

Newsletter

Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation

JUNE 2009
Volume 8, Issue 1

Women are Philanthropists

by Susan Smith, President

"Women are philanthropists" was one of the empowering remarks of Colleen Willoughby, Washington Women's Foundation founder and our mentor at IWCF's *Well-Spent Million* celebration. That assertion is also supported by a recent study sponsored by Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund, which finds that, "women are taking an increasingly prominent role in determining their household's charitable giving."

IWCF has currently 232 philanthropists and we are partners in a philanthropic

venture. Our philanthropic venture is our unique giving and learning community distinguished by our pooled fund and each member's commitment to invest in efforts for the greater good with their individual designations. IWCF is a model for informed, collaborative giving, and it is the collaborative thinking and our emphasis on education which drive our pooled grants process and individual grant-making. We can quantify the funding, but the impact of the combined and educated perspectives is immeasurable.

Our unique philanthropic venture is part of this growing trend of women as leaders in philanthropy, and we are now connecting with other like models to become an alliance of thought partners to strengthen the impact of the philanthropic engagement of women. It is truly a global entity.

To be a philanthropist, you must have hope for the future. So I want to thank you for your generous optimism and for investing in your community through IWCF.

Giving Circles

by Ann DeAngeli, Communications Chair

A new study was published earlier this year on "giving circles" based on extensive research of Dr. Angela Eikenberry and Jessica Bearman entitled *The Impact of Giving Together*. The sum of their study indicates that **donors in giving circles give more, give more strategically, and are more engaged in their communities.**

While IWCF has never defined itself as a "giving circle" – we certainly fall in the like definition of "a philanthropic vehicle in which individual donors pool their money and other resources and decide together where to give them away." According to this study, *giving circles include social, educational and engagement components that seem to connect participants to their communities while increasing their understanding of philanthropy and community issues.* This hits the nail on the head with respect to IWCF.

An ongoing concern is whether IWCF is a valuable and ongoing source of fulfillment for our members. Are our members participating to the extent they feel not only active and engaged in our community, but

also connected to other members through our social and educational opportunities? Is IWCF participation enriching our members' lives as well as improving our communities? Do our members feel more fully informed and enjoy and appreciate our particular approach to philanthropy?

Obviously the basic premise of pooled giving is that our combined resources can fund a project or nonprofit need that generally one individual could not ordinarily meet. This is where the pooled funds aspect of combined giving can be very powerful – whereas an individual cannot often commit \$20,000 of their resources to a project – a member can vote to commit \$500 of their membership donation to a community need, which combined with other members' funds dedicated to a project can make a tremendous impact. There is unlimited potential in combined giving!

Giving strategically remains a cornerstone of IWCF; this is where our grants committee and volunteers are crucial to the process of *informed giving*. All projects submitted to IWCF for funding are researched, evaluated

and filtered for a membership vote. This is where members' participation and input is needed and their time is highly valued. Particularly in these past few years of government cutbacks and financial struggle in our community, there are more worthy projects seeking funding and it becomes more difficult to determine which projects qualify for a membership vote.

A key finding of the study mentioned above is that *giving circles change donors' giving and civic engagement in positive and significant ways.* As IWCF increases its philanthropic momentum in the community into the future – we want to ensure our members are highly engaged in the process, remain aware of their profound ability to impact our community and continue to find satisfaction in the "giving circle" experience of IWCF.

¹*The Impact of Giving Together: Giving Circles' Influence on Philanthropic & Civic Behaviors, Knowledge and Attitudes*, written by Jessica E. Bearman for the Forum of Regional Associations of Grantmakers (2009)

Positive change through thoughtful giving

From the President

Dear IWCF Members:

As we close the books on another fiscal year in Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation's history – I remain in awe and admiration of what a group of women pooling their resources can contribute to our community. At the beginning of this year, IWCF surpassed its goal of *One Million Dollars* in combined grants and individual designations. When I look back on the important programs IWCF has funded, some of the startup projects we have provided for and the community needs that would have otherwise gone unfunded – I have faith that whatever economic challenges may arise in our community and state; IWCF will be there to meet those challenges, and continue to exceed our original expectations.

