

Newsletter

Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation

February 2016

Thank you!



IWCF runs on a very small operations budget. We spend only a little over 10 percent of revenue to manage administration, inform members about how we vet and award grants, and educate our community about educated philanthropy, so we are VERY dependent on volunteers to supplement our part-time office staff. This month, a big THANK YOU goes to:

Aardvark Computer (3707 W. Overland Rd., 343-1525): for generous computer help and low, if any, rates

Sherri Bithell: IWCF Membership Testimonial

Marsha Blackman: office mailing volunteer

Jill Carissimi: office mailing volunteer

Kathy Durbin: office mailing volunteer

Margaret Gorrissen: for putting up new pictures in our office

Susan Graham, Senior Edge Legal: Inspired Philanthropy Forum Speaker

Anne Hay: IWCF Membership Testimonial

Stefanie Leth: Idaho Humane Society: Membership Gathering Speaker

Heather Meuleman: development director at Lee Pesky Learning Center, who spent several hours working with us to improve the software we use to contact you

Ginny Miller: who has graciously continued to help out in the office to improve that same software program

Linda Perez: Holiday Social

Jan and Jack Scripps: Hosting the November 12th Membership Gathering

Sophie Schwab: a freshman at BSU, for helping grants committee members prepare data for contacting potential grantees

Laura Simic: Vice-President of Boise State University Advancement: Inspired Philanthropy Forum Speaker

Gerry Soule: office volunteer

If you encounter any of these people, please thank them for their essential help to IWCF. And please consider calling to support us yourself, on an occasional basis.

Positive change through thoughtful giving

From the

President

Diversity and Inclusion - Who needs them?

In today's nonprofit world, as in the for-profit sector, much is being discussed about diversity and inclusion. Can diversity and inclusion make IWCF a stronger, more relevant organization, continually adapting to achieve longevity of purpose and mission?

First, what are diversity and inclusion?

Diversity is about the mix. Our members represent a variety of races, ethnicities and cultures. Some of us are older than others, some younger. Our education levels, abilities, sexual orientation, and religious and political preferences differ, and IWCF embraces them all. Diversity is "the more, the merrier."

Inclusion is about understanding that we have differences and valuing and respecting each other for who we are. It's the interaction that makes people feel welcome as together they make the mix work. Celebrating our differences is inclusion—it's the depth and quality of our relationships.

There is no doubt, as grantors, that we direct our funds to diverse populations. Of the 75 pooled-fund grants we have made since 2002, more than 60 percent have targeted specific ethnic, racial, cultural, socio-economic, differently abled, LGBTQ, or age- or gender-diverse populations. This is a noteworthy statistic, but I ask you, are we doing enough?

We are 330 diverse women who share a common passion to positively affect the community through our leadership in collaborative giving. Inclusiveness is one of our core values.

Why am I stressing inclusion and diversity? Our membership is in growth mode!!! You've heard "Each One Bring One!" and "Forum for Fun!" ANYONE who shares our passion for educated philanthropy is a potential member.

Proactive membership diversity also demonstrates commitment to advocating for those we serve: our diverse grantees. As we embrace diversity of ideas, backgrounds and

perspectives, we enhance our organization's value. Diversity and inclusiveness help us be better and more effective at what we do by bringing a variety of unique voices to the IWCF table.

Who needs diversity and inclusion? WE DO!
-Suzanne Groff Lierz

Welcome!

New Members

Since Fall 2015

Kathleen Marion Carr
Carolyn Collins
Molly Harder
Anita Havey
Kim Lock
Robin Navert
Pat O'Hara
Joan Roberts
Julie Robinson
Andrea Roope
Debra Seymour
Neetu Talreja
Rachel Teannalach
Elizabeth Urban

Not getting emails?

We have been getting reports that some of you are not receiving our bi-monthly emails about upcoming events, votes, etc. If they are not arriving in your inbox, please check your spam/junk folder. If you have gmail--check your Promotions tab (top) or you may want to try using "filters". Google "Using filters - gmail help" for how to do this. Please call the office if you are having trouble.

