



ISLAND NEIGHBORS, COMMUNITY PARTNERS
KIAWAH ISLAND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

"In just a few years, Kiawah Cares has become a force on the Sea Islands. Their meetings bring local nonprofits together on a regular basis and have our increased visibility and collaboration. The organization has been proactive in offering volunteer and financial support almost before we knew we needed it. Kiawah Cares is professionally run with a generous spirit - a powerful combination!"

*Patty Bennett
Co-Director, Begin With Books*

POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

"Kiawah Cares has been incredibly helpful in bringing awareness of the needs of the Sea Island communities to those of us who call Kiawah home. The staff are capable, enthusiastic, well organized and have such great hearts for our community. In addition to being able to help those in need, we are so very proud of the image and perspective the KC team present of Kiawah to the general area."

Kiawah Homeowner

WHO WE ARE

Kiawah Cares is a community outreach program coordinated by the Kiawah Island Community Association. The initiative began in 2010 and formally launched in July 2012 as a coordinated way to establish community partnerships, give back to the community and to help improve the overall quality of life of our nearest neighbors on the Sea Islands. In 2014, the Kiawah Cares Foundation applied for, and received, 501(c)3 status. Our fiscal year is July 1 - June 30.

Supported by Kiawah Island property owners, Kiawah Cares partners with service organizations, churches, schools and businesses on Johns and Wadmalaw islands to address social issues and to seek out opportunities to come together in a true spirit of community.

Property owners, who are also members of the Kiawah Island Community Association, contribute time, knowledge and financial support, serving as volunteers, team leaders, mentors, advisors and sponsors in numerous opportunities throughout the community.



WHO WE HELP

Kiawah Cares focuses on helping our closest Sea Islands neighbors: Johns and Wadmalaw islands.

Kiawah and Seabrook islands are blessed with resources. We cannot ignore the social issues experienced by our neighboring communities, who face the same struggles as many rural communities around the country. Kiawah Cares has created a unique community partnership model to open ongoing opportunities for caring, collaboration and fellowship. We join together as a community to create positive impact.



OUR WORK

From Jan. 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015, Kiawah Cares was directly involved with **87** programs on the Sea Islands.

Kiawah volunteers gave **400** hours of time to our programs.

Through donations and direct sponsorships, nearly **\$80,000** was raised for various causes within our Sea Islands community.

Nearly **7,000** at-risk Sea Islands residents were positively impacted.



SOME OF KIAWAH CARES' 2014-15 PROGRAMS INCLUDED:

Angel Oak Elementary Beach Day

Since 2013, Kiawah Cares has worked with Communities In Schools to reward **Sea Island students** with an educational and fun-filled day on the Kiawah beach. The children - many of whom have lived on the Sea Islands their entire lives but have never seen the ocean - get to play in the surf and sand, learn about indigenous wildlife, and have a picnic in the park before returning home. Kiawah Cares would like to thank the Kiawah Island Golf Resort, Liz King and her staff at Night Heron Park, and all of the volunteers for helping to make this day so special for the children each year.

Adopt-A-Student

The Adopt-A-Student program, now in its third year, provided students with much-needed supplies such as uniforms and, through a partnership with the Kiawah Women's Foundation, healthy weekend snacks. The program, which gives Kiawah property owners an opportunity to sponsor a student, originally worked solely with Angel Oak Elementary School, and has since expanded to include students at Frierson Elementary.

Kiawah Giving Tree

The holidays can be a hard time for families and children of the Sea Islands. For the past three years,

Kiawah Cares has provided **wrapped gifts, and a little bit of holiday joy**, to impoverished Sea Island students and their families through the Kiawah Giving Tree. Each year, donors are matched with children who have written letters to Santa to provide gift ideas.

Operation Comfort

Kiawah Cares and Seabrook Island teamed-up to collect **warm clothing, toiletries and cleaning items**. This program, which recently evolved to include the Made with Love campaign, was developed to address the needs of Sea Island residents for everyday quality of life items to all of the public schools in the Sea Islands, as well as the Wadmalaw Island Senior Center and the Hebron Zion Presbyterian Church. Drop sites are located at the Sandcastle (1 Shipwatch Rd) and KICA Administration (23 Beachwalker Dr).

Our Lady of Mercy's Stock Our Shelves Food Drive

A joint effort by Kiawah Cares and Seabrook Island netted a total of **290 pounds of non-perishable food items** for Stock Our Shelves (SOS). SOS is an annual program hosted by Our Lady of Mercy (OLM) that stocks the OLM emergency food pantry. This pantry provides food items to over 250 residents of Johns, Wadmalaw and James Island, who may visit the pantry once every three months.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHTS

BEST FRIENDS FUND (BFF)

The Best Friends Fund (BFF) was created by a group of Kiawah women with the goal to raise money ordinarily spent on small gifts and donate it to local charities. In 2014, BFF partnered with Kiawah Cares to help collect funds and raise awareness. In addition to simply raising funds, whenever a donation is made, a card is sent to the individual of the donor's choice to notify them that a donation has been made on their behalf.

