

# Newsletter

Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation

June 2015

## IWCF Awards \$163,500 in 2015 Pooled-Fund Grants



**The Cancer Connection Idaho**  
*Write from the Heart*  
\$20,000  
(Over 2 Years)



**Council School District**  
*Council Rural  
Environment Stewardship*  
\$23,500  
(Over 2 Years)



**Feed the Gap, Inc**  
*Safety Net for Hungry Children  
in Boise Schools*  
\$30,000  
(Over 3 Years)



**Good Samaritan Home**  
*Building Renovation Repair  
Beautification Project*  
\$30,000  
(Over 3 Years)



**Idaho Children's Trust Fund**  
*Child Sexual Abuse  
Prevention Initiative*  
\$30,000  
(Over 3 Years)



**Life's Kitchen, Inc.**  
*Life Skills and Employment  
Training Project*  
\$30,000  
(Over 3 Years)

**Congratulations to our 2015 Grantees!**

*Positive change through thoughtful giving*

# From the President

We're still in celebration mode at IWCF! With six more grants now in the hands of our outstanding community partners, we can be proud of WHAT we're doing.

In fact, most of us can give a short elevator speech about WHAT we do at IWCF: We share the vision of pooled and individual giving through educated philanthropy. We award grants in five key interest areas: Cultural Arts, Education, Environment, Financial Stability and Health. This is important work, no doubt.

Here at IWCF we also know WHO we are. We're grant makers, both collectively and individually. And we enjoy a long track record of HOW we do what we do. We have a well-structured group of committees, a diligent board of directors, a super staff and 332 members. All play valuable roles to make IWCF a thriving organization.

But accept this challenge: Give some thought to WHY.

In his YouTube video, "Start With Why" (<http://tinyurl.com/khm9km6>), Simon Sinek asks us to think about the WHYS. For example, WHY are you a member of IWCF?

For me, it's that gut reaction and emotion I feel each May when our grantees stand before us accepting their checks. It's the fact that they humble us, not the other way around.

Or WHY does IWCF exist as an organization and how are we different from other philanthropic groups? The answers to these questions are the heart of the WHY.

Last month, we heard our grantees tell us WHY they do what they do: to change lives; to provide opportunity, care, compassion and support; to feed hungry children; to leverage funds; to make an impact; to promote personal growth; to create positive thoughts; and to help children be happy and carefree.

If we believe in our grantees and embrace their work, then by association we cherish these WHYS, too. WHYS are important!

Let's start a discussion about what we believe. At the next IWCF event you attend, think about WHY you're walking in the door, about WHY you're excited to bring a new potential member with you.

As we answer these WHYS, we will build loyalty—not only in our members but in the communities we serve—as people buy into WHY we do what we do, not just WHAT we do.

In Gratitude,  
*Suzanne Groff Lierz, President*



## Thank you!

**Bodovino  
Community Partners  
Lynn Hoffmann  
Jillian Huang  
International Minute Press  
Kim Liebich  
Lori Mers  
Northwest Bank  
One Stone  
Stacey Ostler  
Susie Parrish  
Rhonda Pollock  
Teresa Poppen  
Jan Riener  
Susan Smith**

## Welcome New Members

Since February 2015

Hillary Betz  
Marilyn Brown  
Patty Ely  
Susan Graham  
Tami Joplin  
Gayla Lyon  
Barb Mossman

Judy Secrist  
Carroll Sims  
Myrna Stahman  
Brandy Stemmler  
Judy Wong  
Erin Yturri

# Volunteer, Anyone?!?

*Jillian Huang, IWCF Volunteer Coordinator*

It's been an exciting year for IWCF! We welcomed several new members and found important volunteer opportunities for new and renewing members alike.

Many members completed the online renewal form and indicated their interest in serving on committees. After that information is gathered in a database, I use it to connect women with volunteer opportunities that will suit their strengths and time availability. Later this summer, I will correspond with everyone who indicated an interest in serving on a Grant Committee, making sure they know when to attend the General Grants Meeting to get started.

That being said, I'm sure I'm not reaching every person and I'm not completely aware of the vast talents and generosity within our group. If you have a few hours to engage in vital work, or a specific service or talent to share, you can always contact me at [jmsubach@gmail.com](mailto:jmsubach@gmail.com) or (513) 312-4742. I'd be very happy to hear from you.

