

Newsletter

Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation

JUNE 2011

Volume 10 Issue 2

IWCF Awards \$143,000 in 2011 Pooled Grants

by Gena Delucchi, 2010-11 Grants Chair

Our 10th cycle of grantmaking is marked by the largest Pooled Fund and the highest number of beneficiaries to date. Over 40 members worked on the Grants selection process this year, many of them for the first time, while several are involved year-after-year. These women are sincerely thanked for their efforts constituting the "heart" of IWCF's purpose, as well as personally providing them with invaluable insights into our wider community's needs and mindful ways to address them. We started in January with 140 Letters of Inquiry, then considered 24 applications further through full proposals, followed up by 16 site visits and culminating with these 8 outstanding projects, chosen by the entire membership:

Cultural Arts:

National Old Time Fiddlers, Incorporated - \$20,000
"Squeaky Strings" After-school Program

Education:

Discovery Center of Idaho - \$22,000
Technology for Ongoing Transformational Learning

Lee Pesky Learning Center - \$25,000
Caldwell College Aspirations

Environment:

Sustainable Futures - \$20,000
Doubling Recycled Glass Production Capacity

Financial Security:

Microenterprise Training and Assistance (META)
of Mountain States Group, Inc. - \$25,000
Advancing Lives through Microenterprise Assistance

Gateway School of Language and Culture - \$5,000
Gateway School Family Resource Center

Health:

Community Care Clinic - McCall \$21,000
Health Pathways to Progress

Third Judicial District Guardian Ad Litem Program - \$5,000
Give an Abused and Neglected Child a Voice

Welcome New Members!

Since February 2011

Pamela Doucette	Stacey Nolan
Liz Edrich	Kristin Prieur
Heidi Egerman	Karen Ruttko
Tonia Ginkel	Penny Simons
Sharon Hanson	Mary Slaughter
Sue Hunter	Glenda Talbutt
Lois Morris	Tara Wensel

Our Newest

Three-Year Members!

Since February 2011

Galen Barnes	Cathy Lyons
Brenda Blitman	Julie Manning
Karen Bradshaw	Beth Markley
Anne Brown	Carrie Matso
Amie Bruggeman	Susan Mauk
Linda Capasse	Jo Anne Minnick
Sharon Colby	Hindi Morland
Amy Costello	Marni Odermann
Luane Dean	Mary Parsons
Elizabeth Dudley	Claudia Pfennig
Hilary Dunstan	Stella Schneider
Janine Greene	Jan Scripps
Christy Hilde	Judy St. John
Dana Kehr	Pam Storms
Kellie Kuster	Doris Talbutt
Pamela Lemley	Debbie Wachtell

Thank You!

Laura McGregor Bettis

Chris LaRocco

Jan Reiner

Marty and Lydia Baird of

Robinson and Associates, Inc.

Wayne Rancourt of Boise Cascade, Inc.

Your generosity means so much!

Positive change through thoughtful giving

From the Board

Dear IWCF Members,

At our Annual Meeting on May 9, we awarded \$143,000 to eight projects. That's the largest amount we've ever been able to award! It brings our total over the past ten years to \$1,634,860: \$853,060 of that went to support our 46 pooled grant recipients; you've contributed a similar amount to over 240 other organizations through your individual designations! Thank you for making things happen!

You are such a powerful group of exciting, capable women and your commitment shows every day. When we first started, IWCF was a small fledgling group determined to make a bigger difference through the concept of pooled giving. Over the years, we have all worked to maintain the strength of that powerful model of informed philanthropy – a pure form of giving. Not all of our own personal favorites get funded, but many do, and good things happen as a result of the consensus. It's so rewarding to realize that we're helping make a significant difference in the life of our community.

While our model has remained strong, we've also adapted to changes in the needs of the community, to lessons learned, needs we've seen in the community or in grant submissions and from your comments. As you'll read in this Newsletter, the Board has embarked on a new strategic plan...one that will guide us as we build a sustainable organization to address the Treasure Valley's future needs.

