

Newsletter

Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation

Fall 2014

Symposium Keynote: Education-A Path Out of Poverty...a lesson of hope and power

Kristin Sinclair, Symposium Chair

Dr. Tererai Trent spoke to the hearts and minds of more than 400 people at the IWCF Fall Symposium. Her message was truly one of hope and believing in yourself to unlock your potential. She is living proof of the power of dreams and the potential of education to break the cycle of poverty.

She shared her story of growing up impoverished in Zimbabwe, being married off at a young age and giving birth to 4 children by the age of 18. Her chance meeting with Jo Luck, a representative of Heifer International, began the change in her life path.

When Tererai said her dream was to move to America and get an education, Luck responded, "If you desire those things, it



is achievable." Later, Trent's mother encouraged her to write down her dreams and be the person to break the chain of poverty for her children and her children's children.

Trent told of earning her GED after 10 years of correspondence courses and then making it to Oklahoma to pursue a college degree. She went on to earn a bachelor's degree, a master's and finally her Ph.D! During this time, her story was featured in "Half the Sky" (Kristof/WuDunn), and she gained the attention of none other than Oprah Winfrey. During her appearance on "Oprah," Trent shared that she now



wanted to give back by building a school in her home village. Thanks to Oprah's financial support, with local volunteers Trent began organizing

and building that school.

Today, Trent travels the world inspiring others by speaking. She divides her time between her home in California with her husband and her home in Zimbabwe, where she is building more schools (11 so far!) through her foundation, Tererai Trent International.

Her final message was that all of us are connected and can make a difference in the lives of those around us. She praised the women of the IWCF as true heroes of this community. Trent closed with the African word "Ubuntu" and shared its meaning: "I am because we are. Since we are, therefore I am."



Positive change through thoughtful giving

From the

Board

What a fabulous launch to our program year! The 2014 Fall Symposium, “Education—a Path Out of Poverty,” was outstanding in every way. The panel and workshops were spot-on; Dr. Tererai Trent, our keynote speaker, was dynamic and compelling; the topic clearly resonated in Boise, drawing our largest audience ever (414). Everyone had to get behind the mission to make this a success – and you did! Thank you so very much.

Our grants process has changed considerably over the years, as we’ve grown and as we’ve learned how to do things better. When members got together early this summer for our small group discussions, conversations often dug into assessing what really is going on in our community and how we can be sure we’re addressing needs in the most effective way possible.

IWCF is, of course, about educated philanthropy, so it makes sense to be sure we’re looking at root causes, not just relying on our own personal feelings. To meet that goal, we’re embarking on a number of efforts. We’re modifying the semi-monthly electronic notes you receive to provide focused information you need to take immediate action and enable you to click on links to dive deeper into certain subjects. You’ll also see more articles in our Newsletters discussing ways to identify community needs and describing current ideas on how to address them.

The first of these is in this issue: a synopsis of the latest United Way Community Needs Assessment by Nora Carpenter, president and CEO of United Way of Treasure Valley. Finally, we’ll be looking at ways to communicate more effectively with our members. Watch for a short survey in December; your responses will help us do a better job of reaching you when and how you wish.

We’re looking forward to a year of growth and expansion, both of IWCF and of our knowledge about community issues and how we as a foundation can constructively engage with them. If you have ideas or comments, please call Dana at (208) 724-5333. We’re always seeking ways to improve.

In gratitude,
Your IWCF Board

Thank you!

Terry Anderson	Treacy Liebich
Susan Chaloupka	Tena Lokken
Laurie Corrick	Linnea Lovlien
Susan Dunlap	Susan May
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Welcome New Members

Since June 2014

Regina Aiyar	Cec Lojek
Liza Atwood	Kimberly Maloney
Pam Bernard	Stacy Ostler
Marsha Blackman	Judy Richardson
Keely Duke	Lisa Rowles
Amy Duque	Cathy Strange
Anne Glass	Kerry Wirkus

CORRECTION from our June 2014 Newsletter: we wrongly attributed the article *Ecology of the Foothills* to Vicki Kreimeyer. The author of the article was Jillian Huang. We apologize for this oversight.

Education Committee: Granting Process

Jillian Huang, Board Member-at-Large

The IWCF Education Committee 2014-15 program series started off with a bang! More than 30 people attended a presentation on Sept. 10 by Ann Sandven and Anne Hay at the Esther Simplot Performing Arts Center covering the basics of grant writing and the specifics of applying for an IWCF grant.

Sandven began by reminding the audience that grants are not about you, but about the grantor. She cautioned writers to read grant applications carefully to see if their project qualifies, think about the community needs it might address and whether another group already addresses them, and be clear about whether the project is a tested model or a new concept.

