

## Hickory Nut Gorge Foundation Awards Grant to the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge



*The Hickory Nut Gorge Foundation awards a grant to support the ongoing work of the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge. Pictured from left are Foundation board members, Tom McKay, Joe Satrape, Peter O'Leary and Woody Turner. Receiving the check are Flowering Bridge board members, Sandra Nelson, Janet Walters, Susie Ellis and Bill Miller.*

**Lake Lure** - As part of its annual grant cycle, the Hickory Nut Gorge Foundation has awarded a matching grant to the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge to support ongoing work in the beautification of the historic landmark.

The matching grant is tied to a partnership forged between the two organizations earlier this spring. In May, members of the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge were asked to partner with the Foundation during the Community Impact Awards gala that honored Lake Lure residents, Ed and Kay Dittmer.

The Flowering Bridge organization was invited to provide and sell the centerpieces for the evening. But what the Flowering Bridge representatives did not know was that if they sold all of the centerpieces, the board of directors for the Foundation would match what was raised with an equal contribution.

All told, the unique partnership served to raise \$800 for the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge - \$400 from the sale of the centerpieces and the match of \$400 from the HNG Foundation.

"This type of project, which was the idea from one of our board members, is exactly the kind of partnering that we love to do," said Foundation Board Chair, Joe Satrape. "It wasn't really about centerpieces for our gala event as much as it was about two organizations becoming stronger by working together."

Founded in 2005 by local residents, The **Hickory Nut Gorge Foundation (HNGF)** is an endowment fund under the umbrella of the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina. The HNGF provides charitable grants for the people and communities in the Gorge and beyond. It is able to provide such grants through the direct contributions it receives from donors. Those contributions are never spent, only invested. The earnings from the contributions make the grants possible.

For more information about the Foundation, contact Board Chair, Joe Satrape at [educate4hq@aol.com](mailto:educate4hq@aol.com)  
*Article and image submitted by Valerie A. Hoffman, HNG Foundation Board of Directors*