

thirty-five years of service

INLAND NORTHWEST  
**community**  
Foundation

NEWS FROM YOUR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

FALL/WINTER 2009

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"I AM ONLY ONE,  
BUT STILL I AM  
ONE. I CANNOT  
DO EVERYTHING.  
BUT STILL I CAN  
DO SOMETHING;  
AND BECAUSE  
I CANNOT DO  
EVERYTHING, I  
WILL NOT REFUSE  
TO DO THE  
SOMETHING THAT  
I CAN DO."

HELEN KELLER

# OUTGROWING HUNGER ON THE PALOUSE

What happens when a city girl from the north side of Chicago gets a degree in Anthropology from Brown University, a Master's in Historical Archaeology from University of California at Berkeley, more coursework from the Design School at the University of Cincinnati, then finds herself living in the college town of Moscow, Idaho?

If you are Amy Grey, you bloom into creating a nonprofit organization from the seeds of the first lettuce planted in your own backyard with your two young sons, Sam and Tom.

Four years ago, Grey, founder and president of Backyard Harvest, and her sons planted their first garden. After sowing the entire seed packet and growing over 200 heads of lettuce, Grey knew she had to share her bounty, and the idea behind Backyard Harvest was born. Today, Backyard Harvest is growing, harvesting and delivering locally grown fruits and vegetables to area food banks and to several meal programs for seniors and the disabled.

"Backyard Harvest's growth as an organization is propelled by the simple belief that small things matter," says Grey. "Pocket-sized gardens, lone fruit trees, a handful of dedicated volunteers when organized can



make a significant impact in how community members care for one another."

"The collection and harvesting of fresh fruit and vegetables in a community brings together people in towns and cities in intrinsic ways that would normally not happen," Grey continues.

Since its inception three years ago, Backyard Harvest has grown to serve six different communities in three states—Idaho, Washington and California.

See "Backyard Harvest" 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 265 funds, valued at approximately \$50 million, which have been established by individuals, families and businesses.

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## PLANTING SEEDS OF HOPE AND INNOVATION



As a country and region, we continue to experience a climate of economic challenges with modest improvement in certain sectors. What is encouraging are the many well-springs of innovation throughout Eastern Washington and North Idaho, each a beacon of hope and promise.

This newsletter features neighbors and neighborhoods bonding in ways that offer their communities a sense of place and mutual support.

Four years ago in Moscow, Idaho, a family's first garden became the genesis for the gathering of numerous volunteers to grow vegetables and fruit to support food banks and meal programs throughout the Palouse.

The newly created Opportunity Grant Program at Inland Northwest Community Foundation helped six public libraries in Spokane County purchase 50 computers for public use—another way for community members to utilize free technology for job searches and research.

Inspirational art and reading programs in Othello, Washington and Sandpoint, Idaho are providing learning experiences that will stimulate creativity, discovery and wonder in our youth who, within a few years, will take the reins of community leadership.

We are also proud to introduce in this issue five new outstanding board members pictured to the left of this letter who, in July 2009, joined five other dedicated INWCF members. With the Foundation's staff and more than 200 volunteers, they will work collaboratively to advance our communities and inspire individual achievement that can lead to sustained success. We are fortunate to have their experience and vibrant personalities benefitting this region.

Mark Hurtubise  
President & CEO

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## KEEPING THE ARTS GROUNDED IN OTHELLO



Students complete an all-day workshop on clown history

Like Dorothy's house in the Wizard of Oz, the children's classroom at The Old Hotel Art Gallery in Othello, Washington was literally blowing away. Due to extensive wind damage, the City of Othello condemned the building where 350 children took art classes yearly for the last 29 years. Founded in 1975, The Old Hotel Art Gallery is an important landmark for local and regional artists to display their work.

In 2008, Inland Northwest Community Foundation awarded this nonprofit a \$10,000 Community Strategies grant, thanks to these funds: Spokane Foundation Fund, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Fund for Health & Human Services and RRCE Miller Family Fund. The grant was used to replace the Children's Art Education Center that now houses two

classrooms including a pottery room with five pottery wheels and a kiln.

