



## On behalf of the Board & Staff of the Shakori Hills Community Arts Center...

Dear Friends,

2017 was truly a year of firsts for Shakori Hills Community Arts Center. New events and expanded educational programs propelled us upward and forward, and Shakori Hills enjoyed a bright and busy year, thanks to this exceptional community of which we are a part.

The first Roots in the Schools residency, an old-time music immersion for Virginia Cross fourth graders, was also the first outreach activity of the year. A group of ten local artists taught history, song and dance in this week-long program made possible by a Grassroots Grant from the Chatham County Arts Council.

Keeping this musical momentum going, in mid-April, the brand new Shakori Hills JAM (Junior Appalachian Musicians) kicked off at Silk Hope Elementary, offering students from four western Chatham County schools the opportunity for low-to-no-cost group music lessons. Along with a first for Shakori Hills, playing an instrument was a first for most of the kids, too!

We have come to look forward to starting the season on the land with the Piedmont Earthskills Gathering. This hardy and talented group of instructors and students, coming to share their knowledge of traditional and primitive skills, christens Shakori Hills as it awakens each spring. The love and connection we all feel to this special place is the underlying magical element of

> the event that birthed and nurtures SHCAC, the 15th Annual Spring Shakori Hills GrassRoots Festival of Music & Dance, held the first weekend in May.

So often is heard, "It wouldn't be Shakori Hills [festival] without rain!" This humorously beloved, widely-held belief, proved true in the gentlest of ways this spring, as we were blessed with the chance to dance in the sunshine, and also receive life-nourishing rain throughout the night. Our gratitude to Mother Nature abounds beyond words.

> The end of summer brought a beautiful Stars in the Round, and the long-awaited completion of permanent Through a venue partnership, the Big What? also held its

bathrooms—another first when the water turned on and the musical sound of a flush resonated through the trees. festival at Shakori Hills for the first time in mid-August.

Other firsts included: the addition of West African Drumming to the diverse summer workshop lineup; Hoppin' John Fiddlers' Convention being awarded a first-time Program Support Grant from the NC Arts Council; and the first BIG single-day musical event with grammy-nominated band, Sylvan Esso! The following weekend closed out a busy season of events with a nice and dry, 14th Annual Fall Shakori Hills GrassRoots Festival.

As the year comes to a close, we are grateful for so much! First and foremost, we are thankful for YOU—you are our inspiration! So much of what we do at SHCAC is because we witness you and your families experiencing and celebrating the beauty of life through the events and programming at Shakori Hills, and simply being on the land, allowing it to restore you. We are also grateful for the task of producing

this report, as it gives us the chance to set order to our activities, accomplishments and learning opportunities, and define our place in a chaotic world. In this confusing and often troubling time, our mission feels even more potent and important, and we thank you for helping us remain committed to it.

2017 was a big year at Shakori Hills and, as we wrap it up and look toward 2018, our hopes are high that it will be matched in meeting goals and expanding our offerings.

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Clarissa Farrell Secretary, Board of Directors Julie My Amani **Director of Operations** 











## Junior Appalachian Musicians

In April this year, Shakori Hills launched its own chapter of Junior Appalachian Musicians (JAM), a longstanding NC program whose mission is to provide communities the tools and support they need to teach children to play and dance to string band music. JAM's philosophy is that children who are actively engaged in traditional music are more connected and better prepared to strengthen their communities for future generations.

Utilizing donated instruments and ones provided by JAM, Inc., students met at Silk Hope Elementary each Thursday for group classes in fiddle, dance, guitar, mandolin, singing and playing together as a group. With two eight-week sessions, Shakori Hills JAM started with a base of students from Silk Hope, Siler City and Virginia Cross Elementary Schools, as well as Chatham Middle.

Each student receives the loan of their instrument to take home. Cost to families is based on financial need, with 65% of students this year receiving free classes.