Pooled-Fund Grants Process Continues to Move Forward!

by Susan May, Pooled-Fund Grants Chair

After announcing the start of our pooled-fund grants process in September, the Interest Area grant committees began the very methodical but exciting review of more than 105 letters of intent (LOI). This was an increase of 65 percent over last year's LOI numbers. We attribute this increase to efforts we made to expand our community outreach—not only through the media and news releases, but by individual emails directly to organizations that have applied in the past. In addition, we extended a general invitation to any and all nonprofits that attended a series of education and informational sessions offered by IWCF members.

After a series of review and evaluation sessions with the Interest Area committees, approximately one-third of the organizations submitting LOI's were invited to submit full proposals, and 28 are being reviewed by the committees in January and early February, when decisions will be made regarding which of these organizations will move to the next stage of the process: site visits. Grants committee members will conduct about 10-15 visits during February.

These very dedicated and hardworking members (and their awesome team leaders) will bring us closer to our voting process (ballots to be distributed on March 30) and selection of our five pooled-fund grants awards for 2016! Thanks so much to all of you!



*Grants RFP Review, Education & Discussion Meeting
January 20, 2016*



*2015 Grantee: Good Samaritan Home
before and after pictures of parking lot*

Grant Impact and Assessment

by Kim Liebich, Grants Steering Committee

This Fall IWCF Past President, Dana Kehr, refreshed our grants impact and assessment commitment by putting a team of qualified women together to help review progress reports from our multi-year grant recipients. Team members Amie Bruggeman, Hillary Betz, Mimi Cunningham, Lisa Hecht, Mardell Nelson, Claudia Parcels and Ann Sandven bring to the table experience in grant management in other organizations, and expertise in measurements and evaluation, as well as background with our IWCF Pooled-Fund process. In May, 2015, IWCF distributed \$163,500 in grants to six nonprofits, all of whom opted for multi-year disbursement.

The first round of progress reports has been turned in and second checks have been issued for five of the organizations. (Cancer Connection's timeframe for expending our funds has not yet started, so we are holding their check until closer to when they need it.) Idaho Children's Trust Fund and Feed the Gap are right on schedule to meet their goals. Life's Kitchen has an opportunity to further leverage our monies, and a team from this committee is helping them brainstorm those ideas. It was exciting to hear reports from beaming representatives of the Council School District, who said they had received some unexpected benefits from community participation as they started their project. Good Samaritan Home reported that the improvements made have already lowered their utility bills by a surprising amount.

Membership is Everything!!

by Susan Smith

Members are our most valuable resources! Recruiting and retaining members is our most important priority! Every membership matters!

Recruitment!!

Expanding Our Impact

As of January 14, 2016, we have 25 new members, and after our winter recruitment gathering on January 28, we hope to claim more. Of course, we are very grateful when members spread the word about IWCF to their friends, colleagues and family. YOU are our best ambassadors, so please keep sharing our significant community impact and the importance of educated philanthropy!

Retention!!

Please Renew on or before March 15, 2016

The Membership committee is always in a constant mode of making sure that each member feels recognized and gratified by their contributions to the pooled fund, their own personal individual grants, and their support of the administrative needs of IWCF.



Lee McKeown

In Memoriam

Susan Smith, Membership Chair

On December 20, 2015, IWCF lost a founder, Lee McKeown, who passed after a long and courageous struggle against leukemia. Lee was the person who actually discovered our model of women's collective and educated philanthropy.

In 1996, Lee read a People Magazine article, "Charity Belle." The article spotlighted Colleen Willoughby, the founder of the Washington Women's Foundation, and described how Colleen had started

Opportunities to Connect!!

New Membership Events

Forum for Fun! By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have launched our Forum for Fun! program, an ongoing series of opportunities to meet and enjoy other IWCF members at various spots in the Treasure Valley. You'll find the dates and locations in your IWCF monthly email updates.



Service Day

During the week of February 29, we will organize a service day for our members to assist one of our past pooled-fund grant recipients.