Of course IWCF would not exist without the invaluable support of our most important asset – our members! Each and every member is vital to our mission. The diversity of backgrounds and experience of our members brings crucial insight to our organization – as I am certain the participation in educational opportunities and various committees distinctly benefit our members.

This year our spring conference enabled IWCF to share ideas, ideologies and fellowship with like models of philanthropic giving from all over the country. While this experience was invaluable – we also want to hear from our members! Every single member has an equal vote and an equal voice in our organization – and we want to hear from you. The collective thoughts and input of our membership keeps our organization vital, current and relevant – and drives our mission going forward.

Another important factor in IWCF's sustainability is the establishment of an IWCF endowment fund. The Charitable Leadership Foundation of Clifton Park, New York, generously agreed to match IWCF members' and friends' donations up to \$150,000. The creation of an endowment to sustain IWCF in perpetuity has been one of our most desired projects, and follows the example that several of IWCF's "sister" organizations established at their inception.

IWCF continues to utilize our resources as best as possible to positively impact our community. While this past year may have expanded our overall perspective on philanthropic giving, IWCF continues to focus on its mission of *positive change through thoughtful giving* with renewed excitement toward the future.

In gratitude,
Susan Smith and Members of the Board of Directors

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Since March 2009

Galen Barnes	Carrie Matsko
Betsy Dudley	Mary Parsons
Betsy Dunklin (returning)	Kathy Stearns
Lynn Hoffmann	Karen Vauk
Siva Laughlin	

THANK YOU!

Well Spent Million Party

US Bank

Suzi Boyle - Mortgage Banker

D. A. Davidson Companies

Ahrens & DeAngeli

Deb Holleran

Susie Parrish

Marcia Liebich

Susan Smith

Mayor Dave Bieter

Deb Holleran

Amy Rustad

Wood River Women's Charitable Foundation

Michelle Edmonds, Channel 6

Kathy Kustra, Boise State University

Colleen Willoughby

Vicky Coehlo

Chris LaRocco

Lynn Hoffman, Idaho Nonprofit Center

Annual Meeting

Amy Rustad

Margie Baehr

Kristin Hoff Sinclair

Georgiann Raimondi

Kim Liebich

Theresa Fox

Gena Delucchi

**A special thanks to Hollis Brookover
and her company, Morningside LLC,
for providing the table gifts of
Simple Originals at the Annual Meeting**

2009 Annual Meeting

by Ann DeAngeli, Communications Chair

IWCF's annual meeting was held on Monday, May 11th at the Arid Club. This is one of the most rewarding and exciting aspects of IWCF membership — the formal presentation of the grants. Representatives were on hand from all but one of the nonprofits whose projects we voted to fund. The appreciation of the representatives, as well as being able to hear firsthand about the projects they will be able to carry forward with IWCF's funding — is a wonderful finish to our fiscal year. The annual meeting also presents the opportunity to meet new members, visit with old friends, and reconnect with our purpose — all in the beautiful setting with a remarkable meal at the Arid Club.

Grants Summary

by Gena Delucchi, Grants Committee Chair

Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation awarded \$137,250 in pooled grants at its 2009 Annual Meeting. The grants selection process this year began in January with 76 Letters of Inquiry, then winnowed to 23 full proposals and 16 site visits and culminates with these seven projects:

Terry Reilly Health Services

Preventing Dental Disease for Pregnant Women, Babies, and Diabetics
\$25,000

Idaho Voices for Children

Healthcare Advocacy
\$10,850

Land Trust of the Treasure Valley

Star River Walk
\$20,000

The Center for the Arts

Empowering and Connecting Youth through the Arts
\$24,400

Boise Urban Garden School

Toward an Edible Schoolyard, Taft Elementary Garden
\$15,000

Idaho Foodbank, School Backpack

Program Expansion
\$25,000

Interfaith Sanctuary

for shelter operations
\$17,000

2009 GRANTS COMMITTEE

by Gena Delucchi,
Grants Committee Chair

A very special thanks to the 33 IWCF members who participated on the Grants Committee this year. No doubt they will tell you that they found the process a great way to learn about the many needs in our community, found it a meaningful way to get involved in our organization and to meet like-minded women they probably would not have crossed paths with in any other way. I encourage all IWCF members to consider serving on the Grants Committee at least one time in order to fully experience the core function of our organization.

