Collecting Stories

A questionnaire was recently sent to over one hundred people who have been offered CDSS Outreach Funding from 2008 (the inception of our current grants program) through 2011. This message launched a project to collect as many stories as possible about the ways CDSS support has benefited traditional music, dance and/or song communities throughout the US and Canada. (Grant recipients from 2012-13 will be contacted after enough time has passed to see the longterm impact of our support.) Glimpses of these personal experiences can spark others to create projects and events to enliven their communities. They can also help past, present and future donors see the myriad ways their contributions have made and will make a difference. If you received this questionnaire and haven’t yet responded, it’s not too late! Please contact Linda Henry at outreach@cdss.org with any questions as soon as possible.

Grant Update

In June 2013, CDSS Outreach support totaling $3,175 was offered to these projects and events:

- Scholarship for Cumberland Dance Week—partial scholarship to help budding caller attend contra callers’ workshop at Cumberland Dance Week (KY)
- English Country Dance series—new series of eight monthly English country dances for Columbia region (MO)
- Supporting Classroom Teachers to Dance with their Students—pilot project to develop training materials for K-5 classroom teachers who want to introduce their students to traditional dance (ME)
- Dare To Be Square West—square dance weekend including workshops (dancing, music, calling) to promote and preserve traditional square dancing (CA)
- Cape Ann Contra Dance—series of new intergenerational contra dance events (MA)
- Travel assistance for Appalachian clogging team—support for college team from NC to perform at 49th International Folklore Festival in Billingham, England
- Dancing with Style—workshop for Vancouver ECD community, with mentorship for new musician (BC)
- Preparing for the Next Level—workshop to help contra callers learn what they need to plan and call a successful evening of dancing (PA)
- Winter Dreams English Country Ball—four-hour ball to bring together dancers from ECD communities throughout southern California (CA)

CDSS Outreach Funds at work...helping others make things happen.

If you have ideas about ways to support your music, dance and/or song community, CDSS can help! Contact Linda, linda@cdss.org, or visit http://www.cdss.org/outreach-funds.html to apply for funding. Upcoming application deadlines are October 1, 2013 and February 1, 2014.