Teachers included locally famous fiddler, Ken Jackson; Brian Moyer and Doug Hill teaching guitar; Alex and Annette Meredith teaching mandolin; and Katy Shoemaker, Jan Gittelman and Jen Hughes teaching dance. The program took flight with help from UNC APPLES Intern, Logan Pratico, and we look forward to working more with Virginia Ryan who joined

in the last session and will be taking the lead programmatic role going forward!

When they started in April, most of the students had never held an instrument. Through enthusiasm, family involvement and practice, they were able to play two songs together in their annual performance at the Fall Shakori Hills GrassRoots Festival.

We look forward to continuing and growing Shakori Hills JAM in 2018!



# 42 Students





**Above:** Students show off what they learned, October 7 at the Festival.

*Left:* Doug Hill instructing beginning guitar to students in September.

## Roots in the Schools

Our longest running outreach program brings musicians and arts educators into local schools for performances and residencies.

This year, with help from the Chatham and NC Arts Councils, Roots in the Schools expanded from providing one-off performances and workshops, to include an week-long residency. In March, a group of local old-time musicians, dancers and educators (including NC Squares organizer Aaron Ratcliffe, Dane Summers of the Cane Creek Cloggers and our own Katy Shoemaker who led the

daily class) took control of two Virginia Cross Elementary fourth grade classes for a few hours each afternoon. This group learned the history of NC's traditional music, along with songs and square dance steps. On Friday, March 24, the students delivered a fun and informative performance to their peers which included recitations and singing, and ended with a mini-square dance. Altogether, 45 students participated in the learning experience and 107 students watched the final performance, for a total of students served.





Above: Katy Shoemaker teaches about the akontig. Left: Virginia Cross Elementary square dance performance

# 17 Contributing Artists & Educators

The Blind Spots performed at Horton Middle School in Plttsboro on May 5, serving 110 students!

**Gabriel Pelli & Will Ridenour** performed at The Expedition School in Hillsborough the end of May, **serving around 210 students!** 



North Carolina Arts Council

Fifty years of leadership



This program is supported by Chatham County Arts Council and the NC Arts Council, a Division of the Department of Natural & Cultural Resources. www. NCArts.org

## Shakori Hills GrassRoots Festival of Music & Dance

What a fine recovery the festival began this year! 2017 started off with a considerable amount of debt from the previous "Hurricane Festival" but also with great hope for the year ahead. Through MUCH community support, hard work, perseverance and good luck with the weather, a turnaround is in motion.



The musical scope was widened with Spring headliner, Rainbow Kitten Surprise, focusing on the younger generation of festival-goers, and continued through the fall with Beats Antique. This, along with a base of local favorites, eclectic world music and traditional bands made for a winning musical combination.

Family and kids programs continued to strengthen and grow, and sustainability programming, poetry slams and the informal Front Porch Stage remain beloved activities of our festival community. The Outpost and Family Cabaret often feature young musicians who have grown up with and been inspired by Shakori Hills events, and we look forward to seeing bands like The Carolina Pine Cones, Fernandez Sisters, Jacob Vaughan and Cane Mill Road make their way into the world.

The end of the year brought major staffing changes as Sara Waters Schwartz decided to leave her position with the festival to move on to the next phase of her career. Sara's dedication, expertise and shining light have made the festival what it is

today, and she will be sorely missed. She will be with us through the end of the year, and staff restructuring is underway. We wish her the best in life, and she leaves Shakori Hills GrassRoots with the love and gratitude of her co-workers.



7,896
Spring Attendees

5,824 Landees Fall Attendees

\*Based on wristbands used

1,400 + Children
ages 12 & under, attended
the festivals this year (free of charge!)





