Fall 2018

## IWC I newsletter



## 2018 Fall Symposium Poverty and Philanthropy Face to Face: Examining the Causes and Cures of Homelessness

By Robyn Gee Tucker

On October 16, Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation hosted our bienniell Fall Symposium, Poverty and Philanthropy Face to Face: Examining the Causes and Cures of Homelessness, at Boise Centre. The event included morning workshops presented by Idaho experts followed by an evening dinner and keynote presentation by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Nicholas Kristof. The morning sessions were attended by nearly 450 people and covered the following topics:

 The Impact of Poverty and Homelessness on the Developing Brain: Why a Childhood of Play is Imperative

- At Risk of Homelessness: One Paycheck Away
- Getting Ahead in a Just Getting By World
- Idaho's Street Children
- Affordable Housing: Key to Economic Stability and Community Prosperity
- Behavioral Health and Homelessness: The Trauma of the Street and Its Solutions

For a summary of each session, see pages 4-7.

Approximately 800 people, about 75% of whom were guests of members and sponsors, attended the evening dinner to hear keynote speaker Nicholas Kristof. Kristof is a passionate

Positive change through thoughtful giving

human rights advocate who has spent his career shining a spotlight on social injustices and global inequities, especially those affecting women and girls such as human trafficking. He reminded the attendees that although statistics are important, our brains are not wired to care about the numbers, but we are structured to care about the individual. He then proceeded to draw in the audience with compelling narratives of people who have been affected by poverty and homelessness, painting a desperate and personal picture with each story.

One of the challenges in the fight against poverty is the "Empathy Gap." The poorest 20% of



Americans give more as a percentage of income than the top 20%. Why is this the case? The former have a direct exposure to the need; the latter have a comprehension of the need but no personal contact. There is ample time dedicated to discussing the scale and importance of the issue but not enough personal stories are shared. And, while many consider the United States to be "Number One," when it comes to housing there is an affordability crisis that cannot be ignored.

Some seven million households pay more than half their income in rent. The problem is compounded as the fragmentation of the family structure continues and more households are supported by single parents with one income. While there is no silver bullet to specifically solve the problem of homelessness, there is "silver buckshot," a range of solutions that can help. Affordable housing is key. There should be an ease on local regulations which restrict



development and conversion. Stable families must be supported and people should not be required to be clean or sober in order to access housing. Furthermore, vouchers can help ensure no child will be homeless.

In the United States, life expectancy has fallen for the last two years. The reason? "Death by Despair" from drugs, alcohol and suicide. In fact, more people died in 2017 from drug overdose than the Vietnam and Iraq wars combined. The problem, explained Kristof, is that we have responded to the drug problem with a criminal justice toolbox instead of a behavioral and public health toolbox. The war on drugs has been a colossal failure. What we need is universal access to health care, a greater focus on jobs and better pay, and above all, a focus on children and education, especially in the first few years.



Kristof ended his presentation with a story from his book, *A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity.* Olly North was a "poor kid with an attitude and no obvious prospects." He was known for disrupting class and even reducing English teacher and librarian, Mildred Grady, to tears. One day, while ditching class, he wandered into the school library and managed to get his hands on a book by author Frank Yerby.



In other words, he stole it. Much to his surprise, North found he loved the book! When he went to "return" it, he discovered another Yerby novel and decided to steal that one as well. This happened four more times. Before he knew it, North had become an avid reader. Years later, after attending both college and law school and becoming an important member of the civil rights movement, North attended a reunion where he confessed to stealing the books. It turned out Ms. Grady already knew this. She had seen him stealing the books but rather than reprimand him, she used her time and resources to make the 70-mile trek to a bookstore in Memphis to find more novels by Frank Yerby.

She was one person who made a powerful change in the life of a child through the thoughtful giving of her time and resources. Like Mildred Grady, we can do the same.

A special thank you to the Symposium Committee and all of those who invested time, effort, and resources to the success of this event.

To view additional images from the 2018 Fall Symposium, <u>CLICK HERE</u>.