A sincere thank you to our outgoing Board members: Vicky Coelho, Gena DeLucchi, Anne-Marie Lodge, Mindy Plumlee and Janelle Wise. They will be truly missed. Their work and dedication during their respective tenures on the Board has helped shape us.

On Friday, September 30, we will be celebrating 10 years of work in this extended community! It's been a rewarding decade for all of us as we've watched our grantees succeed, learned more about how to give wisely and effectively, and seen the power of pooling our resources to have a greater impact. But, IWCF has not yet reached its full potential - now, we get to work together to make the next 10 years even better!

In gratitude,

Susan Smith and Members of The Board of Directors



Susan Smith IWCF Endowment Fund

How great is this?! Thanks to the generosity of our members who pledged the \$150,000 needed, the matching funds were transferred to us early! This establishes a base endowment fund of \$300,000 when all pledges are paid.

Thanks to the many of you who have fulfilled your pledges, we have almost \$254,000, as of May 31, 2011. Though the final pledges are due by March 31, 2012, much of the remaining \$46,000 of pledges is coming in early, which is most appreciated. Every little bit helps in giving us a great start on establishing a sustainable future for the work of IWCF. Please contact us at the office to complete your pledge. *Thank you!*

Thank You to Outgoing Board Members

IWCF appreciates the hard work and dedication of our outgoing Board Members: Vicky Coelho, Gena Delucchi, Anne-Marie Lodge, Mindy Plumlee and Janelle Wise. Each of these women has given her time, counsel, expertise, and leadership abilities to IWCF in many ways, making the organization stronger and enriching the membership experience.

- **Vicky Coelho** served as vice-president, where she guided the strategic planning committee in creating our new strategic plan. Vicky also has a long history of commitment to IWCF in her capacity as education chair and has served as an eloquent spokeswoman for IWCF.
- **Gena Delucchi** served as grants chair, responsible for all the facets of the pooled grants process. Gena's leadership and diligence have created a definitive and thorough process, which has been recognized in the community. It is a process which has required many hours of management and communication. She has been very involved since 2002 and was the editor of our first newsletter.
- **Mindy Plumlee** has been a member-at-large for two years and also served as a grants work-group chair during her board service. Mindy was very instrumental in updating the by-laws last year, our standing rules this year and has really functioned as our governance expert.
- **Anne-Marie Lodge** has been secretary for four years. Her practical wisdom and her ability to articulate priorities has been a major influence in the evolution of IWCF as a sustainable organization.
- **Janelle Wise** served as education chair for two years, and has been responsible for fulfilling our mission of educated philanthropy. One of Janelle's most notable contributions was the execution of the Fall Symposium with Paola Gianturco, a noted photojournalist and philanthropist.

These women have impacted and strengthened the mission of IWCF. Their leadership has been remarkable and significant in the growth and influence of IWCF.

Overview of 2011-2012

Education Plan

by Tena Lokken, Education Chair

The Education Committee has been busy planning an exciting slate of education events for next year. Based on the feedback we received from the IWCF members who participated in the online Education Survey conducted this winter, we will host a series of topical educational events in various formats and forums. We are still working on many of the specifics, such as speakers, venues, and exact dates; but the following list provides you with a "sneak peek" into the substantive and diverse subjects we will examine next year:

- "IWCF Grant-Making-Process and Best Practices for Nonprofits"- for our members and representatives of nonprofits who may wish to apply. We will likely host this informative presentation and Q&A session at the Cole & Ustick branch of the library in mid-September.
- "The Problems of Aging" - an expert panel discussion slated for mid-November.
- "How to Inspire and Engage the Next Generation of Volunteers and Philanthropists" – a salon discussion with wine and chocolates held in a private home in mid-January.
- "A Stitch in Time: The Importance of Early Childhood Education" – this expert panel will focus on preventive measures and proven successes and is planned for late April.
- "The Color of Conscience" – A human rights documentary and discussion with producer, Marcia Franklin, hosted at The Flicks in early May.

