

Nonprofits Pack Powerful Economic Punch

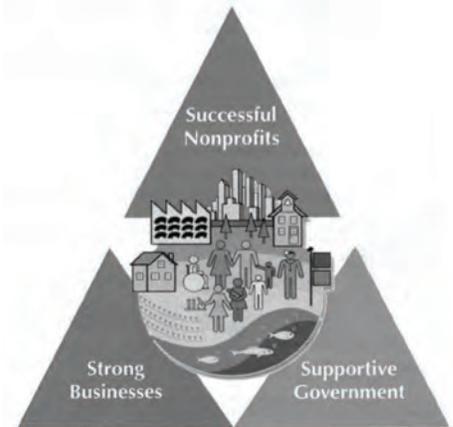
Idaho Nonprofit Center and United Way of Treasure Valley share study results

By: Vicky Coelho

Research is arduous, time consuming, expensive, and in some cases, requires special skills to collect. Knowing this, IWCF is always glad to have respected organizations in our community supply us with research studies worth our attention. Idaho Nonprofit Center and United Way of Treasure Valley have done just that.

Idaho Nonprofit Center completed a study, *Economic Impact of the Idaho Nonprofit Sector*, which they shared with the nonprofit community Thursday, Feb. 2, at The Nonprofit Public Policy Forum. This work was commissioned by Idaho Nonprofit Center with support from Paul G. Allen Family Foundation.

The study focused on the impact the nonprofit sector has on Idaho's economy, in particular--job opportunities and money. Nonprofits provide a significant source of jobs in our state. The study highlights, "Idaho charitable nonprofits employ an estimated 44,491 actual jobs—8.9% of all private sector jobs in the state!" The Quarterly Census of Employment and Earnings reported that "charitable nonprofit employment ranks 6th among all industries in Idaho.



In terms of dollars, Idaho public charities pump \$3.3 billion annually into our economy: \$2.2 billion is health-related; \$300 million goes into education; and \$259 million into human service organizations. Forty-five percent (\$1.5 billion) comes from federal or out-of-state sources. By putting these out-of-state funds to work, 26,685 jobs are generated. Clearly, nonprofits play an important role to Idaho's economy. Final study results are available at www.idahononprofits.org.

At the December 15, 2011 United Way of Treasure Valley's Financial Independence Stakeholder Meeting, survey results were shared concerning targeted populations and needs within the state. Seventy-five percent of the survey constituencies focused on mental health, medical health, seniors, homeless, and parents and children. Disparity between Ada and Canyon Counties

(continued on page 3)

Thank You!

Margaret & Willy Gorrissen
Bob and Tena Lokken / White Cloud Analytics
Susan Meulman
Colleen Willoughby

Welcome New Members!

Since October 2011

Jeanne Barker	Benita Odenkirk
Echo Chadwick	Jan Peterson
Shirley Chetwood	Susan Platt
Melody Dean	Kathy Poston
Marilyn Dorman	Lisa Stevenson
Margaret Doucette	Cheryl "Missy" Swajkoski
Erin Guericabeitia	Yvonne Swanstrom
Marilyn Howard	Tuck Thomas
Wickes Mac Coll	Eileen Twomey

From the President

Dear IWCF Members,

Decade 2! Look out, here we come! I'm so excited about our progress. Our 10-year anniversary was a significant milestone: \$1.6M in contributions to 46 pooled grant recipients and more than 270 individual designees...but we aren't stopping there. We're just getting started!

Planned growth is an important part of our future. We're all about informed giving – learning about community needs and then identifying projects that can help. We have a history of attracting intelligent, hard-working women who want to be effective in their community. A steadily-increasing membership means a healthy inflow of ideas, as well as an increase in the amount of money we can provide to the community. We all have friends like ourselves who have not yet learned about IWCF. We'll continue to provide new opportunities for you to introduce your friends to all that IWCF provides.

Sustainability for IWCF is also crucial to our ability to continue to help southwest Idaho. Setting up the Susan Smith Endowment Fund was the first step. We're in the process of interviewing investment managers and will be announcing that at our Annual Meeting in May. It's a great start-up amount: \$300,000, and we're planning to manage it wisely to underwrite future costs.

