

MEET OUR DONORS

Spokane Valley Farmers Market Fund

Tom and Karen Stebbins envision Spokane Valley as a bustling hub of collaboration, innovation and neighborly fellowship. Picture a walkable downtown area, a venue for weekly events and an active park with families congregating. The Stebbins believed that by bringing a Farmers Market to the Spokane Valley community they could provide that space for their neighbors.

The Stebbins, who helped establish and are actively involved with JAKT Foundation, realized that managing the funds for this community initiative was too much to handle alone.

"We partnered with Innovia Foundation to establish a fund that supports the Spokane Valley Farmers Market," says Tom. "We hope this inspires our community to see the impact of the farmers market as an anchor in our community for healthy and sustainable food and supporting local vendors and farmers."

The Spokane Valley Farmers Market will allow local farmers, craft makers and chefs to showcase their talents and culinary temptations. Neighbors, families and friends of all ages will have a space to celebrate Spokane Valley's farming heritage while enjoying fresh produce, artisan foods and live music.



"We want our community to come together to enjoy the excellent food, produce and goods that Spokane Valley residents have to offer," says Tom. "By managing the Spokane Valley Farmers Market Fund, Innovia Foundation gives us a great partner to ensure we can make this market happen every summer."



Last spring, the Larsons watched Morgan marry the love of her life at the Seattle MS walk. In April, Morgan and her parents participated in the Spokane MS walk and raised over \$62,000 to support the National MS Society. The walk allowed the Spokane community to stand in solidarity with MS sufferers.

John and Nancy Larson Fund

When their daughter Morgan was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) at the age of 27, John and Nancy Larson were shaken but driven to help in any way possible. The family began a diligent effort to discover a cure through philanthropy and fundraising.

"A lot of people don't know how to cope with the news that a loved one is sick," says John. "For Nancy and me as parents, we found the best way of dealing with this disease was to put all our effort into helping Morgan and the thousands of others affected by MS. We can't stop and won't stop until there is a cure."

In his role as a professional advisor at Richards, Merrill & Peterson, John has been connecting clients to Innovia Foundation for years, helping them achieve their philanthropic dreams. In 2017, John and Nancy established a donor-advised fund at the Foundation, which supports the MS society and its life-changing research.

"I wanted to set a good example for my kids," says John. "Our goal was to show them the importance of giving back to the community. Establishing our family fund with Innovia Foundation was a great way to do that."

Alissa Ludeman - Scholarship Recipient

Despite her determination, Alissa Ludeman was struggling. At Rogers High School, she experienced academic troubles and failing grades. Only an eventual visit to a neurologist revealed that an essential tremor was responsible for her difficulties with school tasks such as writing.

Alissa faced the challenge head-on and stayed committed to graduating, but she was overwhelmed by the financial demands of her first college choice, Washington State University. With help from her school counselor, she discovered the Ren H. Rice scholarship at Innovia Foundation, intended for Spokane County students in foster care or with physical disabilities.

Now a three-time recipient, Alissa is a sophomore studying Speech and Hearing in WSU's Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine. "I would not be here without this scholarship," she says.



Alissa looks forward to continuing her education with a Master's or doctoral program. "After seeing the effects that physical and cognitive disabilities can have on people, I knew that I wanted to help in any way I could," she said.

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NEWSLETTER SPONSOR: Richards, Merrill & Peterson

"For many, fulfilling their philanthropic goals can be a challenging task. Innovia Foundation has a proven history of working with individuals, families and businesses to make the giving process simple, transparent and most importantly, effective."
—Steve Larson, CEO, Richards, Merrill & Peterson

PROFESSIONAL ADVISOR SPOTLIGHT



Jim Zuberbuhler

The common thread in Jim Zuberbuhler's career and volunteerism is a deep dedication to his community. After 25 years working in higher, secondary and outdoor education, Jim became a financial advisor. In his current role as Associate Vice President and Financial Advisor with D.A. Davidson & Co. in Sandpoint, Jim uses his skills and experience to help people optimize their lives financially, providing clients with retirement planning and funding strategies for post-secondary education.

Jim sees the Foundation as the ideal partner for clients who want to transform the lives and communities around them. "When people think about giving back to the community, I direct them to Innovia Foundation," he says.

When he's not helping clients with retirement planning, Jim spends much of his time outside work volunteering with numerous nonprofit organizations and enjoying the beauty of our region.

Jim also serves on the boards of Forrest Bird Charter School and the Bonner County Communiversy, has served as a board member of the Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce and was president of the 2010-12 Leadership Sandpoint class.

"I think the Foundation is a great resource for Sandpoint, and look forward to continuing to connect our community to Innovia," Jim says. "It truly feels like a partnership. I have enjoyed participating in the Community Strategies grant process on behalf of a number of Sandpoint nonprofits and have come to regard the leadership and staff at Innovia Foundation as valued partners in my role as a community volunteer."