The Education Committee wishes to express heartfelt appreciation to Janelle Wise for her service to IWCF and her remarkable leadership of the Education Committee during her tenure as Chair. We are quite grateful that Janelle will continue to participate on the Education Committee as Tena Lokken takes over as Chair this month.

Looking to the Future...

By Vickie Coelho, Kim Liebich, Theresa Madrid and Susan Mauk

As IWCF enters its 10th year of existence, the Board decided we needed a new plan to carry us forward – one that was simple and focused. After much discussion, we agreed on a plan with only three Objectives. At our May retreat, we agreed on specific tactics to accomplish key activities. Each committee of the Board will now be developing working plans to fit within the Objectives. We've also created a method to track our progress and to hold ourselves accountable throughout the year.

As gratifying as IWCF's growth is, a larger organization has increasing needs. We're excited that we now have a plan focused on the core issues needed to maintain a strong capability going forward.

Objective 1: Growth -- provide sustainable systems and succession plans that scale to support operations as we grow.

Strategy -- Build committee strength by breaking work into smaller pieces and engaging more members in getting work done.

Objective 2: Informed Giving -- be grounded in understanding current community needs and assets and identify effective ways to address those needs.

Strategy -- Address current community needs through an enhanced grants process led by a standing grants committee.

Objective 3: Role and Presence -- develop and protect our identity in order to strengthen our impact in the community.

Strategy -- Research our past, understand its impact, and communicate the stories to build membership retention and promote our model of giving.

We hope you agree that making progress on these items will keep IWCF moving in the right direction. If you're interested in joining committees to work on any of these objectives, or if you have comments, *Please Let Us Know**.

Membership Recognition

IWCF is filled with active women doing work in their community. We're trying a pilot article to give brief mentions of some of the honors you are receiving. Since each organization does write-ups of various lengths, we're providing only a very brief synopsis of the recognition given to each person.

*Congratulations and Thank You
to these great members!*

The Joyce Stein Memorial Award

Provided by the Women's and Children's Alliance

The Joyce Stein Memorial Award honors an individual who has made a positive impact on the lives of women in the Treasure Valley. Kaye Knight has made a lifetime of commitment to volunteerism, developing the potential of women and improving our community.

Boise State Auction 2011 Honoree

Provided by Boise State University

Dixie Dykman and her husband, Allen, were honored by Boise State for their individual activities in support of their community. They were also honored for their long and successful involvement in supporting Boise State University through their hard work and fund-raising activities.

Women Making History in Idaho

Boise State University Women's Center

This award is bestowed on ordinary women leading extraordinary lives as they change the course of history in Idaho. Yvonne Lierz was honored for her many activities helping women and children, as well as her work to create Simply Cats, providing a no-kill cat shelter and adoption agency in the Treasure Valley.

This recognition can only work if you help. When you see or hear of a member being honored for community efforts, *Please Let Us Know**.

Positive change through thoughtful giving

R Factor Survey Results

In March, many of you participated in a very simple survey created and donated for us by Robinson and Associates, Inc. The purpose was to try to understand how our members feel about what we're doing: what's working well; what we could improve. We don't have space to list every response, but the Board has read and discussed each one. Two-thirds of the responses were extremely positive; about 5% listed areas in which they'd like to see changes considered; the remainder were "neutral", generally ok, but not outrageously excited. Here, in a nutshell, are the findings:

What's Working: Members like the IWCF mission and believe we're "walking the talk", focusing on delivering member contributions to the community effectively. The grants process – the heart of what we do – is viewed very positively, as is the variety of choices in the final selections all members get to vote on. We also especially like the flexibility of being able to volunteer where and when we can, or just being able to just write a check and still have a big impact.

Areas for Improvement: We're interested in getting to know each other better, via suggestions for more informal get-togethers, a few evening events to accommodate the workday and greater outreach to members. One idea asked us to look at our annual contributions, to see if we might attract more members if there were a lower-tier or entry-level rate, which doesn't have voting rights. Another idea was to try to make IWCF a little more visible in the community, not to "show off", but to let people at least know a bit about what we do. Finally, there were a couple of suggestions to look at our grants to possibly adapt to new needs and to see how we might assess our grantees' impact past the 1-year assessment we currently have.