This is an effort to gather members together who want to help pooled-fund beneficiaries beyond their financial investment.

Details will follow.

this women's collective giving organization. It caught Lee's attention—it was very typical of Lee to think beyond herself and embrace good ideas with sunny enthusiasm. She cut out the article and shared it initially with her friend, Patricia Forbes, who then involved other women. The rest is history.

Lee continued her membership in spite of her health condition and the difficult regimen of treatment. Please let us not forget that Lee's discovery was the genesis of IWCF, and that we as IWCF members owe much to Lee McKeown. Lee was an inspiration to all of us, for she captured the idea that became IWCF because she was looking for ways to help her community.

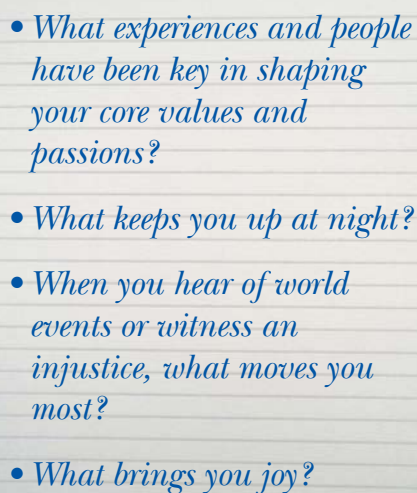
Inspired Philanthropy

By Jillian Huang

We enjoyed our first Education program of the year on January 12, 2016. Inspired Philanthropy featured two speakers who are also IWCF members: Laura Simic, Vice President for Advancement at Boise State University, and Susan Graham, a Certified Elder Law Attorney. The program was held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Esther Simplot Performing Arts Academy and 23 people attended.

Simic defined philanthropy as voluntary action for the public good, an expression of values, and a belief that everyone has a role to play in improving our collective condition and making the world a better place. She explained that creating a thoughtful giving plan allows you to express yourself, your passions, and your goals and reasons for living, but most importantly, it has transformative powers for both the giver and receiver. In short, giving makes us feel good!

How do we get started with our giving plan? Begin by thinking about your values, Simic suggested, and by answering questions such as:

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- *What experiences and people have been key in shaping your core values and passions?*
 - *What keeps you up at night?*
 - *When you hear of world events or witness an injustice, what moves you most?*
 - *What brings you joy?*

Simic said answering such questions is the visioning stage of planned giving. It helps you focus on what problem in society you would really like to help resolve. She shared a favorite quote from Si Seymour: “Giving is prompted emotionally, and then rationalized. The heart has to prompt the mind to go where logic points the way.” Careful visioning will help eliminate the barriers to effective giving, which include lack of information, lack of confidence that you can really help, and lack of time

and focus to do all the research. Simic suggested that once you decide on a recipient, contact them to see what they really need and if you are a good match. Working closely with them will result in the best possible use of your gift. She reminded us that giving and estate planning are ongoing processes, not a one-time event!

Graham covered the technical details of giving plans as they relate to attorneys and the law. With great humor, she led the group through a series of steps to take once they decide to whom they will leave a gift. When people write their will, she said, they specify that the recipient will receive either a specific dollar amount or a defined percentage of the total value of their estate. Graham cautioned that the percentage gift can sometimes result in a lower gift overall, due to the amount of time it takes to settle an estate and the expenses to manage the process. She pointed out that being very specific about your beneficiary is crucial. For instance, if you designate the Red Cross to receive your money, you must also specify an Idaho office if you want the gift to remain in your community. Otherwise, your gift might go to the national office.

