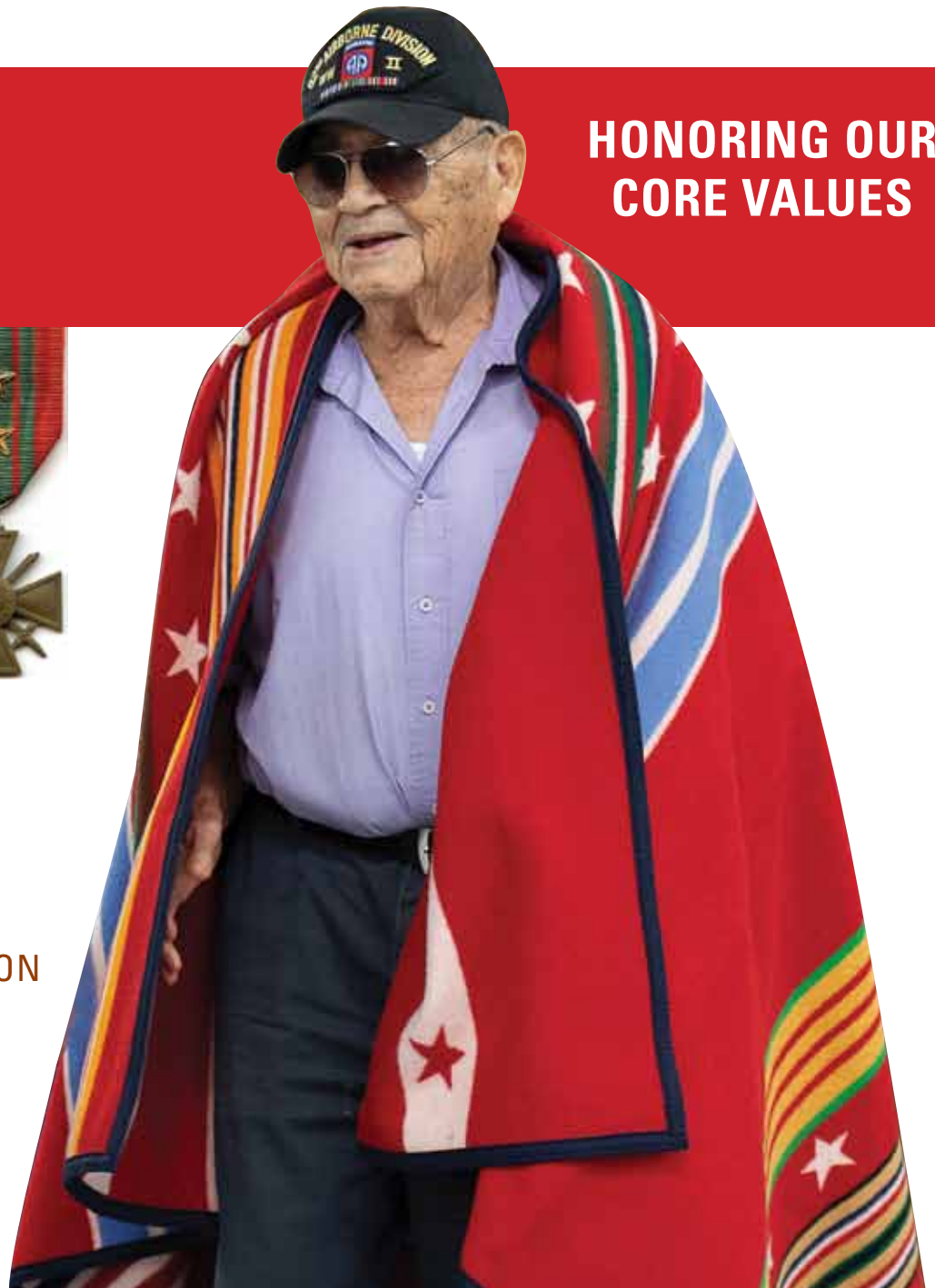


SSY  
ga-du-gi  
2019

HONORING OUR  
CORE VALUES



CHEROKEE  
PRESERVATION FOUNDATION





**AFTER**



## Collaborative effort helps repair and renovate war hero's home

**T**he power of collaboration was in strong evidence last fall during the first Veteran's Day of Caring. The Foundation, the Cherokee Boys Club, and the Housing Improvement Program (HIP) helped a highly decorated WWII war hero, Reuben Taylor, repair and renovate the house he's called home since 1953.

