



WOOD RIVER WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

January 2020 News Brief



Panelists Dani Southard, Erin Pfaeffle, Heather Crocker, Kristin Poole with Facilitator Jenny Emery-Davidson

Winter Forum - The State of Our Valley, 2020

When Lukas Haynes, Executive Director of the David Rockefeller Fund, spoke at our Winter Forum two years ago, he defined “strategic philanthropy” as an approach that begins by identifying goals in an area of charitable giving. Our “State of the Valley, 2020” Winter Forum on January 13, aimed to foster members’ awareness of what those goals might be. About eighty members and their guests attended. Four outstanding panelists – Erin Pfaeffle from St. Luke’s Community Health; Dani Southard of the National Forest Foundation; Kristen Poole from Sun Valley Center for the Arts; and Heather Crocker from Blaine County Schools – briefly summarized some of the big issues facing our community, including those involving physical and mental health; recreation and our changing environment; the high costs of the visual and performing arts, and some of the educational challenges facing those who live in our valley. Jenny Emery-Davidson of the Community Library expertly facilitated this education event. Many thanks to Louisa Moats, Chair of the Education Committee and Committee members, Susan Passovoy, Jeanne Cassell, Lilian Wu, Jenni Riley, Chris Vik, Kathleen Alley, Susan Giannettino, and Mardi Shepard for arranging this successful and informative event.

Anyone who missed the Forum can watch it by [clicking here](#).



Winter Education Forum attendees

[Click here](#) to read Eye on Sun Valley’s coverage of the Forum.

WRWF Grants - Update

The 2020 Grants season has officially begun!

In December, we received forty-two applications through our SlideRoom website. The grant requests from these applications total \$895,771, the largest amount request we have ever received. Eight nonprofits are first time applicants to WRWF. During the first week of January, the Application Review Committee (ARC) met to discuss the applications and determine if they should advance to the Grant Sub-committees for further evaluation and site visits. The ARC verifies that the grant applications meet the WRWF criteria and timeline. After a long, six-hour meeting, the committee advanced thirty-seven applications to the five Grant Sub-committees.

This year we have over sixty-five WRWF members who are working on the Grants Committee. These members will be meeting to discuss the grant requests as well as coordinate site visits with the nonprofits to further evaluate the applications. This work is done during the months of January and February. At the end of February, all of the grant volunteers will meet to determine which grant requests will be advanced to the final grant presentations and be placed on the ballot. The nonprofit presentations to our members will be held on Wednesday, March 4 from 1:00-5:00 PM at The Community Library. If you are unable to attend the March presentations, you may view it through our livestream feed. We will send you a link along with the ballot on March 5.

If you are interested in getting involved with the Grants Committee for next year, please contact either Patti, Julie or Gina.

-- Julie Brewer, Patti Zebrowski, Gina Wolcott and Margery Friedlander

2019 WRWF Endowment Update

The generosity of WRWF members continues to amaze; in 2019, donors committed another \$45,000 to the WRWF Endowment Fund. From its inception in November 2017 with pledges of \$100,000, the value of the Endowment has grown to an impressive \$725,000. In just two short years, Endowment donors have created a thriving fund that is driving greater WRWF impacts.

The Endowment Fund has been established with a long-term approach in order to provide a stable income stream to support the operating needs of the WRWF. To date, distributions of \$20,000 were made in 2018, and \$25,000 in 2019. These funds enable the WRWF to provide the support and programming that underlie our mission of educating women philanthropists and making positive change in the community. Thank you to all of you who have contributed to the Endowment Fund!

All of the required governance for the Endowment Fund was put in place by the WRWF Board in March 2017; the Investment Policy Statement details the investment program and the spending policy.

For additional information on the Endowment Fund and to join the growing list of donors, [click here](#).

New Procedures for Dues Payments

In an attempt to reduce costs, we have moved our accounting system in-house. By doing so, we have immediate and accurate financial information available to us so that we can make informed decisions at any point in time. We believe this new system increases our compliance with government entities, our accountability and our transparency.

We have setup an online payment processing system to accept credit cards rather than using PayPal or the ICF credit card processing system as we have done in the past.

When paying your annual dues this year, or any additional donations you might make to the WRWF, members or donors will now make their checks out to the Wood River Women's Foundation or to the WRWF. The donation portion of your payment will be forwarded to ICF who will continue to manage our funds and make our grant distributions. We will maintain our positive relationship with ICF during this transition process and beyond.

Many thanks to Carol Jensen, our Treasurer, Christina Bauer, our Executive Assistant, and the website team for implementing this challenging transition to what will prove a cost savings move for the Wood River Women's Foundation. If you have any questions when making your payments, please call Christina Bauer, WRWF Executive Assistant, at (208) 309-2530.

Fifteen Years of Transparency

Since our founding in 2005, one of the hallmarks of the WRWF has been open communication and transparency. Every group of volunteers who has led the WRWF has worked diligently to ensure that members have broad access to information, and as WRWF has grown and technology has advanced, to keep up with the changes that enable information sharing across the organization.

Currently, our two key communication platforms are the News Brief and the WRWF website. To stay up-to-date on projects, board decisions, strategic planning, grant-making and community impact and other great mission work, watch your inbox for the once-a-month News Brief.

For financial and legal records, bylaws, governing policies, the list of board directors and committee chairs, the membership directory, online membership renewals, calendar, the grant-making archives and much more, check out our website at www.woodriverwomensfoundation.org.

When you pair more than 350 members with robust grant, education and mission-related programming, the result is a lot of action at the WRWF! If you have any questions or want to dive into the workings of the WRWF, these platforms are great sources of information. As always, your comments, ideas, and concerns are welcome. Please feel free to contact WRWF directly to share your input. Our Executive Assistant will connect you with the best person to assist you.