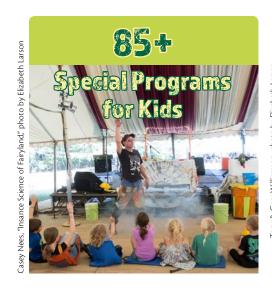


Aurelio Martinez on the Meadow Stage this Spring





Glorifying Vines Sisters on the Front Porch this Fall







## 22 Music Workshops

including:

Bandora Llanera with LADAMA Mandolin with Tony Williamson Music of the Garifuna with Aurelio **Latin World Fusion Drumming with** FABI & Jennie Delgado The Magic of Harmony with Bare **Bones A Capella** 



Our 2017 Festivals Hosted 20 Advocacy Groups including:

**Appalachian Voices Orange County Living Wage Chatham County Beekeepers** Journeymen of the Triangle **Alliance of Veterans & Education Volunteers** 

## **Dance Workshops**

including:

Aubrey & Adam, photo by Anna Maynard

**Traditional Mexican Tap Dance** with Son Viajero

**Latin Dance with Aubrey** Griffith-Zill & Adam Phillips

Flamenco! with Flamenco Carolina

Bhangra & Bollywood with **DISHOOM** 

Southeastern Native Songs & **Dance with WarPaint** 





25.26 tons of waste were created:

9.13 tons -Recycled

5.14 tons -Composted

10.99 tons -Sent to landfill



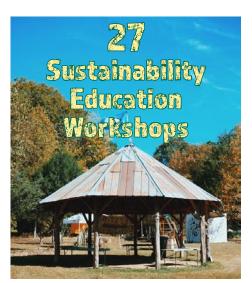


## International Music

**LADAMA** & Kaira Ba Son Viajero Aurelio **FABI** Muningu







## Hoppin' John Old-Time & Bluegrass Fiddlers' Convention

2017 was a fantastic and complex year for the Hoppin' John Fiddlers' Convention. The base attendance of folks who arrive early, camp and compete—the community that creates the vibe of any good convention—grew with a bound. Walking around on Friday night, one got the sense that Hoppin' John was finally on the map of musicians' places to play.

This success can be attributed, in part, to a North Carolina Arts Council Program Support Grant. The funding from the NC Arts Council provided a larger advertising budget, more staff time for event coordination and promotion, and a high-quality original outreach program which also supported a Durham non-profit, *The Old-Time Herald* publication.

Saturday's single-day attendance from the neighboring community was significantly down, however, and so we must look for lessons in improvement.

This year's educational lineup welcomed masters such as Jane Rothfield, Earl White, Mark Olitsky, local bluegrass fiddler Al McCanless and Jake Owen. We danced the evenings away with high energy square dances and a special two-step with Cliff Hale.

It was an overall success, and gratitude goes out to all volunteers, musicians, attendees and supporters!







Above Left: Jane Rothfield teaching a fiddle workshop.

Above Right: Campsite jam.

Left: Friday night square dance with the Pilot Mountain Bobcats.



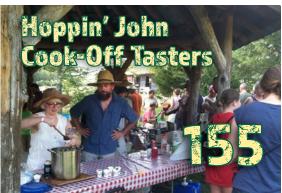






909 Attendees





ohoto by Tany



Saturday afternoon's fiddle showcase featured Jane Rothfield, Earl White, Randy Johnson and Al McCanless (not pictured).



North Carolina Arts Council Fifty years of leadership This project was supported by the NC Arts Council, a Division of the Department of Natural & Cultural Resources. www.NCArts.org

## Community Garden

The community garden continued strong and, as always, is the ideal model of best growing practices in our region. With a three-area crop rotation cycle, it produces 12 months out of the year. This year, south standing trees were removed, or are in the process of being removed, allowing sunlight to reach an area that had turned to shade in the last several years. Some of this lumber was used in the new bathrooms!

The garden crew is always accepting new volunteers and folks to take part in the bountiful harvest!

Right: Garden guru and CCCC sustainable agriculture teacher, Cheryl McNeill, and lead garden volunteer, Gail Vanderheyden, sell the community garden's produce at the Chatham Mills Farmers' Market on May 27. Funds raised went directly back into garden expenses.

Far right: Chatham County Girl Scouts received a tour during their camp held at Shakori Hills, June 26-30.







168 pounds

of fresh organic produce

donated to CORA Food Pantry!