Actions already addressed or underway: Board members have read all comments and discussed how we might respond to suggestions about improving how we function. Several of the suggestions for improvement are being considered as each Board committee works on their part of our strategic plan.

- **More informal get-togethers:** We'll try to have a few informal post-workday events this coming year. Past evening events have not had great attendance; this time, we'll try a few things immediately after work, so we can

visit and then go on home to our families.

- **Creating a modified lower-cost or entry-level membership to attract more members:** This might certainly attract more members. Many members, however, prefer that we grow slowly. There are several organizations with a low-cost annual contribution rate, which the Board thinks might better suit people who want to participate at that level. Finally, since IWCF is a volunteer organization with only a single part-time employee, we don't currently have the infrastructure to support a large influx of members or to manage a payment structure. We are offering PayPal as a way to use a credit card for membership payment.
- **Make IWCF a little more visible in the community:** We're working on ways to do this in a tasteful way. Our first effort was part of last year's Fall Symposium, followed by actions to gain visibility for our grantees with a sidenote about IWCF. We'll continue working on this area.
- **Consider modifying grants to accommodate new community needs:** The Grants committee has discussed how we might consider this and is submitting suggestions to the Board for the upcoming year's grants cycle.
- **Consider assessing grant-impact past the current 1-year evaluation:** Apparently we, as well as, many other organizations are trying to figure out how to do this effectively. We will undertake a pilot effort for the upcoming year and try to develop a model for going forward.

We hear you and the Board sincerely appreciates the participation of those who responded. It's very important to understand what's on everyone's mind, which means we'll probably do this again in the coming year. If you have further comments, or if you would be interested in being part of one of the activities listed as "underway"

Please Let Us Know*. Thank you!!

Correction

In our February Newsletter, we published a "Department of Corrections Success Story", discussing a presentation made in our November, 2010 education event. That story should have been attributed to Janet Guerin, LSW, IDOC Programs Project Manager. We apologize for the mis-attribution.

We're also pleased to report that an IWCF member who read the article was touched by the need of the subject of the story for a computer and managed the donation of the computer that woman needed! Yeah!!!

Membership Welcomes Our New Board for 2011-12

IWCF membership voted in new Board Members at their Annual Meeting on May 9, and welcomed returning members.

The Membership Committee will be led in the coming year by Co-chairs Margaret Gorrissen and Stella Schneider. Kim Liebich is taking on a new position as Operations Director and will be serving on the Executive Committee. Dana Kehr is adding a year of service as Vice President to her current position as Chair of Marketing & Communications, giving her the opportunity to engage in strategic planning and serve on the Executive Committee. Christy Hilde is finishing Amy Costello's term as Treasurer. She is working with Asst. Treasurer, Tricia Kennedy, who also serves as Finance Committee Chair. Tena Lokken is heading the Education Committee, in which she has been very involved with this past year. Susan Mauk will be finishing Anne-Marie Lodge's term as Secretary and will also be a strong voice on the Executive Committee. Since the Annual Meeting, new demands on Gena Delucchi's time at CWI meant she need relief from the responsibility of managing Grants. The Board is delighted to announce that Celeste Miller has stepped up to fill that opening.

Joining the Board as new Members-at-Large are Tory Goltry and Celinda Snyder. Returning for a second term are Theresa Madrid and Kathy Pidjeon. IWCF is only as strong as our members and our Board. The gift of time, expertise and commitment that these women offer to IWCF and its membership is why we can celebrate ten years of supporting thoughtful philanthropy through collaborative giving in the community, our designated individual donations and educational programming.