Reuben, age 93, served honorably in WWII, fighting in Holland during the D-Day operation and in the Battle of the Bulge. He's been awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Presidential Unit Citation, and eight other decorations for his devotion to duty.

The makeover of Reuben's home began when Deb Owle, Grants Manager at the Foundation, asked the Cherokee Boys Club for volunteer help and contracting services for a 6' addition Reuben had requested. The Foundation's funding level didn't cover all that needed to be done, so the Boys Club took Reuben's request to the Housing Improvement Program committee.

"The HIP committee is very sensitive to the needs of the community. Many times there's a lot of debate about the use of HIP funding, but Mr. Taylor's project was a no brainer. We all knew Reuben deserved this help for his home," said Sean Lawless, Cherokee Boys Club.

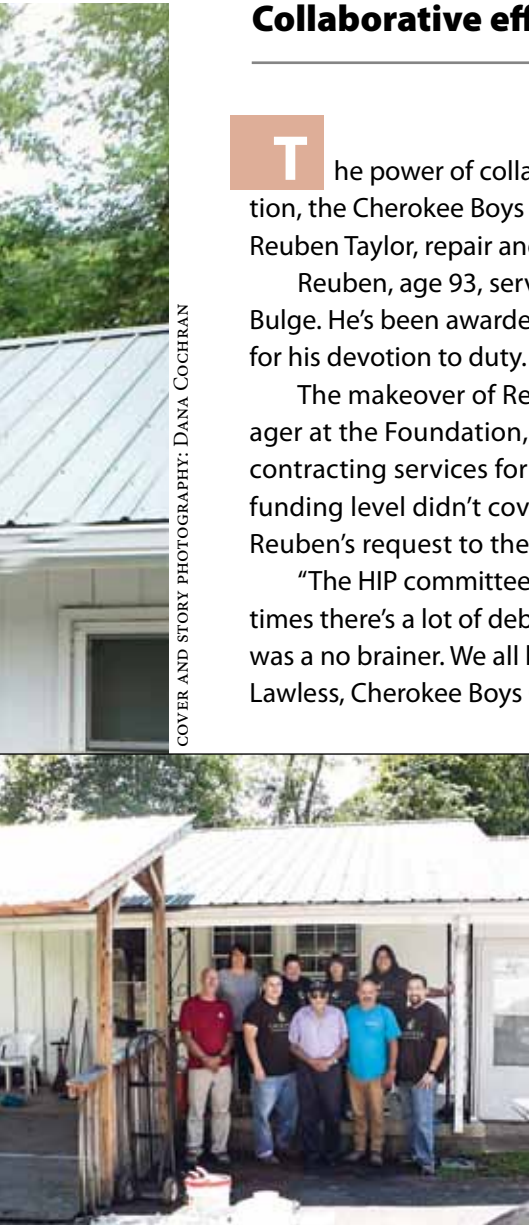
*"In the spirit of ga-du-gi, we were proud to do this for Reuben, a decorated war hero and one of our treasured elders."*

In October, a team of volunteers began the process with priming, painting, and trim work repair. Cherokee Boys Club volunteers worked closely with Foundation volunteers. After those improvements, funding from HIP kicked in.

The living room addition was completed and the heating and AC system was upgraded. A new roof was added and a disability entrance was created. New gutters were installed and exterior painting helped it all look fresh.

"In the spirit of ga-du-gi, we were proud to be a part of this project for Reuben, a decorated war hero and one of the Tribe's treasured elders. Community service is part of our culture, it's a way of life," said Sean.

"It's really important to have programs like this to help people. It keeps them from going into debt, and I'm very thankful. It's made my life better," said Reuben.



**BEFORE**

COVER AND STORY PHOTOGRAPHY: DANA COCHRAN

**CULTURAL** PRESERVATION





## 15th annual Day of Caring brings joy to multiple recipients

**A** beloved tradition, the spirit of ga-du-gi (coming together for all) was in full evidence at the 15th annual Cherokee Day of Caring. This treasured day of long-standing collaboration includes the Cherokee Preservation Foundation, Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort, and the Office of the Principal Chief of the EBCI.

"15 years is a long time, and we're proud to have been a sponsor of this annual event over the years. It truly shows the community's compassion and spirit of giving," said Bobby Raines, Executive Director of the Foundation.

