

Inland Northwest Community Foundation
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Inland Northwest Community Foundation donor Florence Wasmer awards \$114,400 for Arts and Children

SPOKANE, WA, *October 12, 2011*— Spokane violinist Florence Wasmer died in 2001. Today, she is awarding 24 grants totaling \$114,400 to nonprofit organizations in Eastern Washington and North Idaho serving children and families and supporting the arts.

Grants from the Florence Wasmer Fund for Children and Families at Inland Northwest Community Foundation include a \$5,000 grant to Second Judicial District CASA Program, Inc. in Nez Perce County. This grant enhances the recruitment, training and support of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). Every child that has been abandoned, abused or neglected is appointed an advocate. When a child's best advocate, his or her parent, is unable to fulfill this role, CASA volunteers provide a voice in and out of the courtroom setting. CASA volunteers protect a child's right to live in a home that is safe, stable and free from the harmful effects of abuse and neglect.

Grants from the Florence Wasmer Fund for Arts and Culture include a \$10,000 grant to Spokane Symphony Society to provide interactive presentations by the orchestra, ensembles or individuals, to engage underserved audiences where they live. These Arts-in-Education programs stimulate enthusiasm for orchestral/instrumental music. Florence would have loved that!



Orchestra at the Italian Gardens in the Davenport Hotel.
Photo courtesy of the MAC.

Florence's love of music gave her a particular interest in the musical education of young people. As a violinist herself, she played in a chamber orchestra that was a centerpiece of the Italian Gardens restaurant in the Davenport Hotel. Florence married the owner at the local radio station, Louis Wasmer, a pioneer of radio and television in Spokane. Read more about Florence Wasmer at <http://inwcf.org/give/lifetime-giving-circles>.

Other grants awarded (listed alphabetically by county) include:

Bonner County

Angels Over Sandpoint (Florence Wasmer Fund for Children and Families)

Angels Over Sandpoint Back to School Supplies Program - \$5,000 to supply 900 backpacks filled with essential school supplies for students in need.

Festival at Sandpoint (Florence Wasmer Fund for Arts and Culture)

Festival at Sandpoint Education - \$4,000 to provide a variety of music-based educational programs to the community.

The Panida Theater Committee, Inc. (Florence Wasmer Fund for Arts and Culture)

Ceiling Fans Project - \$700 to provide two new ceiling fans in this historic theater.

Kootenai County

Children's Village, Inc. (Florence Wasmer Fund for Children and Families)

Serving Adult Foster Youth - \$5,000 to provide a safe, loving, nurturing and healing home for children of any age and to former foster youth over age 18 who have been abused, neglected, homeless or are in severe family crisis.

Association for Handicapped Recreation (Florence Wasmer Fund for Children and Families)

Camp All-Stars - \$4,200 for a camp that provides recreational activities vital to the health and wellbeing of children with disabilities.

Community Building Partners, Inc. (Florence Wasmer Fund for Arts and Culture)

\$5,000 for a music outreach program for local at-risk youth.

Habitat for Humanity of North Idaho (Florence Wasmer Fund for Children and Families)

A Brush With Kindness - \$5,000 to help provide a home repair program using volunteer labor for painting, ramp building and other minor exterior repairs for low-income homeowners, including the elderly and those with disabilities.

Opera Coeur d'Alene (Florence Wasmer Fund for Arts and Culture)

Opera-tunities - \$2,000 to present a high quality musical and dramatic program to elementary school children that introduces them to opera as an art form.

Trinity Group Homes, Inc. (Florence Wasmer Fund for Children and Families)

Mattress Replacement - \$2,426 to provide replacement mattresses for group resident homes.

Latah County

Festival Dance and Performing Arts Association (Florence Wasmer Fund for Arts and Culture)
Spring Dance Festival 40th Anniversary - \$2,000 to assist in the planning and execution for the two week Spring Dance Festival.

Pend Oreille County

Cutter Theatre (Florence Wasmer Fund for Arts and Culture)
Moments in Time Captured - Experiential Visitation To Theatre - \$3,500 to provide staffing at their visitation exhibit for 2012.

Shoshone County

Shoshone County Community Concert Association (Florence Wasmer Fund for Arts and Culture)
2011-2012 Concert Series - \$1,500 to provide operating assistance for the 2011-2012 concert series.

Spokane County

Catholic Charities Spokane (Florence Wasmer Fund for Children and Families)
Next Step- \$8,238 to support a comprehensive job readiness training program which provides work experience and training at three different job sites.

Communities in Schools of Spokane County (Florence Wasmer Fund for Children and Families)
School-Based Health Center at Sunset Elementary - \$5,000 to help provide a school-based health center in order to increase both academic success, such as improved attendance, behavior and grades and student health, including well child exams, mental health therapy and immunizations.

Connoisseur Concerts (Florence Wasmer Fund for Arts and Culture)
Northwest Bach Festival and Mozart On A Summer's Eve, 2012 Program - \$5,000 to assist with general operating for the 2012 program.

Our Place Community Ministries (Florence Wasmer Fund for Children and Families)
School Children's New Shoe Program - \$3,359 to provide new and properly fitting shoes and boots to school children living in poverty.

RiteCare of Washington (Florence Wasmer Fund for Children and Families)
RiteCare Spokane Center Speech Therapy - \$5,000 to provide speech therapy services to children with communication delays and to educate parents so they can help these children succeed in school and in life.

Spokane Folklore Society (Florence Wasmer Fund for Arts and Culture)
Fall Folk Festival - \$2,000 to support the two-day Fall Folk Festival.

Spokane HOPE School (Florence Wasmer Fund for Children and Families)
Family Support Services - \$1,400 for Parent Education Lunch Hour Workshops.

Spokane Parks Foundation (Florence Wasmer Fund for Children and Families)
OPERATION: Save Our Summer - \$3,000 to provide low-income children with properly lined swim suits for swim lessons.

Spokane Public Radio – KPBX (Florence Wasmer Fund for Arts and Culture)
Local Arts and Humanities Awareness - \$5,000 to sustain their efforts to increase awareness of and appreciation for local arts, performers and humanities offerings in our region.

Transitional Programs For Women (Florence Wasmer Fund for Arts and Culture)
Women's Hearth Arts and Culture Project - \$8,000 to provide weekly arts and culture classes to assist women dealing with losses to find passions and interests and to promote their sense of self esteem.

Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery (Florence Wasmer Fund for Children and Families)
H.O.P.E Family Support Program - \$5,000 to assist the H.O.P.E. Program provide a follow-up phone call to assure both child and adult are doing well.

YWCA of Spokane (Florence Wasmer Fund for Children and Families)
Child Advocacy Program - \$5,000 to provide emotional and behavioral healing of traumatized children and assist parents to become active participants in the healing process.

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 305 funds valued at more than \$67 million and has awarded \$39 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 PJ Watters, Director of Gift Planning at 509-624-2606.