

In July of 1995, Sara Mayer, Carol Lucas, Jerri Talley, Jean Morris and April Hershey each gave \$100 to begin a community theater group in Highlands, the Highlands Community Players was born. That first season they chose three plays – “Steel Magnolias,” “Dearly Departed,” and “A Thurber Carnival.”

In the summer of 2008, the Highlands Community Players joined forces with theater lovers in nearby Cashiers and transitioned to the Highlands Cashiers Players. The twin communities have sustained a schedule of four productions each season, along with the popular holiday favorite of their traditional holiday reading each Christmas season. That’s resulted in over 80 full-length plays involving 25 directors, 23 holiday readings, 6 dramatized readings of full-length plays, and featuring over 250 actors, 41 of them in multiple productions.

What makes the Highlands Cashiers Players special is they are the areas only all-volunteer, not-for-profit theatre organization that always welcomes inexperienced and experienced actors all the same. They also encourage anyone who might want to help out in other areas that are just as vital, such as directors, technical staff, set designers and builders, backstage assistants, box office personnel, and hospitality providers. In addition to volunteers, the Highlands Cashiers Players continues to grow and succeed thanks to their continued support from season ticket holders, sponsors, and donors. Without those people, HCP would not exist, they truly are the heartbeat of HCP.

The 2018-2019 season saw one of HCP’s hardest losses to date, the untimely passing of current president, Adair Simon. In her memory, the entire 25th season is dedicated to Adair, with her presence still greatly felt.

As with any non-profit organization, volunteers and sponsors are the gears that make the entire machine possible.

Since Highlands Cashiers Players is composed of only volunteers, they depend upon the loyalty and dedication of the many people who give of their time on stage and behind the scenes to make The Players a success.

Sponsors are what make the incredible sets and costumes possible. “Some Enchanted Evening,” the Rodgers and Hammerstein Musical Revue, would not have been possible without the strong support of their sponsors.