The Day of Caring is a day-long event where hundreds of volunteers come together to help people and families in need. This year's mid-May event included more than 330 EBCI and community members who worked on nine family homes recommended by their respective community clubs. Volunteers worked to beautify yards, clear debris, and repair or renovate anything that needed work.

The Red Cross also pitched in to help the families. They sent teams to each of the nine project sites to install smoke detectors and to ensure that existing smoke detectors in the homes worked properly.

Community member, Lloyd Arneach Sr., of Yellow Hill was one recipient of the Day of Caring. Volunteers cleaned up

*"15 years is a long time, and we're proud to have been a sponsor of this annual event over the years. It truly shows the community's compassion and spirit of giving."*



PHOTOGRAPHY: CHEROKEE PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

### CHEROKEE DAY OF CARING 15 YEAR STATISTICS

**150** home projects completed

**CPF Contribution: \$1 million** (approximately)

**250** volunteers per year – **3,750** total volunteers

**Total volunteer contribution – \$957,375**

**Total Cherokee Day of Caring contributions invested back into the Qualla Boundary community is approximately \$2 million.**

his shrubs and underbrush, put in a flower bed around the house, and cleaned out his front porch. They also cut down bamboo that had obstructed his view of the river.

"My dad was just so happy. He loves going out to the flower beds each day. He also enjoys sitting on the porch with his new river view," said Dawn Arneach, Lloyd's daughter.

Volunteers also built two 2'x6' food pantries for the communities, one in Wolfstown and another in Birdtown. The Foundation stocked each pantry with nonperishable food items. These items are free for whoever needs them and the Foundation asked community members to restock as needed.

The Cherokee Day of Caring Committee also honored nine "Quiet Heroes" who serve their community and presented a "Good Neighbor" award to a non-tribal member who significantly helps EBCI members.

### Day of Caring 15-Year Anniversary (cont'd)



PHOTOGRAPHY: CHEROKEE PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

*Volunteers also built two 2'x6' food pantries for the communities, one in Wolfstown and another in Birdtown. The Foundation stocked each pantry with nonperishable food items.*

## Right Path cohort gifts children with traditional clothing

**T**he Right Path Adult Leadership Program helps Cherokee adults find the Tsa-la-gi way for themselves and a path for sharing with future generations. It's one component of the Ray Kinsland Leadership Institute funded by the Foundation.

The program focuses on Cherokee identity, values, and culture, and exposes participants to native and indigenous cultures. Each cohort receives opportunities to develop leadership abilities through projects that enhance Cherokee community. Last year's cohort included Sasha Jumper, Sabrina Arch, Christy Long, Steven Long, and Waylon Long.

"I had always wanted to participate in the Right Path Program," said Sasha Jumper. "I grew up without a whole lot of knowledge about my people's Cherokee traditions, so the program was very impactful."

"An important thing I learned was different styles of leadership. People lead in different ways. It is good to know when to lead and when to let other people lead," said Sabrina Arch, cohort member.

The group's project helped children in foster care by giving a piece of culture back to children through traditional clothing. Right Path provided initial funding and the team created a Facebook fundraiser to raise more money. The photos in this story are a representation of the clothes that were made.

"Our Right Path team values our culture and thought that by creating traditional clothing, our children could have something to wear to represent who they are," said Sabrina.

The team made stomp (ceremonial) skirts and ribbon shirts, some with a modern twist. The traditional skirts were donated to the New Kituwah Academy's Early Childhood and Elementary programs and to Family Safety's foster care program. Sasha says the children have worn the outfits and expressed gratitude for receiving the traditional clothing.

"I am truly blessed to have this experience. It has helped me become more self-aware and understanding towards others," said Sabrina.



PHOTOGRAPHY: DANA COCHRAN

*"Our Right Path team values our culture and thought that by creating traditional clothing our children could have something to wear to represent who they are."*



## **New multi-media exhibits bring Sequoyah's story to life**





**B**orn in 1776 in Tuskegee, TN, Sequoyah, creator of the Cherokee syllabary, is a revered Cherokee historical figure. There is a museum located very near his birthplace on the shores of Tellico Lake. Built in 1986, it honors Sequoyah's life and his great achievement, which provided a means for Cherokees to become literate in their own language.

The Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, owned by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, is located in Vonore, TN. It closed temporarily in 2017 to upgrade infrastructure and install new exhibits. The Foundation awarded a grant for this renovation.

