Fall 2026

INNOVIA

ignite generosity. make more possible.



REFLECTIONS & DREAMS:

Our America at 250

BUILDING COMMUNITY *across the* INLAND NORTHWEST

INNOVIA FOUNDATION



make more possible.

Since 1974, Innovia Foundation has been your community foundation — igniting generosity to make more possible across Eastern Washington and North Idaho.

Guided by the belief that generosity transforms lives and communities, we connect people who care with causes that matter to ensure our region remains healthy, vibrant, and full of opportunity.

Thanks to the generosity of people throughout this region, we continue to make more possible — more grants and scholarships supporting local dreams, more community leadership to meet emerging needs, and more transformative partnerships shaping a brighter future for all.

mission: To ignite generosity that transforms lives and communities
vision: Vibrant and sustainable communities where every person thrives

52
Years of service

$16M+
Total grants and scholarships awarded in FY26

$177M+
Total grants and scholarships awarded since 1974

$360M+
Total assets

A message from our Board & CEO

dear friends,

Across Eastern Washington and North Idaho, generosity runs deep. This summer, we saw it in its truest form. As wildfires swept through our region, hundreds of families lost their homes, and many more were forced to flee. Our community responded. Neighbors, businesses, and organizations gave more than $8 million to the Spokane Complex and Eastern Washington Wildfire Funds so that no family would face recovery alone.

That same spirit of showing up echoed throughout this milestone year. As our nation marked its 250th anniversary, Innovia Foundation brought neighbors together to share what being American means to them. Reflections were varied and personal, yet woven through every story was a common thread: a belief in connection, opportunity, and hope. We were reminded that strong communities aren't built from far away. They're built close to home: around kitchen tables, in classrooms and neighborhoods, and in the everyday moments when people choose compassion over distance and action over uncertainty.

Those moments are at the heart of our work. As your community foundation, Innovia brings people together and turns shared hopes into lasting change. Thanks to our donors, volunteers, nonprofits, businesses, and local leaders, we make more possible. With more than $16 million granted this year, your support helps bridge divides, strengthen the places we call home, and create opportunities for every person to thrive.

The pages that follow tell that story. I hope they remind you, as they remind me, that far more unites us than divides us.

So what is our America at 250? It's a story still being written, shaped by our choices and how we show up for one another. When we give together, we make more possible, for our neighbors today and for generations to come.

With gratitude,

Shelly O'Quinn **Patricia "Pat" Wright**



Shelly O'Quinn
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Portraits of community builders

Trust is the cornerstone of healthy communities. In March, more than 400 leaders and residents from across our region gathered for Innovia's Community Leadership Summit: ***Building Trust, Building Community***. Together, we explored what drives mistrust and how to reverse it, beginning with the power of story. At a pop-up studio, author, photographer, and A Peace of My Mind founder John Noltner asked attendees what it takes to build community. Their responses, along with their portraits, appear throughout this report, reminding us how much we learn when we take time to listen.

Explore the full portrait gallery at goinnovia.org/APOMM26

"People who are showing up for this event care deeply about their communities. If there's something we want to see done in our communities, we can get together and do it together."

— John Noltner, *Founder of A Peace of My Mind*





"In times that can feel especially divided, what's something you have done — or could do — to build community?"





My life experiences used to make me feel disconnected from everyone else. Now, I use them to connect with and support my community.

A Peace of My Mind



Get more curious about others instead of reacting. I have a terminal case of seeing both sides and I don't want to be cured.









Trust in others' good intentions and be worthy of others' trust.





As my wife and I found ourselves spending our retirement watching our country become more and more divided, we became involved in very actively volunteering in our community, affecting our world where I could not affect the country.

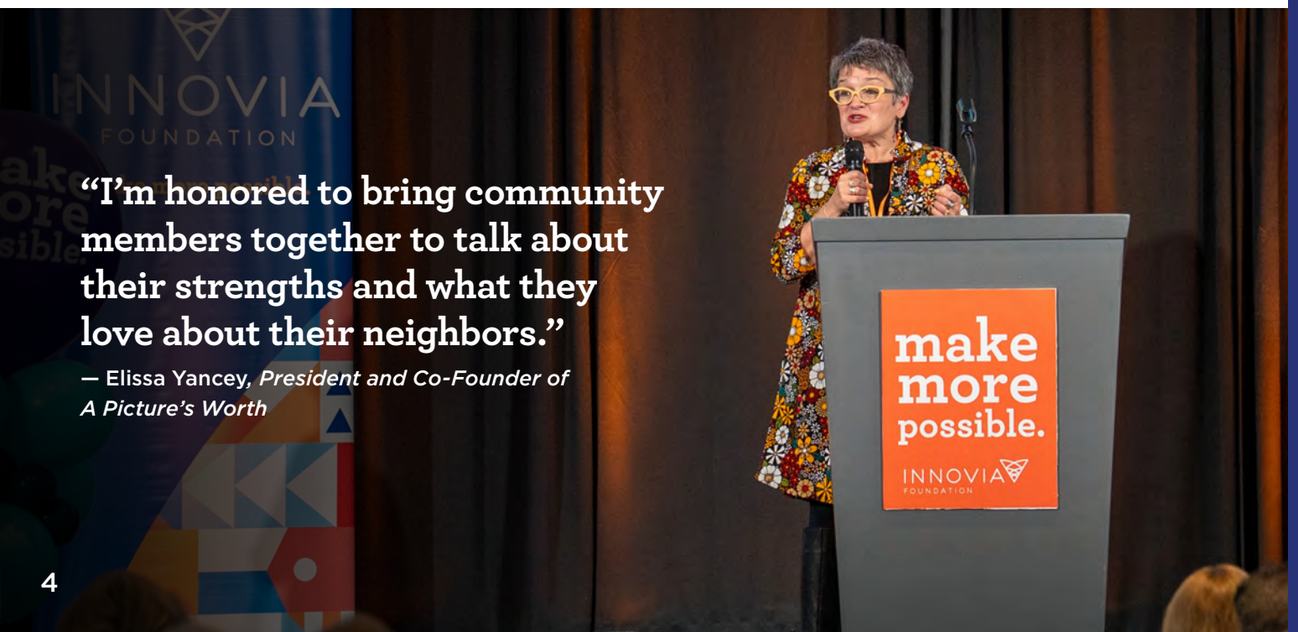




Stitching our stories together

A colorful quilt bursting with hopes, dreams, frustrations, and visions coated the floor by the end of Innovia's Community Leadership Summit. Elissa Yancey, President and Co-Founder of A Picture's Worth, coached attendees through creating each square, inspired by the prompt "My America at 250 is..." Every square reflects a different perspective, but stitched together, they tell a story about the American experience that we all share.

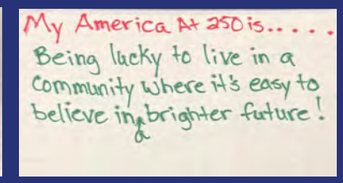
Explore the full gallery of quilt squares and reflections at goinnovia.org/storyquilt26.



"I'm honored to bring community members together to talk about their strengths and what they love about their neighbors."

— Elissa Yancey, *President and Co-Founder of A Picture's Worth*









"I see a future filled with joy, in good times and hard."



"All hands are reaching, supporting, and helping one another. We're here to support one another and we're reaching and reaching for that."