#### The New York Times

October 18 e-newsletter



#### Nicholas Kristof

"I was in Boise this week and met with the Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation. Their model is that 400 women each donate \$1,100 annually, and they pool this money and donate to causes they agree on, thus achieving more impact than they would individually — plus the camaraderie and improved vetting from teamwork. I've seen this model in San Francisco and Seattle as well, and I think it's very impressive."

Symposium photos by Erica Sparlin Dryden





#### **Symposium Workshops**

The Impact of Poverty and Homelessness on the Developing Brain: Why a Childhood of Play is Imperative

Presented by Dr. Evin Fox, Professor of Education, College of Southern Idaho

Summary by Susan Gibson



Dr. Fox explored the impact of poverty and homelessness on young children. She described recent discoveries in the field of early childhood brain research, specifically children in utero through eight-years-old. Play has been identified as a crucial component of a successful childhood - a key element

in developing the child's ability to regulate both their environment and their behavior. During play, children can explore, experiment, take risks, and learn from their failures. Play with other children provides opportunities for the young child to build skills for developing relationships.

Children born into poverty often emerge from the womb already negatively affected from an intrauterine environment marked by stress and poor nutrition. Poverty and homelessness then challenge the parent's ability to provide a safe and satisfying atmosphere for growth, including the opportunity for play. Free-form, outdoor, active play is an increasingly rare activity for children in all socio-economic situations. For children living in poverty, it is especially difficult to provide.

In discussing possible interventions for children who begin school with deficits from an impoverished early environment, Dr. Fox stressed the problem is poverty itself. The most effective strategies address poverty as the root cause. She went on to emphasize the plasticity of the brain and the likelihood that interventions throughout childhood have the potential to improve the child's ability to develop essential skills. She

stressed the importance of high quality day care, well-educated teachers, and schools that recognize the value of outdoor play.

#### At Risk of Homelessness: One Paycheck Away

Presented by Nora Carpenter, CEO and President, United Way of Treasure Valley

Summary by Molly Guenther

Carpenter empowered and challenged the Symposium audience with her review of the latest results of the ALICE (Asset-Limited Income-Constrained Employed) Study completed by the United Way and Rutgers University. This study reveals 40% of Treasure Valley residents are struggling to make ends meet with 26% falling in the gap between the federal poverty level and the estimated survival wage for the area with the remaining 14% below the poverty level.

As Carpenter discussed, the state economic growth is "rocking", but not everyone is benefitting. The most recent results actually show an increase in ALICE households in Idaho.

We are going in the wrong direction! The federal poverty level is a flat wage that is not adjusted for cost of living by location. As prices for housing, healthcare,



and other necessities increase in Idaho, more ALICE households will emerge. "Idaho runs on ALICE" - teachers, hospitality workers, housekeeping employees, and more fall into this segment.

Ada County is one of the better ranked counties for ALICE and poverty levels, with 32% of households falling short of a survival income.

Other counties fare much worse, some exceeding 60%.

Carpenter challenged our attendees to "be the leaders." Discuss this data with friends and family over Thanksgiving dinner. Contact local government representatives and let them know these issues are important to you. Together we can use the important data accumulated by United Way to push for positive change in our state.

To view the full results of the study visit <u>www.unitedwaytv.org</u>.

#### **Getting Ahead in a Just Getting By World**

Presented by Wendy Wong, Director of Client and Community Education, The Salvation Army

Summary by Carolyn Casey

Poverty can be defined as the extent to which an individual does without resources.

When speaking of homelessness, Wendy Wong, Client and Community Education Director for The Salvation Army, reminded us that 85% of people who are experiencing homelessness come from "generational poverty," poverty spanning two or more generations, versus "situational poverty," poverty brought on by circumstances such as a divorce or a health crisis. The latter are experiencing a short-term situation and often have resources and people to draw upon for support along with, and most importantly, a mindset they developed prior to their current homeless experience.

To effectively end generational homelessness and



poverty, Wong asserted, we must change the mental model of those in poverty. People in poverty are incredibly resourceful

and go from solving one problem to the next, day after day. Beyond solving the immediate need of the moment for resources such as housing and transportation, we need to help those coming from generational poverty move from a crisisplan mental cycle to a choice cycle with long-term consideration of outcomes. Further, we need to help them navigate the "hidden rules" that exist for all classes. For example, the middle class values achievement above all else; resources and time are invested in reaching said achievements. Those in poverty often live in a barter system to gain needed resources. Their top priority is maintaining relationships that may be critical to their ultimate survival.