## Piedmont Earthskills Gathering & Summer Workshops

The 5th Annual Piedmont Earthskills Gathering was held at Shakori Hills April 5-9, and featured classes and workshops in survival and primitive living skills, led by experienced instructors from around the country. Some highlights included hide tanning, flint knapping, blacksmithing and yeast husbandry.

This partnership with the Piedmont Wildlife Conservancy brought you workshops this past summer in Making and Playing the



Didgeridoo and Bark Berry Basket Making. Like all the 2017 on-site educational opportunities, these earthskills workshops were free and open to the public.





**740** Participants **Earthskills Gathering** 







## Partnership with Durham **County Library**

Alice Gerrard and Gail Gillespie shared their musical talents at North Regional Library. Alice and Gail, respective founding and previous editors of The Old-Time Herald



magazine, presented "The Old-Time Herald: A Reminiscence with Alice Gerrard, Gail Gillespie and Sarah Bryan" as part of Hoppin' John Fiddlers' Convention's outreach on Sept. 12.



Unfortunately, a death in her family prevented Sarah from being there that night, but Alice and Gail took turns sharing history and stories, including a slide show of letters and photos. They wrapped up their evening with a mini-concert consisting of traditional ballads and songs.

34 Participants





## Workshops & Classes

Drumming, singing, visual arts, basket making, didgeridoo and sound production workshops happened on the grounds at Shakori Hills throughout the spring and summer months. All classes were free and open to the public, and taught by experts in their fields.

The most successful classes, by far, covered topics related to music: Will Ridenour's Drumming, Marie Vanderbeck's singing classes, Fuz Sanderson's workshop in making and playing the didgeridoo and Live Sound Production taught by Shakori Hills staff. Classes in 2018 will focus more on what we do best-music!



Charles Jones shares his knowledge of monitor-world at the Live Sound Production Workshop June 16-18.









## More Ways Our Organization Helps the Community...

- Girl Scout Camp was held at Shakori Hills June 26-30
- Boy Scout Campout was held at Shakori Hills October 13-16
- Haw River Assembly fourth grade watershed education program in Bynum: Loaned 40'x40' tent, setup and crew leadership.
- Abundance Foundation Death Faire: Loaned several risers to create a stage for keynote speakers.
- Chatham Marketplace Harvest Fest: Loaned a music stage, setup and crew leadership.
- Waldorf-Emerson School Holiday Faire (annual fundraiser): Loaned 30'x40' tent, set-up and crew leadership.
- Provided a YMCA Camp Sponsorship



Top Left: Art Class kids, February 2017

Above Left: A finished work of art by Barbara Hengstenberg from Stacye Leanza's Visual Arts

Above Right: Marie Vanderbeck at the Hoppin' John Fiddlers' Convention Singing Showcase, September 14. Marie taught two six-week evening classes, as well as a daylong workshop entitled "Sing Your Heart Out!" in June.

Above Far Right: Fuz Sanderson taught this Make & Play Your Own Didgeridoo Class both at the Spring Festival and on June 24.

Below: Visual Arts Class with John Vanderheyden







Will Ridenour's West African Drumming Workshop met Tuesday evenings, May 30 -June 4

## **Summer Concerts & Events**

## Sylvan Esso





5844 Attendees 2253 Campers



To limit their environmental impact, Sylvan Esso chose to skip bottled water and sell stainless steel cups for use at our water filling stations instead.

What a great day of music! On September 30, Shakori Hills teamed up with AC Entertainment and Cat's Cradle to bring you grammy-nominated Sylvan Esso with their one-day mini-festival also featuring Tune Yards, Wye Oak, Helado Negro and local bands. The event represented a first for us in partnering with other production companies to fulfill our mission of bringing music and cultural events to the area. Both success and learning opportunities were great, and we look forward to many more one-day concerts in the future!

## NC Stars in the Round





oto by Elizabeth L



484 Attendees



The eighth annual NC Stars in the Round, held August 26, featured North Carolina singers and songwriters, Charly Lowry, Rebekah Todd, Tommy Edwards, Ashley Heath and Big Ron Hunter.