In 2014, the fund consisted of 74 members and raised over \$21,000. These funds were distributed to five Sea Island charities. The goal for 2015 was to raise \$10,000.

For more information on the BFF, including how to make a donation, visit kiawahcares.org/bff-fund.



COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF CHARLESTON

Communities In Schools (CIS) of Charleston, which was established in 1989, strives to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

Over the years, CIS of Charleston has grown to serve nearly 12,000 students in 25 Charleston and Berkeley County Schools, using an evidenced-based comprehensive approach to bring community services to students, their families and schools. The 501(c)3 organization continues to hold an accredited status with its national organization, which oversees 164 affiliates in 25 states across the country.

How do we partner? CIS representatives in each Sea Island school identify the highest risk children and help coordinate Kiawah Cares partnerships to assist them.

CIS of Charleston offers students many services, including a full support program as well as tutoring and mentoring. For more information on CIS Charleston, visit cischarleston.org.



KIAWAH WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

The Kiawah Women's Foundation (KWF) is a 501(c)3 non-profit that provides for children in underserved communities in the Lowcountry of South Carolina, specifically Johns and Wadmalaw islands. They are a 100% volunteer organization whose funds are dedicated to projects that provide food and educational programs for hungry children. Their primary outreach program is a weekend backpack food program called backpack buddies. It serves over 260 at-risk children on a weekly basis during the school year. Working with school officials and parents, the backpack buddies program focuses on meeting the nutritional needs and providing educational opportunities for these children.

For more information on the KWF and its programs, visit kiawahwomensfoundation.org.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHTS

MATH TUTORS - HAUT GAP MIDDLE SCHOOL

Recognizing a growing need for mentorship and tutoring of students on the Sea Islands, a small group of Kiawah Island property owners took matters into their own hands. The group, which focuses specifically on math tutoring for seventh- and eighth-grade students at Haut Gap Middle School on Johns Island, works with a Communities In Schools representative at the school to identify students in-need. The time commitment for both the student and the tutor is minimal (1 hour per week, typically on Tuesdays or Thursdays), but provides an invaluable experience to them both.

If you are interested in learning more about tutoring, contact kiawahcares@kica.us.

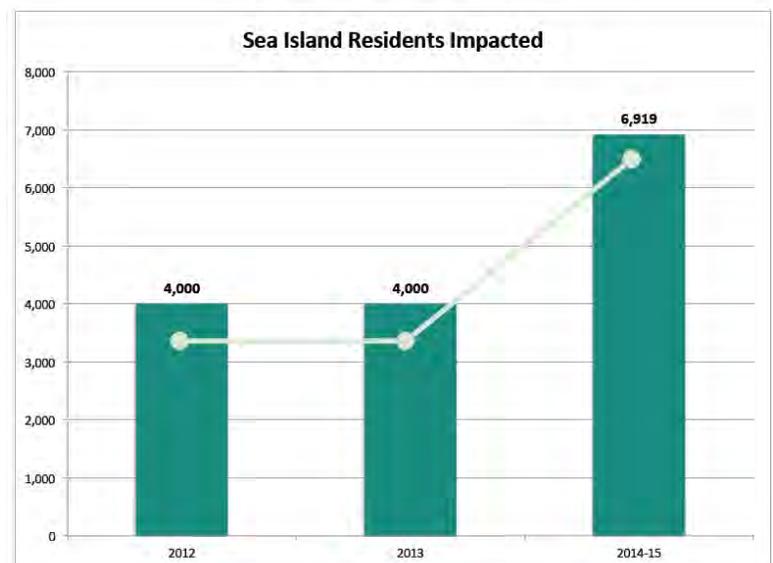
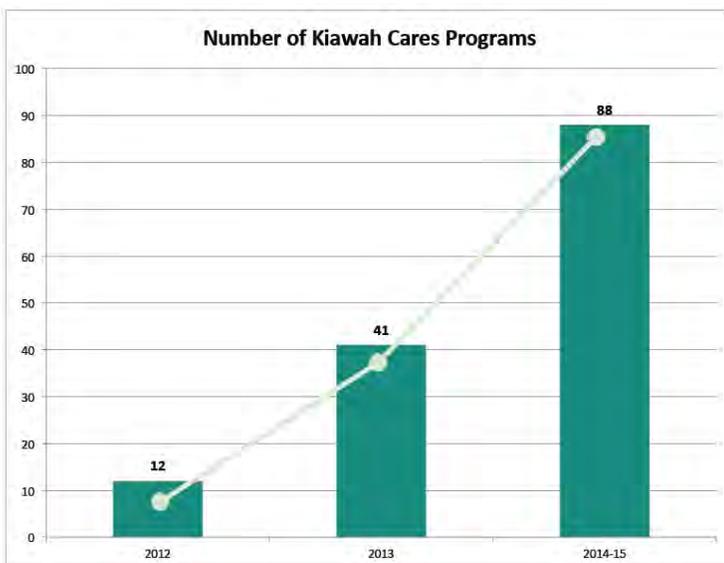
YOART!, INC.