The Salvation Army's solution is called Getting Ahead, a new 12-week program of three-hour workshops modeled after successful approaches pioneered by Dr. Ruby Payne, author and renowned leader in understanding and overcoming poverty dynamics. The program offers mentorship, a development of social capital, and helps create much-needed acceptance by the community. Initial results are promising and The Salvation Army is expanding its number of program trainers.



#### **Idaho's Street Children**

Panelists: Amy Rust, LCSW, Frank Church High School, Boise School District; Tamra Vanegas, Counseling and Social Work Supervisor, Boise School District; and Suzanne Peck, Idaho State Department of Education Moderator: Carolyn Casey, IWCF member and owner of Aha! Facilitation

Summary by Julie Robinson

It is easy to think all children in school have a home to go to once the bell rings. That, however,

is far from the truth. All children in Idaho qualify for a free public education, regardless of their home situation. Last year there were over 800 homeless children in the Boise school system ranging in age from kindergarten through high school. Rust, Vanegas and Peck have all been educators in Idaho schools and worked with children who lack a fixed, regular, or adequate nighttime residence. Homeless children live everywhere in Idaho; almost 50% of all Idaho children qualify for free and reduced lunch.

The panel challenged the definition of "homeless" and emphasized that many children may be couchsurfing, double bunking at the home of a friend or relative, living in a motel or shelter, or sleeping in a car. The Boise School District provides a variety of supportive services to help homeless children succeed in school. These services range from counseling to handing out hygiene products and duffle bags with utensils and cooking equipment. The panel emphasized the courage they see in the children



they serve. Many homeless children come to school every day and succeed at their education despite desperate home situations. Individuals who would like to help serve this population can write checks to the Boise Education Foundation and designate "Safe" in the memo line.

#### Affordable Housing: Key to Economic Stability and Community Prosperity

Presented by Erik Kingston, Housing Resources Coordinator with Idaho Housing and Finance Association and Josh Scholer, Policy Analyst with Idaho Asset Building Network

#### Summary by Susan Gibson

Kingston and Scholer educated attendees on the current housing crisis in Idaho. Kingston led the presentation with a discussion of the fundamental importance of housing stability and diversity and an analysis of the changing



housing market in Idaho, including both urban and rural areas. Loss of existing home supplies and arbitrary

inflation in housing prices, particularly new houses, have led to the crisis. The result is evictions, displacement, stress, despair, and loss of productivity. In addressing the question of what can be done, Kingston emphasized the importance of understanding how the housing market works and rethinking potential responses, such as subsidy, preservation (legacy affordability), development models, financing, and how, where, and what we build.

Scholer provided statistics illustrating the scope of Idaho's affordable homes shortage and the resulting number of Idahoans who are homeless or at risk of becoming so. The dramatic shortage of affordable homes includes low and middle income households. As a result, many families struggle to stay housed. In describing possible solutions, Scholer emphasized Idaho has a severe deficit in Housing Assistance with an average wait time of 19 months for those who qualify for assistance; that's more than a year and a half! Idaho is one of three states that has failed to fully invest in the Housing Trust Fund enacted in 1992. To address Idaho's housing issues, a multi-sector approach will be required. Advocacy, including reframing the issue as "a place to live for all," is a key element in developing potential solutions.

#### **Behavioral Health and Homelessness: The Trauma of the Street and Its Solutions**

Presented by Wyatt Schroeder, CATCH Executive Director and Jeremy Blades, CATCH Director of Housing Services

Summary by Molly Harder

The CATCH philosophy is founded on the belief

that every person deserves a home. CATCH works toward that vision by housing and servicing families experiencing homelessness, while recognizing most of their clients have experienced trauma. Traditional solutions of the past decades may have inadvertently added to



the trauma experienced by people and families experiencing homelessness; their goal is to place people in housing as immediately as possible. "The cause of homelessness is no home."

