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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Innovia Foundation awards over \$277,000 through The Zone Project Expanded Learning Grant Program

SPOKANE, WA, October 2019 — Innovia Foundation recently awarded \$277,352 to organizations in northeast Spokane to further quality educational opportunities for children and youth. Six organizations received grants through The Zone Project Expanded Learning grant program.

The Zone Project, is a multi-sector initiative focused on safe and nurtured kids, thriving families, and connected schools and neighborhoods in northeast Spokane. In partnership with The Zone Project, Innovia Foundation received a three-year investment by the Ballmer Group to support quality expanded learning opportunities for children and youth in northeast Spokane.

One organization, Refugee Connections Spokane, received \$65,000 to expand their Refugee Kids Connect mobile program. This program meets refugee children where they live by providing activities near community centers and schools. Once a week, youth can participate in programming that includes English language support, homework help, and training in life skills.

This program began in 2017 at one apartment complex and over 30 children have held regular attendance since then. This grant will allow Refugee Connections to expand to two new sites in northeast Spokane, bringing the total number of locations they serve to five.

In addition to receiving grant funding, selected organizations will engage in a Zone Expanded Learning cohort and participate in quality improvement coaching with School's Out Washington. This initiative will also facilitate strong data collection and assessment to measure the impact of programming on students year-round.

The goal of the Zone Project Expanded Learning Grant is to support and align high-quality, out-of-school programming that is measurable and sustainable. A complete list of grant recipients is listed below. If you have any questions, please contact Alicia Heiser, Grants Program Associate at 509-624-2606 or aheiser@innovia.org.

Organization	Program/Project Name	Amount Awarded
Girl Scouts of Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho	Troop 687	\$53,500
If you Could save Just One (Just One)	If you Could save Just One	\$29,360
Northeast Youth Center	NEYC Zone-In Camp	\$44,000
Refugee Connections Spokane	Refugee Kids' Connect	\$65,000
Spokane Public Schools	Biomed and Camp Crime Scene Afterschool in THE ZONE	\$20,492
Spokane Public Schools-Office of Family and Community Engagement	Office of Family and Community Engagement (OFCE) and Mentoring Today's Youth (MTY) Partnership	\$65,000
		Total: \$277,352

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