

INSIDE
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ISSUE:

MEET LUKAS
BRATCHER,
A WHITWORTH
SCHOLAR

WHAT DOES
SUCCESS MEAN
FOR ELK CITY,
IDAHO?

GET TO KNOW
A SPOKANE
VISIONARY,
JIM SHEEHAN

"OUR JOB IS TO
LEAVE MORE
BEHIND THAN
WHAT WE
STARTED WITH."

CURT HOLMES,
KALISPEL TRIBE (2003)

RUNNING FOR HEALTH, GIVING FOR LIFE

Sister Madonna Buder is tired of getting roughed up. First, she was knocked off of her bike by a participant making an illegal move during a race. She walked away with three fractures in her elbow. Then she was cut off by a car while training and injured her leg. Now she can only limp along on her runs in preparation for the Boston Marathon. She sounds tired of having her patience tried again and again. At 77 years old, she forges ahead doing what she believes God has called her to do.

When you are an athlete, it's easy to measure the miles you've run, the speed at which you ride your bike, and the laps you've swum, but when you transform lives, the outcome is a bit less quantifiable. When you are Sister Madonna Buder and you have competed in over 300 triathalons, 34 Ironmans and 37 marathons, you never say, 'enough is enough.' The word quit is not in her vocabulary. If being a full-time athlete isn't enough, Sister Madonna is first a nun with the Sisters for Christian Community and a generous philanthropist.

At Inland Northwest Community Foundation, Sister Madonna created several funds that continue to have a positive impact on the Inland Northwest. "When I first heard about Inland Northwest Community Foundation, I thought it was a novel idea and very convenient for me. The Foundation listens to the desires of the benefactors and uses the funds appropriately,"



Sister Madonna
Canadian Ironman

says Sister Madonna. One of the things she appreciates about the Foundation is the ability to pursue her own interests. "It is such a relief to have this reservoir available to direct the funds without me having to do so directly, thus allowing me time for other pursuits of equal importance."

See Buder, continued inside

Inland Northwest Community Foundation serves twenty counties throughout Eastern Washington and North Idaho. Founded in 1974, its mission is to foster vibrant and sustainable communities in the Inland Northwest. The Foundation manages more than 250 funds, valued at approximately \$65 million, which have been established by individuals, families and businesses.



Roger Woodworth



Nancy Collins-Warner



Brenda Tudor



Pati Dahmen Ray

TRANSFORMING YOUR FOUNDATION

We have unpacked our boxes and set up our furniture in the Bank of Whitman's stunning new offices. The bank's generous gift of rent-free space in downtown Spokane, including all the tenant improvements, is an outstanding donation to our region. Moving into new offices is also symbolic of the Foundation's new direction and the celebration of our mission. Our strategic plan, *Building Bridges . . . Transforming Communities*, included a move to a more accessible location. It also invoked a call for us to strengthen our role as a visible convener and partner with our diverse communities. These strategic goals are beginning to take shape.

Dedicated volunteers contribute to the success of charitable organizations like Inland Northwest Community Foundation. Throughout my first three years at the Foundation, the Board and committee members have been an invaluable resource that honed our work and contributed to our growth and improvement. Three of these Board members will be completing terms at the end of this fiscal year. Roger Woodworth, Nancy Collins-Warner and Brenda Tudor have been a part of this positive change. I am indebted to them for their stewardship and dedication.

Additionally, Pati Dahmen Ray completes a two-year term in June as Chairman of the Board. I am grateful for her friendship, leadership and forthrightness. I look forward to her continued participation on the Board this coming year.

There are many events that could be cited as affirmations of our healthy interaction with the community. One example is Louis Livingston, a Spokane educator and philanthropist. This past December, at 107 years old, he quietly passed away. I had the privilege of meeting him and was immediately struck by his keen wit, curiosity and genuine concern for humanity. He and his wife of more than sixty years, Margery, established a permanent fund at Inland Northwest Community Foundation that will benefit specific regional charities for years to come. His final message to me offers us a lasting gift. "When you get to the point that you have to decide what to do with your wealth, it's not yours anymore." It is a reminder of the Foundation's potential to become a bridge to the community's nonprofit organizations and charitably-minded people.

With gifts comes responsibility and with change comes opportunity. Mr. Livingston's words can remind us that wealth, which comes in many forms, is ultimately for our community and those around us.