Goals are big, fuzzy dreams and objectives are the “who, what, where, when, and how” of the project, she said. Writers should specify all details of the project, such as who will be doing it and when it will happen. Information about the applying organization should include staff qualifications and experience, and specify whether a group is collaborating with others to get the job done. Sandven stressed that the proposed budget must line up with the project exactly, and that the final application must follow the page limit and be strictly edited.

Hay covered the five interest areas in which IWCF funds grants (Cultural Arts, Environment, Health, Education and Financial Stability). A project must meet at least one of these requirements: It is an innovative approach to an old problem, a new program, or addresses a critical community need. The process begins with a LOI (Letter of Intent), which should include a dynamic one-sentence description of the project designed to make a brilliant first impression on the grants committee.

A number of LOIs in each interest area are asked to make a full proposal. After reviewing them, the IWCF interest group committees select several for site visits. Finally, 10 outstanding projects (two in each interest area) are presented to the full membership for a vote.

This year, one project in each interest area will be funded at \$20,000-\$30,000 with the option of taking payment in up to three annual installments. (Deadlines are on the IWCF website.)

Many thanks to Sandven and Hay for their presentation, and to Vicki Kreimeyer and the Education and Arrangements committees for their organization efforts for this event!

Decade Members

by Susan Smith

The IWCF Board recently voted to honor members who have had an IWCF affiliation of 10 years or more as DECADE MEMBERS. We are very proud!

Mary Abercrombie	Marcia Liebich
Mary Adcox	Yvonne Lierz
Desh Anderson	Kim Lynch
Terry Anderson	Lee McKeown
Eileen Barber	Selena Morgan
Carolyn Beaver	Diane Myklegard
Barbara Bender	Esther Oppenheimer
Janet Benoit	Annette Park
Laura MacGregor Bettis	Susie Parrish
Vicky Coelho	Suzi Pearson*
Viki Dater	Kathy Pidjeon
Gena Delucchi	Marci Price-Miller
Marilyn Dorman	Elizabeth Pursley
Shannon Erstad	Georgiann Raimondi
Patricia Forbes	Vera Rasmussen
Theresa Fox	Carol Reagan
Barbara Frizzell	Alicia Ritter
Linda Gossett	Amy Rustad
A. Kay Hardy	Ann Sandven
Ali Hayden	Deanna Schmidt
Margaret Henbest	Marian Shaw
Iris Hendrickson	Kristin Sinclair
Alice Hennessey	Susan Smith
Margaret Hepworth	Bonnie Thorpe
Mary Jane Hill	Dee Warner
Deb Holleran	Nancy Werdel
Alexa Howell*	Donna Wetherley
Kay Hummel	Jacquelyn Wilson
Heather Jauregui	Gini Woolley
Debbie Johnson	Driek Zirinsky
Kim Liebich	
Treacy Liebich	*deceased



Decade Members (photo Cale Smith)

Workshop Report: Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

by Jillian Huang, Board Member-at-Large



Kelly Miller considers herself a “keeper of stories,” some of which she shared with us in her presentation, “Ending Violence Against Women and Girls.” Deeply personal, they illustrate

the effect that unequal power and control routinely have on women’s ability to survive. Miller’s stories show that violence is complicated, and sometimes the very systems designed to help women end up hurting them. Women become stuck in cycles of violence, unable to find other spouses/partners or other opportunities to earn money. Such women often receive unwarranted prison sentences, and the prison system isn’t known for serving women well.

Violent crimes against women, such as rape and sex trafficking, don’t happen only in other countries—they happen right here in the U.S. Miller pointed out that rape isn’t directed only at women, citing military and college rape as threats against both genders. Rape is not just a criminal justice problem, it’s a societal problem. Causes include unhealthy models of masculine behavior, mass incarceration due to the War on Drugs, and racial bias in dealing with individuals and families. Violence in U.S. culture can also be seen in institutions such as the National Football League. U.S. immigration policy and fear of deportation allow women to be abused and be unable to report it. Lastly, this violence has a significant impact on kids, our most vulnerable demographic.

Despite such dismal news, Miller is still hopeful, believing change is already in progress and we need to identify a path forward to solve the problem. She asked how do we raise boys to change attitudes toward girls going forward? How will our culture define masculinity and femininity in the future? Can we focus on helping children in violent situations?

Miller advocated for ample youth programs that teach writing and other ways for kids to express themselves and to practice having healthy relationships. Violence is preventable and this message is not partisan, but human. “What can you do? Miller asked, reminding us to talk to someone about gender violence, donate to a reputable cause, and get involved any way we can. We have the power to make a difference.

United Way Needs Assessment Synopsis

by Nora Carpenter, President/CEO, United Way of
Treasure Valley

Every three years, United Way of Treasure Valley conducts a comprehensive assessment of conditions, needs, barriers and opportunities for residents of the Treasure Valley. One of its most powerful sources of information comes directly from low-income individuals here. The 2014 Community Needs Assessment has just been released, and three overarching themes emerged in it that were not seen in the 2011 data.

