

Inland Northwest Community Foundation
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**RECOGNIZING THE IMPACT OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS
November 12–18, 2011**

Inland Northwest Community Foundation Participates In National Effort to Highlight Local Impact of Philanthropy

SPOKANE, WA, *November 11, 2011* — During the week of November 12-18, 2011, Inland Northwest Community Foundation will join more than 700 community foundations across America for *Community Foundation Week*. For more than 20 years, the effort has raised awareness about the increasingly important role of these philanthropic organizations in fostering local collaboration and innovation to address persistent civic and economic challenges.

We invite you to contact us and arrange to join us at work during a typical week of activities for your community foundation staff and volunteers:

- On Monday, we create a new job for a Priority Spokane program coordinator, a position being funded by a grant from the JP Morgan Chase Foundation.
- On Tuesday, we meet with the Board of Directors of Communities in Schools to discuss establishing a new endowment to help sustain their work. We will also conduct two site visits that day with nonprofits that have applied for Community Strategies Grants.
- On Wednesday, we participate in a joint meeting of Inland Northwest Development Council and Inland Northwest Planned Giving Council for a speaker presentation by John Ferrone on Positioning Nonprofit Organizations to be Sustainable.
- Thursday the Foundation's North Idaho Partnership Council meets to discuss issues and initiatives affecting the six northernmost counties of Idaho. In a separate meeting Thursday, we confirm the first grant from the new Maxine Davidson Arts Foundation at INWCF to support arts programs in Spokane Valley schools. (A Press Release will be issued next week.) At 5:30 that evening we join the Boys & Girls Club of Spokane to celebrate the 2011 Arts Exhibition at the Music Building SFCC, a program supported in part by a \$15,000 grant from INWCF.
- Friday, we convene the Priority Spokane Steering Committee meeting to continue advancing initiatives in the middle schools to ultimately and measurably improve on-

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time high school graduation rates at Spokane Public Schools. Also on Friday, we host a Lunch with the Foundation for nine professional advisors to discuss ways we can work together to build an even more vibrant and sustainable community.

- Throughout the week, we will be monitoring progress on the interactive online game at the INWCF Web site in anticipation of reaching one million apples picked this year. The program builds public awareness of nonprofits with endowments at INWCF. This month *You Pick for Charity* features Vanessa Behan vs. Spokane Humane Society. Players can support a favorite charity at www.inwcf.org.

“Community foundations impact lives, solve problems, and improve futures,” said INWCF President & CEO Mark Hurtubise. “In a down economy, with limited resources and a growing need for services to help families in need, we are more determined than ever to bring our community partners together to find innovative and effective solutions to some of our most challenging social problems.”

Community foundations are independent, public entities that steward philanthropic resources from institutional and individual donors to local nonprofits that are the heart of strong, vibrant communities. This year, despite the global financial storm, our region has had much to celebrate. We ended our fiscal year with a 23.5% increase in assets and 25 new funds. We awarded \$2.9 million in grants and scholarships, \$300,000 more than last year. Most importantly, we saw hope in the eyes of the people being served by our region’s nonprofits and felt the joy in the hearts of donors who are making our community a great place to live.

Community foundations represent one of the fastest-growing forms of philanthropy. Every state in the United States is home to at least one community foundation—large and small, urban and rural—that is advancing solutions to a wide range of social issues. [The 2010 Columbus Survey](#) found that despite the recession, giving by the nation’s 100 largest community foundations actually increased slightly in 2010 to \$3.7 billion and exceeded prerecession levels seen in 2006 and 2007.

Launched in 1989 through a proclamation by former president George H.W. Bush, the first Community Foundation Week included a congressional briefing about the work of community foundations throughout America and their collaborative approach to working with the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to address community problems.

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 with \$67 million in assets 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.