A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read "Mark Hurtubise".

Mark Hurtubise
President & CEO

Fiscal Year 2008

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SAVE THE DATE!

Open house for INWCF and Bank of
Whitman, Wednesday, September 17th
Details coming later!

SUCCEEDING NOW FOR A GREAT FUTURE

The largest single scholarship awarded by the Foundation was to a student with a vision toward a great future. In 2007, Lukas Bratcher, a sophomore and speech communication major at Whitworth University, received \$8,570. On behalf of Ren H. Rice, INWCF is honored to support Bratcher with another scholarship for the 2008-2009 school year.

As Bratcher's mother, Kristy Bratcher, explains, "This scholarship changed his life. The amount I was able to save because of the scholarship, we put toward room and board. This is the first year Lukas has lived on campus. It has been a life-changing experience." In addition to pursuing his rigorous studies, Bratcher also plays the euphonium with the wind symphony, and he recently returned from tour in Hawaii.

Bratcher's advisor, Virginia Whitehouse, Associate Professor of Communication Studies, shares her enthusiasm about him. "Lukas is a joy to work with. Moving on campus was important to his personal and academic development. It's helping him achieve more."

Ren H. Rice, who died in 1957, would find Bratcher to be the kind of student he wanted to benefit from this fund. As an orphan, Rice had great



Lukas Bratcher and his dog, Mystere

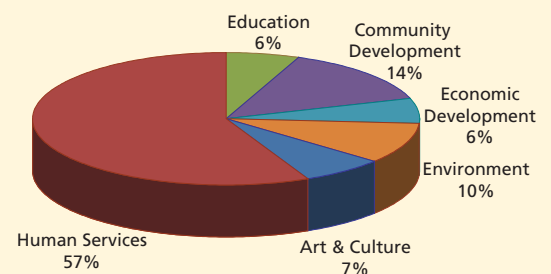
compassion for people who achieved success despite a difficult challenge. A former city police chief, businessman and journalist, Rice was the kind of person everyone in town knew.

Like Rice, wherever Bratcher's career takes him, he will make a difference.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE THROUGH COMMUNITY STRATEGIES GRANTS

The Community Strategies Grant Program is one of the Foundation's largest grant programs supporting arts and culture, humanities, education, community and economic development and human services. In Fall 2007, we funded 22 proposed projects for a total of \$412,115. The program's funding comes from a variety of discretionary funds at the Foundation. Our donors who established these funds may specify areas of interest or regional designations for use of their funds' distributable income. The discretionary nature of the funds means that donors entrust the Foundation to support charitable organizations that offer a significant benefit to their community.

Fall 2007 Community Strategies Grant Program



SEEKING CHANGE THROUGH JUST CAUSES

Jim Sheehan is a visionary with a profound dream for the region. “Community is something we need to foster, enhance and develop.” He lives by example—both personally and professionally.

Professionally, Sheehan is at the center of the development of the Community Building in downtown Spokane. His vision includes the Saranac Building next door. Together, both buildings house many nonprofits in an environmentally-friendly atmosphere.

“Jim has not only created a beautiful, affordable space

for local non-profits like ours, he is leading the way for sustainable, ‘green’ building practices,” says Lupito Flores, Station Manager, KYRS-Thin Air Community Radio.

Sheehan recently recommended a grant through his donor-advised fund at INWCF to Blue Prints for Learning. His investment advisor, Bob Larson at Merrill Lynch, supported his desire to stay local and support his community foundation as well as local nonprofits.

Albert Einstein once said, “We can’t solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.” This thinking is what propels Sheehan to seek change and to challenge all of us to do the same.

He suggests that we look at how we measure success and redefine it within our own community to include social justice, environmental justice and economic justice. By opening a donor-advised fund at INWCF, Sheehan made it easier to support the causes to which he is deeply committed.

“Now I have a local community foundation. I’m really pleased because it broadens my network,” he says. “Things are changing. I’m really hopeful.”



Sheehan at work

BUDER, CONTINUED FROM COVER PAGE

Besides training as an athlete, those other pursuits include her work at the Spokane County Jail where she has been visiting with inmates for the past 27 years. “In all the years I’ve been going there, I have always had someone eager to participate,” she continues. “Some of the sharing is truly beautiful, so honest and insightful. I always leave feeling blessed.”

