contributed over \$93,000 to CRO Vineyards during 2020. Thank you! I would especially like to thank our CRO Corporate Partners who are highlighted on the last page. These businesses are generous supporters of CRO-Vineyards and I hope you support them as well.

The CRO Council is very grateful that you continue to trust us to make wise allocations and have provided us with sufficient funds to meet both planned as well as emergency funding requests. This past school year, the school district received significant funds from the State and Federal Covid relief programs. As a result, some of the expenses we would normally incur were covered by government relief funds. That enabled us to explore some new initiatives while also pushing out this year's annual appeal to September 25th. More to come on that!

Here are the highlights of what was accomplished with your donations:

Plastic Desk Shields for Pickens Elementary School

As the 2020-21 school year started, we received a request to purchase clear plastic desk shields for every student at Pickens Elementary School. These portable desk shields enabled the students to work on projects together behind the safety of their shields. The portability meant a student could fold up his/her desk shield and take it to one-on-one learning sessions with specialized teachers, like reading coaches and speech therapists.



Outdoor Classrooms at Hagood Elementary School



Hagood was eager to take advantage of outdoor settings for classes during Covid. However, classroom desks and chairs are not well suited to outdoor settings and are difficult to set up and take down. CRO supported Hagood by purchasing child-sized camp chairs (quad chairs) that are more stable on the ground, are easy to transport and can quickly be set up and taken down.

Hagood Soft Landings Initiative

Covid protocols necessitated that all students go directly to their classrooms before school and for all meals. Many Hagood students receive both breakfast and lunch at school. This resulted in students arriving in their classroom as early as 7:30 am. Hagood launched a program called “Soft Landings” to help manage this additional in-classroom time. Teachers created wish lists for items, like puzzles, games etc. that would occupy and engage their students during this non-instructional time. CRO provided each Hagood teacher a stipend they could use to purchase items from their wish list.

Pickens County Library Outreach Vehicle (aka Bookmobile)

In 2019 CRO raised 100% of the funds needed to purchase a mobile outreach vehicle for the Pickens County Library System. PCLS did not have a bookmobile or any type of vehicle to support remote delivery of programs. While Covid slowed down the build, customization and delivery of the vehicle in 2020, the vehicle finally arrived in May, 2021. There are a few customizations still pending, like the retractable awnings on the side of the vehicle, but that hasn’t stopped them from using it. PCLS has launched their mobile programs! The vehicle is much more than “books-on-wheels”, it enables the library system to take their valuable literacy and educational programs to underserved areas across Pickens County.



Camp iRock



Despite Covid, Camp iRock managed to conduct a summer literacy camp in both the summer of 2020 and 2021, with 300+ students attending this year. CRO provides significant funds to support this highly successful, high-energy educational camp. In 2020, CRO also purchased grade level books for the at-home book bags (in picture) provided to the campers. Camp iRock is free to the students, who are nominated by their teachers, and focused on helping them attain grade-level reading proficiency so they start the new school year at level. Camp iRock is a partnership program of the Pickens County School District, the Pickens County United Way, the Clemson “Call Me Mister” program and private donors

Family Emergency Situations

There were many family emergency situations throughout the year. CRO provided the following types of support:

- Temporary housing for families & children without housing
- Payment of past due electrical bills
- Pest infestation treatments (houses and/or person)

Haqood Elementary Staff Appreciation

As the school year closed, there was much to celebrate – 158 days of in-person learning! The CRO Advisory Council agreed that this extraordinary achievement during the pandemic warranted a thank you to the school teachers and staff. CRO provided lunches for the staff during the Staff Appreciation Week in May.

Lake Jocassee Wild Child Education Program



Lake Jocassee is a biological and ecological wonder literally in the Vineyards' back yard! Jocassee Lake Tours, led by Brooks and Kay Wade, have established a 501©3, Jocassee Wild Outdoor Education, which seeks to educate youth and adults regarding the importance of the wild, pristine, and natural spaces of Lake Jocassee and the Jocassee Gorges. CRO sponsored students from Pickens County, who could not afford the camp fees, so they could discover, learn and connect with nature during the summer.