The second step in sustainability is establishing a working infrastructure so that we can carry on the functions of IWCF with our volunteer base, instead of paid staff. We've always had a Board made up of hard-working, capable women. This year's Board has been extraordinary and has begun work to distribute responsibilities more broadly. You'll see an example of that in the report from the Grants committee elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The strength of our Board and the work we've done also means we can make another important step – a new President. I have been honored to have the opportunity to help establish Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation. It has been immensely fulfilling. We now have the leadership in place to take us forward. Dana Kehr has been Marketing and Communications Chair for the past two years and has acted as Vice President for the past year. She has accepted the Board's request to have her name submitted to succeed to the Presidency in May. I'm confident that Dana's background in business management and team-building will continue and strengthen the tradition we've set in IWCF.

This gives me the opportunity to continue on the Board as Past President. The plan would be for me to work with Dana, focusing solely on growth and sustainability. These two functions are critical to our ongoing presence in Idaho. I thank you all for your support and hard work. You're here because you want to make a difference in your community. Your help in bringing to IWCF other strong, capable women with the same motivation is vital to ensuring our long-term viability.

In gratitude,

Susan Smith



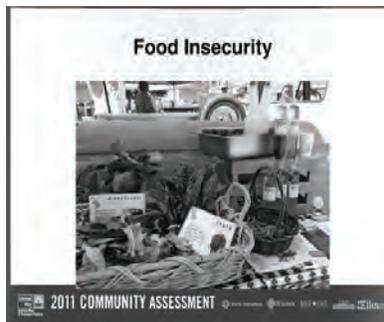
From bottom left: Celeste Miller, Susan Mauk, Kathy Pidgeon, Tory Goltry, Susan Smith, Tena Lokken. 2nd Row: Theresa Madrid, Christy Hilde, Jena Vasconcellos, Dana Kehr, Celinda Synder. Top Row: Kim Liebich, Suzanne Lierz, Margaret Gorrissen, Susan Dunlap

Study results *(continued from page 1)*

shows the percentage of families headed by single women with income below the Poverty line during 2009: 22% in Ada, 34% in Canyon; the national average is 29%.

Studies confirm the long-known solid relationship between education and income—the higher the education level achieved, the lower the incidence of poverty. Not surprisingly, the most helpful services for the poor are emergency food assistance 24%, basic health care services 23%, emergency shelter 13%, and transportation 9%. Both the affected populations and the stakeholders agree they are looking for a “hand-up, not a hand-out.” What the impoverished really want is a job with a livable wage.

Regarding food insecurity, affected groups reported not having access to healthy food more than not having enough food—this was true of homeless populations as well. This study shows 11.8% of the population lives in poverty in Ada County, 18.3% in Canyon County.



Some federal support is available for low-income families and individuals: Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Idaho Child Care Assistance, Child Care Tax Credit, Food Stamps, and Medicaid. The Division of Welfare provides services: Food Assistance (SNAP or Food Stamps). Transportation is key to connecting job, food and housing opportunities. Brookings Institute ranks Boise/Nampa bus system as “average” in terms of route coverage.

Idaho’s refugee population grew to 6720 between 2000 and 2010. The largest barriers to their success are language, social support, mental health, cultural experiences and expectations, education, jobs, and household composition.

At IWCF, as we continue to gather data, share studies and reports, we will build our inventory of understanding of the issues that we work to address. Organizations like Idaho Nonprofit Center and United Way of Treasure Valley help us in this continuous search.

(Note from the Editors: This report is part of our ongoing effort to inform our members about the needs of our extended community in Idaho and of activities directed toward those needs.)

Committees!!

By: Jena Vasconcellos, Nominations Chair

Do you have some time? Energy? A skill you’d like to exercise a little more?

We’re looking for members who know how to do many things and who would like to participate in IWCF a little more, plus meet more community-minded women like yourself. It doesn’t need to take a lot of time, but we know you have talent and, if you have a little extra time, we’d love to see you.