Catheryn Alexander
Karen Bradshaw
Amie Bruggeman
Annie Chalfant
Gayle Chalfant
Susan Chaloupka
Sharon Colby
Elizabeth Crandlemire
Heidi Cunningham
Janice Stevenor Dale
Caren DeAngelis
Carol Dixon
Kathy Durbin
Connie Gifford
Margaret Gorrissen
Linda Gossett
Deb Holleran
Dana Kehr
Anne-Marie Lodge
Susan Mauk
Celeste Miller
Linda Perez
Mindy Plumlee
Marj Reedy
Alicia Ritter
Diane Ronayne
Susan Smith
Stella Sneider
Dottie Stimpson
Nancy Vinsonhaler
Donna Wetherley
Janelle Wise
Shawn Del Ysursa

Positive change through thoughtful giving

Welcome New Board Members

by Jena Vasconcellos, Nominations Committee Chair

Vice-President, Janice Stevenor Dale Focuses on Strategic Planning

With 25 years of corporate experience in strategic planning for Fortune 500 and entrepreneurial companies, Janice Stevenor Dale, President of JSDA Inc., is well-suited to her new role as Vice-President. Her nonprofit leadership experience is equally matched, having accomplished statewide and national legislative goals for the design profession. She will be focusing on strategic planning, including IWCF identity and mission. She has served on the IWCF Grants committee, attended educational sessions and hosted a membership event.

Education Chair, Janelle Wise Has 2009-10 Event Plans Ready to Go

Janelle Wise easily assumes the Education Committee leadership, after having served two years as a member, and helping the committee to plan for next year's events already. As a counselor, educator and community leader, she is well-qualified to continue contributing to the "philanthropic education" part of IWCF's mission for its members

Governance Issues Are Mindy Plumlee's Strengths as New Member-at-Large

As Executive Director of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Idaho, Mindy Plumlee has dealt with a variety of governance and board issues of accountability, transparency, staff and volunteer management. Her nonprofit leadership skills, knowledge and experience will be helpful to the Board, as she assumes her new position as Member-at-Large. She has served on the Grants Committee, most recently leading the Health workgroup.

2009-2010

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Susan Smith, *President*

Janelle Wise, *Education Chair*

Janice Stevenor Dale, *Vice President*

Gena Delucchi, *Grants Chair*

Anne-Marie Lodge, *Secretary*

Donna Wetherley, *Membership Chair*

Theresa Fox, *Treasurer*

Jena Vasconcellos, *Nominations Chair*

Kim Liebich, *Resource Manager*

Susan Chaloupka, *Member-at-Large*

Amy Rustad, *Arrangements Chair*

Laura White Barton, *Member-at-Large*

Ann DeAngeli, *Communications Chair*

Mindy Plumlee, *Member-at-Large*

THANK YOU!

Retiring Board Members

Kristin Hoff Sinclair, Vice President

Kristin Hoff Sinclair has been a member of IWCF since 2002, and she has helped IWCF with its website and membership brochure. Kristin has also served on the nominations committee, and this year offered invaluable guidance as interim vice-president. She has been very instrumental in updating our strategic plan, and IWCF is very grateful for her time and energy.

Vicky Coelho, Education Chair

Vicky Coelho has served as education chair since 2004, and with her leadership the education committee has orchestrated well-planned and executed educational forums ranging from small gatherings to large community events. Vicky's expertise took the education committee to a new level. She played a major role in the fifth anniversary celebration and the recent *Well-Spent Million* events. Vicky's writing and speaking skills enhanced many IWCF endeavors, and IWCF is very thankful for Vicky's board service.

Melinda Kim, Member-at-Large

Melinda Kim was one of our first IWCF members, and she has continued to support IWCF with her membership, recruiting new members, being a sponsor at events, and serving on various committees, as well as serving as member-at-large for the past year. Melinda's commitment to IWCF is deeply appreciated.

