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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Inland Northwest Community Foundation to Help Tri-County Families Get Support in Difficult Economic Times

New funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will help nonprofits address growing and urgent needs

SPOKANE, WA, *November 2, 2009*—Inland Northwest Community Foundation (INWCF) announced a \$150,000 grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for the tri-county region of Washington and Spokane County to increase local assistance for families facing economic challenges and other setbacks as a result of the recession. This will help us assist a growing number of Washington’s most vulnerable families that are feeling the impact of the ongoing economic downturn.

Through the Gates Foundation grant, the community foundation will award \$71,250 in grant funds to nonprofits that provide services in Ferry, Stevens and Pend Oreille counties that have a proven record of building strong families and strengthening communities. Organizations are encouraged to apply for a grant through the newly-created Northeast Washington Family Resilience Grants Program at Inland Northwest Community Foundation. The application process will open on November 2, 2009 and close on December 15, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

The community foundation anticipates awarding up to five grants to nonprofits serving one or more of the three Northeast Washington counties. Organizations will be required to implement the program between April 1, 2010 and March 31, 2011.

“Communities throughout Eastern Washington have been hit hard by the economic downturn,” says Mark Hurtubise, president and CEO of the Inland Northwest Community Foundation, which received \$150,000 from the Gates Foundation. “This grant to our community foundation, and others throughout the state, will help connect thousands of the most vulnerable families to existing benefits and other assistance that can help stabilize their lives.”

Guidelines will be available online at www.inwcf.org and applications will be available by calling Grants Program staff at 509-624-2606 or 888-267-5606. You may also email Director of Grants, Linda Graham at lgraham@inwcf.org or Grants Program Officer Molly Sanchez at msanchez@inwcf.org.

Founded in 1974, INWCF serves 10 Eastern Washington counties and 10 North Idaho counties to foster vibrant and sustainable communities in the Inland Northwest. The community foundation manages more than 265 funds valued at \$50 million and has awarded \$37 million in grants and scholarships since its inception, positively impacting thousands of lives in this region.

For more information on INWCF and its work in the Inland Northwest, contact Marketing & Communications Associate Sarah Bain at 509-624-2606.

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