—Jim Z

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INN OVIA
FOUNDATION

driving community transformation

Summer 2019

PARTNERING TO ENSURE LEGACY

**New Bloomsday Fund
will impact health and
wellbeing for years to come**



Every May, nearly 40,000 people run, jog or walk the 12-kilometer Bloomsday course through the streets of Spokane. When Don Kardong first proposed this annual road race in 1977, he wasn't expecting it to grow from an inaugural run with 1,200 participants to an iconic spring event that draws world-class contestants from far and wide.

The Lilac Bloomsday Run is a powerful example of community rallying together. Don's passion has inspired countless others, including the 5,000 volunteers who now collaborate to support Bloomsday-related activities such as Junior Bloomsday, the Marmot March and the race itself. Don's ethos of volunteerism has rippled throughout the region and created a passionate network of runners and volunteers committed to the civic benefit, social improvement and physical wellbeing of our community.

With Bloomsday's growth in the early years, Don and other key organizers realized that a nonprofit corporation was needed not only to organize Bloomsday but also to be a beacon for health and wellbeing in our region. From sponsoring cross country meets for kids to facilitating the annual Fit for Bloomsday training program that teaches over 7,000 elementary school students each year about fitness and nutrition, the association is actively involved in promoting physical wellbeing in our region.

Now, two longtime Inland Northwest institutions are partnering to ensure this legacy endures. In 2019, the Lilac Bloomsday Association founded the Bloomsday Fund at Innovia Foundation to support their charitable initiatives and provide a source of sustainable funding.

"Innovia Foundation's devotion to the health and vibrancy of our region makes it the perfect home for the fund," says attorney Carol Hunter, member of the Lilac Bloomsday Association Board.

Bloomsday will thrive for years to come through the fund and through a community that is committed to health, fitness and the collaboration of the thousands of enthusiastic volunteers who make Bloomsday happen every year. Thanks to their dedication, the race will continue bringing together the community in a fun and healthy way for years to come.

Interested in supporting Bloomsday to ensure it continues to have a positive impact on the health and fitness of the community? Visit Innovia.org/give-now to make a donation to the Bloomsday Fund at Innovia Foundation.

IMPACT IN ACTION

Here are just a few stories about the impact Innovia Foundation's grant recipients are making in our communities.

For more stories, visit innovia.org



FROM OUR CEO

As I begin my third year as Innovia Foundation's CEO, I am grateful and inspired by the generosity I have seen throughout Eastern Washington and North Idaho. Our staff, board and volunteers have spent the last year being present in our communities, learning firsthand the opportunities and challenges of our region from the people who live here.

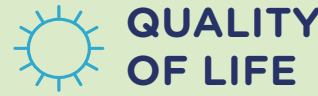
Your generosity is transforming lives and communities in our region. In 2018, Innovia Foundation awarded nearly \$7 million in grants and scholarships, and witnessed how collaboration can maximize these resources – from a community ice rink in Bonners Ferry to a new fund that will ensure the future of the beloved Lilac Bloomsday race.

In January, we began a strategic planning process that resulted in a new vision and mission, as well as a new plan for the Foundation that will be unveiled later this year. Moving forward we will remain attentive to the needs of our communities, using our resources to improve access to education, promote health and wellbeing, support arts and culture, create economic opportunity and enhance quality of life.

We deeply appreciate the dedication of our community partners, donors and stakeholders. This year, we have seen your generosity become contagious, igniting cooperative efforts to transform lives throughout our region. In these stories, you'll read how our work together has made the Inland Northwest a more vibrant and sustainable place for people to thrive.

Shelly

Shelly O'Quinn, CEO



QUALITY OF LIFE



COAST Transportation

For the past 44 years, Coast Transportation has been one of the only transportation sources for rural communities throughout the Inland Northwest. A division of the Council on Aging and Human Services, the Colfax-based organization is frequently the only way citizens of rural areas can grocery shop, attend medical appointments and take advantage of community resources.

Growing demand for Coast's services created an undeniable need for new technology, as many of their scheduling tools had not been updated since 1999. To aid Coast in enhancing and protecting the wellbeing of these vulnerable populations, Innovia Foundation awarded a \$30,000 Community Strategies grant that allowed Coast to upgrade their scheduling software.

This more efficient technology will allow Coast to improve the Quality of life for individuals in our region who struggle to make it out of the house and often cannot drive for a host of reasons.

"One of our clients is 95 years wise and utilizes our services three days a week. She does exercise at the public library, then goes to the elementary school to help children read. She always jokes that she would probably sit at home and wither away if it weren't for our services."

— Ryan Avery,
Coast Transportation Coordinator



EDUCATION & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Timberline School District

In Weippe, ID, where the timber industry's decline has left poverty and addiction in its wake, Timberline School is dedicated to seeing youth succeed. Though self-confidence and determination do not always come easily to students, the Timberline staff know the classroom can be the perfect place to build a foundation for success.