Every day spent on the streets impacts the longterm health of children and adults. Once stable housing is in place, CATCH works to ensure social and financial support services are provided, as opposed to the previous approach of trying to solve these secondary problems first and housing second. It's extremely difficult to address behavioral health problems, trauma, and other issues while someone is living on the streets.

CATCH believes in serving its clients through a strengths-based framework, a philosophy that embraces the whole person and their life experience, as opposed to a deficit-based approach of "helping" or "fixing" someone who is broken or weak. The tenets of this trauma-informed care include healing through relationships, trauma awareness, ensuring healthy boundaries, and empowerment.

The demand is great. CATCH currently has a waiting list with clients being prioritized based on trauma and need.



Many thanks to the wonderful women who planned the Symposium Morning Workshops.

Back row (left to right): Aleta Pottenger, Julie Robinson, Jodi Peterson, Molly Guenther, Megan Orthmeyer Front row (left to right): Sherry Bithell, Susan Gibson, Carolyn Casey, Molly Harder Absent: Karen Bilowith, Amy Little, JoAnne Minnick

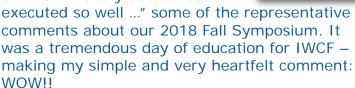
#### Thank You!

Sherry Bithell Marlys Davenport Barbara Derby Jennifer Dunmire Kathy Durbin Elizabeth Franklin Andy Gibson Margaret Gorrissen Linda Gossett Molly Guenther Molly Harder Heather Jauregui Tricia Kennedy Lois Lenzi Amy Little Cec Lojek Linnea Lovlien Tricia Matthews Susan May Marilyn McAllister Stacey Nolan

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#### Letter from the President

"Amazing energy ... the day has stayed with me ... I'm so proud of IWCF ... every detail was



On behalf of the members of IWCF, thank you to our symposium sponsors, table captains, organizing committees, education chair Sherry Bithell, and our "let's think big" event co-chairs Janelle Wise and Christine Avey. A special thank you to Carlyn Blake for sharing why she's a member of IWCF with the dinner audience.

IWCF believes educated philanthropy is how to make a positive and significant impact on our community. Every other year we convene our symposium event for our members and anyone interested in taking a "deeper dive" into one of our five grant interest areas to improve our understanding about community needs so our individual giving and pooled grant making is better informed.

Our focus this year was on financial stability, specifically to educate ourselves about poverty and homelessness. To understand more about the current situation in the Treasure Valley and beyond. To learn what it will take to end homelessness from local experts working with the vulnerable and unsheltered families and individuals of all ages who are currently experiencing or at risk for homelessness.

At the symposium, we learned the goal to end homelessness means we'd have a systematic response in place that ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible, and if it occurs it is a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience. The system being put into place in the Treasure Valley has made good progress, but we aren't there yet and philanthropy has a role to play.

The record 840 symposium participants contemplated two tough topics – poverty and homelessness – and time will tell how this experience will influence our acts of personal and pooled giving. As we know, the more members we have, the more impact we make. Of equal importance, the more we are educated about community needs and how philanthropy helps fund solutions to address those needs, the more positive and lasting change we make.

Looking forward to our 2019 Grants more than ever!

With gratitude, Heather Jauregui

Geather Janush:

President



IWCF's membership renewal period kicked off on November 1. Membership renewals may be completed online and must be paid by January 31, the close of our renewal period, to participate in the 2019 Grant vote.

PLEASE NOTE: If you joined IWCF after April 1, 2018, the above does not apply to you; you're all set for 2019 Grants voting. If you have any questions about this, please email office@IdahoWomensCharitableFoundation.org.



#### THANKS TO OUR SYMPOSIUM SPONSORS

#### **EDUCATOR**









#### IMPACT LEVEL













Anonymous

& Kim Liebich







Poverty and Philanthropy Face to Face: Examining the Causes and Cures of Homelessness

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#### **IWCF Table Captains**

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Molly Blackaby Harder & Tami Casper Debbie Johnson Susan Smith, College of Idaho Cindy Pollack & Linda Beebe Suzanne Groff Lierz Amber Myrick, P.A. Valencia Bilyeu Heather Meuleman Betsy Dunklin, Dining for Women (2)

#### Membership Update: More Members More Impact

By Linda Perez, Membership Chair

IWCF is currently 412 members strong! Many thanks to each and every one of you. I am very appreciative of your continued commitment to our collaboration and education as we pool our resources together to fund grants in cultural arts, education, environment, financial stability, and health.