Graham also covered the benefits of leaving retirement (IRA) funds to a charity rather than to a person: The charity, unlike a person, does not have to pay taxes on the gift. She pointed out that mixing charities and persons equally in a gift complicates matters and almost always guarantees less money to go around for everyone. She said that real property gifts can be great as long as they are something of use to the receiver and not an additional financial liability (think large plot of land without an access road, or with a polluting gas station on it!). Graham covered the use of private foundations, private operating foundations, and donor-advised funds—how their tax benefits vary and how they differ in terms of how much control you have over the distribution of your funds. Donor-advised funds allow you to take the entire donation as a tax exemption. She reminded us that the current death tax laws allow an individual to leave an estate of slightly over \$5 million before any taxes are required of the heirs. With that in mind, she reminded us that if we own a home, and/or have a retirement account or other accounts, we indeed have an estate, and we could start planning for it now.

The presentation was followed by a rousing question and answer session.

Thanks to Jan Reiner and the Arrangements committee for the delicious lunch, to the Education committee for their help, to Vicki Kreimeyer for her introductions and moderation, and to our speakers for their wealth of information and generous spirits—we had an excellent time!

Volunteering with IWCF

by Jillian Huang, Volunteer Coordinator

Have you ever wondered about volunteering with IWCF? I asked one of our members, Stacey Nolan, to tell us about her experience as an IWCF volunteer. I love her answers—take a look!

Jillian: Why did you decide to get more involved with IWCF, outside of paying and voting?

Stacey: First of all, Susan Smith asked me personally to join the Membership committee, and how can I refuse Susan? She is such an amazing and inspiring woman to be around. Also, once I became involved I realized that the group was very open to new ideas, and it has been fun to help IWCF grow in new ways.

Jillian: Tell me about your experience on the Membership committee. What would you say to encourage someone to join your committee?

Stacey: Being part of any committee gives great insight into all of the work that goes on behind the scenes of IWCF. I learned a great deal on the Grants committee in 2011-2012, and I continue to learn more about IWCF and what it takes to grow and maintain this program with the Membership committee. Plus, it is a great way to get to know other members of this outstanding organization.

Jillian: Tell me something about yourself!

Stacey: I was raised in Pennsylvania and moved around the country for quite a while after grad school. Despite our East Coast upbringings, my husband and I love the “west” side of the U.S. and are happy to put down roots in Boise. We have been here five years and have had two amazing little boys in that time. Boise is a great community for families, and we are enjoying the opportunity to make this place home.



Many thanks to Stacey and to everyone who volunteers for IWCF—it’s a wonderful way to use your talents as a force for good in our community! If you want to learn more about current volunteer opportunities, contact Jillian Huang at (513) 312-4742 or jmsubach@gmail.com.

Got Pictures?

by Diane Ronayne & Kim Peake, Marketing Committee

A great community of ladies make up IWCF, and our events bring us together and add value to our lives, as well as to those served by our grantees. We’d like to capture more of these moments in photos and we are recruiting all of

you to be our photographers! Please take a photo whenever you attend an IWCF event and put it on Facebook or Instagram. Tag it #idahowcf so we can all enjoy



your vision. It might even be selected for the newsletter!

Here are a few tips to get the best photos:

- 1. Be prepared:** Fully charge your phone or camera
- 2. Event coverage:** Photograph small groups talking informally; the entire room/setting full of people; details (flower arrangements, food table, name tag boards, etc.); speakers; and formal, posed groups.
- 3. Composition:** Get close enough to your subject(s) to fill the frame.
- 4. Group photo:** Ask everyone to look at you. Be sure you can see everyone’s eyes before you release the shutter. Place people wearing bold patterns or white in the rear if there are two rows. Ask everyone to turn slightly toward the center and stand close to each other.
- 5. Flash:** To avoid using flash in low light, set ASA to 800 or above. Ask subject(s) to move into the best light available.
- 6. IWCF publication:** If you use a cell phone camera, immediately upload your shots to Facebook or Instagram (#Idahowcf) to share as the event is occurring. If using a camera, download images, email selections to the IWCF office and Beth Markley asap. Put subject name(s) in a caption, if possible

Above and Beyond Collaboration Pilot

by Taskforce

Background: The IWCF Above and Beyond project has grown out of our initial exploration of how we might engage with other grantmakers in the community to have a more significant impact collectively. In our first conversations with other grantmaking organizations, we learned about the most recent Treasure Valley United Way community needs assessment. This led to multiple discussion groups within IWCF. Our membership ultimately voted to implement a pilot project to award a special grant in 2016 that was “above and beyond” the grants we currently award in our pooled-fund grants process. We will continue to award a grant in each of our five Interest Areas, as well as try out the concept of awarding a sixth grant at our 2016 Fall Symposium.

