



## TIMING IS EVERYTHING - LEADERSHIP COUNCILS EXPAND CONNECTION ACROSS THE REGION

**S**ometimes *timing is everything*. For Innovia Foundation, this frequently used saying has never been more appropriate. Since 1974, Innovia has served a vast and magnificent region, currently 20 counties across Eastern Washington and North Idaho. To better serve those communities, we recently launched volunteer Leadership Councils comprised of over 130 diverse, local community members. These councils are intended to extend Innovia's reach, increase input and engagement in communities, and bring local expertise and knowledge in determining the greatest needs of our region.

In early March, Leadership Council members gathered with other volunteers, regional partners and donors at the inaugural Community Leadership Summit in Spokane. The gathering served to equip, inspire and launch these new volunteers. Little did we know then, but the timing for launching these councils would prove to be ideal. Within weeks, the COVID-19 crisis swept across our nation, inflicting fear, economic hardship and individual suffering. Communities in Eastern Washington and North Idaho were not spared from the negative impact of the outbreak, with immediate waves of job loss, uncertainty about how long the outbreak would last and what the impact would be for our communities.

Leadership Councils rose to the occasion. Working hand-in-hand with Innovia staff and generous funders across our region, these volunteers have been instrumental in distributing over \$2.7 million in grants to nonprofits and community groups serving those most disproportionately impacted by the outbreak. Since the earliest days of the pandemic, Leadership Councils have convened through frequent virtual meetings, playing a vital role in identifying and elevating community needs and priorities, and recommending grants to serve the most vulnerable across our region.

The long-term effects of COVID-19 will impact our region for years, making it crucial for Innovia to remain steadfast in the pursuit of our vision of vibrant and sustainable communities where every person thrives. Leadership Councils are vital to achieving that vision as we invest and care for communities and individuals through the current crisis, as well as over the long-haul to achieve community strength and resiliency.



**Summit Keynote: Sam Radford, Say Yes to Education**



**Summit Participants: Steve Hauschild (Spokane County), Dennis Weed (Boundary County) and Gynii Abracosa Gilliam (Kootenai County)**



## FROM OUR CEO



As I reflect on the past year, I am inspired by the accomplishments of the volunteers, donors and staff of Innovia, and equally burdened by the suffering and challenges our communities have faced. This year has seen the launch of Leadership Councils (with over 130 new volunteers representing communities across our region), the inaugural Community Leadership Summit, the implementation of a new Strategic Framework to guide the Foundation's priorities, as well as the adoption of an Anti-Hate Policy to guide our grantmaking. What an incredible year!

This year has also brought tremendous challenges. The outbreak of COVID-19, and the senseless death of George Floyd and racially motivated injustices, have further intensified suffering and anger. Our Black, Indigenous and People of Color communities are experiencing disproportionate impacts from COVID-19, and we must acknowledge that the disparities we witness today stem from centuries of systemic and structural racism.

As your community foundation, our commitment, now more than ever, is to lean into our mission to ignite generosity that truly transforms the lives and communities we serve. We fundamentally believe that in order to achieve our vision of vibrant and sustainable communities, every person must have the opportunity to thrive. We stand in solidarity with those demanding a more just and equitable world and, inspired by their energy, we will continue our mission secure in the knowledge that generosity can improve lives in our region.

To all of our donors, businesses, nonprofits and community leaders: Thank you. We are inspired by your generosity and support of this important work. In this issue, you will find stories of inspiration, hope and transformation that remind all of us how generosity can be a catalyst for the change we wish to see in this world.

Shelly O'Quinn, CEO

## End the Violence Fund

Spokane County has the highest rates of domestic violence in the state. Since the early 1990s, the Spokane Regional Domestic Violence Coalition has partnered with the community to catalyze an effort against domestic violence. "To create lasting change, we must all participate," says Annie Murphey, Executive Director of the coalition. "End the silence and you will help to end the violence." Now, the End the Violence Fund at Innovia Foundation will empower an awareness campaign and support the coalition's evolving efforts. Those affected are our families, friends and neighbors. Fighting this epidemic of violence is critical to ensuring a safe and healthy community for every person in our region. To learn more visit [innovia.org/our-stories](http://innovia.org/our-stories).





## KSPS

One main objective of the Census is to accurately count residents of our region to ensure federal funding goes to the right places. In partnership with Washington Nonprofits and the Washington State Office of Financial Management, Innovia Foundation provided over \$254,000 to organizations in Eastern Washington to encourage participation in the 2020 Census, especially for historically hard-to-count populations. Friends of KSPS received a \$20,000 grant that helped them air promos on KSPS stations and social media, sharing the message that everyone counts. Organizations like KSPS are helping ensure every person is counted in the 2020 Census. To learn more visit [innovia.org/our-stories](http://innovia.org/our-stories).