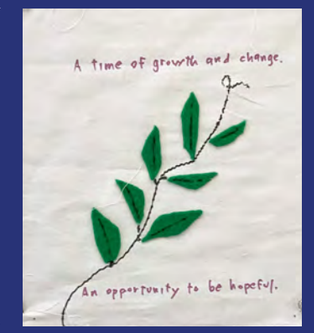






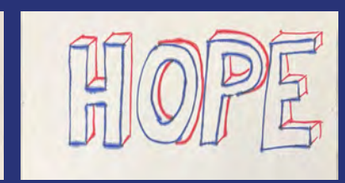


"My America at 250 years is something I'm very thankful for. And I'm making it my goal to make it an even better place by serving in our small town."











Making room at the table

The Longest Table is a growing movement built on one powerful idea: sharing a meal. From main streets to city parks, its gatherings transform public spaces into welcoming places of connection, where strangers become neighbors and neighbors become friends.

This spring, The Longest Table® co-founder Maryam Banikarim shared a keynote at our Leadership Summit and inspired our region with a simple invitation: set a table, welcome your neighbors, share a meal, and listen with curiosity. In this 250th year, Innovia sponsored Longest Table gatherings as a local way to bridge divides and envision a stronger, more united future. From a longhouse-style meal in Inchelium to a dinner on main street in Pomeroy to an Independence Day barbecue in Lewiston, thousands of people pulled up a chair and shared meaningful conversation across Eastern Washington and North Idaho.

In the pages ahead, our table hosts reflect on the ongoing impact of these gatherings and the powerful act of making room at the table.



THE LONGEST TABLE®

50

events hosted across Eastern Washington and North Idaho in 2026



“This gathering reminded us that while we each bring unique experiences, perspectives, and histories, we are also connected by the shared human experience and by many of the same hopes and needs.”

— Hailey Hill, *Longest Table Host with United Way of North Idaho*

“**The Longest Table event really brought out all ages of the community — one attendee even laughed saying ‘I met eight new people tonight!’”**

— Rachel Young, *Longest Table host with Grangeville Arts*





“**The Longest Table demonstrated what can happen when community building is kept simple and intentional: make room, provide a table, share food, welcome children, invite conversation, and give people time to connect.”**

— Zac Whitehouse, *Longest Table host with GLOW Children Early Learning Center in Spokane, WA*



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THE HEARTHLAND FOUNDATION

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STCU Here for Good Foundation



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Youth shaping place

A new mural now brightens Heritage Court in downtown Colville thanks to the creativity, hard work, and community spirit of students from Colville Junior High. Coordinated through Colville Together and made possible by a $3,000 Community Grant from Innovia, the mural was designed collaboratively by students and their art teacher Amy Anderson. Students spent a week transforming their original design into a vibrant public artwork celebrating the landscapes, recreation, wildlife, and community connections of Northeast Washington.

"This mural represents more than paint on a wall," says Rosemary Shaw, Executive Director of Colville Together. "It represents young people investing their time, creativity, and talents into the future of our community."

COLVILLE, WA

United by a meal

"Our country is comprised of many diverse communities that share more similarities than differences in this American experience. The opportunity for connection in front of us is bigger than the division among us."

— Shannon Rosenbaum, ***Longest Table host with Inchelium Cultural Research Center***



INCHELIUM, WA



"Make connection. Connection to land. Connection to community. Connection to people."

— Sky Pagaling, ***Innovia Leadership Council member and Executive Director of the Camas Foundation, Portraits of Community Builders Project 2026***

CUSICK, WA

2026 PHOTO CONTEST

The Next Generation

1st Place: Landscape & Wildlife

Photographer: Joanie Christian
Location: Little Pend Oreille Lakes, Colville, WA

"Hidden among the branches of a spruce tree, a Rufous Hummingbird mother nourishes the next generation. As America marks 250 years, this image reflects the enduring ideals of stewardship, responsibility, and hope. Each generation inherits both the freedoms and the natural treasures entrusted to it, with the opportunity and the responsibility to leave them stronger for those yet to come."



2026 PHOTO CONTEST

Rachel at the Parade

Overall Winner & 1st Place: America at 250

Photographer: Brian Bothun
Location: Main Street, Ritzville, WA

"Rachel Miller, who brings a smile to everyone in Ritzville, wears a vintage outfit as she marches in the downtown Labor Day Weekend parade before the rodeo in 2025."



Community Heart & Soul®

Knowing my neighbor

"I love that we actually know our neighbors.
I love how you can go down to the park and see kids playing and families interacting and not sitting on phones. The town feels safe and people come together to help in times of need."

— Harrington resident, ***shared at a story-gathering event during the Community Heart & Soul process supported by Innovia***

HARRINGTON, WA

lincoln & adams



"I keep my eyes, ears, and heart open, accept others for who they are today, without judgment; understanding that I haven't walked in their shoes."

— Jacob Gama, *Director of Othello Food Bank, Portraits of Community Builders Project 2026*

OTHELLO, WA

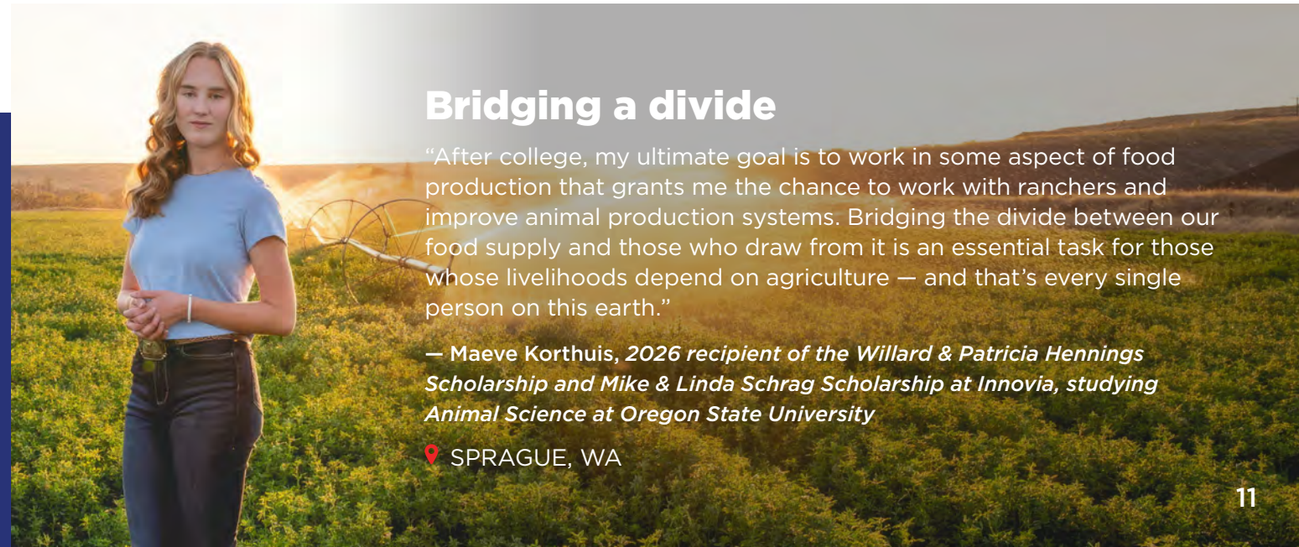
Small towns are the best!

"Our event was a great example of why small towns are the best! Neighbors from five communities all blended in together as if they had all known each other forever. No politics, no judging each other, just having a good time. That's what it is all about."

