

thirty-five years of service

INLAND NORTHWEST
community
Foundation

NEWS FROM YOUR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

FALL/WINTER 2010

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"ONE MUST KNOW
NOT JUST HOW TO
ACCEPT A GIFT, BUT
WITH WHAT GRACE
TO SHARE IT."

MAYA ANGELOU

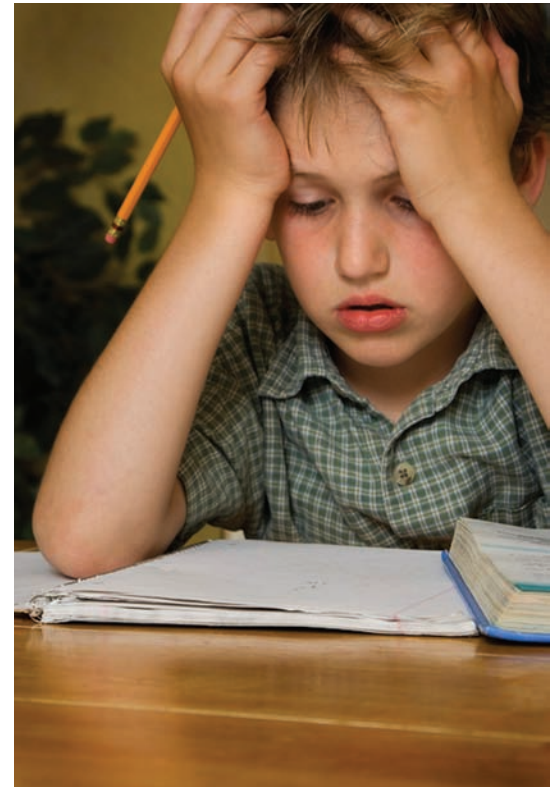
GETTING SMARTER IN SPOKANE

The statistics are alarming. More than a third of high school freshmen in Spokane Public Schools do not graduate on time.

At stake is more than just a diploma. Dropouts are more likely to be unemployed, poor, obtain public assistance, go to prison, and have health and marital problems.

This is a community problem, not to be deferred to parents, schools or nonprofits. If the entire community does not address this issue, the dropout problem could lead to hardship in the Inland Northwest. Conversely, keeping students in school creates a lasting difference in their future, and the future of the community.

This is one of the main reasons why 17 Spokane County leaders created *Priority Spokane*. Since 2005, 115 concerned citizens and leaders from businesses, government, nonprofits, health and education have studied this issue. With data from Eastern Washington University and support from Inland Northwest



Community Foundation, *Priority Spokane* plans to better the education, economics, environment, health and community safety of Spokane County. Realizing the need to focus, *Priority Spokane* identified education and dropout prevention as its initial primary goal.

The middle school years are crucial for many youths. Studies have shown that providing the right resources to students during this time can greatly improve high school retention rates. Hence, *Priority Spokane* will concentrate on improving this experience for students, both inside and outside the classroom.

Early in 2009 *Priority Spokane* commissioned research through Gonzaga University to determine what the community can do to improve graduation rates. The research recommends



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Fiscal Year 2011

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HOPE ON OUR HORIZON

Late last month the National Bureau of Economic Research in New York released a statement that our latest recession officially ended. For the millions of Americans who are unemployed, own homes whose values have declined or are struggling to meet their monthly expenses that reality does not exist. In fact, economists are debating whether our country is at risk of a double-dip recession or, conversely, a deflation.

Regardless of this uncertainty, there is within our region a myriad of affirmations of healthy interactions within our communities that encourage hope for improvement. Positive energy abounds around us continuously. We can be inspired by a few such stories within this newsletter.

For example, Priority Spokane is an innovative civic model of community leaders working collaboratively with the Spokane Public Schools Board, Superintendent and others within the community, to launch an initiative to enhance the middle school student experience. By doing so, there is significant research buttressing the belief that this will result in dramatically improved Spokane Public Schools high school graduation rates. That would be celebratory for our region in many constructive ways.

Pawsitive Works in Bonners Ferry, Idaho connects at-risk youth with rescued dogs in shelters to foster mutual trust and support. This simultaneously teaches life skills such as teamwork, communication and self improvement in our youth.