In September 2015, we convened a task force of 11 IWCF members to begin the process. The group was comprised of women who have been actively involved in a broad spectrum of nonprofit organizations throughout the community and who also represent a diverse population within IWCF: a founding member; a new member; and several members with pooled-fund grants experience. (Dana Kehr, Lori Mers, Kim Liebich, Kathe Alters, Amy McDevitt, Mary Hindson, Lois Lenzi, Claudia Parcells, Diane Ronayne, Donna Wetherley, and Janelle Wise.)

Decisions: The task force began by hearing from community experts in each of IWCF’s five Interest Areas. Then it made two critical decisions: 1. The pilot should be located in Boise or Ada County, to make it easier to monitor results and 2. If we really wanted to make a bigger impact, we needed to work with other grantmakers.

Coming away from our discussion, we felt that our intent should be to provide a collaboration grant and really work with other funders to be part of a larger project. Once our members have decided which Focus Area they

want to pursue, we will go to other sources of financial support to see if they are interested in funding the same Focus Area, to increase impact.

One means of collaboration would be matching funds and our preference would be to fund an organization with the capacity and commitment to garner matching funds as well. Ideally, our grant will enable the pilot grantee to be eligible for matching funds (federal, state or other private funders).

We also discussed the following Focus Area Criteria:

- **Basic Needs** - This pilot will address the most fundamental basic needs in Maslow’s Hierarchy.
- **Demographic Focus** - Generally, the task force recommends that the pilot serve people with Very-Low Income (50% of median annual income: \$21,150 for 1 person; \$30,150, for a family of four) or Extremely-Low Income (30% of median annual income: \$12,700 for 1 person; \$24,250 for a family of four).
- **Sustainable over time** - We will follow the Pooled-Fund Grant process criteria for sustainability.

Ballot recommendation: The task force recommended we present to our full membership in January a ballot with three options for a focus area directed toward people at the Very-Low Income and Extremely-Low Income wage levels:

1. **Permanent Housing/Support Services** (This area is critical and fundamental.)
2. **Transportation** (This area is critical and fundamental.)
3. **Both** (Both areas are critical and fundamental. They are closely linked. Issuing an RFP for both areas would increase the number of potential grant applicants.)

The probable size of this pilot Above & Beyond Collaboration (ABC) grant should be somewhere in the range of \$30K-40K (\$11K from 2015 plus the amount left after the 2016 Pooled-Fund grants are determined).

Timeline: After members vote and select their focus area(s) for this pilot, a larger task force will be convened, consisting of current task force members and additional members with pooled-fund grant experience and additional diversity. This group will begin the process to request proposals in the selected area(s).

(Check your email for the ballot and more details.)





**Idaho
Women's
Charitable
Foundation**

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Join our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/IdahoWomensCharitableFoundation

Save the Dates!

Grants

Grants Site Visit Review, Education & Discussion

Thursday, February 9, 2016
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., ESPAA

Grants Ballot Decision Meeting

Wednesday, March 16, 2016
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., ESPAA

Grants Ballot to Membership

Wednesday, March 30, 2016

VOTE!
(details inside)

Annual Meeting and Grantee Awards Presentation

Tuesday, May 10, 2016, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Boise State University Student Union

Membership

Valentines Social

Wednesday, February 10, 2016
5:00 - 7:00 p.m., Home of Shelley Smith Eichmann

Membership Renewal Deadline

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Education

Critical Issues & Resources in Idaho

Mental Health Program

Wednesday, February 17, 2016
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Cole & Ustick Branch Library

Youth Mental Health & Suicide Prevention

Tuesday, March 8, 2016
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Warm Springs Counseling Ctr.

***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