This is one of several grants the Foundation has awarded the Museum. Other grants included funding for lecture series and Cherokee language classes. These programs now pay for themselves, which is always a goal of a Foundation grant.

The Museum reopened last June. Updated technology such as improved HVAC systems and vapor barriers improve the guest experience. And three new multimedia exhibits bring Sequoyah's story to life.

"In the first theater you get an introduction, it's filmed in Oconaluftee Village," said Charlie Rhodarmer, Director of the Museum. Also included in the exhibit are interpretive panels that show different time periods and dioramas of Sequoyah as a young man, and a diorama at the battle of Horseshoe Bend.

"Seeing the soldiers write home to loved ones remotivated Sequoyah because he realized if his people couldn't write, they couldn't communicate long distance," said Charlie.

Sequoyah began creating the syllabary in 1809; it took 12 years to complete it. Sequoyah taught his daughter Ayoka how to make the symbols and together they introduced it. Within months thousands of Cherokee people became literate.

The second theater is a shadow theater. This dramatic perspective helps visitors focus on the words. The third theater is a portrait that comes to life. When visitors approach, they are asked provocative questions.

Since last June when the Museum reopened, Charlie notes that visitation is up, and their financial situation is improved.

"We couldn't have done this without the Foundation's help. They helped us move up so we can now be proactive instead of reactive," said Charlie.

*"Seeing the soldiers write home to loved ones remotivated Sequoyah because he realized if his people couldn't write, they couldn't communicate long distance."*



PHOTOGRAPHY: SEQUOYAH MUSEUM



## CULTURAL PRESERVATION





## Partnerships and collaboration enhance vision for Cherokee Cultural Corridor

**F**or more than a decade, Mainspring Conservation Trust has collaborated with EBCI tribal departments, Macon County, and local residents with the support of several Foundation grants. One result included preserving the Cowee Mound and Town Site—an important diplomatic and commercial Cherokee center of the 1700s. A kiosk near the mound explains the history as told by the Cherokee people.

A more recent grant to Mainspring supported planning around the Nikwasi to Cherokee Cultural Corridor intended to help Mainspring support citizens in Cherokee, Macon County, and Franklin to preserve more Cherokee historic settlements.

“After many meetings with diverse stakeholders, all of us realized the project was much larger; it became a 60-mile heritage corridor,” explained Ben Laseter, Deputy Director, Mainspring. “The groups involved formed their own nonprofit, the Nikwasi Initiative. The EBCI, Town of Franklin, Macon County, and Mainspring continue to support the initiative, a wonderful example of collaboration.”

The area around the Nikwasi Mound in Franklin is transitioning now with plans for site improvements and an interpretive kiosk similar to the one near Cowee Mound. EBCI recently purchased Dan’s Auto building to the west of the mound, and Mainspring and other stakeholders own parcels and buildings close to the property. The vision is to create a public space that honors the ancient Cherokee heritage dating back 10,000 years.

Grant funds also allowed the organization to conduct studies on brownfield parcels—these are areas that are contaminated due to previous uses. Additional funds covered in this recent grant were used to commission a study to inventory and assess other potential sites along the Cultural Corridor. That study identified about a dozen more sites, and helped Mainspring leverage state, federal, and private funds to acquire and begin reclaiming two contaminated parcels near Nikwasi Mound.

*“The heritage piece grows each year; our partnerships and ties grow. We have the opportunity to help recover this area in Franklin that surrounds an ancient Cherokee townsite.”*

“Mainspring’s mission is to conserve the waters, forests, farms and heritage in our service area, which includes the six NC counties west of the Balsams,” said Ben. “The heritage piece grows each year; our partnerships and ties grow. We have the opportunity to help recover this area in Franklin that surrounds an ancient Cherokee townsite. And we can build more partnerships and collaboration, thanks to the support of the Foundation.”



## Celebrating an Historic Day

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**T**his past August stakeholders from the Nikwasi Initiative gathered to celebrate what many thought would never happen—the signing over of Nikwasi Mound to the Nikwasi Initiative, a nonprofit entity comprised of the town of Franklin, Macon County, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and Mainspring Conservation Trust. It was an historic day as Cherokee children danced, and speeches were made in Cherokee and English to commemorate regaining this precious, ancient Cherokee site.