## CDAID and Big Table

Hospitality workers experienced unprecedented financial challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. Washington and CDAIDE in Northern Idaho have COVID-19 Hospitality Relief Grants to help hospitality workers without other income, like Shelly, who has worked at a local restaurant and is now sheltering at home. Big Table is covering the cost of the grants. To learn more visit [innovia.org/our-stories](http://innovia.org/our-stories).

## Harold Balazs Scholarship

Harold Balazs is responsible for many recognizable pieces of art in the Spokane area, including the "Lantern" sculpture outside the INB Performing Arts Center. Balazs also mentored artists who have now become mentors themselves. One was Ken Spiering, who went on to establish the Art & Soul Foundation to raise funds for the arts. After Balazs' death in 2018, Art & Soul established the Harold Balazs Creating Wonder Scholarship at Innovia Foundation. The \$1,000 scholarship will help Spokane County students study art and eventually pass their inspiration down to the next generation. Balazs' vision will live on in Spokane's many artists, who are constantly helping us think in new ways and making our region a more vibrant place to live. To learn more visit [innovia.org/our-stories](http://innovia.org/our-stories).

## Feast World Kitchen

Feast World Kitchen features diverse cuisines from chef-entrepreneurs, helping them network and eventually start food businesses. Feast received a \$25,000 grant from the Spokane Civic Benefit Fund at Innovia Foundation, founded by former mayor David Condon and his wife Kristin. The grant will enable Feast to better serve immigrants and former refugees by teaching food service skills and establishing immigrant-owned food businesses. "The heart of Feast World Kitchen is that all are welcome in our community and have a beautiful contribution to make," says Ross Carper, Feast co-founder. To learn more visit [innovia.org/our-stories](http://innovia.org/our-stories).

## Valley Meals on Wheels

Valley Meals on Wheels delivers nutritious, affordable meals to low-income seniors and homebound individuals in the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley. A \$3,000 COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund grant from Innovia Foundation is assisting with volunteer coordination, meal costs and supply expenses. The community has been eager to help, volunteering as delivery drivers and donating hand sanitizer and face masks. A portion of the grant purchased coolers to place on clients' doorsteps so volunteers can avoid person-to-person contact. Valley Meals on Wheels is continuing daily meal service for around 150 seniors who depend on them. To learn more visit [innovia.org/our-stories](http://innovia.org/our-stories).

## DE Table

are facing obstacles due to Big Table in Eastern North Idaho are helping to others. Both nonprofits now Funds at Innovia Foundation safety nets—including people eatery for 20+ years and is now g Shelly's living expenses while she thankful and feel so blessed," Shelly novia.org/our-stories.



## Mark Paxton Dental Scholarship

When Mark and Diane Paxton settled in Spokane, Mark immediately impacted the community with his skill for dentistry and oral surgery, including cleft lip and palate surgery. His compassion was felt worldwide through his many trips to Colombia and Guatemala to provide oral surgery for children, and he also mentored hundreds of students over the years. After Mark's death in 2018, the Spokane Dental District Society established a scholarship in his honor at Innovia Foundation for students pursuing careers in the dental field. The first scholarship was awarded in May to Kashmir Howes, an aspiring dental hygienist. Now Mark's legacy of compassion will help dental students follow in his footsteps for years to come. To learn more visit [innovia.org/our-stories](http://innovia.org/our-stories).



## Kroc Center

One of 26 centers resulting from a nearly \$1.6 billion investment by Joan Kroc, the Ray & Joan Kroc Center in Coeur d'Alene adheres to the mission of its founder. Joan envisioned the centers ensuring "that all individuals have equal opportunities to grow their natural gifts and talents." The center received a \$15,000 grant from Innovia Foundation to address community needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. With modified recreational opportunities, virtual exercise classes and other supportive programs, the center is creating a safe place for families to belong and grow. To learn more visit [innovia.org/our-stories](http://innovia.org/our-stories).

## Project Timothy

Since 1990, Project Timothy has been providing emergency financial assistance for housing, food, rent and more to people in Columbia County. The COVID-19 pandemic has enormously magnified the need for Project Timothy, with many new clients who have never had to ask anyone for financial help now finding themselves unable to pay the bills for the first time in their lives. Project Timothy received a \$20,000 grant from Innovia Foundation to help assist these clients and provide hope, comfort and tangible financial relief. To learn more visit [innovia.org/our-stories](http://innovia.org/our-stories).

