

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Community Focus Trust Provides New Grant Opportunities

SPOKANE, WA, *May 3, 2010*— Sometimes great need is met in the most unexpected ways.

When a long-time Inland Northwest resident decided to make use of her accumulated wealth to benefit her community, her first step was to find people she trusted to carry out her wishes. This local heroine, who wished to remain anonymous, carefully selected Panhandle State Bank's Trust & Investment Services to manage her wealth and assist with her estate planning. She appreciated the Bank's professional staff who took the time to get to know the spirit of her intentions as well as her written directives. Now, her legacy will be carried out in a new grantmaking program funded through her \$1.7 million Community Focus Trust.

Community Focus grants are available to qualified charities engaged in sheltering and caring for animals, children and families, especially victims of crime, neglect and other hardships. Grants will be made in the \$10,000-\$50,000 range and will be awarded annually for the next five years. Detailed guidelines can be found at Inland Northwest Community Foundation's (INWCF) Web site at www.inwcf.org. Applications are to be submitted using INWCF's online application program and will be accepted beginning May 3, 2010 through June 15, 2010.

Dale Schuman, Senior Vice President of Trust & Investment Services at Panhandle State Bank (which operates as Intermountain Community Bank in Eastern Washington), remembers his client and friend as a barrier breaker and a champion of those less fortunate. "She wanted to create a legacy that would help others reach past obstacles," he said. "Her kind heart made her especially attuned to the needs of neglected children, families and animals."

The Bank was named trustee of the estate and immediately sought assistance from Inland Northwest Community Foundation to ensure that the funds were used according to the wishes of the benefactor and to meet the greatest needs of the community.

"We commend PSB's Trust & Investment Services for developing the kind of relationship that allowed the donor to place her complete confidence in them," says PJ Watters, INWCF Director of Gift Planning. "We are honored that the Bank has extended that confidence to us to help carry out this donor's philanthropy."

Panhandle State Bank manages the financial aspects of the trust and has engaged the Foundation to be its bridge into the local nonprofit community.

Watters says, “It’s exactly what INWCF was set up to do. We can help trust administrators keep costs down by providing our expertise in making sure funds go to qualified, appropriate beneficiaries.”

INWCF will accept preliminary applications from any eligible charities in the selected nine-county area of northern Idaho and eastern Washington with missions that match the Community Focus Trust’s stated priorities. The Foundation will review the applications and make recommendations to the Bank. The Bank will then invite full proposals from selected charities.

In addition to assisting with the application process, INWCF will provide due diligence assistance to the Bank, Watters says. “We provide the back office support so that the trustees can spend their time representing the wishes of the donor.”

“The Community Focus Trust is intended to be spent over the next five years in order to make a real impact in this time of economic crisis,” says Schuman. “INWCF is a terrific resource to make sure that the community feels the full benefit of this tremendous gift.”

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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