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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Inland Northwest Community Foundation Awards Grants to Regional Nonprofits to Help Vulnerable Families

SPOKANE, WA, 2.1.10— Inland Northwest Community Foundation (INWCF) awarded \$142,500 to nonprofit organizations in the region as part of the Northeast Washington Family Resilience Grant Program. The goal of this program is to create measurable, positive change relative to issues that adversely affect the stability of vulnerable children and families.

Five organizations in Spokane County and the Tri-County region were awarded grants between \$5,000 and \$25,000. As a condition of receiving the grants, organizations with programs serving Spokane County will be raising matching funds. Any individuals or corporations that would like to help these organizations meet the match requirement by the March 31 deadline are encouraged to contact the organizations directly. Following are the organizations and programs receiving grants:

- Catholic Charities, Spokane to employ a full-time case manager to work with homeless families. Additionally, Catholic Charities, Spokane was awarded funding to increase the capacity of the Emergency Assistance Voucher program for families in Ferry, Stevens and Pend Oreille counties.
- Partners with Families and Children, Spokane to hire a service coordinator for the Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Project.
- Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery to hire a new staff person to expand services to work with families.
- YWCA of Spokane to create a new child advocate position for one-to-one counseling and weekly child witness groups for YWCA children.
- Rural Resources Community Action was awarded two grants for two separate programs. The Coupons to Bank On project will help improve financial skills and decision-making capacity for low income individuals in Stevens County. The Kinship Care Program will provide support to grandparents who are caring for their grandchildren.

The funding for the Family Resilience Grant Program is possible because of a grant awarded to INWCF last year by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to help increase local assistance for families facing economic challenges and other setbacks as a result of the recession.

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 currently manages 285 funds valued at more than \$55 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, please visit www.inwcf.org.

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