The Foundation's role in helping this historic day occur was substantial. Past funding allowed Mainspring to convene stakeholders, build relationships, and commission development of a plan around the concept of a cultural corridor beginning in 2014.

"Without the Foundation's support, the networks between Cherokee and Macon/Franklin community members would not have existed to the extent they did when we began to convene the group that is now the Nikwasi Initiative," said Ben Laseter, Deputy Director, Mainspring.

The Foundation grant allowed for extensive planning for the cultural corridor that connects Nikwasi, Cowee, Cherokee, and other sites in between. Funds were also used to do some initial conceptual planning around Nikwasi—that plan is continually evolving as progress is made on revitalization of surrounding parcels.

*The Foundation's role in helping this historic day occur was substantial. Past funding allowed Mainspring to convene stakeholders, build relationships, and commission development of a plan around the concept of a cultural corridor beginning in 2014.*



### Creating moments with ancient artifacts

**T**he number and quality of Cherokee artifacts in the Museum of the Cherokee Indian (MOCI) is mind boggling. Unfortunately, many of those items could not be displayed properly until recently. A grant from the Foundation helped MOCI purchase a rolling storage system, doubling their storage space. Another more recent grant continues addressing storage needs, helping the museum display more artifacts, including some from the Thomas Legion, dating back to 1861-65.

The Thomas Legion was formed in the Civil War by William H. Thomas, a Caucasian who later became an adopted tribal member. Thomas knew if Cherokee people were put into units to fight for the Confederacy they would be treated poorly, so he formed a unit that included Cherokee people and local area mountain people. The Confederate flag they used in this unit is one of the items that's been conserved and is on display in the main exhibit of the museum. Another item

*“The Foundation’s funding makes it possible to share our artifacts with people who may not otherwise be able to make a trip to Cherokee.”*







in process of conservation now is an oil portrait of Thomas done somewhere between 1850-52. The Foundation grants helped make both these conservations possible.

"The main exhibit of our Museum is only a small portion of what our archives and collections hold. The ability to set up and share in a way that also protects our items is the main purpose behind our obtaining riker boxes," said Dawn

*The storage system can also be used to set up chronological displays of items such as arrowheads and beads. Doing this allows MOCI to tell a more detailed story of their history not only to visitors but to their own people.*

Arneach, Interim Director, MOCI. "The Foundation's funding makes it possible to share our artifacts with people who may not otherwise be able to make a trip to Cherokee."

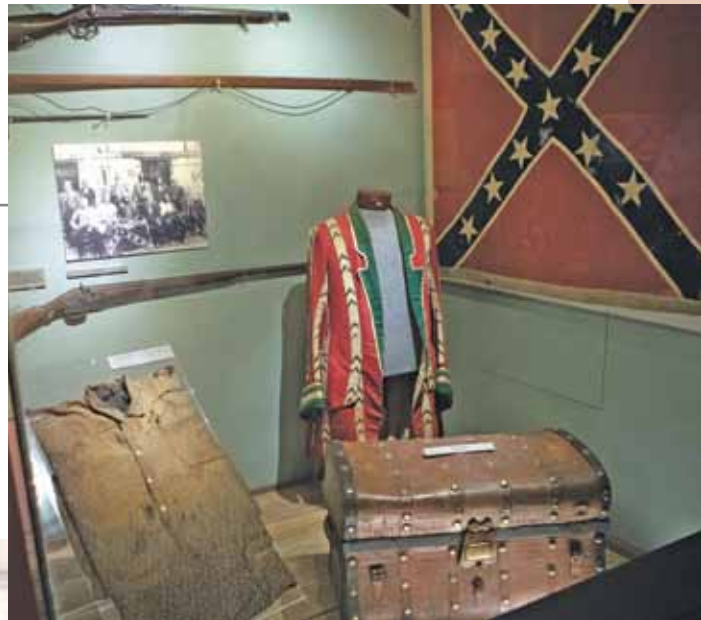
Dawn notes that the boxes are portable and can be placed on the rolling carts and taken to another room for viewing. The boxes also allow some offsite programming to occur.

The boxes fit in a well-organized storage system. The

### Creating moments with ancient artifacts (cont'd)

storage system can also be used to set up chronological displays of items such as arrowheads and beads. Doing this allows MOCI to tell a more detailed story of their history not only to visitors but to their own people.