The Festival Dance and Performing Arts Association invited The Kusun Ensemble from Ghana to perform in Latah County, helping us recognize that the more we understand our differences, the faster we can celebrate our similarities.

We are also proud to introduce three new outstanding board members pictured to the left of this letter. In July 2010 they joined eight other dedicated INWCF board members, who collectively work to advance our communities and inspire achievement that can lead to sustained success. We are fortunate to have them, as well as more than 150 other volunteers, engaged in benefiting our 20-county service area.

So despite the national economic forecast, on our horizon, hope is rising thanks to your continued support of INWCF.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark".

Mark Hurtubise
President & CEO

DALE SCHUMAN: TAKING TRUST PERSONALLY

Dale Schuman is committed to the practice of law and financial stewardship through building trust. For Schuman, that means personal trust as well as professional integrity.



He takes this philosophy seriously in his role as Senior Vice President, General Manager and General Counsel for Panhandle State Bank and its other division banks, Intermountain Community Bank and Magic Valley Bank.

The Bank's Trust and Investment Division was created and is managed under his direction.

"This position gives me the authority and the privilege of continuing my commitment to strong personal

relationships with clients while delivering sophisticated, knowledgeable, and professional fiduciary and investment management services," says Schuman.

Schuman's clients and community partners are quick to affirm the success of his approach.

"Dale takes the time to understand the legacy that each client dreams of building, then he shows them how to make it happen," says long-time client Jodie Spears. "I know I can trust him to fulfill my intentions toward my family and my community, even when I'm not here to do it myself."

Schuman believes in offering a level of service that goes beyond dollars and cents.

"We have a policy of helping our clients in ways that most financial institutions would never consider," he says. "It's all very personal with us."

When Schuman isn't busy serving his clients and his community, he enjoys

outdoor recreation and traveling with his family. He is active in numerous professional organizations, including INWCF's Gift Planning and Marketing Committee, and is a member of the Bar Associations of both Idaho and Washington.

COMMUNITY FOCUS TRUST

Under Schuman's advice, a Sandpoint client set up the Community Focus Trust to benefit charities in the Inland Northwest. Since his client's passing, Schuman has followed her wishes to distribute her trust to support charities that help animals and underserved populations. He created a partnership with INWCF to identify and disburse funds in a timely, cost-effective manner. This partnership strategy serves as a new high impact model for philanthropy in our community.

MAXINE DAVIDSON'S DECISION TO GIVE

"Growing up in the great Depression, I knew poverty personally. We made sacrifices as a family," says Maxine Davidson. "I knew the value of education for all children, especially disadvantaged children. My mother and three of my aunts all taught. Becoming a teacher was a decision I made in the second grade."



For most of her career, Maxine taught in disadvantaged areas. "I saw a lack of opportunity and vision for the young people in these neighborhoods," she explains. "Success in any one of the arts can build confidence, self-esteem and motivate interest in learning. Research shows that schools that include arts have higher scholastic records, more graduates, more degrees and less crime."

Maxine Davidson grew up on Five Mile Prairie in Spokane, Washington. There was no high school on the prairie. To attend North Central High School, Maxine had to walk four miles a day. "I knew that a high school education was the first step out of poverty," Maxine says.

After graduating from North Central as an honor student, Maxine received her B.A. and Master's degrees in Education from Eastern Washington University and began her teaching career in Cusick, Washington in 1942. She taught in Sprague and then at Trent School and was curriculum consultant for the Spokane County and West Valley schools. She conducted workshops and taught evenings for Whitworth College's Education Department. From classroom teaching, she became a principal for Spokane Public Schools, then returned to the classroom to teach her 30th year before retiring.

In January 2010, Maxine established an endowment at INWCF. She hopes her story will encourage others to support the arts. To read more about the Maxine Davidson Arts Foundation or to make a charitable contribution to the fund, visit www.inwcf.org.

HISTORY LIVES ON

On June 1, 2010, the first Dorothy Sevier Matson Scholarship was awarded at Pullman High School Academic Awards Night to graduate Arlie Reeves. The Whitman County Genealogical Society (WCGS) established the scholarship in memory of Matson who died in 2002.

Before her death, Matson made a gift to the Society in memory of her brother. After much consideration, the WCGS determined that the foremost way of remembering Dorothy was to form an endowed fund at INWCF with a share of these monies in her honor.