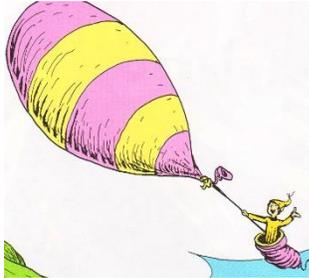
Current Programs and Initiatives

As the 2021-2022 school year starts we are already working on new initiatives and responding to funding requests. Here are some example of what is currently in process:

- **After School Care Scholarships:** Funding for the after-school care program for 3 students at Pickens Elementary. These 3 students all come from one family that cannot afford after school care for their 7 children, ranging in age from preschool to middle school.
- **Preschool at Holly Springs Center:** Replacement is in process of old and broken playground equipment at Holly Springs Preschool (yes, that Holly Springs school!). The Preschool offers play-based, nature-focused classes for 2K, 3K and 4K (ages 2-5) in both half days and extended care formats.
- **Preschool Books:** Pilot of the Imagination Library at Holly Springs. The Imagination Library is a program targeted to 0-5 year olds that delivers an age appropriate book each month to a registered child. CRO is working with Holly Springs and their 50 preschoolers on a program centered on the monthly book delivery. Every registered child gets their own book and the cost is \$2.10/per child per month. A bargain!



- **Pickens County Career and Technology Center:** Part of the Pickens County School District, this center has been serving students from the 4 high schools for 42 years. The very impressive campus provides skill training to about 1,200 students in a wide range of programs from aerospace engineering to biomedical science to machine technology and a whole lot in-between! CRO is evaluating potential grants to help purchase high tech simulation equipment needed in some of their programs of study.



It has been almost 15 months since we reached out to the Vineyards community for donations. We will launch our annual campaign, *Oh the Places You Will Go*, in September with the grand final on September 25th (details will be emailed separately). If you are at the Vineyards, we hope you can join us! We are planning a fun boating event on the lake (can you solve the location clue and answer the questions?) culminating at the Lakehouse with a dinner and auction.

Please feel free to contact anyone on the CRO Council with questions or suggestions.

On behalf of the CRO Council and with sincere and deep appreciation.

Jean Ann and Dick Bollman, CRO-Vineyards Co-Directors

CRO Council:

Ken Michaels, Treasurer

Rob Ackley

Penny Barr

Stephanie Cookson

Jan Heppe

Jeanette McCarthy

Paula Nesbitt

Mary Whitaker

Laurelle Williams

Cliffs Resident Outreach is managed and sustained 100% by volunteers. CRO-Vineyards utilizes 98% of its donations for grants to deserving and qualifying organization or people. In general, our expenses are less than \$2,000 a year and cover items like our website cost, post office box rental and very limited printing and mailing expenses.

For family emergency aid, our funds typically cover situations at one of the two elementary schools we support. In those schools, 70%+ of the student body is at or below the poverty threshold for government benefits.

Cliffs Resident Outreach- Vineyards Corporate Partners

CRO-Vineyards would like to gratefully acknowledge the generous and sustained support from our Corporate Partners. Donations are shared across multiple Cliffs Resident Outreach community branches.

Presenting Partner

The Cliffs

Titanium Partner (\$15,000 yearly)

Kroeger Marine

Platinum Partner (\$10,000 yearly)

Century BMW

Fairview Custom Homes

South Street Partners

Gold Partner (\$5,000 yearly)

AR Homes

Dream Yard Sports

Meritus Signature Homes

Palmetto Upstate Group

Resource Land Holdings

Villa Verona Design

Justin Winter Sotheby's International

Silver Partner (\$2,500 yearly)

Eagle Mountain Winery

The Dental Retreat

Singleton Marina

Retracta Screen

Bronze Partner (\$1,000 yearly)

Steve White Audi

Sunset Marina

Arcon Architects & Builders