Right now, we need help with database entry and basic office work, graphic design to improve our website and newsletter, marketing (writing and proofing articles, using social media, meeting publication deadlines, and spreading the word about IWCF), membership (organizing events to recruit members, making calls, advising on membership trends), and arrangements (IWCF events planning, set-up, food and take-down).

Many of these tasks do not require volumes of expertise as much as they demand a basic knowledge of the area and a desire to pitch in. In fact, most can be accomplished in just a few hours a month and/or from home. If any of them look good to you, I'd be happy to give you more information and connect you with the appropriate committee chair(s).

Again, thanks for all you do for IWCF—together, we make a difference.

## Membership Events

*Susan Smith, Membership Chair*

Although we all are looking forward to the relaxing days of summer, the Membership Committee asks that you mark two important IWCF dates on your fall calendar:

**Thursday, September 10:** 14th Anniversary Celebration

IWCF Office Courtyard, 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

This event honors our One Year, Three Year, Six Year, and Decade Members, and our 14 remarkable years of women's effective philanthropy.

**Wednesday, October 7:** Fall Membership Recruitment Gathering

Esther Simplot Performing Arts Academy, 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Please plan to attend and bring a prospective member. We will have good food, lively conversation and an inspiring update from one of our pooled-grants beneficiaries.

These events are designed to build the membership and to recognize you, our members, for your strong commitment to our shared model of women's educated and pooled philanthropy. Our current membership is 332- that's 300 more than the number of charter members who joined in 2001! Membership growth is always the focus of this committee, but it is particularly gratifying when members make the effort to recruit new members by sharing their positive feelings about their IWCF affiliation with other women in our community. Please continue to broadcast the unique charitable giving experience and effective impact of the IWCF model. Every membership matters!

## 2015 IWCF Membership Survey

Top 10: Learnings from 2015 IWCF Membership Survey Respondents

10. Almost 70% use Facebook weekly
9. 20% use LinkedIn regularly
8. 80% prefer email communication versus snail mail
7. Over 80% are satisfied with their level of involvement in IWCF
6. Respondents had great ideas for member education events
5. Respondents provided a lot of input for grants process and criteria
4. Over 70% believe it is important or very important to learn about the grants process
3. Respondents found value in participating on a grant committee/site visit
2. Respondents asked for more education on effective non-profit organization
1. We had more respondents this year than last. THANK YOU!

Coming in the fall newsletter:  
Read how your IWCF board is incorporating this year's results!



# IWCF 2015 Grants Recipients Announced

Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation (IWCF) distributed \$163,500 in grants to six nonprofits during the organization's annual meeting and social gathering on

May 12. Since 2001, IWCF has distributed more than \$2.8 million to pooled-fund grant awardees and to nonprofits designated by members individually. The 2014-15 grant cycle reflects changes in the Foundation's granting process, which increased the amounts to be awarded and allowed recipients to spread their grants over periods up to three years. After assessing the effects of larger, longer-term grants, Foundation members will determine whether to make these options permanent.

In 2015, IWCF members voted to fund these organizations and projects with pooled-fund grants:

## CULTURAL ARTS

**The Cancer Connection Idaho: *Write from the Heart***

**\$20,000 (Over 2 years)**

This IWCF grant will transform a therapeutic outlet for teens into an annual program. It will celebrate teens, raise awareness of their emotional needs as they undergo cancer-related challenges, and bring catharsis and healing through the act of writing. In 2016, a booklet containing the teens' winning essays will be published and the program will add writing mentors.



## EDUCATION

**Life's Kitchen, Inc.: *Life Skills and Employability Training Project***

**\$30,000 (Over 3 years)**

Life's Kitchen trainees will learn skills to live as independent young adults and job skills to secure and maintain employment. They also will complete their high school diploma equivalent, earn professional food industry certification and be mentored to improve their sense of self-worth and gain the ability to set and accomplish life goals.



## ENVIRONMENT

**Council School District: *Council Rural Environmental***

**Stewardship Team - \$23,500 (Over 2 years)**

This IWCF grant will bring together Council's school, community and area industry to create a sustainable, environmentally friendly park and pond. As the 240 students apply inquiry-based learning to real watershed problems, they will gain job skills, receive training in job application and make contacts with forest industry employers. In this financially depressed area, CREST's work will benefit both local residents and visitors for many years.



