

Newsletter

Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation

June 2016

IWCF Awards \$150,000 in 2016 Pooled-Fund Grants



Children's Free Dental Clinic - Mobile Clinic
Upgrades and Additions, \$30,000 (over 2 years)



Idaho Diaper Bank - Diaper Need: A Hidden
Consequence of Poverty \$30,000 (1 year)



Salvation Army - Equip Preschool at School for Teen Moms
\$30,000 (1 year)



Treasure Valley Food Coalition - Boise Farmers Market
Mobile Unit \$30,000 (1 year)



West Central Highlands Resource Conservation and
Development - Sweet Syringa Hall \$30,000 (1 year)

Positive change through thoughtful giving

From the President

The IWCF story is one of COLLECTIVE IMPACT. Together, we transform communities. We collaborate for better outcomes than we could achieve alone. We are a voice influencing the philanthropic discussion. We educate our members and others about issues touching their lives, and initiate conversations about how we will collaborate to solve them. THIS IS OUR MISSION.



Annual Meeting, May 10, 2016. Photo courtesy of Ginny Miller.

We are nearly 350 members strong. Our story is deep and rich. How rich? Nearly \$3.2 million invested to date, in 80 pooled-fund grants and hundreds of individually designated grants. Over 15 years, thousands of Idahoans have benefitted from our collective investment.

In May, we awarded five grants totaling \$150,000. We look forward to the culmination of our Above and Beyond Collaboration (ABC) pilot grant in October, when we will make our largest single grant to date: \$40,000.

We have begun to explore socially responsible investing for our endowment and reserves, looking not just at the bottom line but at doing the right thing by choosing investments with strong social, environmental or governance benefits and avoiding those that do harm. So in addition to our leadership in investing in programs in our communities, we will make a second statement encouraging educated philanthropy beyond our 10-county service area.

We encourage diversity and inclusion in our membership because the organizations we invest in serve people from all walks of life, economic levels, ages and races. As we widen

our sphere of influence, we need voices with diverse backgrounds and experiences at our IWCF table.

We invite you to help IWCF achieve our two-year strategic goal to retain and increase our own membership. The more members, the more impact! So please bring a prospective member or two to our Education Symposium Oct. 19, when we will hear from Mariel Hemingway about critical mental health issues. This is just one of many opportunities that will lead to increased member engagement.

As we near our 15th birthday celebration on Sept. 12, we are doing a website makeover, designing a new logo and creating a video to reach out to prospective members and promote our work in the community. But rest assured that although we incorporate new ideas and new ways of accomplishing it, our mission will never waiver.

Thank you for all you do. Be proud of WHY you choose to do this important work. Be proud of WHAT your investment supports. Be proud to be a MEMBER of Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation.

In Gratitude,
Suzanne Groff Lierz, President

Welcome New Members

Since February 2016

Betsy Bader-Hellstrom	Joanne Hoppe
Linda Beebe	Christine Keller
Jan Bell	Jeanne King
C. Katarina Biller	Janice Lung
Beth Bogue	Erin Nuxoll
Amy Cooper	Robyn Olnes
Fran Dingel	Louise Rothwell
Amy Hoffmann	Karan Tucker

346 Members Strong are WE!

Susan Smith, Membership Committee

The IWCF Membership Committee is proud to announce that big number. It was not achieved without the help of members. You recruited others to join and support our philanthropic model of women's collective and pooled giving. Give yourself a hand!

In the 2015-2016 fiscal year, IWCF gained 39 new members, nine returned, and 28 dropped, for a net gain of 20. To maintain momentum, Membership Growth and Retention will be a stronger focus for the next two years. Your help will again be needed to share with potential members IWCF's collective impact of strengthening communities through educated philanthropy and pooling funds.

It is exciting to announce that we will celebrate our 15th Anniversary at the home of Lois Lenzi on Sept. 12, 2016, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. At that event, we will also follow an IWCF tradition and recognize our One-, Three-, Six-, 10-, and 15-year Members. It will be an ideal occasion to bring guests so they can learn more about us and enjoy the enthusiasm of the membership!!! Details will follow!



Thank you!

Jeanne Barker
Beth Bogue
Steve Burns - Zoo Boise
Jill Carassimi
Lisa Leff Cooper
Laurie Corrick
Gallery Five18
Andy Gibson
Tami Joplin
Tricia Kennedy
Elizabeth Littman - Zoo Boise
Mark & Jerri Lisk
Janelle McGill
Ginny Miller
Dr. Lisa Rendon
Jeannine Ross
Andrea Roope
Kathy Scott
Mary Slaughter
Gerry Soule
Rachel Teannalach
Maryann Wilson
Rachel Winer - Zoo Boise
Janelle Wise

Women's Collective Giving Grantmakers Network

Susan Smith, Membership Committee

What is the WCGN? It is an important resource for IWCF, since it is a national network of women's collective giving organizations and its primary purpose is to advance and support our model of women's philanthropy. WCGN provides monthly webinars, peer-to-peer online discussions and conferences (the next will be in Jacksonville, Fla., March 12-14, 2017).