Nancy Briggs, former Old Hotel Director, is passionate about the center: "The new Arts Building at The Old Hotel is a gift to the entire community of Othello, especially the children. You can't put a value on what the "arts" do for children. They offer an opportunity—like no other—for them to develop creativity, to use their imagination, to learn new skills and to find pride in accomplishment."

As the only organization offering art classes for children in Adams County, The Old Hotel Art Gallery fills an important niche in the region. Briggs continues, "The new building, with its enhanced facilities, ensures the magic will continue and that adults as well as children will enjoy the benefits."

## "BACKYARD HARVEST" CONTINUED

In May 2009, Backyard Harvest received a \$24,520 grant from Inland Northwest Community Foundation (INWCF) from the Margaret F. Galbraith Fund to support development of the Palouse Garden Collaborative. This new initiative will take under-utilized land and transform it by Backyard Harvest staff and volunteers into vegetable gardens and orchards to grow food for donation to area food banks and meal programs in North Idaho and Eastern Washington.

"By receiving the grant, we are putting down roots," Grey explains. "We are creating places for folks to experience gardening for the first time." At the Hope Center food bank, for example, Backyard Harvest has created a small plot to

grow fresh vegetables. When families come to the food bank, the kids will wander back to the garden to pick peas, plant sunflowers and have a chance to watch things grow from seed, often something they see for the first time.

Perhaps one day some of those children who are experiencing gardening for the first time will plant their own gardens, and as they are gathering lettuce for their evening's meal, they will collect a few extra heads to donate to a food bank in their own community.

For more information about Backyard Harvest, please visit their Web site at [www.backyardharvest.org](http://www.backyardharvest.org).

## WHEN OPPORTUNITY COMES KNOCKING

When the Spokane Public Library Foundation became the recipients of an unsolicited \$70,200 grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Sandra Kernerman, Director of Development, knew it was not an option to turn it down. However, there was a catch—the library foundation had to raise matching funds of \$41,600 in a very short amount of time. The first installment of \$14,300 had to be secured by March 2009.

The newly created Opportunity Grant Program at Inland Northwest Community Foundation (INWCF) was a perfect starting point for Kernerman to secure those funds. When the grant cycles of INWCF's other grant programs do not fit an immediate need of an organization, INWCF will consider awarding an opportunity grant.

"It's a very generous grant, and a win-win situation for everyone," said Kernerman. A \$2,000 opportunity grant from INWCF was issued from a discretionary fund at INWCF intended for awarding community grants.

With the INWCF grant and other matching funds, the Spokane Public Library Foundation purchased 50 desktop computers, four printers and other supplies for the

benefit of six libraries in Spokane County. The computers are free to the public and are used for Internet access, database retrievals, word processing, job searches, homework and research.

With the rest of the funds that will be received in 2010, the library foundation plans to purchase laptop computers to institute a mobile computer education lab for all six Spokane Public Library branches.

For more information about the matching grant program, please visit [spokanelibraryfdtn.org](http://spokanelibraryfdtn.org).



Patrons at the Shadle library try out the new computers



## IN MEMORY OF EDITH SCHUYLER ...

In July 2007, inspired by her love for her late husband, Hoyt Schuyler, Edith created a scholarship in his honor to benefit graduates of Clark Fork High School. Edith hoped her \$500,000 gift would inspire others to give to worthy causes in their communities. Hoyt and Edith worked hard all their lives, and she knew that their fund at INWCF would touch many lives.

Edith celebrated her 93rd birthday in November, attended her final scholarship committee meeting in April, continued line dancing and never stopped driving. On July 13, 2009, Edith was reunited with her beloved husband.

She left us with more than a scholarship. In her wisdom, Edith did not seek to be remembered for memory's sake. She sought the opportunity for her vision to be fulfilled. "If we all gave to help the younger generations, our country would be a lot better off." Edith Schuyler's prudent words will echo through the lives of young people whose futures have been changed by scholarships from Hoyt and Edith Schuyler of Hope, Idaho.



