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Photo Credit: Heidi Rogers, Coeur d'Alene – some of the founding members of the Greater Coeur d'Alene Community Foundation

Photo Credit: Vanessa Grieve, Twin Falls – Women's Giving Connection grant awards event, June 2024

Collective Giving Creates Greater, Local Impact

In a world where the needs of local communities often outweigh available resources, innovative philanthropic models like giving circles and affiliate foundations are proving to be transformative. These models allow individuals to pool their resources, focus on local initiatives, and keep philanthropic dollars within their communities. By partnering with the Idaho Community Foundation (ICF), giving circles and affiliate foundations can focus on what they do best – giving – while ICF handles the administrative tasks.

The Greater Coeur d'Alene Community Foundation is a shining example of how collective philanthropy can enhance the quality of life in a community. Established in 2024 by a group of dedicated North Idaho citizens, this foundation is committed to fostering charitable giving and supporting local nonprofits. “This local control approach to giving and grantmaking will be hugely beneficial to both donors and community organizations and represents a model for other Idaho communities to replicate” said ICF President & CEO, Steve Burns.

Founding member of the Greater Coeur d'Alene Community Foundation, Heidi Rogers, said “Community foundations are great because they are flexible enough to support everyone’s philanthropic goals no matter what their focus is – arts, recreation, housing, education and more can all be supported through a community foundation,” she said. “Ours will offer all of those options, but will be focused in Coeur d'Alene.” And their foundation fundraising is off to a very strong start with nearly \$500,000 pledged at a recent event in May.

Similarly, in South Central Idaho, the Women's Giving Connection, established in 2021, has made significant strides. This inclusive and diverse group of women focuses on providing pooled giving opportunities and building a collective giving endowment. Recently, they granted \$35,000 to local nonprofits – their largest granting cycle to date. "Through the Women's Giving Connection, we not only support local initiatives but also strengthen our bonds within the community," shares founding member, Linda Watkins.

While relatively new to the ICF family of collective giving organizations, the Greater Coeur d'Alene Community Foundation and Women's Giving Connection join an impressive legacy of collective giving and affiliate foundations at The Idaho Community Foundation. Established in 2012, the Grangeville Community Foundation has successfully managed unrestricted and restricted contributions to support special community projects, awarding over close to \$200,000 in local grants since 2012. Similarly, the Lemhi Valley Community Foundation, also founded in 2012, remains dedicated to keeping contributions within their community to support local initiatives like funds awarded in recent years to support the Salmon Arts Council, WhiteWater Therapeutic Recreational Riding Association and Salmon Search and Rescue among others.

These examples highlight the profound impact of giving circles and affiliate foundations. By harnessing the power of community and working with The Idaho Community Foundation, these groups can make a lasting difference. As more Idahoans join these efforts, the impact will only continue to grow, fostering a brighter future for Idaho.

For more information about establishing an affiliate foundation or giving circle in Idaho, please contact The Idaho Community Foundation at 208-342-3535 or info@idahocf.org.

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For 35 years, The Idaho Community Foundation has helped Idahoans make their communities even better through philanthropy. If you want to support the nonprofits, schools, recreational opportunities and more that make your community special, please contact us at info@idahocf.org or visit: www.idahocf.org.