## FINANCIAL STABILITY

### **Good Samaritan Home: *Building Renovation Repair Beautification Project* - \$30,000 (Over 3 years)**

Thanks to IWCF, the 72-year-old Good Samaritan Home will receive much-needed improvements to its 18,800-square-foot facility, which houses low-income veterans, seniors, and men and women with disabilities—people who otherwise might not have a place to live. The home is seriously in need of repairs generally, especially replacement of badly worn flooring in the main traffic areas.



### **Feed the Gap, Inc.: *Safety Net for Hungry Children in Boise Schools* - \$30,000 (Over 3 years)**

To close the food gap for 8,000 children who would otherwise go hungry because of their parents' financial instability, IWCF is partnering with the Boise School District to identify and feed them through this grant. This support goes to schools that do not qualify for federal assistance. The three-year program will help children be ready to learn and protect them from being turned away in their cafeteria.



## HEALTH

### **Idaho Children's Trust Fund: *Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Initiative* - \$30,000 (Over 3 years)**

During this three-year project, IWCF funds will support a coordinator and workbooks for training 5 percent of Treasure Valley adults (~22,500 people) how to prevent sexual abuse, using the research-based curriculum "Stewards of Children". Research has shown that reaching this number is the tipping point for changing behavior, which must be done to address the most prevalent health problem children face.



## Women's Collective Giving Grantmakers Network Update

*Susan Smith, Membership Chair*

Our model—women's collective, educated and democratic giving—continues to thrive in other communities nationwide. The WCGN network was formed in 2009 after an inaugural meeting in Boise. Its purpose is to advance this collective model and the philanthropic leadership of women in their communities. Currently, its 40 member organizations represent 8,200 members. Since its inception, WCGN female donors have given \$65 million in pooled funds to better their own communities.

The network is a virtual organization, except when the membership convenes to learn from each other in host communities.

The 2015 conference will be held in Charlotte, N.C., October 15-17, and all members are invited to attend. Conference information is posted on the WCGN website, <http://www.wcgn-network.org/>. Please direct any questions to Susan Smith, [iwcfSusan@gmail.com](mailto:iwcfSusan@gmail.com) or 345-1607.

## Thank you...

Please accept my appreciation for the opportunity to serve you and to help move Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation forward a bit. It has been so inspiring to work with so many incredible women and to witness your care and dedication over the past three years.

We've come a long way since 2001. We have a long path ahead of us. Thank you for allowing me to be part of it.

With sincere gratitude,

*Dana Kehr*



## United Way Community Assessment

*Laura Simic, Member*

“When you change the conversation, you change everything,” was the premise of the presentation by Nora Carpenter, Treasure Valley United Way president and CEO, on February 18.

Carpenter shared the results of the Treasure Valley United Way (TVUW) Community Assessment, a survey conducted every few years to learn the needs, opportunities and barriers faced by families in Ada, Canyon and Gem counties. She also discussed the concept of collective impact, in order to start facilitating conversation among IWCF members about “What could be?”.

The TVUW Community Assessment analyzed both quantitative and qualitative data, revealing five key themes affecting the quality of life for families in its service area: Youth in poverty, Affordable housing, Transportation, Livable wage and Zip-code syndrome.

Across the Treasure Valley more and more children are in poverty; an increasing number qualify for free or reduced-priced school lunches. Finding affordable housing is a barrier, and often that housing has no access to public transportation to living-wage jobs. Increasingly, where one lives—one's zip code—is a determinant in one's financial independence, health and education level. Issues related to health service cost and access continue to affect both children and adults in the Treasure Valley.

As a result of the assessment, the TVUW has established goals in three areas: Financial independence, education and health.

To support financial independence, the TVUW will provide access to job education and training that leads to asset development, financial literacy and livable-wage jobs. It will seek to enhance sustainable change in housing programs in an effort to help families obtain affordable, permanent housing.

Strategies to achieve education goals include ensuring that children enter school prepared to learn, and supporting kids inside and outside of school time. Efforts to promote health include helping individuals and families create and sustain healthy habits; providing low-income individuals and families with access to preventive medical and dental services; and ensuring access to appropriate behavioral health, abuse prevention, assessment and treatment services.

The TVUW is in a unique position to provide backbone support to multiple partners in the community working to address the themes and meet the goals identified by the Community Assessment. The concept of collective impact, Carpenter said, “reminds us of how we are supposed to work together: there's collective enough-ness.”