## Scholarship Recipient: Maggie Nelson

"Growing up in a small farming community, I felt that I was at odds to finish a four-year degree and compete at NCAA Division 1 for track and field," says Maggie Nelson. "However, because of the generosity of those who support higher education, I can say that I did it." Thanks to the Joe and June Fulton Scholarship through Innovia Foundation, Maggie will graduate from Eastern Washington University in 2021 with a Bachelor's degree in Recreation and Tourism Management. During college, she excelled both academically and in track and field, worked multiple jobs, and volunteered in a range of community service activities. Her hard work paid off, and she plans to pursue a Master's degree in Public Administration next.

To learn more visit [innovia.org/our-stories](http://innovia.org/our-stories).





## 9B Trails

9B Trails understands outdoor recreation is crucial to rejuvenating mental and physical health—especially now, with gyms and communal exercise spaces closed. A \$13,000 community grant from Innovia Foundation is helping 9B complete trailheads for two trail systems. Over 45 miles of trails for hiking, mountain biking, skiing and snowshoeing will become more accessible. “Our vision is understood and echoed by many,” says Tess Rae, 9B Trails’ treasurer. “It’s imperative to create accessible outdoor spaces in a way that preserves, protects and ensures such pleasures for generations to come.” To learn more visit [innovia.org/our-stories](https://innovia.org/our-stories).

## Earl & Margery Muir Family Fund

Margery Muir had an immense impact on Pullman, where she lived for most of her life. Between substitute school teaching, serving with the juvenile court, and volunteering for countless community organizations, she dedicated her time to children and families in the area. In 1996, Margery established the Fred & Dora Rounds Family Fund at Innovia Foundation in honor of her parents. The fund has poured over \$10,000 into Pullman over the years. Following Margery’s death in 2019, her three children—Chris, Ruth and Keith—set up the Earl & Margery Muir Family Fund to build on Margery’s investment in Pullman. Margery’s generosity sparked the same compassion in her children, and now her legacy of philanthropy is continuing from generation to generation. To learn more visit [innovia.org/our-stories](https://innovia.org/our-stories).

## Happy Horizons Childcare

Even with steady employment, many families are challenged to provide basic necessities. Single parents spend, on average, 36% of their income on childcare, and that often does not leave enough to pay the bills or buy nutritious food, especially for those living paycheck-to-paycheck. The COVID-19 pandemic has severely exacerbated these needs. Happy Horizons Childcare in Moscow, Idaho offers affordable daycare for these families, providing children with curricula, nutritious meals and a healthy place to play. A \$12,000 grant from Innovia Foundation is giving Happy Horizons flexible funding to continue providing stability for low-income households during the crisis. To learn more visit [innovia.org/our-stories](https://innovia.org/our-stories).



## 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

### Diane Kiepe

After facing job and housing instability during the recession of 2008, Diane Kiepe experienced the importance of having a family support system. She realizes, however, not everyone has such support and we all must rely on each other. "We should look at our community as a family support system," Diane says.

Now, as a professional advisor, Diane helps clients find avenues for their philanthropy. For instance, one client received a substantial inheritance and decided all of it should benefit the community. Diane directed her client to Innovia Foundation to establish a discretionary fund. The fund balance is now approaching \$1 million and Innovia has made distributions supporting youth programs, business coaching for artists, and more.

Given the staggering amount of wealth that will transfer to the next generation in the Inland Northwest, Diane realizes the impact donors could have if they donated just a fraction of their

estates. She appreciates Innovia's ability to help clients meet their individual charitable goals, including flexibility when goals change.

"The longer Innovia Foundation exists, the longer our community will thrive," Diane says. "When there's a need, the community comes together. Innovia acts as a focal point to listen to those needs and decide where resources will make the most impact."



## ANTI-HATE POLICY

In April, the Foundation Board adopted an anti-hate policy that ensures no funding will be directed to organizations that engage in hateful speech or activities. This policy applies to all Foundation grantmaking including donor-advised grant recommendations. This policy is the culmination of more than two years of organizational change that has transformed the Foundation.

The anti-hate policy states:  
Innovia Foundation will not make grants to organizations that Innovia knows or has reason to believe support or engage in hateful activities. Innovia will implement this policy through due diligence to ensure that hateful activities are identified and steps are taken to avoid any Innovia support for them.

Hateful activities is defined to mean activities that incite or engage in violence, intimidation, harassment, threats or defamation targeting an individual or group based on their actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, immigration status, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability. These activities are contrary to Innovia's mission and its charitable purpose. Innovia Foundation relies on data crosschecked from various sources to determine if a nonprofit falls into one of these categories.

Decisions regarding grant distributions made from a donor-advised fund, and the investment of assets, are made at the sole discretion of Innovia in furtherance of its charitable mission.