1. A dramatic rise in the number of children living in poverty. Overall household income made modest improvements in the past couple of years, but the number of children living below the poverty line jumped significantly. How can this be? A deeper analysis showed

that the improvement in median household income is due to an increase in retirees moving into the area, not from improvement in existing household earning capability. This jump is of great concern, because children living in poverty tend to show lower educational success and have significantly greater health issues.

2. Transportation is a barrier to life success. Lack of transportation was consistently listed as the chief obstacle to families’ ability to find affordable housing, participate in educational opportunities and gain higher-earning jobs. Effects of this are clear: If you can’t get there, you can’t take advantage of opportunities, no matter how great they may be.

3. “I earn too much, but not enough.” We heard this over and over, particularly from single mothers. The threshold to receive day-care assistance, food and housing supports, or other assistance is set to help those at the lowest end of the earnings scale. Families who work, but do not earn

Continued on next page

Workshop Report: How Microfinance Empowers the Poor

by Erin Guerricabeitia, Member

Mark Russell, CEO and co-founder of Elevate (ElevatePub.com), has consulted for a diverse set of organizations, traveling to more than 70 countries. His primary focus over the past 15 years has been in areas of poverty, empowering micro-entrepreneurs through microfinance and other economic development initiatives. Russell said microfinance is best described as “Banking for the poor, empowering the world’s poor with much needed capital to unleash their innate talent to create new opportunities for themselves and their kids.”

In Mark’s travels and work, he has experienced first-hand the grim realities of poverty throughout the world. He has been able to affect communities and establish successful microfinance programs in developing countries while empowering individuals to come together to support each individual and the collective group. Microloans through organizations like KIVA.org let donors (or



investors) provide a small amount of funding (usually \$100-\$1,000) to groups within communities. This money usually funds a small project that will help elevate an individual’s ability to become more financially secure in the future.

While there are many keys to the success of microfinance models, Mark specifically draws attention to a few fundamental factors.

Historically, women make up 83 percent to 93 percent of loan recipients and repay loans about 98 percent of the time. Women use loans to increase their current income level, then reinvest the money in their families by sending their children to school or providing other necessary support. Men tend to repay loans at a lower level and fail to reinvest increased income into their families. Instead, they use the additional income for personal gain.

Websites such as KIVA.org provide an easy and effective way for individuals to become involved in microfinance, he said, with the safety of working with a large organization that employs methods proven over time for loan repayment and effective programming.

Microfinance information is available at KIVA.org, grameenfoundation.org, or mftransparency.org, a microfinance website that promotes transparent pricing in the microfinance industry.



United Way Needs Assessment continued from page 4

enough to thrive, may earn too much to qualify for assistance (such as for child care) that would allow them to work or attend school. These families do not earn enough to afford child care. They are stuck in a cycle of poverty.

United Way is working to change the odds of success for local children and families by removing barriers to service, encouraging greater coordination among existing resources and focusing investment in high-performing service providers.

The full 2014 United Way Community Assessment is available at www.unitedwaytv.org.

Panel: Barriers and Opportunities continued from page 6

job is to find high school teachers and school administrators to teach college-level courses. Even in small cities like Parma, Melba, Weiser and Emmett, teachers have earned master’s degrees to do so. Since BSU charges \$264 for a three-credit course, taking college level courses in high school is a money-saver. Students completing them are likely to go on to college.

Funding from the Idaho Legislature has made a big difference. High school juniors can receive up to \$200 for taking college-level courses, and seniors can get more. Juarez-Coca has seen a 36-percent increase in college attendance directly attributed to this funding and would like more to be available.

Panel: Barriers and Opportunities in Education

by Jo Anne Minnick, Board Member-at-Large

More than 140 attendees heard about obstacles and possibilities related to education in Idaho at the first event of the 2014 Fall Symposium. Idaho Public Television producer/writer Marcia Franklin moderated the panel presentation.

Christina Bruce-Binnion, Agency for New Americans program director, spoke about refugee women and girls and their challenges. Before coming to the U.S., many were victims of rape or gender-based violence. Many witnessed horrific acts, violent attacks or murder. Some lost family members. Most suffer from trauma in some form. Only .05 percent of refugees make it to the U.S., and once here, these new Americans face new challenges: language, cultural differences, separation from their loved ones and poverty (families come with nothing).

They do, however, have opportunities. School is free (refugees highly value education). Mentors help them integrate into the community (more mentors are needed). New programs pair the physical with the emotional (soccer camps and yoga classes have been extremely successful for refugees). Agencies and groups help refugees with language acquisition, job training and job searches. Much is being done for refugees; much more could be done.