Education for Informed Philanthropic Decisions

by Vicky Coelho, Past Education Chair

Our symposium in October 2008 at BSU started us thinking about Coordinating Compassion: *Transforming an Idea from Inspiration to Practical Reality* with keynote speaker Dr. Karl Watts. Three break-out sessions were led by Melanie Curtis of SHIP, Marla Lipscomb, Tidwell Counseling and Family Practice Medical Center and Tom Sanford, Project Patch. All focused on ways nonprofits work together to reduce hardship and improve lives.

A Well-Spent Million celebrated past accomplishments and prepared us for future growth. In honor of our beginnings, Colleen Willoughby, Founder of Washington Women's Foundation in Seattle, delivered the keynote address. Workshop sessions were conducted by Chris LaRocco and Vicky Coelho, Maximum Impact; and Dr. Keith Allred, Maintain the Spirit of Your Organization. With steady growth

over the past eight years, IWCF has given over \$1,000,000 since September 12, 2001. Seven of the 22 organizations nationwide that have also modeled WWF attended this forum March 4-6 to celebrate with us our milestone and the growing trend of women in philanthropy. Well over 200 attended.

In addition, committee events investigated two grant interest areas: Environment and Arts. At the WaterShed in November, 20 learned savvy tricks to conserve power including counting surplus clocks, computers and TV screens in our homes. An art-walk in April conducted by Boise City Department of Arts and History gave 19 of us a taste of popular trends in public art. In January reviews of germane books and periodicals informed 17 members of current trends and conditions in philanthropy.

A Mural for Your Thoughts

by Vicky Coelho, Past Education Chair

Communicating the IWCF dream; tracking the vision; following the trail of growth; reminding seasoned members and introducing new members to our purpose—this information is not easy to convey. Johanna Bell recognized this need and introduced the idea and contributed a large portion of the funding to create a mural that could illustrate IWCF: its roots, its values, its accomplishments, its goals. The completed mural was unveiled at our symposium in October and again displayed at the Stueckle Sky Center in March. Adaptable, the mural can be easily updated annually and will be used to represent IWCF at community events as needed.

2009-10 EDUCATION COMMITTEE PLAN

by Janelle Wise, Education Chair

The committee has several events in the works for this coming year. Overall, we hope to provide opportunities to the membership that will increase awareness on how nonprofits are doing well during current economic times. Our theme for the fall event is "What Works?: Powerful Solutions in Challenging Times." Following the annual membership luncheon, we'll focus on Financial Security, a kid-friendly Education event and a forum on Health. Events continued due to high demand will be a winter book review and a spring art walk. We look forward to seeing you at these events! If you have a special interest in any of these, please consider coming to our committee meetings, we'd enjoy hearing from you.

THREE-YEAR MEMBERS

Catheryn Alexander	Jackie Groves Twilegar
Margie Baehr	Tracy Haworth
Ginger Beall	Linda Hurlbutt
Marilyn Beck	Jennifer Jones
Susan Berry	Susan Kimes
Tami Brandstetter	Nicole Lagace' Toeldt
Charlene Burt	Lisa Leff
Jill Carissimi	Carol Lloyd
Elaine Carpenter	Anne-Marie Lodge
Laurie Corrick	Marilyn McAllister
Jane Crane	Celeste Miller
Heidi Cunningham	Lauren Necochea
Elaine Daniel	Sue Reents
Donna Day	Diane Ronayne
Ann DeAngeli	Suzy Ryder
Lisa DeDapper	Marilyn Shuler
Carol Dixon	Cathy Silak
Margit Long Donhowe	Jeri Walz
Connie Gifford	Tammy White
Randa Giles	

Positive change through thoughtful giving



Idaho
Women's
Charitable
Foundation

P.O. Box 6164
Boise, Idaho 83707

Save the **Date!**

October 9, 2009

IWCF Fall Luncheon

Boise, Idaho

*The Board of Directors will have
a strategic planning session in July.
Watch your mailboxes this fall for ...*

*Calendar of 2009-10 IWCF events
Annual Report and Budget*