As the WCGN liaison, I invite all IWCF members to visit the WCGN website (<http://www.wcgn-network.org/>), discover the locations of our sister models and see what WCGN offers our organization. If you wish to listen to any of the webinars, please let me know.

Currently, the WCGN has 48 network members in 23 states representing 10,000 women. Its giving totals approximately \$70 million since the first model, Washington Women's Foundation (WWF), launched 20 years ago.

I was reminded recently about its value to us during a conversation with Colleen Willoughby, who founded both WWF and WCGN and helped start IWCF. She reviewed the history of the model and how she was inspired to launch WWF because she realized that engaging women as philanthropists, as well as volunteers of time and service, would lead to greater community impacts and support women in their roles as community leaders.

Colleen's narrative is just one example of how the connection to WCGN energizes and nurtures our commitment to our giving model.

POOLED-FUND GRANTS FOR 2015-2016

On May 10, more than 200 members and guests gathered at Boise State University to participate in the IWCF Annual Meeting and celebrate this year's pooled-fund grant awards.

\$150,000!

Five nonprofit organizations, each applying in a different interest area, received \$30,000 apiece—a total of \$150,000. Congratulations to all!

CULTURAL ARTS

West Central Highlands Resource Conservation and Development: *New Roof for Sweet Syringa Hall (1 year)*

Sweet Syringa Hall is the community and civic center of Sweet, a town of about 500 northeast of Emmett. The hall is the site for weddings, anniversaries, family holiday dinners, fundraising events and flea markets—an important gathering place for this rural community.



EDUCATION

Salvation Army: *Equipment and furnishings for a preschool at Booth-Marian Pritchett School*

This preschool is for the children of teenage mothers attending this unique high school. Adding early learning to its on-campus childcare services will profoundly benefit the children, significantly improving their overall development and school readiness as their mothers study to earn their diploma.



ENVIRONMENT

Treasure Valley Food Coalition: *Building a Mobile Farmers Market Infrastructure*

Eating healthy food is a basic critical need. This mobile farmers' market will provide a healthy food alternative to residents who cannot easily shop for affordable fresh food due to their lack of proximity to grocery stores or markets, lack of transportation, and/or low income.



FINANCIAL STABILITY

Idaho Diaper Bank: A Virtual Warehousing Model and Online Fundraising Platform for Providing Diapers

Having something as simple as diapers gives low-income families a glimpse of hope, allows them to keep their babies healthy, helps prevent maternal depression and allows limited resources to go toward other basic needs such as food, rent and gas. It can also result in greater opportunity for a baby to go to daycare, so mom and/or dad can secure a job.



HEALTH

Children's Mobile Free Dental Clinic: Mobile Clinic Upgrades and Additions

Children of the working poor have difficulty obtaining dental care due to poverty as well as lack of access, transportation and/or education about the importance of dental health and its connection to overall health. The mobile clinic travels to schools and community events in low-income areas to provide critical dental care—including preventative and restorative treatment.



Our ability to positively affect our communities grows each year as a result of your membership. The Pooled-Fund Grants Process for 2016-2017 will informally begin in August and September with community education and outreach programs. Grants committees will form in October. Please watch the

IWCF website for key dates, or contact Susan May at rebusltd2@gmail.com to indicate your interest. We need your energy and passion for this important process!

Photos courtesy of Ginny Miller.

2016 Fall Symposium

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

BSU Student Union

Our Mental Health: Critical Issues Facing Families and Communities

8:00 a.m. Coffee & Check-in

9:00 - 11:15 a.m. Workshops

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lunch & Keynote

Academy Award nominee and Idaho native Mariel Hemingway

will share her evocative story, inspiring others to cultivate compassion and understanding and break down the stigma associated with mental illness.

Save the Date!



Critical Issues and Resources in Idaho Mental Health

Jillian Huang, Board Development Chair

Twenty-five IWCF members and guests met on Feb. 17 for a lecture on Idaho mental health by Dr. Jeanne Miranda, a professor in the UCLA Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences (and an IWCF member).



Dr. Miranda introduced the history of mental health, noting that until the formation of the National Mental Health Act in 1946, people suffering with mental illness were simply housed in asylums. The next large development in mental health was the move in the 1960s to deinstitutionalize everyone and return them to local communities. Today, many who suffer mental illness are homeless or incarcerated due to a lack of housing and medical care.

Nearly 26.5 percent of Americans over the age of 18 (one in four) suffer from a treatable form of mental illness. Onset is generally early in life and is chronic—only vigilant, appropriate medical care over a lifetime can successfully treat mental illness. Depression is more common among women, frequently starting in the childbearing years. Substance abuse is closely tied to mental illness and often contributes to the difficulties of identifying and treating it.

