

## Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation

## PERSONAL PHILANTHROPY

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January 11, 2011

### Food for Thought

"To give away money is an easy matter and in any man's power. But to decide to whom to give it, and how large and when, and for what purpose and how, is neither in every man's power nor an easy matter."

Aristotle

### Consider the Role of Women

"Women built a civilized society, while the men were out doing something else."

Mary K. Aucutt

### IWCF Members

- Give \$500 each year to the pooled fund and another \$500 to individual designations.
- Half of our annual collective participation in IWCF is personal.
- How are you allocating your personal designations?

### Today's Objective

Today, let us explore how we might:

- examine our goals,
- select and focus our vision,
- and collaborate to refine our personal philanthropic effectiveness.

## The Uninformed Philanthropist

- Giving without focus and understanding is like shopping without a list or a budget.
- Lack of adequate inquiry can result in failed philanthropy.
- Lack of adequate safeguards and periodic measures can result in failed philanthropy.

## Influence

- Influence is the most powerful advantage gained by being informed. It empowers us to:
- Demand precise gifting (articulated and measured) to secure more success.
  - Influence grantees by being familiar with their needs and resources.
  - Attract additional donors by being knowledgeable and therefore convincing.

## The Informed Philanthropist

How will being informed improve my effectiveness?

- Promotes more thoughtful giving, improved oversight/accountability, increased collaboration.
- Produces better outcomes - grants that achieve greater success.
- Builds fields of influence for the individual and the group.

## Encouragement to Become Better Informed

- Create attractive educational offerings: lectures, seminars, tours, workshops, coffees, book clubs/reviews, other...
- Develop a culture of being informed.
- Build an accessible library of resources and references.
- Celebrate the informed philanthropist. Provide recognition for the ideas that help to build an informed membership.

## Encouragement to Become Better Informed (cont.)

- Network and collaborate to share information and enthusiasm.
- Get over the taboo: "We don't talk about money."
- Find a philanthropy buddy: meet over coffee, discuss your personal audit, decide on focus and target, share research and thoughts, fund, support, follow-up, repeat ...
- Add more "like-minded" buddies.

## Avoid "Research Glut and Information Famine"

- You might begin the journey to become an informed philanthropist with a personal audit.
- Start with what you know about yourself and your own interests and passions.
- An audit narrows/focuses your direction and articulates your thinking.

## Key Questions To Ask

- Why do I give?
- How should I give?
- To whom should I give?
- What should we give?
- Can giving be taught (or learned)?

(Questions adapted from “Building Donor Loyalty” by Adrian Sargeant and Elaine Jay.)

## To Learn More

Local support groups:

- Idaho Community Foundation
- Idaho Nonprofit Center
- Philanthropy Northwest

Periodicals:

- Chronicle of Philanthropy
- Stanford Social Innovation Review (online)

## The Internet

- Charity Navigator
- Independent Sector
- Idaho NonProfit Center
- The Ford Foundation
- William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Washington Women’s Foundation
- Idaho Community Foundation

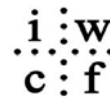
## Recommended Reading:

- “Money Well Spent: A Strategic Plan for Smart Philanthropy” by Paul Brest and Hal Harvey
- “The Idea of Strategic Giving” by Peter Frumkin
- “The Foundation: A Great American Secret, How Private Wealth Is Changing the World” by Joel L. Fleishman
- “Building Donor Loyalty” by Adrian Sargeant and Elaine Jay
- “Donor Centered Fundraising” by Penelope Burke
- “Reliable Funding in Unreliable Times” and “Fundraising for Social Change” by Kim Klein
- Public library: *Foundation Center* (a proprietary online service available at some libraries.)

## To Learn More About IWCF

[www.idahowomenscharitablefoundation.org](http://www.idahowomenscharitablefoundation.org)

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