

Media Contact: Sarah Bain, sbain@inwcf.org  
Inland Northwest Community Foundation  
618 West Riverside Avenue, Suite 302  
Spokane, WA 99201-5102  
509-624-2606 / 888-267-5606  
www.inwcf.org



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Equinox Foundation Partners with the Community Foundation  
to Benefit Nonprofits in Bonner and Boundary Counties**

SPOKANE, WA, 2.25.10—The Equinox Foundation in Sandpoint, Idaho and Inland Northwest Community Foundation (INWCF) are forming a unique partnership for the benefit of the communities in Bonner and Boundary counties of North Idaho. This year, the Equinox Foundation Grant Program, administered by INWCF, will have approximately \$200,000 available to nonprofit organizations in these two counties. It is Equinox Foundation's mission to protect the natural assets of this region and to support ecologically sustainable solutions for growth and development. It is equally important to Equinox Foundation to nurture the long-term health of the region by supporting positive opportunities for youth.

Chairman of the INWCF Board Sandy Patano says, “I’ve lived and been employed in North Idaho for the past 30 years. During that time, I have had the chance to work with Inland Northwest Community Foundation as well as many thoughtful and generous people throughout the region. This partnership is a great model for any philanthropic-minded citizens who care deeply about their community to consider in the future.”

Inland Northwest Community Foundation President & CEO Mark Hurtubise says, “We are privileged to be invited to work closely with Equinox Foundation for the benefit of those communities and to celebrate the important work of the nonprofit organizations. This type of partnership can result in tremendous cost savings for private foundations while simultaneously creating a dialogue for collaborative funding, sharing research on needs for the region, and celebrating together the positive results for the people served in Bonner and Boundary counties.

“Additionally, there is a national trend for private foundations to use their community foundations as a vehicle to enhance the effectiveness of their grant programs,” Hurtubise continues.

Funds are available to organizations that address Equinox Foundation's vision and strategies for the benefit of Bonner and Boundary counties in Idaho.

Grant amounts awarded annually will typically be between \$2,000 and \$30,000 and are provided for a one-year grant period. Grants may be used for seed (start-up) funding for new organizations and programs (including new, innovative projects and approaches); program expansion support; capital and/or equipment necessary to implement eligible programs; providing free or lower-cost access to programs for eligible populations that may otherwise not be able to participate; and general operating support. Collaborations among organizations are encouraged.

Nonprofit organizations within Bonner and Boundary counties may go to INWCF's Web site at [www.inwcf.org](http://www.inwcf.org) for more information about the Equinox Foundation Grant Program or if they prefer, they may contact Director of Grants Linda Graham at 509-624-2606. The first grant round opens on March 1, 2010 and closes April 27, 2010.

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](http://www.inwcf.org).

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