Pullman Education Foundation selected award recipient Reeves who applied the \$400 scholarship to schooling at Washington State University, where she is now attending.



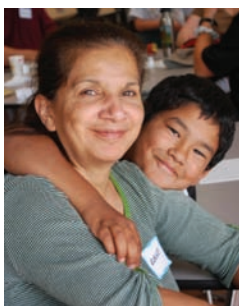
"I'm really grateful that I had the opportunity to receive the award," says Reeves. "I used the grant to purchase books for college."

One requirement for the scholarship was that the recipient must demonstrate an interest in history. Reeves' senior project, entitled 'History is the Key to the Future,' fit this need admirably. She worked at Whitman County Genealogical Society, documenting sundry historical objects into their library computer. She plans to continue volunteering for this undertaking.

"I truly think that history is the key to the future," says Reeves. "Learning from the past helps us prepare for the future and for the future of generations to come. I wish more people would see the importance of history. Our lives are what they are now due to history. I hope to promote history to younger people."

One of Matson's dreams was to compose a book on the history of Pullman. Perhaps now Reeves can fulfill this wish with her love of history and hometown of Pullman.

RURAL RESOURCES SUPPORTS FAMILIES



You budgeted perfectly for a comfortable living and now it's five years into a happy retirement. Then suddenly three of your grandchildren are homeless and must live with you. What would you do?

Residents of Stevens, Ferry and Pend Oreille Counties know exactly what to do – call Vicki Pontecorvo, Kinship Care Navigator from Rural Resources Community Action.

"The financial, legal and emotional issues of raising a child can be challenging," says Pontecorvo. "A \$20,220.73 grant from Inland Northwest Community Foundation has helped Rural Resources continue a fairly new program to help families that are put into these situations."

Over 150 families have received support, thanks to Rural Resources and the Kinship Care program. Established in 1965, Rural

Resources' mission is "to assist people and communities to develop the skills, resources and services necessary to improve their general welfare."

The grant from INWCF provides monthly support groups for the caregivers and children, monthly newsletters with resources for the families and several weekend retreats.

More than 30 people gathered for the first annual Kinship Family Retreat held over the weekend of August 21. This retreat gave families a break from stressful lives with an overnight trip of hiking, arts and crafts, gold

panning, music and dance lessons together with lodging and meals for both days.

"This retreat not only provided educational opportunities, but also helped the relative caregivers support each other," says Pontecorvo. "One particularly heartwarming story was of a grandmother who used to live to dance but hasn't had the opportunity for the last 15 years. She didn't stop dancing until the DJs and dance instructors shut down at 10:00 p.m."

To provide support for this organization, visit our Web site at www.inwcf.org and click on "GIVE."



BRINGING THE WORLD TO YOU



Drums provide not only a musical beat, but also an important means of communication between villages in West Africa. Just ask the lucky students in Latah County, Idaho. They could tell you.

Thanks to the Festival Dance and Performing Arts Association, children of rural communities in the Palouse/Valley region have access to the arts and culture of other countries. Established in 1989,

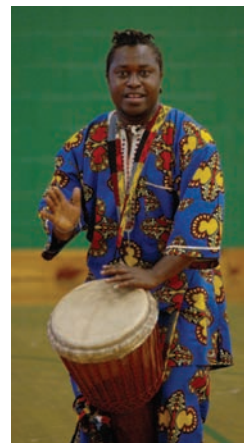
their mission has been “bringing the arts to the people and the people to the arts.”

One method is through the Festival Dance Youthreach Project, which for 15 years has provided free educational arts programs and performances to 3,000-4,000 students a year. In October 2009 Festival Dance presented a dance performance by the Kusun Ensemble from Ghana. A group of 10 professional

musicians and dancers demonstrated how music and culture are connected with all facets of daily life in West Africa.

A \$2,500 grant from Inland Northwest Community Foundation allowed Festival Dance to expand the program to an additional 650 students from three schools. Included in the endowment were funds for dance classes.

“Just the benefits from the ballet alone are phenomenal,” says Cathy Barnhart, Executive Director of Festival Dance. “The grant from INWCF allowed the students to not



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PAWSITIVE WORKS HELPS SHAPE BOTH ENDS OF LEASH

A dog can truly be a best friend to many a youth, claims Pawsitive Works, a local nonprofit organization.