Dr. Don Coberly, Boise School District superintendent, spoke about challenges and opportunities in his district, sharing data showing the strong relationship between poverty and poor reading readiness in kindergarten. Helping parents understand how important it is to read to children at a young age and to expose them to stories and the written word is challenging. Poverty is also a huge factor in determining whether students go on to college.

Positives for students include the AVID Program and the Boise Education Foundation. AVID exposes students to the possibilities of and paths to a college education. The Boise Education Foundation makes money available for some high school students to attend college.

Fabiola Juarez-Coca, BSU Concurrent Enrollment director, makes the university experience and academic credit available to Idaho high school students. The Bridge Program and mentorship have been very successful. Concurrent enrollment requires high schools and universities to work together, so her

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Symposium panelists (photo Diane Ronayne)

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Vera Rasmussen
Jan Riener
Diane Ronayne
Marilyn Shuler
Kristin Hoff Sinclair
Whitewater Oral Surgery Group (Drs. Kempers & Nelson)
Janelle Wise
Women's and Children's Alliance

Membership Activities

by Susan Smith, Membership Chair

The IWCF Membership Committee has had a full fall season and shared many gratifying moments with IWCF members and prospective members.

13th Membership Celebration and Recognition Event: On September 12 (our actual birthdate) which we celebrate annually, we honored One, Three, Six and Decade Members.

Our First Shakespeare Night: September 19 found us at an Idaho Shakespeare Festival performance, including a backstage tour led by ISF Executive Director Mark Hofflund.

Fall Membership Recruitment: On September 25, we partied at the home of Linda Perez, hosted by Linda, Laurie Corrick and Linnea Lovlien.

Biennial Fall Symposium: October 15 saw 400+ members and guests at the BSU Student Union, learning and being inspired together.

We have gained 10 new members since September, which is absolutely spectacular, and we hope the Fall Symposium will yield several more.

Our members are our best ambassadors and recruiters! If you know prospective members, please tell us. We are always

happy to meet and talk about the positive benefits of IWCF membership. Building our membership is, of course, essential to our mission of involving more women in collective and informed giving.

Renewals are just as critical to our goal of strengthening our community through educated philanthropy and the philanthropic leadership of women. When you receive your renewal letter in November, please do not hesitate to renew. IWCF allows you to fund broadly and effectively and join forces with similarly-motivated women. Although you may



Director Mark Hofflund gives backstage tour (photo Susan Dunlap)

not be able to attend many events, please know that your membership is immensely valued and needed as IWCF strives to support the vital and worthy efforts of our nonprofit community and engage women as effective philanthropists.

Women's Collective Giving Network

by Susan Smith, WCGN Board Member

From Florida to California, 39 organizations are members of the Collective Giving grantmakers network. Its primary goal is to advance the model of women's collective and educated giving. Every member of the network has an equal membership contribution, a pooled-fund grants process, and a democratic system to select beneficiaries. WCGN is a virtual organization, but with many feet on the ground. The 39 organizations, representing 7,500 members, also convene, as we did in St. Louis in April 2014. The next WCGN conference is in Charlotte, N.C., in fall 2015. (Some of you may not be aware that IWCF hosted the first convening, in 2009.)

WCGN was granted tax-exempt status in November 2013,

and at that time began to ask member organizations to contribute \$200 annually to improve the monthly educational calls, help with the annual board meeting, and support the conference. Since becoming a tax-exempt entity, WCGN has not only been supported by the member organizations, it recently received \$50,000 from Merrill Lynch to support the network and the 2015 conference.

In September, WCGN launched a webinar series (replacing the conference call format). I invite you to visit www.wcgn-network.org to learn more about the network and perhaps register for an archived presentation.

It is also gratifying to note that Idaho has three network members: IWCF, the Wood River Women's Charitable Foundation, and Women's Gift Alliance(Coeur D'Alene).

If you have any questions and or suggestions, please let me know.



**Idaho
Women's
Charitable
Foundation**

P.O. Box 6164
Boise, Idaho 83707

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Join our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/IdahoWomensCharitableFoundation

Save the Dates!

Holiday Social

*Thursday, December 11, 2014
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Alexander & Nicole Toeldte
home, 1901 Claremont, Boise*

Planned Giving Seminar

*Tuesday, January 13, 2015
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., ESPAA*

Winter Membership Recruitment

*Thursday, January 29, 2015
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Location TBD*

IWCF Office Will be Closed: Thanksgiving

(November 24 - 28, 2014)

Christmas

*(December 22, 2014 - January 2, 2015)
Phone messages will be checked every few days.*

*NOTE: Symposium photos courtesy of Erica Sparlin
Dryden-Bandwagon Photography*

***Please Let Us Know** - Any time you have a comment or question, feel free to contact us.
Office@IdahoWomensCharitableFoundation.org or (208) 343-4923

www.IdahoWomensCharitableFoundation.org