- Interested in the educational aspects of philanthropy and our community? The Education Committee would love your ideas and engagement in planning events.
- Like to write, edit, take pictures, work on websites or social media? Consider the Marketing and Communications Committee.
- If you’re good at planning parties, lunches or other events; have an eye for decorating or design; just like to entertain, IWCF has groups that put together various member events where you would be a big contributor for a short period of time.
- Good with numbers? Organizing? We do lots of this work all the time and would welcome your expertise.
- Or maybe you just have an hour every couple of months and could help in the office.

On the other hand, if you have a little more time, we’re also currently looking for a few new Board members. We’d love to talk with you about what might work in your life.

Active Committees:

- Grants
- Education
- Finance
- Marketing and Communications
- Event Arrangements
- Board of Directors

Please contact Jena Vasconcellos, Nominations chair, at jenasvascon@yahoo.com, Kim Liebich, Operations, at information@IdahoWomensCharitableFoundation.org, or the IWCF office at 343-IWCF.

Thanks!

“A Stitch in Time: The Importance of Early Childhood Education and its Longitudinal Effects”

By: Celinda Snyder, Board Member

It is often said that children are our future; unfortunately, not all children are being adequately prepared for their future. Early childhood education, which involves the 3-5 year-old, is in fact just a “stitch in time,” but happens to be the most critical period during which our children are “hardwired” to learn, assimilate, and thrive. Children also acquire critical social and emotional skills – such as “effortful control” - at this time. These skills provide the foundation for the adults they become – and yes, our future.

Planning this event, “A Stitch in Time,” has been a process of discovery. I have a newfound understanding of the significance of this period in a child’s life and the task at hand. I also now have a better appreciation of the many partnerships, programs and advocacy groups who are focused on a special concern: children who slip through the cracks and miss out on early childhood education altogether, or who may fall so far behind that they NEVER catch up. I am confident that you will find this information enlightening. Armed with this increased awareness, we can continue to strive to model thoughtful and educated philanthropy as we learn of new and innovative approaches to optimize this precious period of early childhood learning.

“A Stitch in Time: The Importance of Early Childhood Education” will feature a panel community partners, passionate educators, and leaders to discuss such topics as Summer Learning Loss, the “Education Velcro,” In-Home Vocabulary and Reading Proficiency in the State of Idaho.

Please join us from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. at the Cole and Ustick branch of the library on April 10th.

Aging Responsibly: Decision Making, Planning and Resources

Over fifty IWCF members and friends attended this educational program. A panel responded succinctly to questions submitted in advance by co-chairs Sharon Colby and Kathy Durbin.

Just as good planning was key to the success of the program, the speakers stated that it is never too early to begin planning for the “what ifs” in life. Attorney Donna Schuyler described the instruments such as power of attorney for finance and health care, guardianships, estate planning and wills stressing that all, of course, can be amended as circumstances dictate.

Talking to loved ones about their wishes regarding care at the end of life is at times a hard conversation to have, but according to panelist Stephanie Bender-Kitz not having the conversation won’t make the problem go away. Helping individuals and communities provide good chronic and long term care is a goal of her employer, Friends in Action.

Nurse Judith Perry of St. Luke’s Hospice stressed that it is important in end of life situations to ask about the goal of treatment. She mentioned three: cure, stabilization of condition, and a dignified, comfortable death.

Lyn Smith of Senior Solutions recommended a planning guide called Prepare to Care published by AARP. Elders at times need more help with financial planning than they are willing to admit and some may be reluctant to tell a family member about falls and other incidents of concern.

Insights into Grant Making:

A Deep Dive into the IWCF Grant-Making Process and Best Practices

By: Tena Lokken, Education Chair

About 30 people attended this event September 15, 2011 at the Cole & Ustick Branch of the Library. A show of hands indicated about one-third of those in attendance represented nonprofit organizations, one-third were IWCF members, and the remainder said they were both. The program was co-hosted by IWCF Education Chair, Tena Lokken, and IWCF Grants Chair, Celeste Miller.