The Carolina PineCones (*above*) opened, and Dr. Bacon closed out the wonderful night.



Big Something on the stage at their event, the Big What? in August.

## 2017 Financial Information

## **Income & Expense Report**

#### **INCOME**

#### **Program Income:**

Hoppin' John Fiddlers' Convention*	26,381
*NC Arts Council Program Support	7,800
Shakori Hills GrassRoots Festival	657,841
Summer Concerts	119,141
JAM, Workshops & Other Programs	3,222
Roots in the Schools**(**100% Chatham Arts Council GrassRoots Grant)	2,000

Property Mission Partnerships	13,110
Donations	13,853
Other Grants***	3,450
Fundraising Events	5,791

Operating Revenue/Rental Income......2,158

#### TOTAL 2017 INCOME .....\$854,747

#### **EXPENSES**

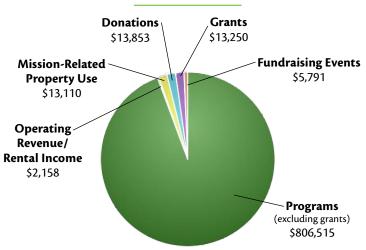
#### **Program Expenses:**

Hoppin' John Fiddlers' Convention	25,468
Shakori Hills GrassRoots Festival	631,803
Summer Concerts	62,882
JAM	5,933
Roots in the Schools	2,540
Workshops & Classes	4,012
Fundraising Events	2,043
Arts Action Development	3,450
Operating Expenses:	
Site	20,497
Payroll	32,454
Other Operating	14,046
Mortgage & Loan Interest	7,126
Donations	577
TOTAL 2017 EXPENSES	

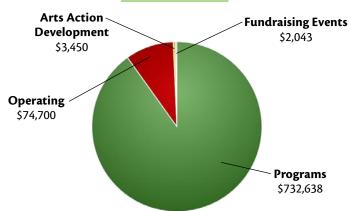


Shakori Hills was awarded a Triangle Community Foundation New Realities Triangle Initiative Grant in August. We will be working with Nello McDaniel of Arts Action in the upcoming years to grow and develop the organization.

#### Income



## Expenses



## **Balance Sheet**

#### **ASSETS**

Current Assets	16,191
Fixed Assets	462,216

#### TOTAL 2017 ASSETS ......\$478,407

#### **LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

Shakori Hills GrassRoots Accounts Payable	47,864
Other Current Liabilities	9,983
Long-Term Liabilities	290,906
Equity	129.654

#### TOTAL 2017 LIABILITIES & EQUITY ......\$478,407

Financial information is based on in-house accounting reports, as of December 17. Updated report, scheduled for January release, will reflect entire year. 990s and accountant-compiled financial statements will be available online in August, 2018.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>Triangle Community Foundation Grant for Organizational Development, UNC APPLES Program

## Thank You for Your Support!!!

Larry's Beans



## 2017 Business Sponsors & Partners

AC Entertainment
Abundance Foundation
Alternative Aire
Aromatic Coffee Roasters
Audubon Tree Services
Blue Ridge Outdoors
Carolina Brewery
Carrboro-Chapel Hill
Chamber of Commerce
Cat's Cradle Productions

Chatham County Arts Council

Chatham County Chamber of Commerce
Chatham County School District (Silk Hope Elementary)
Chatham Mills Farmers Market
Chatham Portables
Fair Game Beverage Company
Foothills Brewing
Indy Week
Junior Appalachian
Musicians, Inc.