With God as the center of her life, she gives unconditionally, she trains exceptionally hard and she continues to inspire those around her. With her permanently endowed funds at the Foundation, Sister Madonna can be assured that lives will continue to be transformed long after the tread on her running shoes has worn down.

NURTURING CHILDREN, TRAINING TEACHERS

With a \$50,000 grant from the James L. Sheehan Fund, Blue Prints for Learning will continue to do what it does so well. The nonprofit works to increase the quality of child care in the Inland Northwest by offering two programs. The Community Building Children’s Center (CBCC) is inspired by the preschools of Reggio Emilia, Italy where educators describe a quality program for young children as one part home, one part

school and one part museum. Secondly, the Child Care Training Institute focuses on improving the quality of care provided at local child care centers by increasing the skills and knowledge of child

care providers. Both programs help nurture and develop children in an environment that fosters friendship, curiosity, self-esteem, joy and respect.



A child's art project at CBCC

THRIVING AT THE HEART OF A SMALL TOWN

“Elk City, Idaho can teach all of us about enduring a severe economic downturn and losing jobs. It is a town where people have come together as a community to transform a more traditional forest resourced-based economy to one that is sustainable,” says Nancy Collins-Warner, Board member and Chair of the Grants Committee at Inland Northwest Community Foundation (INWCF). In Fall 2007, she had the opportunity to visit Framing Our Community (FOC), the grassroots nonprofit nestled within two million acres of the Nez Perce National Forest. Eleven community members founded this organization in 1999 to provide economic opportunities for citizens to thrive.

Thriving is indeed what they are doing. Collins-Warner’s impressions of FOC describe best what INWCF hopes to do throughout the region.

The nonprofit is at the heart of the renaissance for this beautiful town of approximately 400 people. Joyce Dearstyne, Executive Director of FOC, does not take this task lightly. “Our responsibility is to help train and educate the next generation.”

With her staff of “three and a smidge,” FOC does this so that people in the region can



continue to raise families, live and retire in this peaceful place.

Gazebo raising for an FOC outdoor classroom

With a recent \$25,000 grant from the Foundation, FOC is purchasing more land to build a Public Log Sort Yard Excavation and Equipment Project close to private and federal lands.

The public sort yard will reduce log transportation costs, identify the best value and use of woody biomass materials and facilitate connections to other markets. FOC is excited about sharing its model with others and remains committed to the collaborative effort.

Collins-Warner shares the enthusiasm as well: “The leadership of FOC has taken the community’s strengths and clear preferences about its future and run with them, with remarkable success, matching local initiative and vision with ‘outside’ partnering organizations, foundations and visionaries.”

Visit FOC at framingourcommunity.org.

“Our responsibility is to help train and educate the next generation.”

ACORN FUNDS

Philanthropy can be a reality with as little as \$1,000 a year when a family establishes an acorn fund at INWCF. It’s a great way to teach children about giving, to bring families together toward a common cause or, on a limited budget, see your money grow to have a positive impact on the community you love. An acorn fund is a permanently endowed fund that can be passed down to future generations. What a great way to leave a legacy! Contact PJ Watters at 509-624-2606 or by email at pjwatters@inwcf.org for more information.

“Sterling Savings Bank is pleased to be a sponsor of the Inland Northwest Community Foundation. We salute the hard work of the organization, and we are proud to do whatever we can to truly make a difference in people’s lives. Being Hometown Helpful® is what it’s all about.”

–Heidi Stanley, CEO and President
of Sterling Savings Bank

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new location:

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Community Foundation**

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DID YOU KNOW...

Involving children and grandchildren in your philanthropic endeavors is a great way to spend some time with kids and instill in them your values about giving and receiving. At the same time, children bring a fresh perspective and create lasting connections among family members as you work together to create a philanthropic legacy.

You are invited to tour our new offices during
these summer dates from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Thursday, June 19th
Thursday, July 17th
Thursday, August 21st

Congratulations to Louise Mathiesen, Program Developer for Synergy Works! Clearwater Youth Alliance for her Idaho Governor’s “Brightest Star” award. INWCF is pleased to have supported Synergy Works! with a grant in 2007. This 5th – 8th grade program provides no-school Friday activities and summer camps for kids in a multigenerational setting.

Inland Northwest Community Foundation

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