— Randy Roth, ***Longest Table host with Ralston Grange #943***

RALSTON, WA





Bridging a divide

"After college, my ultimate goal is to work in some aspect of food production that grants me the chance to work with ranchers and improve animal production systems. Bridging the divide between our food supply and those who draw from it is an essential task for those whose livelihoods depend on agriculture — and that's every single person on this earth."

— Maeve Korthuis, ***2026 recipient of the Willard & Patricia Hennings Scholarship and Mike & Linda Schrag Scholarship at Innovia, studying Animal Science at Oregon State University***

SPRAGUE, WA



MY AMERICA AT 250

spokane

“I sing. I create. I share words and songs. I work in organizations to build community, to solve problems together and be inspired to do more. I strive to stay curious.”

— Deb Salls, *Executive Director of Global Neighborhood, Portraits of Community Builders Project 2026*

SPOKANE, WA

Listening to one another

“Building community isn’t only about showing up during difficult moments, it’s also about creating space to sit together, listen to one another, and strengthen relationships. Our hope for the future is to continue creating a community where people from different cultures and backgrounds feel welcomed, valued, and connected.”

— Maisa Abudayha, *Longest Table host with Feast World Kitchen*

COMSTOCK PARK, SPOKANE, WA





Community Heart & Soul®

Small projects with big impact

As part of Community Heart & Soul’s resident-driven process supported by Innovia, leaders repainted 15 fire hydrants throughout downtown Cheney.

“Small projects like this may seem simple, but they add up,” shares Mackenzie Hilzendeger, Cheney Heart & Soul Coordinator. “Each improvement helps make our downtown feel more welcoming, vibrant, safe, and cared for. When we come together to tackle the little things, those small changes can create a big impact.”

CHENEY, WA



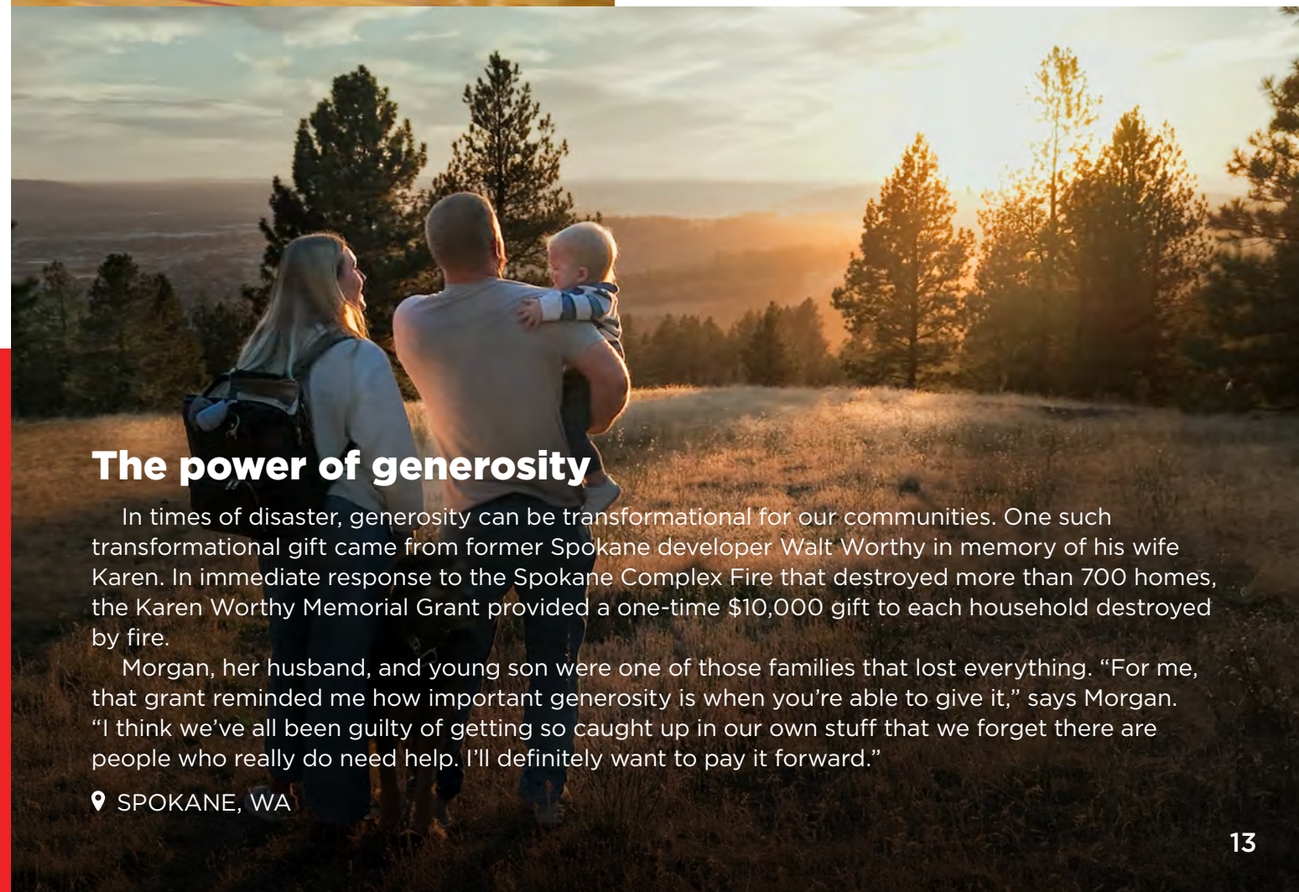
Photo credit: Russell Elledge

2026 PHOTO CONTEST

Playing for more than a win

Since 2013, HUB Sports Center has received more than $470,000 in grants from Innovia to support their programs to connect communities and positively impact youth through sports, events, and activities. One such program is Battle of the Nations (pictured), a Native basketball tournament that brings together teams from more than 60 tribes across the U.S. “Unlike most tournaments, athletes compete alongside members of their own tribal communities, creating a powerful connection between sport, culture, and identity,” shares Phil Champlin, Executive Director of HUB Sports Center. “This image captures more than a contested shot at the basket. It reflects generations of pride, tradition, and community gathered under one roof.”

LIBERTY LAKE, WA



The power of generosity

In times of disaster, generosity can be transformational for our communities. One such transformational gift came from former Spokane developer Walt Worthy in memory of his wife Karen. In immediate response to the Spokane Complex Fire that destroyed more than 700 homes, the Karen Worthy Memorial Grant provided a one-time $10,000 gift to each household destroyed by fire.

Morgan, her husband, and young son were one of those families that lost everything. “For me, that grant reminded me how important generosity is when you’re able to give it,” says Morgan. “I think we’ve all been guilty of getting so caught up in our own stuff that we forget there are people who really do need help. I’ll definitely want to pay it forward.”