"Our archivist Robin Swayney is fond of saying that if people cannot see our collections, they are just stuff on a shelf. Every day we hope we are bringing our mission to life, which is to preserve and perpetuate the history, culture, and stories of the Cherokee people. The funding from the Foundation makes this possible," said Dawn.



*Thomas knew if Cherokee people were put into units to fight for the Confederacy they would be treated poorly, so he formed a unit that included Cherokee people and local area mountain people.*

PHOTOGRAPHY: DANA COCHRAN





## Qualla Creations supports area artists with Cherokee-infused products

A great idea that the Cherokee Historical Association (CHA) considered for several years is now a wonderful reality. CHA recently opened Qualla Creations in downtown Cherokee.

"We have wanted a presence in downtown Cherokee for several years," said Laura Blythe, Qualla Creations Manager. "Our new location has a lot of foot traffic and we're glad to bring more authenticity to the downtown area with Cherokee-infused products."

The shop carries a variety of products. While not everything is handmade, all products do include some element of Cherokee culture. For example, metal tumblers for cold or hot drinks include a sun basket design on the outside. Many items are handmade by enrolled and non-enrolled Cherokee citizens, such as jewelry and paintings. The goal is for the shop to be open to artists from the community in general.

"We welcome artists from our community, people who really focus on making art deserve a place to be showcased, and that's what we're doing," said Laura.

Oconaluftee Crafts, a small manufacturing operation funded by CPF and owned by CHA, also relocated to the building containing the retail shop. Their employees make six different items geared for children. They include bows and arrows, tomahawks, sling shots, and arrowhead necklaces.

"These are quick grab items that children love. And we make them as authentically as possible, using stronger materials than the ancient items that were created, but sanding and wood staining them to look natural. We attach turkey feathers to the bows and use traditional color beads on many items—colors that were common before contact with the outside world," said Laura.

The shop employs a great team that includes some young people who attended a mentoring program sponsored by CHA. A few young people worked at the shop through last summer, learning the ins and outs of opening a retail store.

CHA provided funding for renovations to the retail space, and the Foundation provided funding for operational support, including sales associates, inventory, and fixtures.

PHOTOGRAPHY: CHEROKEE PRESERVATION FOUNDATION



*"We welcome artists from our community, people who really focus on making art deserve a place to be showcased, and that's what we're doing."*



**ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION**





## Cherokee people now harvesting sochan in Great Smoky Mountains National Park

**L**ast March the Cherokee people received the right to harvest sochan, a spring green plant that's been used by the people for thousands of years, in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP). This is the first time in the park's 85-year history.

Receiving the go ahead to harvest one of the Cherokee's primary cultural plants in the park was an historic day. The park is one of the first parks and the Cherokee are the first tribal nation to complete the arduous process to allow harvesting since a new plant gathering rule was established in the parks in 2016.

This historic achievement happened due to Foundation grants dating back to 2010 through its RTCAR (Revitalization of Traditional Cherokee Artisan Resources) initiative to the North Carolina Arboretum Germplasm Repository.

"We began a test to propagate sochan beginning in 2010," said David Cozzo, RTCAR Project Director. "We started with four beds and it was so easy to grow we launched a small harvesting study."

The harvesting study yielded some surprising results. After harvesting half of the test plot, it turned out that harvested plants showed more vigor than unharvested plants!

The data was shared with the GSMNP and the findings used to help decide to allow the Cherokee people to harvest in the park.

"There had been tension between the park and the Cherokee over not being able to harvest culturally significant plants in the park," said David. "We now know it's hard to hurt sochan, and harvesting is not detrimental. It's a good, safe starting place for the park to consider other cultural plants that Native Americans want to harvest."

The harvesting is controlled and permits are needed. Those who wish to harvest work closely with the EBCI Environmental Office and harvesting is monitored by the Tribe and the park. The impact of harvesting is being monitored before and after each harvest, and this data is being used to develop a certification program to ensure sustainable harvesting methods are used by all harvesters.

*"We now know it's hard to hurt sochan, and harvesting is not detrimental. It's a good, safe starting place for the park to consider other cultural plants that Native Americans want to harvest."*



PHOTOGRAPH: RTCAR

## A decade of recycling grants yields substantial shifts in preserving environment

PHOTOGRAPHY: DANA COCHRAN



*“Our goal is to be 100 percent recyclable, keeping these materials out of the waste stream to protect our environment and resources.”*

Oconaluftee Island Park. The trailers are parked at office complexes.