Collective impact relies on five key conditions for success: a common agenda, shared measurement, mutually reinforcing activities, continuous communication and backbone support (coordination, infrastructure).

With the TVUW providing backbone support, other partners can come to the table. Since the three goal areas of financial independence, education and health overlap IWCF's five pillar areas of interest, IWCF is in a position to understand community needs and to collaborate with other organizations to meet them.

Based on this premise, a conversation began among IWCF members in attendance around the questions: “What could be?” and “How can IWCF participate?”. Stay tuned for more thoughtful and stimulating conversation.



# Education: Microenterprise Financing

*Jillian Huang, IWCF Volunteer Coordinator*

Our final education program for the 2014-15 season was presented by Jim Munkres and Ron Berning from MicroEnterprise Training and Assistance (META), a nonprofit program of Jannus, Inc. More than 20 members and guests assembled on March 10 at the offices of Charles Schwab to hear them speak about microenterprise in general and about their organization and how it affects lives.

META seeks and works with overlooked, disadvantaged entrepreneurs in southwestern Idaho —people with skills and energy but no capital, such as new Americans, minorities, women, and underserved or non-English speaking community members. In addition to federal and regional funding, META has received IWCF support: a 2011 grant to provide microenterprise assistance.

META loans amounts between \$500 and \$15,000 to help get a business idea started. Along with the money, borrowers receive business training (either in group sessions or one-on-one) and business planning help. The loan payback rate to date is 97 percent!

The results are impressive. META entrepreneurs increase their net worth and household income, which in turn benefit the

community with an enlarged tax base, stable home ownership and economic development. The best outcomes may be the increased self-esteem and sense of accomplishment that touch everyone.

Since 2002, META has helped 1,400 business clients, closed 330 loans, and guided 345 new start-ups, which created 564 new jobs. If you've heard of We Rent Goats or Brown Shuga Soul Food, then you've heard of a company started by META! They have also helped establish childcare businesses in the homes of refugees.

Just a few ways IWCF members could assist META are by mentoring women, volunteering accounting, marketing, legal or business expertise at the Women's Business Center, being a table sponsor for Dividends Through Diversity, or shopping and eating at the Boise International Market.

Thank you to Jan Reiner for the lunch arrangements, to Erin Guerricabeitia for organizing the program, to Vicki Kreimeyer for planning assistance and program moderation, and to Charles Schwab for the meeting room.

## Meet Jenny Estes

*Kim Peake, Marketing and Communications Committee*

We recently had a chance to visit with Jenny Estes, our new IWCF Administration Assistant.

**Kim:** Can you share a little about your background?

**Jenny:** I grew up in Arizona and attended Cal State Northridge, graduating with a Bachelor of Communications. Then I lived in Maui, Hawaii, while getting my yoga teacher certification. I have really enjoyed moving to Idaho and spending time in the beautiful outdoors.

**Kim:** What will you be doing with IWCF?

**Jenny:** I will be working in the office closely with Jo Wenger to support the grants process and membership recruitment. I also look forward to working with the Marketing Committee, which fits with my background.

**Kim:** How do you feel about IWCF?

**Jenny:** I am really excited to work with IWCF! It is inspiring to see a group of women come together to better their community and pool their funds to change lives.

**Kim:** What impressed you about the Annual Banquet in May?

**Jenny:** It was wonderful to see the grantees receive the funds to use for a cause they really believe in and are committed to. I also enjoyed hearing Dana Kehr share about her time as



*From Left: Jenny Estes, Jo Wegner*

president - seeing how her involvement with IWCF has affected her was inspiring, too!

**Welcome, Jenny! We look forward to working with you!**



**Idaho  
Women's  
Charitable  
Foundation**

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## Save the Date!

### **Letters of Intent for the 2015–2016 grant cycle**

Letters of Intent will be accepted online beginning in August, with a deadline of early October.

### **14th Anniversary Celebration**

*Thursday, September 10, 2015*

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. IWCF Office Courtyard

### **Fall Membership Recruitment Gathering**

*Wednesday, October 7, 2015*

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Esther Simplot  
Performing Arts Academy

*Reminder: IWCF Offices are closed for the month of July. We will return on Monday, August 3.*

*Photos courtesy of Ginny Miller*

**\*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](http://www.IdahoWomensCharitableFoundation.org)