In Idaho, mental health care is particularly difficult to find. The state has far too few providers (only 1,780) and the system is very fragmented. The state also has failed to expand Medicaid, which would provide more access to mental health treatment for poor populations. The suicide rate in Idaho is

48 percent above the U.S. rate, measured over 10 years. Most people with mental illness are never seen by a doctor, and many receive only referral to primary care. Little follow-up is done to ensure that patients are taking medication at the right dose and getting counseling. The Affordable Care Act has pushed for an integration of health systems and for physician “extenders”—people who can meet with patients, track their progress, report to doctors and work on decreasing stigma.

Dr. Miranda advocated for a system of health lay workers, similar to programs found overseas. She maintains that properly trained, dependable people with great social skills can help patients deal with mental and physical illnesses, which are often found in tandem, while keeping doctors informed on their progress. This model is acclaimed in places such as Vietnam and South Africa.

The program concluded with a vigorous Q&A session. Questions included how to deal with stigma, learning about faith-based initiatives, teenagers and the pressures of social media, high suicide rates, and the latest mental health intervention success rates. These topics will be considered for further IWCF Education sessions.

Thank you to Dr. Jeanne Miranda for the lecture and to Vicki Kreimeyer and the Education Committee for planning, introducing and moderating the program. Thanks also to Jan Reiner and Arrangements for organizing the lunches, and to the Cole and Ustick Branch Library staff for their hospitality and technical support.



*Carolyn Casey and Dr. Miranda (above left).
Photos courtesy of Molly Harder.*

Youth Mental Health in Idaho

Julie Robinson, Education Committee



On March 8, 2016, the IWCF Education Committee presented Youth Mental Health in Idaho at the Warm Springs Counseling Center (WSSC). Teresa Alexander, WSSC CEO, provided a brief history of the Children's Home Society of Idaho, founded in 1908 by women committed to improving the circumstances of abandoned children. In 1910, the Society opened a home for children in need of shelter at the current WSSC location. Over more than 60 years, the home provided shelter, food and basic needs to 6,600 children. In the mid-1960s, the orphanage transitioned to a halfway house when federal regulations moved children into foster care.

The WSSC mission is to serve children in need. With the change in federal regulations, the WSSC Board asked

Boise State University researchers to identify the greatest need for Idaho children. It was mental health services. With the goal of providing high-quality mental health services to children and families, the home was transformed into the Warm Springs Counseling Center.

Amy Thompson, LSW, Clinic Operations Manager, discussed children's behavioral health services in Idaho. In 2011 and 2012, there were 56,000 Idaho children under the age of 18 identified with mental health issues and 71 teen suicides. Research in 2015 found that 20 percent of Idaho teens have seriously considered suicide and almost 30 percent of Idaho youth have engaged in some type of substance abuse.

Ms. Thompson described the WSSC services at its locations on Warm Springs Avenue and a new site in Meridian. Future plans include opening a third facility in Canyon County. There is no waiting list, no limit on the number of Medicaid patients, and no one is turned away because of inability to pay. The 30 WSSC clinicians see an average of 110 patients a day. Last year, they provided 22,000 counseling sessions.

The formal program ended with Ms. Alexander providing a brief explanation of the funding gap between what Medicaid pays for counseling and actual program costs. This gap requires WSSC to raise at least \$500,000 annually through events, grants and individual donors.

Newsletter: Online Delivery (but Printed by Request)

Kim Peake and Diane Ronayne, Marketing Committee

We are excited to announce that this Summer 2016 edition of the newsletter will be the last printed in bulk and mailed to all members. Over the last year, we have asked for input and gotten feedback that most members prefer to receive IWCF communications electronically.

The newsletter is our largest communication expenditure, with printing and postage costs charged to the operating budget and many volunteer hours spent preparing it for

mailing. The savings in both time and dollars will be redirected to create more value for IWCF members and grantees. Think about it: The price of 1,000+ stamps can be applied to other important activities to meet our mission!

Although this is the last newsletter that will be printed for all members, you still have the option to receive a printed copy. To get it in your mailbox, please contact Jo Wenger, at 343-4923 or Office@IdahoWomensCharitableFoundation.org by June 30.





**Idaho
Women's
Charitable
Foundation**

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Join our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/IdahoWomensCharitableFoundation

Save the Date!

IWCF Birthday Party

Monday, September 12, 2016

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Home of IWCF member, Lois Lenzi

2016 Fall Symposium

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

BSU Student Union Building

8:00 a.m. Coffee & Check-in

9:00 - 11:15 a.m. Workshops

11:30 a.m. Lunch & Keynote



July Office Hours

IWCF offices will have reduced hours for the month of July. We will return August 1:
Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

NOTICE: Newsletters will be available electronically in the future. If you would still like a hard copy delivered to your mailbox, please email Office@IdahoWomensCharitableFoundation.org.

***Please Let Us Know** - Any time you have a comment or question, feel free to contact us.
Office@IdahoWomensCharitableFoundation.org or (208) 343-4923

www.IdahoWomensCharitableFoundation.org