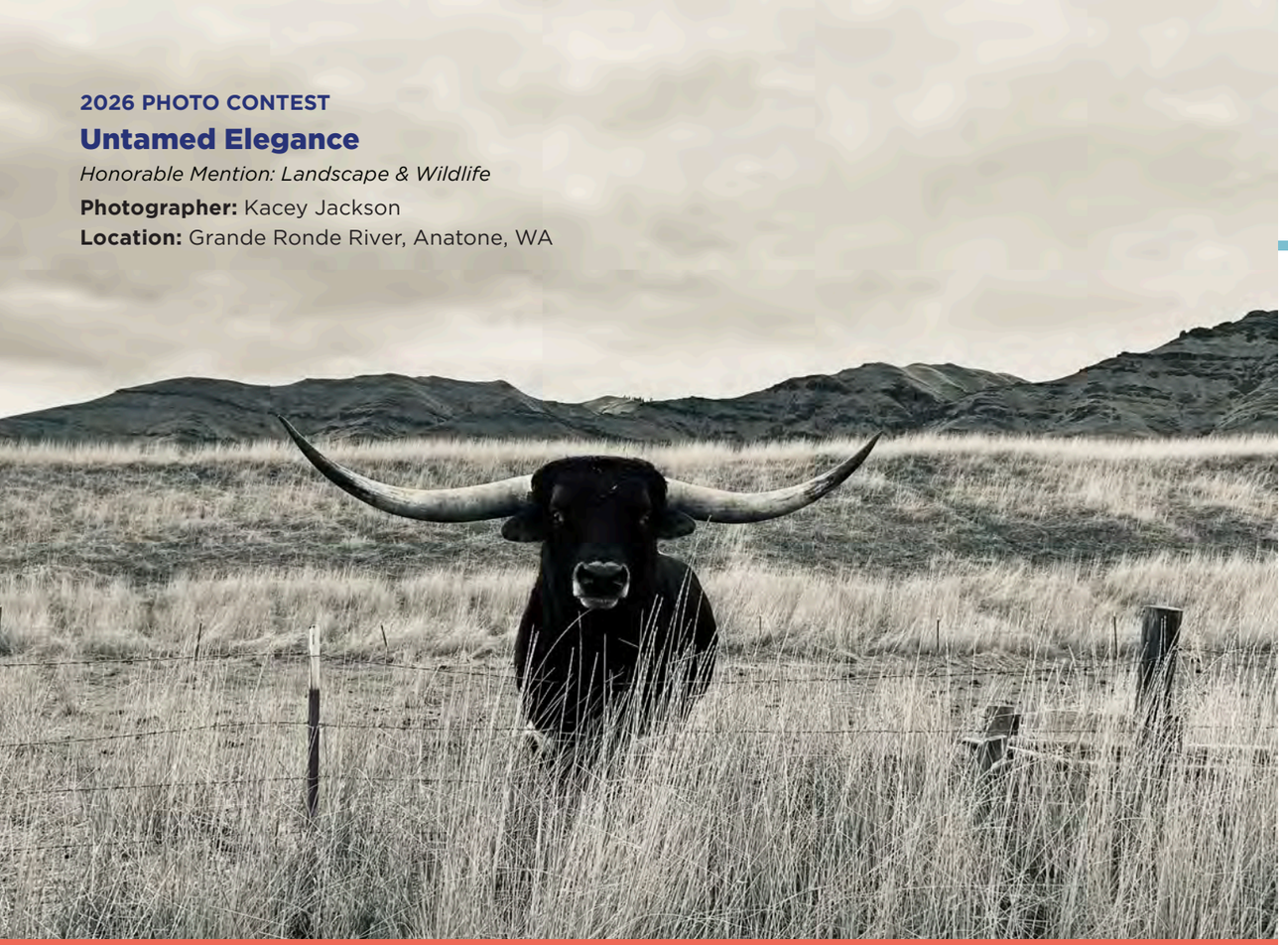
SPOKANE, WA

2026 PHOTO CONTEST

Untamed Elegance

Honorable Mention: Landscape & Wildlife

Photographer: Kacey Jackson
Location: Grande Ronde River, Anatone, WA



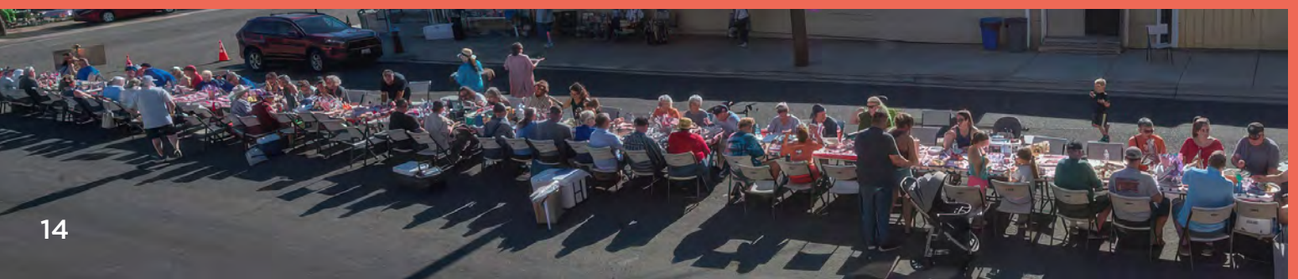


A deep sense of community

"Nearly everyone told us they felt a deep sense of community during Pomeroy's Longest Table. People were amazed that a simple idea, a community potluck, could bring together such a diverse group — young and old, new residents, lifelong locals, and individuals from different backgrounds."

— Molly Orheim, ***Longest Table host with Pomeroy Community Heart and Soul®***

POMEROY, WA



MY AMERICA AT 250

columbia, garfield, & asotin



"Intergenerational projects need to be created, linking our isolated and lonely elderly to our often isolated and lonely children. I have committed my life to this."

— Mark Havens, ***Executive Director of Interlink Inc., an Innovia grantee connecting volunteers with seniors in need, Portraits of Community Builders Project 2026***

CLARKSTON, WA

Streams of discovery

Since 1984, Columbia County Children's Fund at Innovia has invested more than $100,000 into the education and wellbeing of young people across the county. Recent funding for "Salmon in School," a STEM education program through the Tri-State Steelheaders, gave elementary students the chance to learn about the salmon life cycle first-hand. Raising the fish from eggs to release in local streams, the program invites children to participate in caring for their natural environment. At the end of the program, children shared their new perspectives: "I will forever see salmon differently," "I will respect nature a lot more," and "I now love fish and I want to take care of them."

DAYTON & STARBUCK, WA



"I want to be part of contributing to the community that helped raise me."

— Pomeroy resident, ***shared during an interview as part of the Community Heart & Soul® process supported by Innovia***

POMEROY, WA



What is your America at 250?

Become part of the mosaic

As America 250 celebrations continue across our region throughout the rest of 2026, we invite you to share community photos and join our American flag mosaic.

Complete the prompt: “My America at 250 is _____”, and watch as your photo becomes part of the flag image. Scan the QR code below or visit innovia.org/250-mosaic to add your image and explore submissions from across the Foundation’s events and activities this year.



Summer together
Spokane, WA



Ready to parade
Coeur d’Alene, ID



Ubuntu: I am because we are
Spokane, WA



Celebration of the Nez Perce People
Lapwai, ID



Sassy!
Lewiston, ID



Celebrating with the Adams County Posse
Ritzville, WA

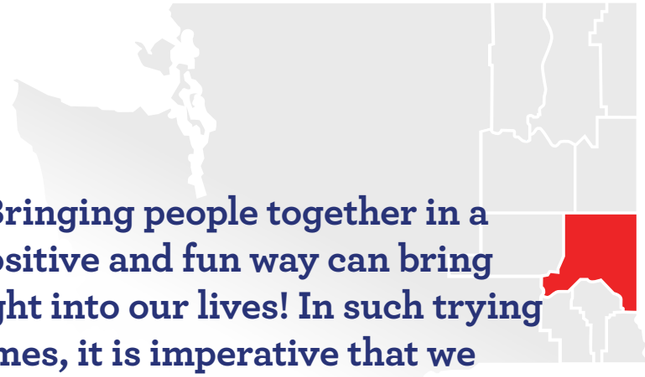


Another day in paradise
Moscow, ID

MY AMERICA AT 250

whitman





“Bringing people together in a positive and fun way can bring light into our lives! In such trying times, it is imperative that we focus on the good and remember what is truly important!”

— Alex Overton, *Tekoa Community Heart & Soul®, Portraits of Community Builders Project 2026*

TEKOA, WA

Sparking curiosity at the library

For children and families in rural communities, opportunities to experience engaging educational programs and performances can be few and far between. A recent Innovia grant helped Whitman County Library bridge that gap, bringing exciting performers to every library branch and drawing record-breaking attendance. “It means families in our small, rural communities get the same kinds of exciting, memorable experiences that they might otherwise have to travel a long way to find,” shares Executive Director Christy Hughes. For children across Whitman County, these experiences offered a chance to discover something new, spark curiosity, and create lasting memories, all in their own communities.

WHITMAN COUNTY, WA



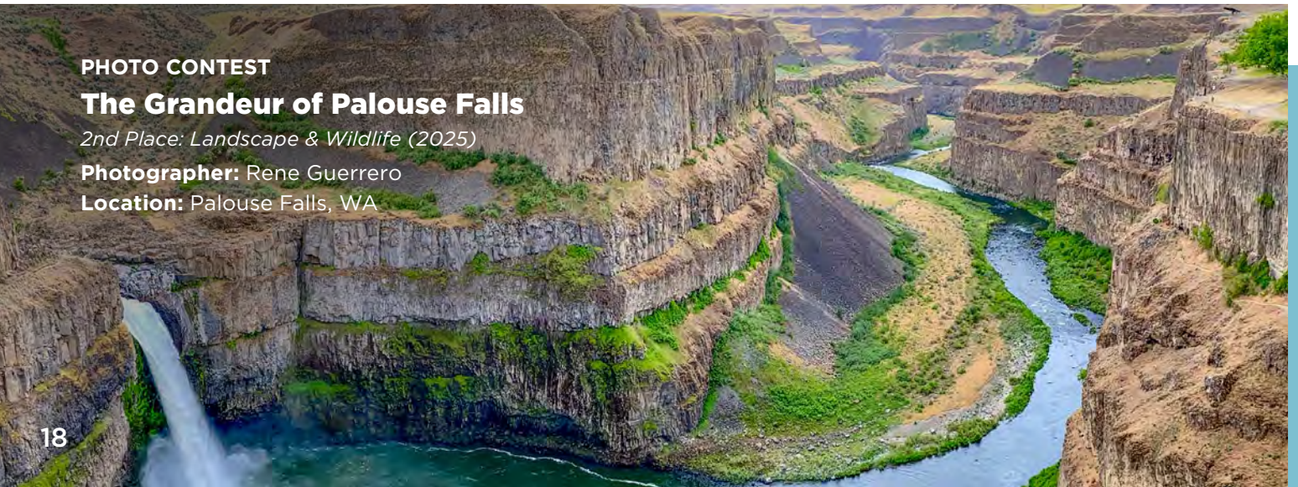


PHOTO CONTEST

The Grandeur of Palouse Falls

2nd Place: Landscape & Wildlife (2025)

Photographer: Rene Guerrero

Location: Palouse Falls, WA



Gathered at the mill

“For the moment, there were no differences and nothing divided us. Friends and people who had never met sat side by side and enjoyed delicious food while sharing stories and getting to know those at their table! As we move into the future in Oakesdale, and in our country, it would be magnificent if we could look for what we have in common as we did at our Longest Table and build on that to create a brighter future for all!”

— Conny Crow, *Longest Table host with Oakesdale Community Association*

OAKESDALE, WA



Bringing music to others

Tekoa native and former school band member Monica Bartlett Peters created the Monica Bartlett Peters Music Fund at Innovia to support music education, instruments, and programming for students in the district (pictured). “Music has touched my life in many ways, and hopefully I have been able to bring music to others and touch their lives,” she shares.

TEKOA, WA

“I love living in a small town with a connected, close-knit community that supports you.”

— Pullman resident, *shared as an example of what makes Pullman special during the Community Heart & Soul® process supported by Innovia*

PULLMAN, WA





2026 PHOTO CONTEST

Monday Night Dinners

1st Place: Community

Location: Coeur d'Alene, ID

Photographer: Adam Schluter

"I moved to Coeur d'Alene and didn't know a single person. So, I started walking around and just inviting strangers to have dinner in my backyard. No politics. No business. No networking. No agenda other than old fashioned connection. Eleven people came to the first one and now, we have thousands of people that come to them each year now — still in my small backyard."

MY AMERICA AT 250

kootenai

Shopping with dignity



At 3rd Avenue Marketplace in Post Falls, accessing food assistance looks and feels much like a trip to the grocery store. Through its innovative "shop with dignity" model, the food bank empowers families to select the foods that best meet their needs. Executive Director Molli Nixon recalls a mother whose young daughter happily pushed a miniature shopping cart through the aisles. "To her, this is just the grocery store," the mother shared. "She doesn't know this is a food bank. She doesn't know we receive food any differently than her friends do."

With grant support from Innovia, 3rd Avenue Marketplace is doing more than addressing food insecurity. It's creating a welcoming space where neighbors connect, families feel supported, and the stigma of seeking assistance fades away.

POST FALLS, ID



Healing through connection

Tess Reasor is just one of the inspiring residents nominated for a Weaver Award in Innovia's first year of the Weave program in Kootenai County, in partnership with the Aspen Institute. After overcoming addiction and incarceration, Tess founded 208 Recovery, a peer-led recovery community in North Idaho where people find support without judgment. She brings together people in recovery, families, first responders, healthcare providers, tribal partners, and employers — turning isolation into lasting relationships. As Tess puts it, healing happens through connection, and no one should have to recover alone.



A meal on main street

"There were people of different ages, backgrounds, businesses, organizations, and viewpoints sitting together on Main Street that evening. Nobody had to agree on everything. They just had to pull up a chair, share a meal, and get to know each other a little better."

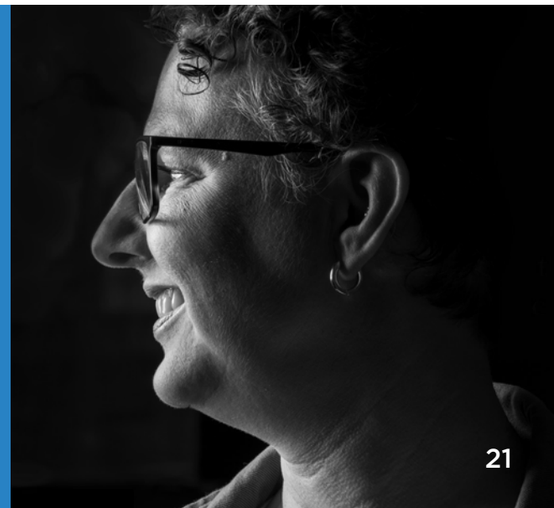
— Becky DeMers, ***Longest Table host with Spirit Lake Community Coalition***

SPIRIT LAKE, ID

"I used to exclusively try to build community by inviting others into mine, but I'm learning the effectiveness of showing others I trust theirs."