“We have many Tribal offices and having bins in all our offices has made a huge difference,” said Tee Trejo, Solid Waste Manager, EBCI Department of Solid Waste. “Our goal is to be 100 percent recyclable, keeping these materials out of the waste stream to protect our environment and resources, and to cut our costs,” said Tee.

**T**he Cherokee people have always honored their natural environment, and the Foundation works alongside the Tribe to continue this practice. One long-standing project the Foundation funded is a recycling program.

The first recycling efforts began more than two decades ago in cooperation with USETA initiated recycling in Qualla Boundary. These efforts were encouraging but didn’t get the results desired.

Fast forward to 2006—Chief Michell Hicks issued an environmental resource proclamation that included recycling. In 2008, the Generations Qualla Task Force created their action plan in support of the Chief’s proclamation, and the Foundation awarded a grant of some \$600,000 to help.

A Recycling Task Force was established to work in connection with several other committees. These groups worked

closely together to identify the containers and trailers needed. They also coordinated for materials collection.

The Cherokee Youth Council provided onsite training to all EBCI Departments. They also placed nearly 1,000 blue recycling containers. Cherokee youth also learned about the importance of recycling and improving public speaking skills.

More than a decade later the Foundation’s investment continues to pay off. The amount of recycling has definitely increased.

Grant funding helped purchase hallway containers for Tribal offices, 12 trailers and holding bins for central recycling collection, and park-style bins for downtown and



## Embracing Cherokee Values

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*“We were taught to love and to take care of each other.”*

Walker Calhoun, *EBCI tribal elder*

**C**herokee Preservation Foundation’s (CPF) strategies were shaped by the cultural values endorsed by members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in the Vision Qualla initiative of 2004. These values are being utilized within CPF’s strategic plan and program efforts. By practicing the core values, the Cherokee people can surmount many crises, while continuing to prosper as a community. The Cherokee values are:

**Spirituality;** is a Cherokee lifeway, creates a bond among Cherokee people in good times and bad, and is a source of hope.

**Group Harmony** in community and kin relationships; freely giving time, talent and treasures.

**Strong Individual Character;** to act selflessly with integrity, honesty, perseverance, courage, respect, trust, honor and humility.

**Sense of Place;** acting as good stewards of the land, making a connection between the land & tribal identity.

**Honoring the Past** by honoring Cherokee ancestors and elders, learning from past tribal decisions, and embracing tribal identity.

**Educating the Children** by providing values-oriented education and recreation, and by being strong role models.

**Sense of Humor** lightens pressure in serious situations, which helps people make good decisions when addressing adversity.

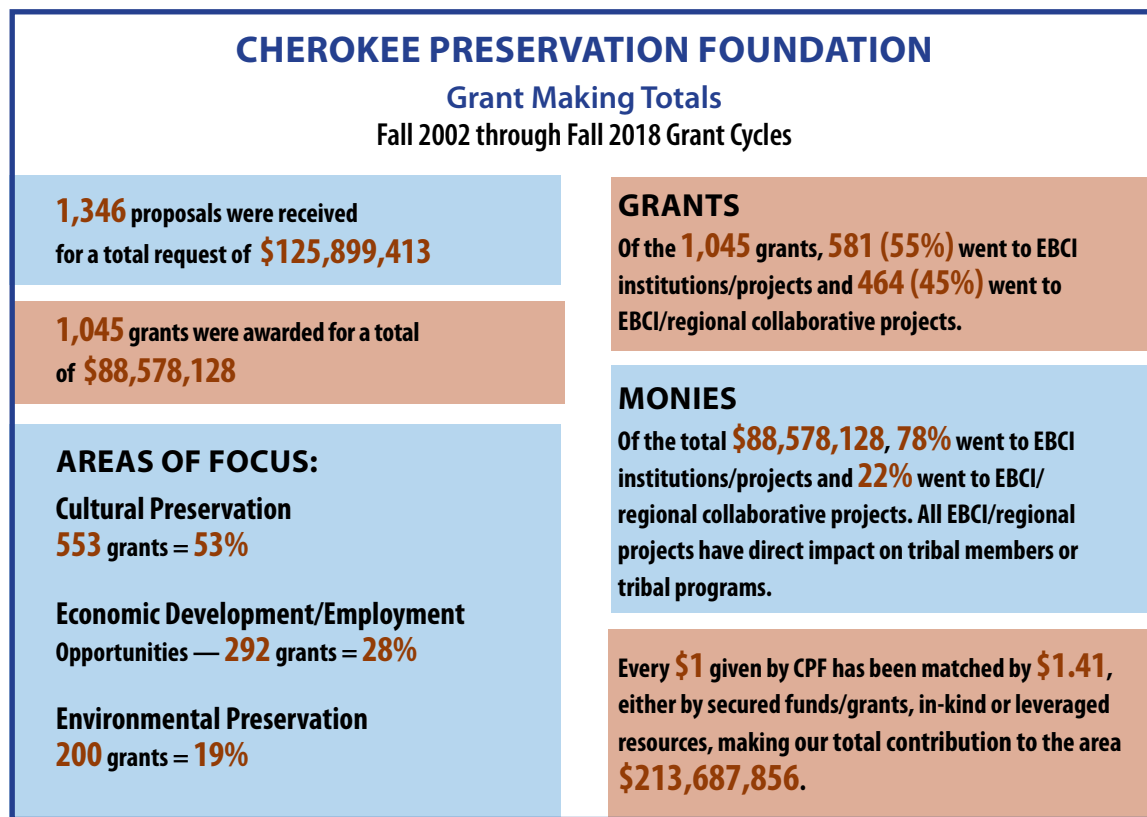
Each story in this annual report reflects one or more of these Cherokee values.