Lloyd Sound
Main Street Accounting
Music Maker Relief Foundation
Norm's Farms
Parker Foundation
PineCone
Piedmont Wildlife Refuge
Road King Backline
Signergy, LLC
Silk Hope Ruritans
South of Cool Productions

Tick Warriors
Triangle Community
Foundation
Universal Printing
University of NC
(APPLES Program)
WCHL
WCOM
WLHC – Life 103.1
WHUP
Window Wizard
Yes! Weekly

#### **Donors & Contributors**

Nicole Addison Iulie Amani Kris Asher Andrew Branan **Amy Brooks** Lila Camu Mary Clark **Amy Davis** Morris Davis Rob Degenhart Bill Donovan Ann Drake Michele Dubow Denise & Tim Duffy Clarissa Farrell John Featherston Alec Fernandez David Fillipini Ethan Fulwood Alice Gerrard Ivan Goldstein Joan Gordon Tara Lynne Groth

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The bathroom





The bathroom structure meets criteria to attain county permits for multiple events in a 30-day time span, so Shakori Hills can hold events more frequently.





Tara and Lane were married at Shakori Hills on October 28. Private rentals help offset the costs of maintaining the grounds.

## 2017 Board of Directors

#### Ed Griffin, President

Owner, Griffin Contracting; Owner, South of Cool Sound Productions; Pittsboro, NC

#### Carol Woodell, Vice President

Sr. Research Public Health Analyst, RTI International; Chapel Hill, NC

#### Clarissa Farrell, Secretary/Treasurer

Co-Coordinator, GrassRoots Festival of Music & Dance; Trumansburg, NY

#### Andrew Branan, Board Attorney

Lawyer, Branan Law Firm, PLLC; Hillsborough, NC

#### Jim Graves

Lead Sales Consultant, David Weekly Homes; Pittsboro, NC

# oto by Elizabeth Larson

#### **Darrell Foushee**

Retired, Federal Aviation Administration; Bennett, NC

#### Jordan Puryear

Co-Coordinator & Founder, GrassRoots Festival of Music & Dance; Trumansburg, NY

#### **Charly Lowry**

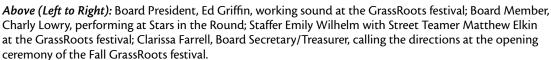
Singer & Band Member, Dark Water Rising; Pembroke, NC

#### Hannah Eck

Office Manager/Workshop Coordinator, Abundance Foundation; Pittsboro, NC







## 2017 Staff

#### Sara Waters Schwartz

Co-Coordinator, Shakori Hills GrassRoots Festival

#### Julie My Amani

Director of Operations, Shakori Hills Community Arts Center

#### Steve Fagan

Site Manager, Shakori Hills Community Arts Center

#### **Emily Wilhelm**

Office Assistant & Festival Program Coordinator, Shakori Hills GrassRoots Festival

#### And Introducing...

Sarah Cullen, Festival Media Coordinator

Grant Golden, Festival Booking Coordinator



#### from the Festival Desk...

It's been quite a journey since I randomly showed up at a meeting in March of 2007 after being laid off from a local record label, hoping to get involved in the festival and maybe find a new work home. I had no idea then how much a part of my life Shakori Hills would become. I worked part-time for about a year and a half and then was able to fill out the full-time position of Festival Co-Coordinator. I was able to slowly learn everything I needed and quickly fall in love with this place, these people, and the mission and spirit of it all. It's been a complete honor to steer this ship a bit, bring you some of my (and I hope your) favorite musical acts, and to learn beside you what this community needs and what it takes to keep our spirits alive during some "interesting" times in the surrounding world. It was the most challenging yet most amazing thing I believe I've ever done. Now, it's time for me to rest and to check out what is on the next horizon for me. I cannot thank this community enough for accepting me, teaching me, and working beside me to build this beautiful, unique, and essential event and community.

Peace to you all, and keep up the good work!

Love,

Sara

# Thank you for your continued support!

We thank everyone who has attended the festivals and events, and supported Shakori Hills throughout the year. Please consider a tax-deductible donation to our annual fund. Your gift will help keep the lights on and the music playing!

You can send donations, payable to Shakori Hills, to:

1439 Henderson Tanyard Road Pittsboro, NC 27312

Or, visit www.shakorihills.org and click on the "Support Us" tab.

Shakori Hills Community Arts Center is a NC not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization.