At the Idaho Community Foundation, we believe philanthropy is a force that unites us all for the common good. During challenging times, we serve as a bridge between people and communities.

We strive to promote and support strong communities, where all residents have the opportunity to thrive. Our core values include learning from, listening to and valuing people and perspectives. These are essential to our mission to enrich the quality of life for ALL Idahoans.

As we look back on 2020, we are focusing on what we learned as an organization and feeling grateful about the many bright spots we saw during such a challenging year.

When COVID-19 emerged, Idahoans responded with incredible generosity, unguarded collaboration and community responsiveness. And it didn’t just happen in the early days of the crisis.

By the end of the year, nearly $1.9 million had been sent to community organizations throughout Idaho helping those in need. Every dollar of that came from an individual, family, corporation or foundation that believed in the power of collective giving.

Our Regional Councils, Board and Staff are using lessons from our COVID grantmaking to inform our work moving forward. This includes increased engagement with local communities, raising the voices of all people and trusting local organizations to know best how to address local needs.

To all of you who are part of our network of collective philanthropy—we thank you. Your commitment to ICF, to your local communities and to your belief in philanthropy as a unifying force is an inspiration.

In addition to this Impact Report, we created a 3-minute summary of what we were able to accomplish because of your efforts and generosity. It’s our way of thanking you and we hope you’ll watch it: www.idahocf.org/goodbye2020.

Thank you for your support of Idaho’s communities,

Steve Carr
Board Chair
Karen Bilowith
President & CEO
New Funds in 2020

Carol Ann Probst Endowment Fund
Established by NAMI Coeur d'Alene to support schizophrenia research and provide assistance for individuals with schizophrenia.

Hamilton Family Fund
Created by Tim and Sue Hamilton of Ketchum to support local charities and causes close to their hearts.

Cindy and Steve Carr Family Fund
Created by Cindy and Steve Carr of Idaho Falls to support local charities and causes.

Idaho Forest Group Community Fund
Created by the employees of Idaho Forest Group to offer support to those in communities most impacted by the spread of COVID-19.

DeLuca Family Fund
Created by Dr. Francis and Paula DeLuca to support charities and causes close to their hearts.

Inclusive Idaho Fund
Created by the Inclusive Idaho leadership team to initiate fundraising towards its goal of promoting its belief that inclusion is the solution to the societal barriers of belonging and advancement for BIPOC Idahoans, women, those who are differently abled, refugees and LGBTQIA+ individuals.

First Judicial District CASA Program Fund
Created to further the mission of the First Judicial District CASA Program, Inc. in north Idaho.

Internet for Students Emergency Fund
Created by Idaho Business for Education to provide internet to students in Idaho who do not have access and address Idaho’s digital divide.

George, Brack and Sam Hale Brothers Fund for Hunger and Blindness
Created through the estate of Brack Hale of Ketchum to support the fight against hunger in Idaho and blindness. Distributions from the fund will benefit the Blaine County Hunger Coalition, the Idaho Foodbank and Moran Eye Center at the University of Utah.

James Compton Forever Idaho Fund
Created by the estate of James Compton of Boise to support nonprofits in the Treasure Valley.
Joybelle Scott College Scholarship Fund
Created by Claire and Dow Scott to celebrate the life of Joybelle Scott. A university education transformed Joybelle’s life, enriching the lives of her four children and nine grandchildren. It is their sincere hope that the fund inspires and transforms the lives of young people from Orofino, enriching their lives and the lives of people around them.

Marcia and Jerry Selig Fund
A Forever Idaho Fund created from the proceeds of a charitable gift annuity from Marcia and Jerome “Jerry” Selig.

McCall-Donnelly Education Foundation Fund
Created by the McCall-Donnelly Education Foundation to support its work as an advocate of educational excellence in the community, building a better future for the children of its district and educating students for life.

McCown Family Fund
Created by the McCown family of Boise to support a variety of charitable organizations and causes.

Jesse Tree of Idaho Fund
Created by the Jesse Tree of Idaho to support its mission of providing a hand up to people experiencing a financial crisis, empowering them to remain in their homes.

Michael Bonar Memorial Fund
Created by Scott and Amy Bonar of Meridian to remember and honor their son, Michael Bonar, and to support the organizations close to their hearts.

Micron COVID Relief Fund
Created by Micron Technology Foundation, Inc. to provide COVID-19 Relief grants in Idaho.

Opera Idaho Endowment Fund
Created by Opera Idaho, Inc., to support its mission to fund and produce opera of the highest professional standard, in Boise and throughout the State of Idaho, and to foster wider appreciation and enjoyment of opera and related art forms in young people and adults of all social and economic backgrounds, through diverse educational and outreach programs.

Pacific Northwest Resilient Landscapes Initiative
This fund will support ICF’s partnership in the Pacific Northwest Resilient Landscape Initiative.

Stuart and Frances Lange Fund
Created by Stuart and Frances Lange of Swan Valley to support local charities and causes close to their hearts.
Legacy Society

Members of the ICF Legacy Society are generous donors who will continue to support Idaho communities after they’ve passed. We sincerely thank them for their trust in ICF to serve as steward of their charitable vision.

New Legacy Society members in 2020

Anonymous (47)
Arthur D. Adams*, Rathdrum
Dorothy Adler*, Kootenai
Kay Alsbaugh, Boise
Don and Trudy Anderson, Boise
Don and Judy Atkinson, Hailey
Robert A. (Spike)* and Judith D. Baker, Emmett
Mike and Kathy Beard, Sandpoint
Bill Berg, Sagle
H. LaRue* and Bernice Bevington*, Meridian

Lucile Stevens Bickett*, Gooding
Memory L. Blodgett, Meridian
Barbara A. Botsch, Sandpoint
Ernest and Carla Bratley,
Sandpoint
Mary D. Butterfield*, Sun Valley
Larry* and Pamela Cardinale,
Garden City
Richard and Heather Carosone,
Idaho Falls
Barbara and JP Carver, Sandpoint
Pete* and Freda Cenarrusa, Boise
Annie Chalfant, Boise

John S. Chapman*, Boise
Donald W.* and Joann C. Cissel,
Idaho Falls
Trent L. and Rebecca L. Clark,
Soda Springs
Tim and Kate Coiner, Twin Falls
Lee and Lori Cullen, Hayden Lake
Leroy and Barbara Custer, Boise
Dennis Dahl, Eagle
Patricia Dailey, Gooding
Robert* and Barbara Dargatz*,
Hailey
James M. David and R. Kay
Snyder*, Ammon

All Legacy Society members, living and deceased

Randy and Candi Allphin (Boise)
Shirley and Larry Chetwood (Garden City)
Lisa and Kevin King (Idaho Falls)
Cheryl and Mack Lopez (Nampa)
Brenda and Terry Sanford (Heyburn)

Charles Sundby and Gloria Beattie (Eagle)
Jim and Melissa Thomssen (Nampa)

Carl Bontrager and Kathy Lynn (Hailey)
Anonymous (2)
Thelma Dean, Bonners Ferry
Jack and Janice DeBaun, Sandpoint
Karen Ferguson, Boise
John B.* and Delores L. Fery, Boise
Richard C.* and Shirley I. Fields, Boise
Donald* and Gretchen Fraser*, Sun Valley
Bill and Gay Fruehling, Ketchum
Gregory Garlick and Marcia Wing, Boise
Marilyn J. George, Sandpoint
Lesley Goffinet*, Sagle
Linda Grable-Curtis, Meridian
Ron Graves and Diane Plastino Graves, Boise
Steve and Donna Guerber, Eagle
William B. (Brack) Hale*, Ketchum
Tim Hamilton, Ketchum
Bob and Anne Hay, Boise
Guy H. Hearon, Sandpoint
Gretchen Albrecht Hellar*, Sandpoint
Alice E. Hennessey, Boise
Leslee and Bob Hoover, Buckeye, AZ
Pamela K. Howard, Lewiston
Ron and Mary Hughes, Boise
Richard* and Donna Hutter, Sandpoint
Nick* and Sara Ifft*, Pocatello
Tom and Ann Jacobs, Eagle
Kurt* and Genola Kandler*, Ashton
Dawn and Ken Kees, Lewiston
Denise and Kent Keller, Ponderay
Christina Kowrach, O.D., Kendrick
Donald and Nancy Bowen Longwith, Idaho Falls
Clark and Gracie Lusk, Hayden
Todd L. Maddock, Spokane
Eugene H. Magley*, Idaho Falls
Joe* and Patty Marshall, Meridian
Bev Martin, Ola
Mike and Jan McBride, Twin Falls
John and Mary* McGown, Boise
Pat and Lisa McMurray, Boise
Rhonda Millick, Boise
Bill and Lisa Mirams, Ketchum
Thomas Morgan, Boise
Mark and Holly Motes, Boise
Tricia L. Nance, Boise
Mona Noble, Mountain Home
Charlotte S. Oslund*, Boise
Dick* and Susan Parrish, Boise
Carolyn Patrick, Emmett
Alan Pennay, Sun Valley
Thomas D. and Vickie A. Pfeifer, Cocolalla
Doug Porter, Idaho Falls
Robert and Suzanne Rainville, Boise
Madelyn D. Rawlinson, Seattle, WA
Eric Remais and Joyce Gordon, Hailey
Harlan* and Barbara Renner, Dalton Gardens
Steve and Denise Roberge, Dalton Gardens
Harold E. Rumsey, Boise
Thomas and Susan Saldin, Boise
Ron J. Sali, Eagle
Ann McCutchan Sandven, Boise
Marcia C.* and Jerry Selig*, Phoenix, AZ
Judith and James Seydel, Idaho Falls
Jay and Sue Shelledy, Sagle
Jim and Glena Sherman, Juliaetta
Jeanelle Shields, Sandpoint
Walt and Kristin Sinclair, McCall
Dorothy Snowball, Boise
Richard Sorensen, McMinnville, OR
Ray and Linda Stark, Boise
Dottie Stimpson*, Seattle, WA
Tricia E. Swartling, Ketchum
Ben and Lauren Tassos, Boise
Marty Telford and Carol Eklund, Eagle
Tom and Sue Thilo, Hayden Lake
Jim and Karin Thompson, Medford, OR
Phyllis Harris Townsend, Scottsdale, AZ
Allyson and Scott Unzen, Sagle
Jeanne Van Meeteren, Orofino
Bobbette F. Viker, Boise
Jan and Keith Walker, St. Anthony
Thomas and Margaret Williams, Redding, CA
Jack and Mary Pat Winderl, Eagle
Raymond and Janice Wolfe, Caldwell
Bill and Gini Woolley, Boise
Price Worrell, Pocatello
Clem Yonker and Lori Getts, Sandpoint
Helen K. Yuditsky, Coeur d’Alene

*Deceased

We sincerely apologize if there are errors or omissions in this list and encourage you to contact Jennifer Kronberg at jennifer@idahocf.org to correct them for future publications.
Community Leadership

As COVID-19 spread throughout the country, leaders at the Idaho Community Foundation, United Way of Treasure Valley and Idaho Nonprofit Center knew it was only a matter of time—and not much time—before the epidemic would reach Idaho.

We leaned heavily on the relationships we had with foundations, corporations, individuals and volunteers to help us lead Idaho’s philanthropic response to the pandemic. Not just monetarily, but with their depth of community knowledge, their creative problem solving and many, many hours of their time. And they responded more generously than we could have imagined.

“Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson
Working together to benefit Idahoans: Our Lead Funding Partners

Karen Bilowith, ICF’s President and CEO; Nora Carpenter, President and CEO of United Way of Treasure Valley; and Amy Little, then President and CEO of the Idaho Nonprofit Center, met in early March 2020 to discuss how philanthropy could respond to the COVID-19 crisis. The COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund for Idaho was established within days of their first conversation.

“We all have a strong, statewide network and connections to community organizations,” said Karen. “It was clear to all of us that partnering on the COVID-19 Fund would benefit the entire state.”