Designed for both members and anyone affiliated with a nonprofit organization in our service area (Southwest Idaho), we took a “deep dive” into the IWCF grant making process, highlighted recent enhancements to our process and funding criteria, and answered audience questions. We also offered insights into best practices for writing Letters of Intent and Grant Applications for IWCF. The content was so helpful to attendees, may make this an annual event.

Positive change through thoughtful giving

Grants 2012

By: Celeste Miller, Grants Co-Chair

IWCF's second decade of grant-making is well underway! The 2012 cycle kicked off last fall under new management. As many of you know, Gena Delucci ran the grants program single-handedly for several years before crying "uncle." The Board then revised the structure of the Grants program and divided the tasks a few different ways to meet the increasing demands of our growing organization. The Grants Chair seat on the Board is now occupied by Celeste Miller, and her partner in running the program is Anne Hay.

To create a more sustainable process, we established a leader for each of our five Interest Areas to lead the workgroups through LOI review, RFP selection and identifying ballot finalists. Each grantee will then be assigned a liaison as a single point-person with IWCF throughout grant administration. In short, there are now 12 women dividing the work that Gena once did mostly by herself! All are IWCF members who volunteer their time to keep the wheels turning.

IWCF received approximately 110 Letters of Inquiry in December 2011. Those were reviewed, and we are now awaiting full grant proposals from 29 nonprofit organizations. Perhaps the biggest change in making grants administration more sustainable is that we are now DIGITAL! Organizations submitting LOIs in December did so through email for the first time! Grants committee members have online access to all grantee documentation through all aspects of the grant process.

The grants committee members working on current proposals will meet next on March 14, 2012 at 11:30 at the Esther Simplot Academy to learn which proposals were selected for site visits and to sign up to participate. This meeting is a good place for all members to get a feel for all potential grantee projects as well!



Sustainable Futures - Funded 2011



"Squeaky Strings" - Funded 2011

Grants 2011

By: Celeste Miller, Grants Co-Chair

While the 2012 grants cycle gears up, IWCF received mid-year reports in December from its 2011 grantees. Most of those projects are thriving. One grantee, Sustainable Futures, identified the credibility they have experienced as a result of receiving a grant from IWCF as the single most significant impact it has experienced since funding!

The Executive Director of another grantee organization, Lee Pesky Learning Center, left his position last summer, and Lee Pesky returned to its more traditional role in education, which differs from the College Aspirations Project (CAP) that IWCF funded. Lee Pesky had "reshuffled" a third of our first-half funds to other uses, without the notice or consent required by our contract with them.

We think highly of Lee Pesky: however, acting as stewards of our members' votes and of their funds, the Board decided we could not distribute the second half of the grant. We have also requested the return of funds expended on activities not authorized under the original grant contract. We can all be pleased that most of our initial funding allowed us to participate in funding a portion of the CAP project our members had embraced. This experience also highlights the benefits of our mid-year evaluation process.

All other projects that IWCF funded in 2011 are on track and are fulfilling their goals! If you are interested in seeing these reports, *please let us know.**



Idaho
Women's
Charitable
Foundation

P.O. Box 6164
Boise, Idaho 83707



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Save the Date!

New and Not-so-New Member Orientation

Tuesday, March 6

11:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Esther Simplot Performing Arts Academy (ESPAA)

Pooled Grants Site Visit Selection

Wednesday, March 14 (IWCF Members Only)

11:30 - 1:00 p.m. - ESPAA

A Stitch in Time:

the Importance of Early Childhood Education

Tuesday, April 10

11:30 - 1:00 p.m. - Cole & Ustick Library Branch

Pooled Grants - Ballot Decisions

Tuesday, April 24 (IWCF Members Only)

5:30 - 7:30 p.m. - ESPAA

Pooled Grants - Ballot Q&A and Social

Tuesday, April 24 (IWCF Members Only)

5:30 - 7:30 p.m. - ESPAA

Pooled Grants - Voting Deadline

Wednesday, May 2

Annual Meeting and Pooled Grants Award

Tuesday, May 15

5:30 - 8:00 p.m. - Hillcrest Country Club