As our organization grows, it gets harder to know who all our members are. One way of solving this is through our Member Spotlight that is published in *IWCF This Week*. I'd like to ask all of you to please consider filling out a <u>Member Spotlight Form</u>. You don't have to answer all the questions presented; five or six will be fine. I feel this is a fun and unique way for our membership to get connected and learn more about other IWCF members. Don't forget to submit your photo!

Another way to keep us connected is through volunteering. Serving on the Grants Committee is a wonderful way to really understand the heart and mission of IWCF. Everyone should do it at least once! Mark your calendars now for November 27 - Welcome to Grants in order to learn more about this process or email Grants@IdahoWomensCharitableFoundation.org. Other committee volunteer opportunities include Membership, Events, and Marketing. These committees meet once a month and are the backbone of IWCF. The committee chairs are more than happy to talk or meet with you to provide insight on how you can become involved (and that especially includes me!).

Don't think you have the time for a committee? Consider becoming an On-Call Volunteer. When additional help is needed, the office will call to see if you are available. If the timing fits your schedule, the office staff will be happy for your service! If not, they'll try again another time.

Review your volunteering opportunities by clicking on the <u>Volunteer Form</u>. You can also go to the <u>IWCF Members Only</u> web page, sign in, and click on Volunteer Opportunities. This form will soon be available on our public website under the Membership tab as well.

IWCF has worked very hard to improve, grow and develop as an organization. We are poised and ready to keep on growing! We launched Plus 1 last year with the message "more members equal

more impact." If you see the Plus 1 logo next to an event, please see it as an opportunity to invite a friend, family member, or acquaintance so they can learn more about IWCF. We are also happy to meet with people one on



one (or in a group) at a more convenient time if requested. Please don't hesitate to contact me to make this arrangement: <a href="mailto:lmperezid@gmail.com">lmperezid@gmail.com</a>.

We are READY, we are WELCOMING, and our PLUS 1 maxim is true: MORE MEMBERS EQUAL MORE IMPACT!



# New 2018 Member iwcf Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation



Since June

Linda Anderson Laura White Barton-R Lisa Bearg Pam Cardinale Denise Caruzzi Annette Christensen Lee Densmer Danielle George Kris Granger Sheila Hennessey Martha Hopper Judi Koch Pamela Lemley-R JoAnn Lighty Palina Louangketh Patti Diener Lough Carolyn Lunstrum Jeanne Miranda-R

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R = returning

All our new members have a blue ribbon on their name tags during their first membership year.

## The Whitney Foundation Match

The Whitney Foundation agreed to match up to \$25,000 of new gifts and pledges



made to the Susan Smith Endowment Fund between the dates of February 1 and October 31, 2018. We are incredibly excited

to announce the successful completion of the match resulting in \$50,000 for the endowment! A special thank you to all of those who contributed to meet the challenge.

#### **Whitney Match Donors**

**Christine Avey** Beth Bartlett Janet Benoit Marilyn Bischoff Sherry Bithell Ellen Bush Shirley Chetwood Ellen Crosby Marlys Davenport Marilyn Dorman Mary Dudley Barbara Frizzell Randa Giles Kate Gorrissen Margaret & Willy Gorrissen Suzanne Groff Lierz Claudia Hambacker Margaret Henbest Heather Jaurequi Debbie Johnson Gail Kirkpatrick Teresa Lassandro Cecelia Lojek Arlene McCarthy

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Click image to enlarge



#### **Holiday Social**

Tuesday, December 11; 5:30-8:30 p.m.

The end of 2018 will be here before we know it, and we all know how busy the holiday season can be! Mark your calendars now for the IWCF Holiday Social at Beside Bardenay in downtown Boise. The evening is a wonderful way to enjoy holiday cheer by meeting and mingling with our members and their guests.