2011-2012

Board of Directors

Susan Smith, *President*

Dana Kehr, *Vice President*

Susan Mauk, *Secretary*

Christy Hilde, *Treasurer*

Kim Liebich, *Operations*

Suzanne Groff Lierz, *Arrangements Chair*

Tena Lokken, *Education Chair*

Celeste Miller, *Grants Chair*

Dana Kehr, *Marketing & Communications Chair*

Margaret Gorrissen, *Membership Chair*

Jena Vasconcellos, *Nominations Chair*

Tory Goltry, *Member-at-Large*

Theresa Madrid, *Member-at-Large*

Kathy Pidjeon, *Member-at-Large*

Celinda Snyder, *Member-at-Large*

Thank You Boise and IWCF

by Ardyth Eisenberg*

I lived in Boise from 1959 to 1986. While growing up, my family had more challenges than many. Boise's social fabric – friends, parents of friends, teachers, government agencies, the medical system, and kind strangers – made the difference for us. My siblings and I are all productive adults with happy families, because of the help and the opportunities they gave us.

Being away has shown me how special Boise's caring and cohesiveness is. IWCF is the best way I know of to help preserve its social fabric for others and to say "thank you" for being where I am today. And it's a way of staying close to many long-time friends who are IWCF members – like Susan Chaloupka. Thank you, Susan, for the intro to this dynamic organization that has made – and continues to make – such a difference in the lives of so many people in and around Boise!

*Ardyth Eisenberg, a part-time attorney and full-time wife and grandma, lives in River Forest, Illinois. She joined IWCF in 2008, after hearing about its programs from Susan Chaloupka.

Star launches its first section of greenbelt - Star River Walk

By Tim Breuer, Executive Director, Idaho Land Trust and Dana Kehr

When Star's Economic Development Committee was looking for ideas to showcase the community, its members looked no further than the Boise River. They knew that natural areas like the river can be a draw for businesses and families looking for a home.

They turned to The Land Trust of the Treasure Valley for guidance. With seed money from the city and additional grants from the Ada County Association of Realtors and the Duke Charitable trust, The Land Trust set out to help the community create a plan for their river corridor.

The resulting master plan caught the eye of the Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation, a group of philanthropic women who grant money to a small handful of projects each year. Their catalyst grant was just the type of boost needed to get the project going on the ground.

"The members of Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation voted to provide \$20,000 to help fund The Star River Walk. This project was selected because it has a significant environmental impact, providing an outdoor wild land experience for under-served west Ada and Canyon counties. Further, this project enhances Star's community identity. The Land Trust of the Treasure Valley is well-known for thoughtfully preserving the natural beauty of special places. We're delighted to have been a part of their work." - Susan Smith, President IWCF.

"The many public and private partners that came together to make this project a success is very inspirational," said Star Mayor Nate Mitchell. "This partnership approach has resulted in a community project we can all be proud of and which will be enjoyed for generations."

The first phase of the project includes over one mile of trail, a pedestrian bridge, the acquisition and development of a trailhead parking area and signage and 100 acres of public and private land. Several Eagle Scout projects and community volunteer days have helped complete the project.

That initial \$20,000 enabled the project to draw close to \$800,000 in other investment from the city, ACHD and other private sources. What a great way to help both the environment and a community!



Positive change through thoughtful giving



Idaho
Women's
Charitable
Foundation

P.O. Box 6164
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Join our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/IdahoWomensCharitableFoundation

***Please Let Us Know** - Rather than list the IWCF email address multiple times, this footnote indicates that any time we ask you to contact us, feel free to use the office email address. *It will get to the right place!*

Susan Dunlap - office@IdahoWomensCharitableFoundation.org or 343-4923

COME AND CELEBRATE US!

*We're throwing a Party and it's all about you!
Yes, YOU ...past, current and future members, spouses and friends
the reason for IWCF's tremendous success.*

Come and share 10 years of collective giving...

MORE POMP THAN THE ROYAL WEDDING WAY MORE FUN THAN A BARREL OF MONKEYS

We will you see at Hillcrest Country Club

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH

starting at 5:30 p.m.

*Thank you for 10 years of philanthropy in the Treasure Valley
looking forward to many more.*

IWCF – CELEBRATING A DECADE OF GIVING

...Making a Difference Through Thoughtful Philanthropy

www.IdahoWomensCharitableFoundation.org