— Angela Gifford, ***Executive Director of Village of Hope CDA, Portraits of Community Builders Project 2026***

COEUR D'ALENE, ID



MY AMERICA AT 250

bonner & boundary



“The willingness of people to show up for one another gives us hope.”

— Dig Chrismer, ***Storytelling and Public Relations Manager at Better Together Animal Alliance, a recipient of Innovia grantmaking that helped revitalize the organization’s volunteer program to connect people with animals and their families in need***

PONDERAY, ID

Hungry for genuine connection

“One of the most meaningful insights from our Longest Table gathering was that people are hungry for genuine connection. Some came specifically hoping to meet people they might not otherwise encounter, make new friends, and discover ways to become more involved in their community.”

— Christine Denova, ***Longest Table host with IdaHope Families, Inc. in Sandpoint, ID***

SANDPOINT, ID



Photo credit: Bonner County Daily Bee



Advancing STEM futures

“We see students who start out unsure of their abilities become confident problem-solvers, leaders, programmers, builders, designers, and communicators. We see older students teaching younger students and returning to mentor the next generation. We see students discovering careers they didn’t know existed or were obtainable.”

— Lael Alexander, ***Lead Mentor of FIRST Team 2130 Alpha+ robotics team in Boundary County School District #101, a 2026 Innovia grant recipient***

BONNERS FERRY, ID

2026 PHOTO CONTEST

Golden Sunshine and a Beautiful Smile

1st Place: People

Photographer: Adam Schluter
Location: Bonners Ferry, ID

“While up in Bonners Ferry, I met this kind stranger named Rick. We had a beautiful conversation about what he loved about living in Idaho and, when we spoke, I noticed the sun as it started to set. In that moment, I asked him to walk into the grass with me so I could capture this beautiful moment and photograph.”

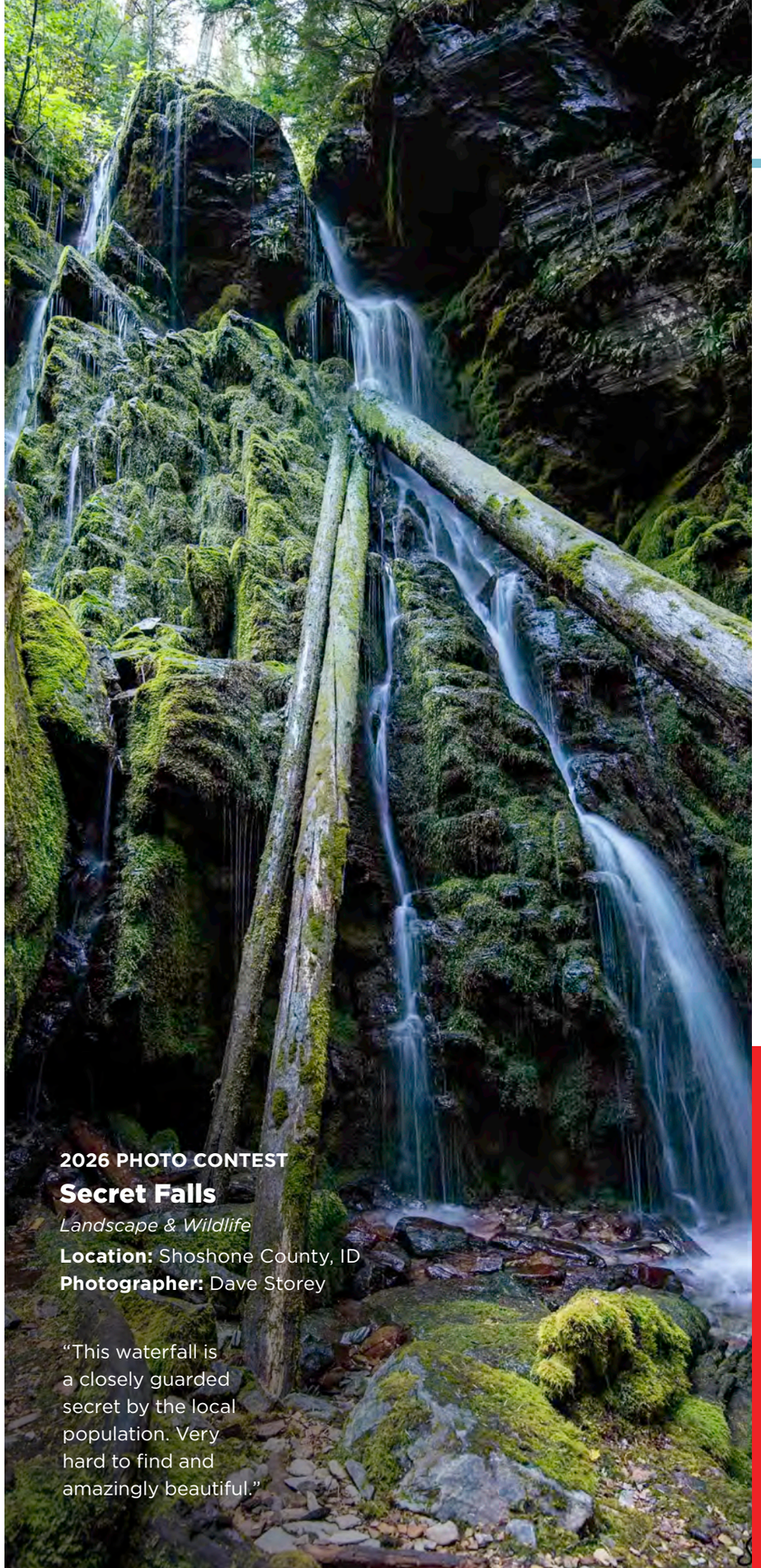


A calling to teach

“I was given the opportunity to present a lesson plan to our local elementary school. I chose kindergarten. Upon presenting my lesson, I found out what college meant to me. I fell in love with teaching that day. I want to attend college to help the next generation become critical thinkers and problem solvers. As a kindergarten teacher, you are often the first experience with learning that these students have. I want to be this education-changing influence on children’s lives.”

— Aubrey Birdsell,
2026 recipient of the Lucille I. Hudon Scholarship at Innovia, studying Elementary Education at Whitworth University

WALLACE, ID



2026 PHOTO CONTEST

Secret Falls

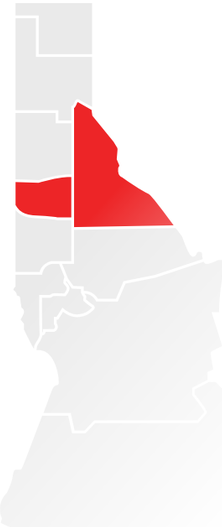
Landscape & Wildlife

Location: Shoshone County, ID
Photographer: Dave Storey

“This waterfall is a closely guarded secret by the local population. Very hard to find and amazingly beautiful.”