YoArt! Inc. develops a skill-based media arts technology program at Title I public schools, which exposes students from different backgrounds to unlimited opportunities that are available over and beyond the bounds of their local neighborhoods giving the children a broader scope in life.

YoArt! Inc.'s main goal is to create educational programs using certified instructors with specific skills to teach the students the fundamentals of various art forms. Their constituency is primarily 6-14 year old children who face multiple challenges to success in school and in life. Between 70% and 90% of them live in single-parent households and have few positive male role models.

For more information on YoArt, Inc., visit yoartinc.org.

KIAWAH CARES GROWTH AND IMPACT



KIAWAH CARES PARTNERS

NON-PROFIT, SCHOOLS AND FAITH-BASED PARTNERS

Abundant Life Church of God
Angel Oak Elementary
Barrier Island Free Clinic
Begin With Book
Case for Smiles (Formerly ConKerr Cancer)
Charleston Area Senior Center
Charleston Area Therapeutic Riding (CATR)
Charleston Respite Care
Charleston Trident Urban League/OLM
Communities In Schools
Church of Our Saviour
East Coast Migrant Head Start Project
EL Frierson Elementary
Harvest Health Rehabilitation
Haut Gap Middle School
Hebron Zion Presbyterian Church/Hands of Christ
Kiawah Women's Foundation
Legare Farms
Lowcountry Equine Psychotherapy (LEAP)

Lowcountry Local First
Lowcountry Warrior Connection
LRP Ministries
Mt. Zion Elementary
Operation Home
Our Lady of Mercy
Reading Partners
Rockville Presbyterian Church
Rural Mission
Sea Island Habitat for Humanity
Sea Islands Hunger Awareness Foundation
Sea Island Meals on Wheels
St. Johns High School
Stono Baptist Church/Blessing Basket
Sweet Grass Garden Co-op
The Point Is
Wadmalaw Island Senior Community Center
Yes Carolina Sea Island Business Group
YoArt, Inc.

BUSINESS/COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Best Friends Fund
Bi-Lo Grocery Store
Brown Forman
Charleston Tea Plantation
Gibbes Museum
Harris Teeter/Freshfields Village
Johns Island Homegrown Farmers Market
Johns Island Regional Library

Kiawah Island Real Estate
Kiawah Island Resort
Kiawah Seabrook Island Storage
Kiawah Womens Group
Seabrook Island POA
Sea Island Chamber of Commerce
Sherwin Williams

BECOME A PARTNER

We invite you to partner with Kiawah Cares in 2016.

Kiawah Cares provides the following support to our partner organizations:

- Sponsorships
- Volunteers
- Assistance with publicity, promotion and marketing
- Support to fill the gap of needed resources
- In-kind support

We match individuals, programs and nonprofits with each other and area businesses to create a community that connects, partners and helps one another.

Our partnerships and programs support a variety of social causes, including education, health care, hunger, homelessness, farmers, employment opportunities, veterans, senior citizens, environmental preservation and more.

To request assistance from Kiawah Cares, or to learn more, visit kiawahcares.org.



THANKS TO OUR MEMBER SPONSORS

Kiawah Cares sends a heartfelt thanks to the Kiawah Island property owners who help us make a small difference in the lives of thousands of Johns and Wadmalaw island residents, including seniors, veterans and children.

SUPPORT THE SEA ISLANDS - GIVE A GIFT TODAY -

Every day, Sea Island residents struggle with the burdens of poverty: limited access to educational opportunities, hunger, homelessness and more. The Kiawah Cares Foundation (KCF) aims to eliminate these burdens by supporting compassionate programs for children, seniors, and families on Johns and Wadmalaw islands.

KCF financially supports programs such as Communities In Schools and Begin With Books, along with specific programs in five Title I schools on Johns and Wadmalaw islands. KCF donors funded repairs and clean-up for those affected by the 2015 tornado and continues. Please give now to help end the debilitating effects of poverty on the Sea Islands.

Visit kiawahcares.org to Give a Gift Online!



WEBSITE

KIAWAHCARES.ORG

EMAIL

KIAWAHCARES@KICA.US