RSVP HERE

# Education Event: Humanitarian Economics Luncheon Discussion

January 30, 2019; 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., BSU Alumni Center

Speaker: Molly Guenther, CFA, CFP® and IWCF Member

Income inequality is a trendy topic, but how do growing imbalances in wealth and income impact our economy, our communities, and our families? How are specific changes in the cost of living exacerbating the situation? It's easy to think of this as a topic which impacts the less fortunate, but the facets of our population which are increasingly impacted may surprise you.

Please join the IWCF Education Committee for a luncheon conversation about what is happening, who it is impacting, and how we can help.

Click here to RSVP

#### **Shop and Support IWCF!**

Doing any online shopping? You can support IWCF simply by making purchases on Amazon.com. Go to <a href="mailto:smile.amazon.com">smile.amazon.com</a> and select Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation as your preferred

nonprofit. Amazon will donate a percentage of all your purchases to IWCF. Now that is something to smile about!

To ensure a portion of your purchase goes to IWCF, always enter smile.amazon.com in your browser versus amazon.com.

## This holiday, make a difference while you shop

Shop for holiday gifts and supplies at smile.amazon.com and Amazon donates

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## Member in Memoriam Mary Jane Hill (1941-2018)

IWCF extends its deepest condolences to the family and friends of Mary Jane Hill, who passed away unexpectedly on September 21, 2018.

Mary Jane was a valued member of IWCF, dedicating her time and resources since 2004. She served on the Education Committee and was actively involved in supporting the mission and vision of IWCF.

Mary Jane was born in Portland, Oregon, spent her early years in Hillsboro, and moved to Astoria in 1954. At Astoria High School she demonstrated her athletic prowess by earning a letter in clam digging. Mary Jane attended college at the University of Oregon where she relinquished her dream of being a professional clam digger and chose to major in Library Sciences.

After completing her Master's Degree, she moved to Boise where she spent the next 30 years as the librarian at Boise High School. She was known for opening the library at 5 a.m. to provide the students a warm place to study and conduct research.

During her professional career she received numerous awards and recognitions including Outstanding American, Outstanding Media Director, Boise Cascade's Excellence in Education Teacher Award, and was an Idaho Statesman Distinguished Citizen.

Mary Jane Hill's full obituary may be found here.



#### **Upcoming Events**

**November 1** Membership Renewal Period Opened

**November 27; 12:00-1:30 p.m.** Welcome To Grants Committee Orientation Meeting (members)

**December 11**; **12:00 p.m.** 2019 Pooled-fund Grant Proposal Submission Deadline

**December 12**; **5:30-9:00 p.m.** Holiday Social (see previous page)

**January 15; 12:00-1:30 p.m.** Grants Education #1: Proposal Evaluation

**January 23; 6:00-8:00 p.m.** Annual Winter Membership Social

**January 30**; **11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m**. Education Program: Humanitarian Economics Discussion and Luncheon

**January 31;** Membership Renewal Due to Participate in 2019 Grants Vote





## **IWCF Member Milestones**

Are you celebrating a milestone or do you know an IWCF member who is? We want to know. Please share any announcements regarding births, weddings, retirements, awards, celebrations of life, etc.

Email information and photographs to Office@IdahoWomensCharitableFoundation. org

# Our condolences to IWCF member, Jerry Soule, on the passing of her husband. A gathering will be held Thursday, December 27, from 1 - 4 p.m. at 729 W. Braemere Rd., Boise. Gailen Bramel Soule 12/25/21 - 11/3/18

#### **Janice Stevenor Dale**



J S D A Inc., a
leading commercial
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Valley and beyond,
founded by IWCF
member and past
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Janice Stevenor
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nominated to the
Cooper Hewitt
National Design

Awards in 2017. Select highlights of the firm's projects completed to date, including the headquarters for Boise financial institutions, Keynetics, and Clickbank LLC, are now in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian Museum. The firm recently celebrated its 25th anniversary at the Phillips House, an iconic Art Troutner design, which the firm contributed to National Historic Registration, currently in progress.

#### Holiday Office Closures

**November 19 - 23** 

**December 24 - January 4**