MY AMERICA AT 250

benewah & shoshone

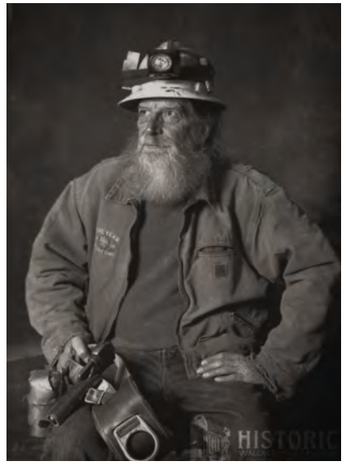


The sound of community

The Tri-Community Library is much more than a building filled with books. Librarian Teri Wood describes it as the town’s “Google,” a place people turn to for information, connection, and even a warm cup of coffee. Support from a recent Innovia grant helped the library open their doors at a new, expanded location in Fernwood. “I’m excited for the noise,” shares Teri of the move, “which sounds silly for a librarian to say, but I’m excited for the noise — it means life.”

FERNWOOD, ID





Capturing today’s history

A recent project at the Historic Wallace Photo Museum invited residents to participate in historic-style portrait sessions while sharing local folklore. Now displayed in a public exhibition, one of those portraits features Marty (pictured), a fourth-generation underground miner, local tour guide, and champion of Wallace’s mining legacy. “Preserving our community’s history doesn’t only mean protecting old buildings or artifacts,” shares Dallas Jade Graves, Assistant Director at the museum. “It also means listening to the people who are here now and making sure their voices become part of the story, a part of the rich legacy that really defines the Silver Valley.”

WALLACE, ID

Instilling a love of learning

Nestled along a remote stretch of the St. Joe River, the community of Calder invests in its youngest residents through an early learning program supported by Innovia. Megan Sindt, Superintendent of the Avery School District shares, “Our ultimate hope is that we instill a love of learning and a love of community that learners will utilize and eventually return back to the community that helped shape them.”

CALDER, ID



nez perce & latah





“I choose to get involved and give my time and talents to organizations or nonprofit organizations that can use me. I invite others to volunteer.”

— Kersten Eggers, ***Innovia Community Leadership Summit attendee, Portraits of Community Builders Project 2026***

LEWISTON, ID

A space for everyone

For years, the Prairie River Library District’s aging computers limited what was possible. Through a recent Innovia grant, every branch now offers updated technology, helping rural residents stay connected. “The library is a space for everyone; being a community hub is so important to us,” shares Ellamae Burnell, Director of the district. “As our services and programming continue to grow, I am so excited about the new faces we see in the library.”

LAPWAI, ID





Lightning in a bottle

“Slowing down on a rainy Sunday afternoon with people that both knew each other and folks that were new to each other had conversation bubbling the whole event long. It was lightning in a bottle!”

— Jenny Kostroff, ***Longest Table host with Heart of the Arts, Inc.***

MOSCOW, ID



2026 PHOTO CONTEST

Brackenbury Square Fountain

1st Place: Arts & Culture

Photographer: Brad Stinson

Location: Lewiston, ID

“Brackenbury Square is a public park and downtown plaza in Lewiston, ID, featuring a relaxing water fountain and the bronze sculpture ‘The Dance’ by David G. Sears, which depicts children playing in the water.”



Together under the marquee

“We seek arts partners that help set the stage for folks to connect across ideological divides in service to shared projects within the community. From these experiences spring unexpected friendships, or at least spontaneous camaraderie, that makes life qualitatively better where we actually live.”

— Colin Mannex, ***Executive Director of Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre, a recipient of Innovia grantmaking that helped restore the theater’s marquee***

MOSCOW, ID



2026 PHOTO CONTEST

I See You Too

Honorable Mention: Landscape & Wildlife

Photographer: Julie Krivsky
Location: Western Tanager, Winchester Lake, State Park, ID

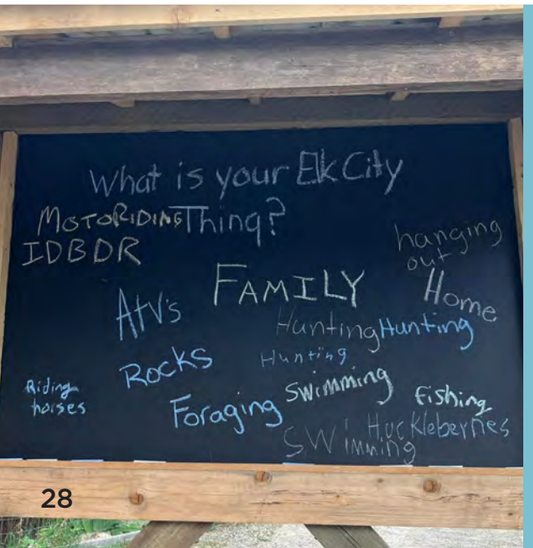
A shared future

"One of the strongest insights from our Longest Table gathering was that, despite differing backgrounds and experiences, people share many of the same hopes for the future: strong families, healthy youth, safe communities, and opportunities for everyone to thrive."

— Sharlene Johnson, ***Longest Table host with Upriver Youth Leadership Council***

KAMIAH, ID





"We believe our community is strongest when people come together, neighbor helping neighbor, sharing responsibility and working toward common goals for everyone and for the good of the community."

— a community statement developed from resident feedback during Elk City's Community Heart & Soul® process supported by Innovia