Photo Request for Fifteenth Anniversary

Attention longtime members of WRWF! In preparation for our fifteenth-anniversary celebration, we are looking for photographs from the early days of our organization. If you have any photos from the years 2005-2015, and are willing share, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Christina Bauer, WRWF Executive Assistant, at wrwcf1@gmail.com.

The Holiday Social - Photo Recap



Celebrating the season at the Holiday Social

Good times were had by one and all at the Holiday Social last month as we celebrated friendship and the spirit of giving. Here is a [link](#) to photographs from the event that preserve some of those happy memories.

Welcome

A warm welcome to two new members of the WRWF Communications team. Carol Shephard will take on the role of Photography Coordinator. Anne Jeffery will assist with the WRWF website. Read brief bios of these amazing women below:





Carol Shephard

Retired nurse, attorney and Naval officer, Carol Shephard brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to WRWF. Her education credentials include degrees from Gonzaga University, Loyola Law School (Los Angeles), Cal State, LA, and UCLA. She enjoys volunteering for performing arts events in the Wood River Valley. You'll see her at the Sun Valley Music Festival; Sun Valley Center for the Arts; Company of Fools; Argyros Performing Arts Center, and The Spot.



Anne Jeffery

Anne joined the WRWF in 2019. She and her husband, Jack Sept, moved to the Wood River Valley after retiring from careers in the Federal Government. Anne is a founding member of Bellevue Artist Alliance. Her own art is focused on creating hyper-collages by digitally weaving elements from her original photographs. Anne is an enthusiastic hiker and Nordic skier.

Catalist - PowerUp 2020 Conference

February 23 to 25, 2020

Motif Hotel

Seattle, Washington

Thirteen WRWF members are heading to the Catalist conference in Seattle next month to join hundreds of women from our sister collective giving organizations across the world. Every eighteen months, Catalist, the national umbrella of women's giving circles, presents a conference to further the philanthropic knowledge and abilities of its affiliates. Given the geographic proximity to Idaho, several of our members are taking advantage of the opportunity to listen, learn, engage and bring back a wealth of information to benefit the WRWF. Two of our board members will be presenters in break-out sessions: Terri Bullock, WRWF President will be on the "Employing Strategic Planning as a Power Tool" panel, and Patti Zebrowski, WRWF board member and Grants Committee Co-chair will be on the "The Varied Facets of Catalist Grantmaking" panel. In addition to Terri and Patti, the group includes Barbara Thrasher, Sandy McCullough, Kit Wright, Darci Swanson, Leslie Silva, Carrie Morrow, Carol Jensen, Mardi Shepard, Melinda Springs, Marcia Liebich, and Gina Wolcott. Each participant paid her own conference fees and travel expenses. Thank you for your generosity and willingness to stretch and share your philanthropic wisdom! [Click here](#) for detailed information about the conference.

Save the Date - Upcoming Events

Coffee Talk

Monday, January 27, 2020

10:00 – 11:30 AM

Ketchum Works Building

191 Sun Valley Road, Ketchum

Meet and Mingle

Thursday, February 6, 2020

5:00 – 6:30 PM

The Limelight Hotel

151 South Main Street, Ketchum

Après Ski Tea

Thursday, March 5, 2020

4:00 – 6:00 PM

Jane Springman's home

305 Golden Eagle Drive, Hailey

Terri Bullock - President of WRWF Closing Message



WRWF President, Terri Bullock

January, for me, has always been about a new start: a clean slate, a new calendar and new goals. I have asked myself every January, “how can I create a better version of myself, and what does this look like?”

Whether we are on our own personal journey, or whether we are an organization that is on its own journey, our goal is to move forward.

As we welcome a new year we also welcome the fifteenth-anniversary year of WRWF. As an organization we continue asking ourselves, “deep down, what matters to us as an organization, what is our WHY?” How can we become an even better version of who we already are? What does this look like as we remind ourselves that our mission is to “inspire and educate women to become leaders in philanthropy?” What does it mean for WRWF to “make significant positive change in our community through pooled-grant-making?”

In 2019, we created our two-year Strategic Plan – Advancing Mission, Building Sustainability. Our leadership team committed to doing the work of building a foundation where WRWF can weather any storm, and assure our commitment to giving back to our community, in a big way. We’re still at it, and 2020 will be our second year of our two-year Plan. We are well underway in realizing our goals for WRWF. Keep reading about our progress through our quarterly Strategic Planning updates.

2020 will also be a year of celebration – WRWF has grown from a handful of dedicated women who had a vision to give back to Blaine County, to over 300 women who are committed, knowledgeable, engaged and passionate about helping Blaine County reduce and even eliminate need.

As we resolve to become the best version of ourselves, I encourage you all to embrace the new year by challenging yourselves to make decisions that support the Mission of WRWF, to connect with one another and welcome new members, to share your suggestions and creative ideas, and to support our efforts through volunteering on a committee or a project. Research suggests that there is a clear link between volunteering and personal happiness and health. Volunteering is a great way to meet members, utilize your skills, combat depression and isolation, and increase self-confidence. If I do nothing else to fill my happiness tank this year, I know that volunteering my time will certainly give me tremendous results. Who wants to join me? By the end of this year, we will all be surprised at what we can accomplish as a team.

I wish you all a healthy and happy New Year.

-- Terri Bullock

Our Mission:

Wood River Women's Foundation inspires and educates women to become leaders in philanthropy. We encourage and create significant positive change in our community through pooled grant-making.



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Foundation Website

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