Ready! Coordinator Tracy Gibson reviewing the tools of the Ready! Program

## PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

*You won't lag behind, because you'll have the speed.*

*You'll pass the whole gang and you'll soon take the lead.*

*Wherever you fly, you'll be the best of the best.*

*Wherever you go, you will top all the rest.*

*Oh, the Places You'll Go*  
by Dr. Seuss

It turns out that green eggs and ham really are important for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Dr. Seuss and other beloved children's writers inherently knew the significance of reading to children in their first few years. In fact, research indicates that children from birth to age five have more capacity to learn than at any other time in their school careers.

At Panhandle Alliance for Education (PAFE) in Bonner County, Idaho, the *READY! for Kindergarten* program gives children a solid foundation for learning at an early age, leading to future success in the classroom.

In the fall of 2008, PAFE received a \$5,000 grant from the Florence Wasmer Fund for Children and Families at INWCF to provide parent-child classes and materials to promote early childhood learning through the *READY! for Kindergarten* program. With this funding, PAFE provided parents and/or primary caregivers of children from birth to age five free classes that included "How and Why to Read Aloud," "Brain Development," and "Logic and Numbers." All the classes were taught by certified teachers. Children of parents who attend all the classes receive a free book in the mail every month from the Dolly Parton Foundation.

Marcia Wilson, Executive Director of PAFE, explains: "Our first INWCF grant of \$5,000 was extremely encouraging. It not only helped us launch the program in the first year, but we realized that others recognized

the value of early childhood literacy as well. The *READY!* program proved itself with an overwhelming response from our community."

In the spring of 2009, the *READY! for Kindergarten* program received an additional \$30,000 Community Strategies grant paid from three funds at INWCF: Margaret F. Galbraith Fund, Doris L. and Neil J. Kenney Bonner County Community Projects Fund and the Bonner and Boundary Counties Fund. This grant will enable PAFE to reach their goal of supporting more than 150 families in the *READY!* program.

Dr. Seuss was keenly aware there certainly are places to go, and thanks to PAFE, many children surely have a better chance of getting there.

### ABOUT PANHANDLE ALLIANCE FOR EDUCATION

**Mission:** To promote excellence in education and broad-based community support for Lake Pend Oreille School District

**Background:** Formed in 2002 by a small group of citizens concerned about their public schools

**More information:** [panhandlealliance.org](http://panhandlealliance.org)

**Inland Northwest  
Community Foundation**

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Steve Larson, President  
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OUR SPECIAL THANKS TO THE  
SPONSOR OF THIS PUBLICATION:



**CONGRATULATIONS PEND OREILLE  
PLAYERS ASSOCIATION!**

Jeff & Kristi Bell selected Pend Oreille Players Association to receive a \$250 grant from INWCF when their names were drawn from 44 fund founders who responded early to the INWCF Donor Survey. This grant was made possible by a donation from Hanna & Associates of Coeur d’Alene. Thank you, Hanna & Associates for supporting our donors’ philanthropy!

**COMMUNITY GRANTS**

The important work of charitable organizations in Eastern Washington and North Idaho is supported with grants awarded through INWCF’s six competitive programs. These community grants, typically between \$1,500 and \$30,000 each, are made possible through a variety of funds established by philanthropic-minded individuals. For program guidelines and information about how to apply for grants, please visit [inwcf.org](http://inwcf.org), or contact Grants Program Officer Molly Sanchez at 509-624-2606 or 888-267-5606.

**INWCF GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION CYCLES**

	OPEN	DEADLINE
Scholarship Programs.....	December 1 .....	March/April
Community Strategies Round 2 .....	December 14 .....	January 19
Pullman Community Grants .....	January 11 .....	February 23
Columbia County Children’s Fund.....	January 11 .....	February 23
Wasmer Fund for Children and Families .....	May 10 .....	June 29
Wasmer Fund for Arts and Culture .....	May 10 .....	June 29
Opportunity Grants 2010 .....	Ongoing through	June 3

*Note: Deadlines subject to change. Please see Web site for most current information.*