



**Josephine Richardson**  
**Kentucky Arts Council Board**  
**Whitesburg, Ky.**

Whitesburg-based restaurateur and bookshop owner Josephine D'Amato Richardson is no stranger to the arts. Having served with distinction on a variety of committees and panels at all levels of government, Josephine has devoted her life and work to promoting arts education and awareness. She is particularly passionate about preserving and displaying the distinctive cultural treasures of the Appalachian region of Kentucky. Her bookshop in Whitesburg, The Cozy Corner, strongly emphasizes the literature and work of Appalachian writers, artisans and craftspeople.

A New Haven, Conn., native, Josephine first came to Kentucky in 1969 with her husband, Bill, to develop a media program for young people in Appalachia. That program, Appalshop, would become one of the great success stories of the War on Poverty and grow into a leading arts and cultural organization with national and international reach. Although Bill Richardson assured his wife at the onset of their service that their time in Kentucky would be brief, more than 40 years later they remain in Whitesburg fully committed to both the ideals and work that first brought them to Kentucky.

Josephine's service to the arts has included, among others, stints on the Kentucky Arts Council from 1987 to 1994 (as chair from 1989 to 1992), the Kentucky Humanities Council from 1984 to 1988 and the Kentucky Citizens for the Arts from 1981 to 1988. In addition, she was a founding member of the committee that established the Governor's School for the Arts. Currently, Josephine serves on the board of the Gaines Center for the Humanities at the University of Kentucky, the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence and the Whitesburg Educational Foundation.

A graduate of Marymount College in Tarrytown, N.Y., Josephine was awarded an honorary doctorate in the humanities from Morehead State University in 1999. The proud mother of three children, Justine, Jared, and Anna, and two grandchildren, Liam and Anna Sophia, she resides in Whitesburg with her husband, an architect.