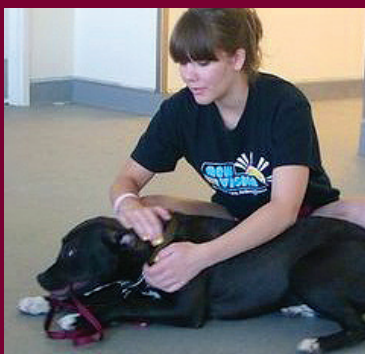
Pawsitive Works pairs at-risk youths, referred by community probation officers, with shelter dogs.

The youths train the dogs over a five-week program through

positive reinforcement, with the additional benefit of improving their own lives.

“The human-animal connection facilitates trust, empathy and empowerment,” says Karen Schumacher, President & CEO of Pawsitive Works. “Youths learn how to modify their own behaviors by caring for and training behaviorally-challenged dogs.”

Schumacher co-authored a book on the human-animal bond prior to founding this organization in 2008. A similar program at Evergreen Penitentiary provided the idea for Pawsitive Works.



“Youths are able to easily identify behavior issues in dogs,” Schumacher explains. “Working with the dogs, they learn that they can apply the same principles of modification to themselves.”

Schumacher recalls a 17-year-old girl forced to participate in the program by her probation officer. On her first day she sat defiantly, prepared to dislike any animal given to her.

Her dog was a sweet, gentle female that just needed a little attention. The girl asked why the dog was shedding so badly, and was told that there weren’t enough volunteers to properly groom all the dogs. At this she exhibited her first sign of compassion.

On graduation day this ‘non dog-lover’ scored highest in the class. After the event the girl requested to come in early the following day to bathe her dog.

“Small paw prints of love marked a huge change of heart,” says Schumacher. “This girl thought she disliked dogs, but she really just had difficulty with trust and a huge fear of not being wanted. Her dog taught her about trust, boosted her confidence, and may have even given her a taste of unconditional love.”

For more information about this program visit pawsitiveworks.com or contact Karen at (208) 946-3883.

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"At Richards, Merrill & Peterson, Inc. we partner with our clients to fulfill their financial goals. When philanthropy is part of those goals, we recommend they partner with Inland Northwest Community Foundation to maximize their charitable impact."

– Steve Larson, CEO
Richards, Merrill & Peterson, Inc.

"Smarter" continued from page 1

addressing three issues: 1) creation of a dropout early warning system (DEWS), 2) social support and 3) high academic expectations and achievement.

"There is tremendous impact on the community correlated to high school dropouts, so this is the first step to investigate these intervention models and identify those that seem to work," says Dr. Jon Sunderland, who led the research project.

The results of this education research are now available. *Priority Spokane* is reaching out to those engaged with middle school students to implement proven strategies identified through the research.

Follow the progress of *Priority Spokane* on its new Web site being launched this fall. For more information, go to www.inwcf.org.

"Dance" continued from pull-out

only financially take classes, but also to be part of such a high-end performance."

Located at the University of Idaho, Moscow, Festival Dance is the largest private nonprofit arts association in the region regarding finances, range of programs and public outreach. Since their inception, they have provided 77 artistic presentations to rural communities that otherwise may have

been overlooked due to geographical and economic restraints. The Kusun Ensemble was another great success.

"Some students would never have had the opportunity to see such a wonderful cultural dance from another country," says one Potlatch teacher. "To listen to the accents of the vocals and speakers and see the African dress was amazing for the students."

OUR SPECIAL THANKS TO THE
SPONSOR OF THIS PUBLICATION:



SPECIAL THANK YOU TO PRIORITY SPOKANE GRANTMAKING PARTNERS!

Northwest Area Foundation gave \$108,000 to INWCF for a grant to Eastern Washington University to support the Community Indicators Initiative (communityindicators.ewu.edu).

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation gave \$25,000 to match \$25,000 from the Leuthold Fund at INWCF to support the Gonzaga University Priority Spokane research grant.

Is this a cause you care about?
You can support it with a gift to the *Priority Spokane* Fund at INWCF. Go to GIVE at www.inwcf.org.