Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the CDSS Grants Program
by Linda Henry, CDSS Community Resources Manager, and Executive Director Katy German

Over the past decade, CDSS has granted more than $134,000 to 330 recipients across the continent and beyond (see map). These funds have supported a wide variety of programs and projects to foster the growth of traditional dance, music, and song including:

- workshops to train callers, musicians, song leaders, organizers, and dancers
- new dance, music, and song events (weekends, conferences, festivals, etc.)
- events that foster youth involvement
- scholarships for non-CDSS programs related to music, dance, and song
- instruction materials (print, web, audio, video)
- related endeavors that will have a lasting effect on dance, music, and song communities.

Last December we sent a survey to all previous grant recipients and learned that 72% reported long-term benefits and 24% reported short-term benefits in their communities and regions. Here are a few responses...

“I received funding for my Dancing in the Curriculum project. In December 2018 (four and a half years after the conclusion of the project), a classroom teacher is regularly using these songs, dances, and movement activities in her classroom.”
- Chrissy Fowler, Belfast, Maine

“Many people knew very little about Max Hunter and the impact his 20 years of collecting had on the survival of traditional song into the 21st Century. My CDSS-funded research is changing the conversation amidst scholars and highlighting the treasure trove of ballad material in the Hunter collection.”
- Sarah Jane Nelson, Springfield, Missouri

“In 2013 and 2017 we received grants for two workshops for callers. Each workshop resulted in ‘graduating’ several callers who are still calling today. Though some of them have moved from our area, they received their training at a workshop that was made possible by a CDSS grant. Thank YOU.”
- Donna Hunt, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

“Knowing CDSS can help financially has given us the courage to mount new initiatives. When the initiative has been a financial success, we have been able to return the ‘seed money’ grant to CDSS, ‘paying it forward’ to be available for others.”
- Jane Srivastava, Vancouver, British Columbia

If you have ideas about an event or project to enliven your music, dance, or song community, a CDSS grant is waiting for YOU! Visit cdss.org/outreach and apply by the quarterly deadlines: Feb 1, June 1, and Oct 1. Priority is given to CDSS Affiliates and members.