ELK CITY, ID

MY AMERICA AT 250

lewis, clearwater, & idaho

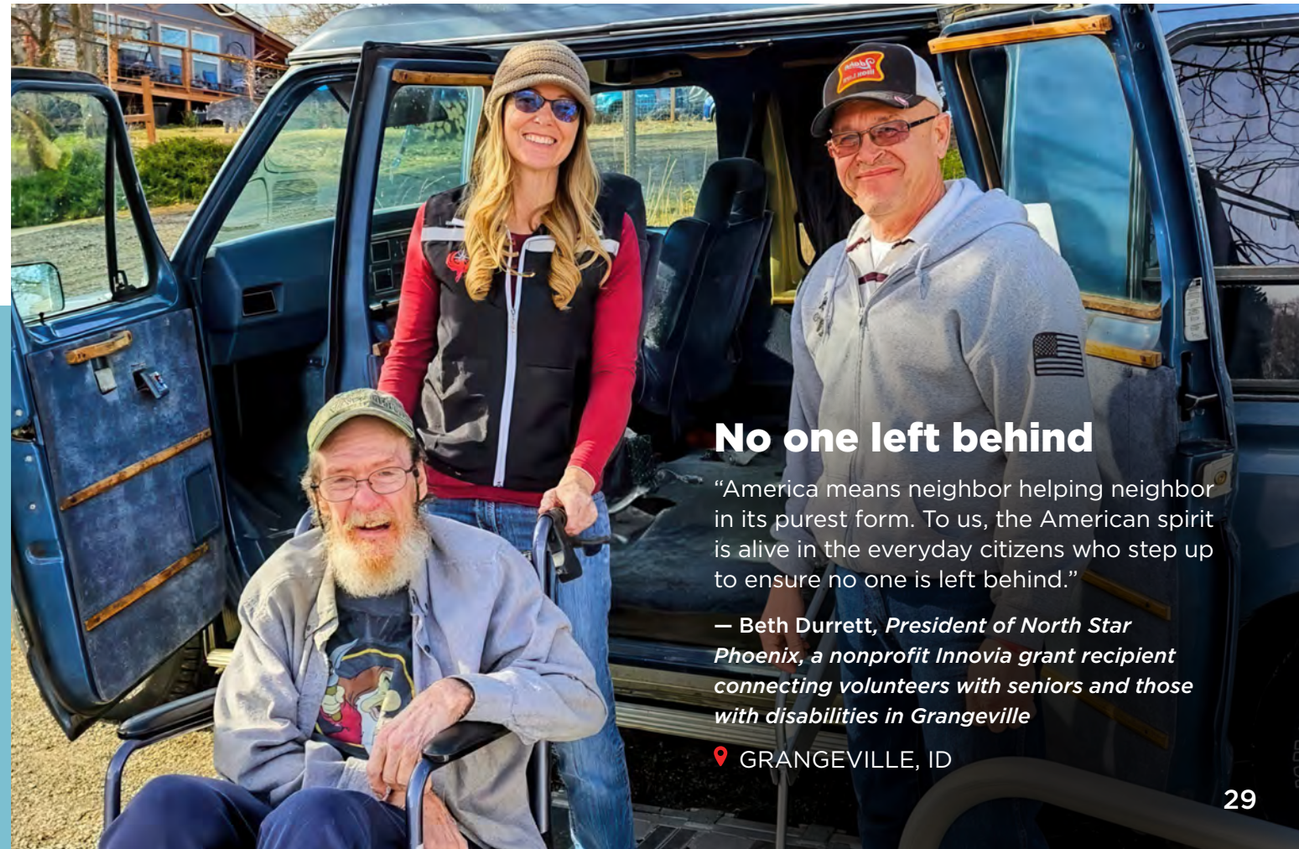


Building community spaces

In Orofino, the conversation about a long-awaited community swimming pool is shifting from "if" to "when." Community members, donors, and local partners have rallied behind Clearwater Community Complex to turn a shared vision into reality, and a recent grant from Innovia helped advance the project's design. For Board Member Barbara-Lee Jordan, the effort reflects something bigger. "I believe America is strongest when we listen to one another, lift each other up, and work together to create a better future for everyone," she says. In Orofino, that belief is taking shape one neighbor at a time, as the community builds a gathering place for generations to come.



OROFINO, ID



No one left behind

"America means neighbor helping neighbor in its purest form. To us, the American spirit is alive in the everyday citizens who step up to ensure no one is left behind."

— Beth Durrett, ***President of North Star Phoenix, a nonprofit Innovia grant recipient connecting volunteers with seniors and those with disabilities in Grangeville***

GRANGEVILLE, ID

2026 Highlights

Community Heart & Soul®

Community Heart & Soul grew this year, welcoming three new communities: Tekoa and Ritzville in Washington and St. Maries in Idaho. With these additions, Innovia now supports 10 small towns across our region through this process led by residents, which helps neighbors figure out what they love most about their community, what they want for its future, and how to get there. They join Cheney, Oakesdale, Pullman, Harrington, and Pomeroy in Washington, and Spirit Lake and Elk City in Idaho.





Community Leadership Summit

In March, more than 400 business and nonprofit leaders, volunteers, educators and engaged residents from across our 20-county region gathered in Spokane for Innovia's 2026 Community Leadership Summit: Building Trust, Building Community. Over two days, nationally recognized speakers explored what drives mistrust and offered practical tools for reversing it, from shared meals and storytelling to resident-led planning. Attendees shared their own stories, built new connections, and left ready to carry that momentum home as our nation marks its 250th anniversary.

Grants & Scholarships

This year, Innovia distributed over $16 million in grants and scholarships through donor generosity. Guided by the theme of building stability and belonging, more than $1.2 million was awarded through the Community Grants Program to support programs and projects addressing critical community needs, fostering meaningful connections, and helping to cultivate a sense of belonging where everyone feels valued, supported, and connected. An additional $1.5 million was awarded through more than 600 scholarships to students pursuing higher education and career training.





Weaver Awards

In 2026, Innovia was selected as one of 25 Community Hosts nationwide for the Weaver Awards, an initiative of the Aspen Institute's Weave: The Social Fabric Project. Over four years, the partnership will celebrate Weavers in Kootenai County, everyday people who bring neighbors together and build trust. In this first year, 20 Weavers will receive $2,500 grants to expand their impact, plus national recognition, training, and a connection to a growing Weaver network. Awardees will be celebrated this fall at Kootenai County's first Weaver Awards Celebration and Luncheon.

Wildfire Response

This summer's Spokane Complex Fires were among the most destructive disasters in Washington's history, destroying nearly 700 homes and causing an estimated $1 billion in damage. Our region responded with extraordinary generosity. More than 4,700 gifts totaling over $8 million is being directed to relief and recovery through trusted nonprofits working directly with families. Through the Karen Worthy Memorial Wildfire Grant, a gift from Walt Worthy in memory of his wife, Innovia distributed $10,000 in direct assistance to every household whose primary residence was destroyed.





LaunchNW

2026 was a milestone year for LaunchNW. The initiative, which began at Innovia, became its own 501(c)(3) nonprofit and celebrated its first class of Promise Scholarship graduates. LaunchNW now serves 522 students across all cohorts, with more than $5.6 million committed in student support. Donors helped kick off Make More Possible: The Campaign for LaunchNW, a $30 million effort to endow the Promise Scholarship for generations to come. A new $1.5 million YouthBuild grant from the U.S. Department of Labor is expanding LaunchNW into Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens Counties.

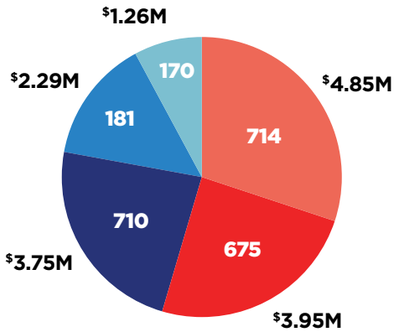
by the numbers FY26

INNOVIA FOUNDATION

As the community foundation for Eastern Washington and North Idaho, Innovia Foundation partners with people who want to **make more possible** in their communities. We work together to identify and respond to our region's greatest opportunities, help those in need, and leave a lasting impact.

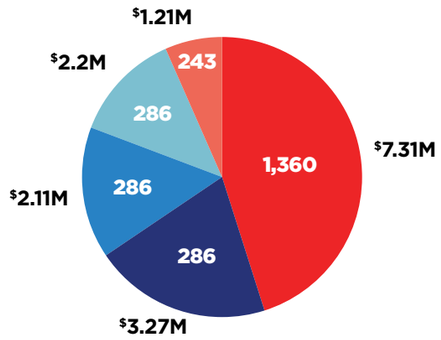
Grants

BY IMPACT AREA



- Education & Youth Development
- Health & Wellbeing
- Quality of Life
- Arts & Culture
- Economic Opportunity

BY FUND TYPE



- Donor-Advised Funds
- Scholarship Funds
- Community Funds
- Nonprofit Funds
- Designated Funds



INVESTING FOR THE FUTURE

Innovia's guiding philosophy is to promote the prudent stewardship of funds entrusted to us. Endowed assets at Innovia are pooled in 5 portfolios specifically created for the Foundation with a long-term outlook.

total endowment $290M+

total assets $360M+



Innovia Foundation Team

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Lauren Autrey
Chief Financial & Operating Officer

Molly Sanchez
Chief Community Investment Officer

Dave Sonntag
Chief Philanthropy Officer

Matt Bumpus
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Connie Emry
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Community Development Director

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Cover Image: Two girls from Oakesdale, WA, celebrate America's 250th anniversary at the community's Longest Table event supported by Innovia in June 2026.