**CHEROKEE PRESERVATION FOUNDATION**  
71 John Crowe Hill Road, Cherokee, NC 28719  
**828/497-5550**

### CHEROKEE PRESERVATION FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANTS

The Cherokee Preservation Foundation awarded 37 grants in their Spring, 2018, and Fall, 2018, grant cycle, awarding over \$5 million dollars and continuing its mission to improve the quality of life for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) and the surrounding region.



For further information on grant details, visit [www.cherokeepreservation.org](http://www.cherokeepreservation.org)



**CHEROKEE PRESERVATION FOUNDATION**

71 John Crowe Hill Road, Cherokee, NC 28719

**828/497-5550**



## SPRING 2018 GRANT CYCLE

EBCI Kituwah Preservation & Education Program (KPEP) .....	\$ 378,351
Western North Carolina Regional Education Foundation (WRESA) .....	\$16,346
Cherokee Central Schools .....	\$49,721
Cherokee Boys Club: Ray Kinsland Leadership Institute .....	\$304,395
Cherokee Boys Club: Jones-Bowman Leadership Award Program .....	\$160,196
EBCI Office of Fisheries and Wildlife Management .....	\$10,600
Sequoyah Fund .....	\$500,000
Cherokee Historical Association .....	\$382,750
Stecoah Valley Arts, Crafts and Educational Center .....	\$20,000
The Museum of The Cherokee Indian .....	\$291,583
EBCI Graham County Indian Education .....	\$19,800
Mainspring Conservation Trust .....	\$8,000
Snowbird Cherokee Traditions .....	\$33,539
Great Smoky Mountains National Park .....	\$57,100
The North Carolina International Folk Festival, Inc. ....	\$36,000
Cherokee Central Schools .....	\$130,065
Swain Arts Center .....	\$4,850
Graham Revitalization Economic Action Team .....	\$16,500
Appalachian Women's Museum, Inc. ....	\$3,750
Sequoyah Birthplace Museum .....	\$ 82,500
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$2,506,046</b>

## FALL 2018 GRANT CYCLE

American Indian Science and Engineering Society .....	\$104,992
Cherokee Boys Club: Cherokee Youth Council .....	\$155,650
Cherokee Boys Club: Right Path Adult Leadership Program .....	\$136,950
Revitalization of Traditional Cherokee Artisan Resources .....	\$94,434
Haywood Extension 4-H Teen Leadership Council .....	\$10,000
Western Carolina University Cherokee Center .....	\$7,150
EBCI Qualla Public Library .....	\$20,000
EBCI Division of Commerce.....	\$1,445,876
EBCI Cherokee Youth Center .....	\$ 20,000
WNC Nonprofit Pathways .....	\$110,010
Cherokee Central Schools.....	\$19,387
The Museum of the Cherokee Indian .....	\$19,250
Western Region Education Service Alliance.....	\$355,927
Southwestern Commission.....	\$20,000
Buncombe County Partnership For Children, Inc. ....	\$10,000
Chattooga Conservancy.....	\$7,500
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$2,537,126</b>