With this vision in mind, the school launched "Leader in Me," a holistic learning module that gives students the tools to thrive by teaching them leadership, cultural engagement and goal-centered academics. "More than a program, Leader in Me serves as a foundational operating system for the school," says Jason Hunter, principal of Timberline.

"In our classroom, we used our leadership binders to keep track of goals in reading. I like to show my parents my leadership binder."

— Blake, Second Grade Program Participant

Based on The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, the module is integrated into pre-existing curricula and programs, offering students

the social and emotional skills and support they often lack. "We expect to have a positive impact on the youth of our community that will build a paradigm shift in overall community wellbeing and sustainability," says Jason.

Despite lack of funding, Timberline implemented the program as a pilot project with a small number of students. A \$19,578 Community Strategies grant will help Timberline achieve full district participation by the beginning of the 2019-20 school year.



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY



Tesh

Tim spent his days in his room, interacting only with family and the support team that helps him live with blindness. Then his family and friends introduced him to Tesh, an organization that offers opportunities to people with disabilities who are seeking greater self-sufficiency and community participation.

At first, Tim requested that Tesh give him meal preparation instruction alone. After a few months, however, he joined a meal preparation class. Not only can Tim now safely navigate a kitchen and prepare meals, but he has also become part of a new community.

Tesh was challenged by their limited kitchen size, and class members often spent much of the time observing instead of actively practicing. To help Tesh provide a hands-on experience to all participants, Innovia Foundation awarded a \$12,447 Community Strategies grant. The remodeled kitchen includes a range of new appliances, updated venting systems and lighting, and accommodations for children and people in wheelchairs.

"Assisting clients in developing meal preparation skills to live more independently changes not only their lives but affects the community in which they choose to live."

— Frances Huffman, CEO, Tesh



ARTS & CULTURE



Salish School of Spokane

The original Salish languages of the Inland Northwest were dying, and the region was at risk of losing its heritage. "Salish language and culture are a deep repository for the human and ecological history of our region," says Christopher Parkin, principal of Salish School of Spokane.

Seeing these languages nearly disappear in the past, the Salish School is now ensuring they remain integral to our region's future. As the world leader in Salish curricula development and as the largest Native American immersion school in the northwest U.S., the school aims to foster intergenerational connections and produce a vibrant community of fluent Salish speakers.

To aid in revitalizing the Salish language and healing our region's culture, Innovia Foundation contributed a \$18,494 Community Strategies grant toward the Community Salish Language and Culture Project – a three-step program that will offer free Salish and Native cultural arts classes, establish a youth performance group, and release an app with guided tours of cultural sites.

"This project will serve both Native Americans and the broader community. The knowledge embedded in Salish language and culture is a treasure for all people who now call Spokane home."

— Christopher Parkin,
Principle, Salish School of Spokane



HEALTH & WELLBEING



Boundary County Parks and Recreation

For residents of Boundary County, sports and outdoor recreation are vital to healthy living and enjoying Idaho's natural beauty. While warmer months see substantial participation in these activities, the long winters are full of overcrowded gyms and limited outdoor opportunities. Many adopt more sedentary routines once cold weather arrives.

After a community health assessment highlighted this issue, the Boundary County Parks and Recreation department introduced a new winter recreation option: a synthetic ice rink at the fairgrounds in Bonners Ferry. Beginning with a High Five Community Transformation grant from Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation, the community sought to leverage their initial funding to create a larger budget. Recognizing the rink's importance to the county's health and recreational opportunities, Innovia Foundation contributed a \$20,000 Community Strategies grant to the project.

The makeshift pond previously used as a rink was hugely successful but was frequently unusable due to higher temperatures. The synthetic ice will be accessible even in non-freezing conditions. The new rink will be open free of charge to the public for up to 120 days annually, giving people of all ages a place to stay fit through exercise and active fun during the winter months.

BEYOND THE INLAND NW

First Story

In 1988, First Story began providing hardworking and capable families with affordable homes, giving them the initial step toward financial independence. Founded by Hayden Homes, the nonprofit has now provided 77 homes for families throughout

Oregon, Washington and Idaho, with plans of completing 150 homes by 2030. Designed according to the aesthetics of the local community, the homes are move-in ready and typically contain three bedrooms and three bathrooms.

The employees of Washington Trust Bank have been inspired by First

Story since 2009 and have worked on building projects with the nonprofit. "Jack Heath, Washington Trust Bank President and chief operating officer, has a big heart and gets what we're trying to do," says Claire Duncan, executive director of First Story. "He has shown incredible passion for helping people achieve the American Dream."

This year, the bank has provided grants from their donor-advised endowment fund at Innovia Foundation to First Story. These grants will support two new homes – one in Caldwell, ID, which will go to a single mother and her two children, and one in Kennewick, WA, which will go to a veteran returning from a decade of service.

"We know that a home is so much more than a roof, four walls, sticks and bricks," says Claire. "We believe a home is a ladder out of poverty, a first step towards financial freedom and economic independence."