Word quickly spread through the philanthropic community about the COVID Fund and the partnership that would administer it. Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health, Micron Foundation and its Boise employees, the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust and Wells Fargo emerged as the COVID Fund’s Lead Funding Partners, making significant early gifts to kickstart grantmaking.

“We know that ICF has statewide reach and infrastructure already in place, as well as the ability to operate efficiently and with the highest standards.”

Kami Faylor
Director of Community Impact and Operations for Micron Foundation

We wanted to make a statewide impact and encourage other organizations to join with their support to increase everyone’s impact and address the needs associated with COVID-19.

Kendra Witt-Doyle
Executive Director of the Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health

Thank you to the Statewide Steering Committee, who helped guide the grants from the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund for Idaho:

Emma Atchley, Idaho State Board of Education and ICF Board
Renee Bade, Serve Idaho and Idaho Department of Labor
Karen Bilowith, Idaho Community Foundation
Nora Carpenter, United Way of Treasure Valley (UWTV)
Bart Hadder, M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust
Kami Faylor, Micron Foundation
Nicole Irwin, American Red Cross
Molly Lenty Dickson, Wells Fargo
Amy Little, Idaho Nonprofit Center
Park Price, ICF Investment Subcommittee
Ericka Rupp, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and UWTV Board
Wyatt Schroeder, Housing and Homelessness Expert and UWTV Board
Karen Vauk, The Idaho Foodbank
Deanna Ward, Home Partnership Foundation
Kendra Witt-Doyle, Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health
Lead Funding Donors

Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health
Micron Foundation and Boise employees
M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust
Wells Fargo

Thank you to the following corporate and foundation donors and partners:

AT&T
Avista Corp
Boise Cascade
Cambia Health Foundation
Columbia Bank
D.L. Evans Bank
Hewlett-Packard and employees
Idaho Nonprofit Center
Innovia Foundation
JPMorgan Chase
Key Bank
Magic Valley Vet Association
Marvell Semiconductor
Microsoft and employees
Mountain West Bank
National Alcoholic Beverage Control Association
Northwest Area Foundation
Paylocity Corporation
Rotary Club of Boise, Inc.
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Simpplot
The Amerisource Bergen Foundation
The Covia Foundation
TitleOne Corporation
T-Mobile and employees
Twin County United Way (Lewiston)
United Way of Idaho Falls and Bonneville County
United Way of Moscow/Latah County
United Way of North Idaho
United Way of South Central Idaho
United Way of Southeastern Idaho
United Way of Treasure Valley
U.S. Bank Foundation
Whole Foods

We sincerely thank all of the COVID-19 Rapid Response Grant Panelists for their dedication:

**East**
Kevin Bailey
Misty Benjamin
Catherine Smith
Tammy Stringham
Chris Wiersema
Stephen Weeg

**North**
Robin Clark
Jenny Ford
Brinnon Garrett
Mandel
Kerri Martin
Lori McCann
Wanda Quinn

**South Central**
Jenny Emery-Davidson
Carla Flores
Sally Gillespie
Bill Maikranz
Louisa Moats
Linda Watkins

**Southwest**
Rialin Flores
Luis Islas
Andrew Mentzer
Wyatt Schroeder
Lauren Tassos
Laurel York-Odell

Community Leadership
Misty Benjamin & the Rapid Response Panels

Volunteer Leadership

The COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund for Idaho made its first grants in April, less than a month after the virus was detected here.

That quick action was due in part to the dedication of 24 people from around the state who served on one of four regional COVID-19 Rapid Response Grant Panels, meeting every week to discuss dozens of grant applications and bringing their insights about the community organizations requesting help. All while balancing the needs of their own families, employers and others.

Misty Benjamin was one of the Rapid Response panelists in eastern Idaho.

She said she was struck by the magnitude of the pandemic’s effect on people and impressed by the way the nonprofit community came together to help. “For many people across Idaho it was the first time they found themselves in difficult circumstances,” Misty said.

When the Rapid Response Grant Panels ended, Misty and several other panelists agreed to join the ICF Regional Councils.

“Watching the nonprofit community come together quickly from across the state to identify the greatest needs was impressive.

Misty Benjamin
Idaho National Laboratory’s Community Engagement program

Regional Councils

Our Regional Councils are volunteer leaders with in-depth knowledge of their region, experience working with community organizations and a commitment to review and recommend grant applications for ICF’s Forever Idaho regional grants and other funding programs.

East
Catherine Smith, Chair
Misty Benjamin
Bob Foster
Kevin King
Pamela Lake
Hailey Lusk
David Marotz
Laura Pickard
Kathy Ray
Tammy Stringham
Mary Vagner

North
Heidi Rogers, Chair
Peg Carver
Robin Clark
Linda Davidson
Sharon Harris
Mary Jahn
Brinnon Garrett
Mandell
Lori McCann
Ray Mosman

South Central
Brenda Sanford, Chair
Armand Eckert
Ranie Evans
Carla Flores
Tammy Jones
Gary Klett
Julia Oxarango-Ingram
Trish Searle
Tricia Swartling
Jennifer Traughber
Linda Watkins

Southwest
Sandy Fery, Chair
Trudy Anderson
Sheila Hennessey
Tom Hoppell
Luis Islas
Tracey Kindall
Andrew Mentzer
Lynn Murdoch
Frances Nagashima
David Shaw
LeAnn Simmons
Lauren Tassos
Kathryn Zimmerman
D.L. Evans Bank celebrated its 116th Anniversary in 2020 by donating $116,000 to community organizations in southern Idaho and northern Utah, including the Idaho Community Foundation.

Due to the pandemic, the bank wasn’t able to hold its annual customer appreciation events. Instead, it increased support to local nonprofits, including the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund for Idaho. D.L. Evans Bank has a long history of supporting the communities it serves by encouraging employees to volunteer and by financially supporting schools and nonprofits.

“We are a community bank and want to thank our customers and the communities we serve by making an investment to help people in need. The Idaho Community Foundation is the perfect partner for that.”

John V. Evans, Jr.
President and CEO, D.L. Evans Bank

D.L. Evans representatives presented ICF President and CEO Karen Bilowith with a $40,000 check for the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund for Idaho.
Philanthropic leadership has been a central part of Boise Cascade’s heritage since it was founded nearly 65 years ago. Former CEO John Fery spearheaded the creation of the Idaho Community Foundation and Alice Hennessey, a senior vice president at Boise Cascade, was on ICF’s Steering Committee. After she retired from Boise Cascade, Alice twice served as ICF’s president.

Boise Cascade’s legacy of charitable giving and volunteerism continues today, led by a committee of its associates from throughout the company and its 55 locations.

“Our headquarters team lives all over the Treasure Valley, and this collective ear-to-the-ground allows us to react quickly to urgent needs like food, clothing or toy drives,” said Lisa Tschampl, Corporate Communications Manager.

The company encourages its associates to be active volunteers in their communities in a wide variety of causes. When the pandemic struck, Boise Cascade quickly realized that families and individuals would be hurt.

They saw the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund for Idaho as a partner that could help them extend their charitable reach throughout the state.

“We saw the statewide philanthropic network that the Idaho Community Foundation was helping to lead and we wanted to participate, especially to reach Idahoans in the rural communities who were severely impacted by the pandemic.”

Erin Nuxoll
Boise Cascade & ICF Board Director
Idaho Forest Group and ICF

A Philanthropic Partnership

Idaho Forest Group has a long history of supporting local communities in north Idaho and western Montana, and they were quick to establish a $100,000 charitable giving fund at ICF when the pandemic hit.

“We wanted to make sure that our donations went to the areas in which we operate, which are also some of the most underserved areas in the region,” said Tom Schultz, Vice President of Resources & Government Affairs for Idaho Forest Group. “One of the highlights for our employees is knowing that the company they work for responds to the needs of their communities and gives back.”

“We chose ICF as our philanthropic partner in this effort because they were knowledgeable about the needs in communities and understood the impact we wanted to make.”

Tom Schultz  
Vice President of Resources & Government Affairs, Idaho Forest Group
From April to June, nearly $100,000 from the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund for Idaho was granted to help childcare centers and preschools meet their greatest needs. In December, an additional $100,000 was granted to United Ways throughout Idaho for their work in local communities to provide low-income working families with access to childcare and preschool.

In addition, ICF and the COVID Fund Steering Committee saw an opportunity for long-term impact by supporting the Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children’s initiatives to bring high-quality early childhood education to communities across Idaho.

Idaho AEYC’s vision is to have locally driven, family-friendly services to support the optimal growth and development of young children. A three-year federal Preschool Development Grant* could help them get there. A key component of the grant is community support, so the Steering Committee contributed $100,000 along with additional support from some ICF Donor Advised Fundholders.

*At the time this went to press, the Preschool Development Grant was under consideration by the Idaho Legislature.

By improving Idaho’s early education through locally-driven collaboration, we’ll improve early learning outcomes and options that best fit the needs of families.

Beth Oppenheimer
Executive Director of Idaho AEYC
We are still feeding nearly three times the number of people than we were prior to COVID-19, so these funds will certainly be put to good use.

Jeanne Liston
The Hunger Coalition
Community-Driven Philanthropy

In 2020, the immediacy of need and the quickly changing demands on community organizations led the Idaho Community Foundation and our partners to embrace community-driven philanthropy and demonstrate our values of equity and inclusion.

We believe that philanthropy is more successful, rewarding and effective if funders approach their grantee relationships from a place of trust, humility and transparency.

We are proud of the work of our grantees. *When you read these stories, you’ll know why.*

“The best way to find out if you can trust somebody is to trust them.”

Ernest Hemingway
Census Outreach in a Pandemic

In partnership with the Northwest Area Foundation and Cambia Health Foundation, ICF gave Census 2020 grants totaling $110,000 to 11 community organizations throughout Idaho to reach people considered “hard-to-count,” including those who live in rural areas, those with limited English proficiency, people experiencing homelessness, children under the age of 5 and more.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, every grantee successfully completed their outreach. ICF lifted restrictions on the grants to allow recipients to reach their target populations in a way they considered most effective.

Kate Udall in Jannus’ English Language Center said planned in-person events and home visits had to be modified to work in virtual and socially distanced settings.

Because of Jannus’ efforts, more than 1,000 people from hard-to-count communities received census information. Every family Jannus contacted through phone calls successfully completed the census.

“If we get it wrong in 2020, today’s preschoolers will lose needed resources for a decade—the majority of their childhood. Idaho kids and babies deserve to be counted in the census, and we are a voice for those children at risk of being left out and left behind.”

- Christine Tiddens
  Director of the Jannus program Idaho Voices for Children

Other ICF Census 2020 grantees:
- Bannock County Complete Count
- Catholic Charities
- Community Council of Idaho
- I Have a Dream Foundation
- Idaho Commission on Libraries
- Latah Complete Count
- Madison Complete Count
- Nez Perce Tribe
- Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
- Teton County
The effect of COVID-19 on three Idaho tribes

As with communities throughout Idaho, COVID-19 had an immediate effect on three of the state’s American Indian tribes—the Coeur d’Alene, Nez Perce and Shoshone-Bannock. Tribal leaders reported significant increases in requests for food and basic needs, health services, personal protective equipment and more.

With support from the Northwest Area Foundation and others, ICF was able to prioritize grants for Idaho’s tribal communities, communities of color, immigrants, refugees and people in rural areas. The three tribes each received $25,000 from the fund.

Anthony Broncheau, Grants Coordinator for the Nez Perce Tribe in north central Idaho, said the tribe saw increased requests for food and medical care, and he noted that the situation was especially dire among older people.

“Due to risk of contracting COVID-19 among elders—considered the Tribe’s most important bearers of culture and tradition—the daily Senior Meal Site was shuttered and many elders, as well as members of other households in poverty, are going hungry,” he said.

The Coeur d’Alene Tribe purchased beef and bison meat with its COVID-19 grant.

American Indian households are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 due to factors such as poverty, limited access to fresh foods, overcrowded households and cultural tradition based on communal gathering.

Anthony Broncheau
Grants Coordinator for the Nez Perce Tribe in north central Idaho
F.M., Anne G., & Beverly B. Bistline Foundation Fund

Supporting the arts during the pandemic

The F.M., Anne G., and Beverly B. Bistline Foundation Fund in ICF provides grants for arts-related community projects in southeast Idaho. Pre-COVID Bistline grants supported museum exhibits, music camps, theater equipment and more.

In 2020, Bruce Bistline and the other fund advisors—Jesse Robison and Alan Van Orden—lifted restrictions on their grants, allowing arts organizations to use funds to meet their needs.

Snake River High School in Blackfoot used its grant to produce The Addams Family, which theater teacher Jana McBride said was a singular bright spot in the year for many of her students. In addition to paying for royalties and music, the grant helped the show break even, since the virus prevented them from filling the theater.

“After months of quarantine, students were discouraged, depressed, missing their friends and needing this production,” said Jana. “When they came together, their joy was evident.”

COVID-19 has made it impossible, extremely difficult or unfeasible for many nonprofits, especially the art-based nonprofits the Bistline Foundation supports, to fulfill the community interests they were designed to address.

Bruce Bistline
F.M., Anne G., and Beverly B. Bistline Foundation Fund advisor
Bonner County Human Rights Task Force

Vital Community Partners

When the pandemic struck the north Idaho community of Sandpoint and surrounding Bonner County, the Bonner County Human Rights Task Force quickly realized this wasn’t going to be a typical year for making grants from their ICF charitable giving fund.

In 2020, the task force gave grants to community organizations helping those affected by COVID. Grantees had the flexibility to respond quickly to community needs and make judgements about what should be prioritized, said Brenda Hammond, President of the Bonner Human Rights Task Force.

In a normal year, the task force focuses its grantmaking on projects and activities committed to the ideal that everyone is equal regardless of race, color, gender, religion, sexual orientation or ability.

The Bonner Community Food Bank was one of the nonprofits that received a flexible grant from the task force.

“We saw an increased need for food, and also an emotional need in people who needed to know that we would continue to be here for them,” said Debbie Love, Executive Director of the Bonner Community Food Bank.

“The flexible support from the Bonner County Human Rights Task Force was a functional and emotional safety net for all of us.”

Bonner County nonprofits were nimble enough to respond to emergent needs and demonstrated themselves to be vital community partners, not just organizations that serve a select few.

Brenda Hammond
President of the Bonner Human Rights Task Force
Collective Giving

The power of collective giving is at the root of the Idaho Community Foundation. Our Forever Idaho grants are comprised of hundreds of gifts—some given more than 30 years ago—supporting the work of community organizations throughout Idaho.

2020 was an especially powerful year for collective giving. More than $2 million from foundations, corporations and hundreds of individuals was donated to the COVID-19 Response and Recovery for Idaho, where it was pooled and granted out to communities. We are stronger together.

“Individually, we are one drop. Together we are an ocean.”

Ryunosuke Satoro
Longtime Idaho resident Bobbi Hansberger felt increasingly overwhelmed as the pandemic surged in the fall, and she saw how much it was affecting the place she has called home since 1957.

“We were no longer the vibrant community that Boise has worked so hard to become,” she said. “I could see the fear and insecurity of so many families, and it was everywhere.”

She was donating to local organizations, but said she wasn’t sure if her individual gifts were making an impact. Bobbi learned about the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund for Idaho pooling donations and making large grants to trusted community organizations helping those most affected by the pandemic at the same time she received an unexpected financial windfall.

“The serendipity of it was meant to be,” she said. “The feeling of being able to help so many people with a single gift was almost indescribable.”

“I know how many people are involved in supporting the Idaho Community Foundation and we can do so much good by giving together. Sometimes it feels like there are deep divisions between us, but people still want to help their neighbors.”

Bobbie Hansberger
Community Generosity

Doug and Billie Nelson

When the effects of COVID-19 began to be felt in Idaho Falls and Bonneville County, longtime residents and philanthropic leaders Doug and Billie Nelson were quick to respond, thanks to their ICF Donor Advised Fund.

With one email to ICF, they were able to provide safe arts experiences through the Idaho Falls Arts Council, ensure internet access for students in the Bonneville School District, assist Community Food Basket with its warehouse purchase and support ICF’s grantmaking in the region.

“ICF makes it so easy for us to support our community,” said Doug. “They make sure our grants go to qualified organizations in good standing and they also know where grants are really needed.”

The Nelson’s grant to ICF was pooled with hundreds of other donations totaling more than $2 million. Doug said knowing their gift would be joined by so many others is what makes the Idaho Community Foundation special.

“Gathering all of those gifts together and granting them out in larger amounts is one of the most important functions of ICF. That’s a greater impact in the community than if we were all giving individually.”

Doug Nelson
Leaving a Legacy

Jim and Melissa Thomssen

Jim and Melissa Thomssen of Nampa have made community involvement a priority since they moved to the Treasure Valley in the early 1990s.

“Whether at church, through work projects, the local food bank or the Chamber of Commerce, there are always opportunities to give back,” Jim said. “We can make our communities better places to live, work and thrive by becoming involved.”

As they reviewed their estate plans in 2020, they saw that their family would be comfortably taken care of and that there was “extra” money. Their financial advisor suggested they establish a Donor Advised Fund, which led them to ICF.

Part of ICF’s appeal was the focus on collective giving. The Thomssens created a Forever Idaho Fund that will join dozens of others in support of ICF’s community initiatives.

Melissa said they feel great satisfaction knowing they will make a positive impact in their community. “We firmly believe in thinking globally and acting locally,” she said.

Pooling resources makes great sense, especially with legacy funds. After we are gone, we want someone else to get the most bang for our bucks and we can’t say enough about the benefit to having thoughtful and responsible stewards lined up for our legacy funds.

Jim Thomssen
We were saddened to learn that Celia Kunau of Burley passed away in March 2020. Together with her husband Lex Kunau, the couple made an enormous philanthropic impact in Cassia County. Many of their donations were made quietly or through the Lex and Celia Kunau Fund, a Donor Advised Fund they established at ICF in 1998.

Brenda Sanford of Heyburn, a former ICF Board member and chair of ICF’s South Central Regional Council, said Lex and Celia cared deeply for their family and community and had a wonderful partnership.

Lex passed away in 2016. When Celia passed, their Donor Advised Fund became a Forever Idaho Fund. Annual grants from the fund are pooled with other grants to benefit schools, nonprofits and community projects in the Kunau’s beloved Cassia County.

“

It was always Lex-and-Celia, and they were such a great couple. They gave so generously to anyone in need and to their community. Once Lex said to me, ‘It’s not necessarily the cause that you give to, but the person asking for the contribution.’

Brenda Sanford
former ICF Board member & chair of ICF’s South Central Regional Council
Strategic Giving

Pam Lyford

When the Wood River Valley became a COVID-19 hot spot last spring, Elkhorn resident Pam Lyford recognized what the disease outbreak would do to the local economy. She contacted the Idaho Community Foundation and became the first of dozens of ICF’s Donor Advised Fundholders to contribute to the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund for Idaho.

“Even before COVID-19, many families here were stressed by seasonal employment, high living costs and scarce housing,” Pam said. “A vibrant, healthy workforce is the basis of community. Our tourists, retirees and second homers depend entirely on locals.”

Philanthropy has always been important to Pam and her husband Chuck, who lost his life in a racing accident in 2017. Instead of Christmas gifts for each other, they gave strategically to organizations that had meaning for them, like Seattle Children’s Hospital, where their granddaughter was treated for a brain tumor as a child.

When Pam moved to Idaho full-time, she turned to ICF to help her with her charitable giving.

“The Idaho Community Foundation shares my goals and also meets my needs. And they handle all the dreaded paperwork.”

Pam Lyford