

Innovia Foundation  
421 W. Riverside Ave., Suite 606  
Spokane, WA 99201-0402  
www.innovia.org

Contact: Sarah Bain, Marketing and Communication  
sbain@innovia.org or 509-951-0627



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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Innovia Foundation awards \$1.2 million to regional organizational partners**

SPOKANE, WA, March 17, 2021 — Innovia Foundation announces \$1,205,780 in grants awarded to 133 organizations in Eastern Washington and North Idaho through the recent Community Grant Program and Arts & Culture Recovery Grant Program. Innovia Foundation awarded 14 grants to organizations in Bonner County many of which serve residents in both Bonner and Boundary Counties.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our region, Innovia made intentional changes to our traditional grant practices which included increasing giving for COVID-19 relief, reducing the reporting requirements and other restrictions on existing grants, awarding operating grants, and actively engaging with communities hardest hit by COVID-19. Priorities were given to organizations impacted by COVID-19 and area wildfires, particularly disproportionately impacted communities along with a separate pool of funding to support Arts and Culture organizations.

“We know that organizations were hit hard in 2020 by the pandemic and the wildfires in our region. By providing more flexible dollars and a streamlined grant reporting process, we wanted to make sure that funding would go to those organizations supporting our most vulnerable,” said Shelly O’Quinn, CEO, Innovia Foundation.

In response to the constantly changing needs emerging as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, **Kaniksu Land Trust (KLT)** is prioritizing innovative outdoor education programs for children that serve a range of demographics. A \$20,000 grant from Innovia Foundation to connect classrooms and children with nature will support educational programs that directly address issues created by the pandemic, such as physical and mental health, academic consistency and nutritional support.

Grants ranging from \$4,950 to \$20,000 will support the following organizations and programs in Idaho included below. For more information about any of these grants or for a list of all 133 grants across Eastern Washington and North Idaho, please contact Sarah Bain, sbain@innovia.org or 509-624-2606 or visit our website, innovia.org.

Innovia Foundation awarded 14 grants to these organizations in Bonner County listed below. While the organizations are listed in the county where they reside, many of the organizations serve Bonner and Boundary Counties.

**Angels Over Sandpoint | \$5,000 – Bonner County**  
Back to School Program

**Better Together Animal Alliance | \$10,520 – Bonner County**  
PAS Helpline

**Blanchard Area Seniors Incorporated | \$3,000 – Bonner County**  
Arts and Culture for both youth and adults

**Bonner Community Food Center, Inc. | \$10,000 – Bonner County**  
Program Support

**Food for our Children | \$8,000 – Bonner County**  
Weekend Food Program Support

**Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness | \$5,000 – Bonner County**  
Scotchman Peak Mountain Goat Trail Ambassador Program

**Kaniksu Land Trust | \$20,000 – Bonner County**  
Connecting Classrooms and Children with Nature

**Panhandle Alliance for Education | \$8,000 – Bonner County**  
READY! for Kindergarten

**Panida Theater | \$4,950 – Bonner County**  
General Operating Support

**Pend Oreille Arts Council | \$5,000 – Bonner County**  
General Operating Support

**Priest River Ministries | \$15,000 – Bonner County**  
Operating Support

**Sandpoint Area Seniors, Inc. | \$5,000 – Bonner County**  
General Operating Support

**Sandpoint Community Resource Center (SCRC) | \$20,000 – Bonner County**  
Program Support

**Selkirk Outdoor Leadership & Education (SOLE), Inc. | \$10,000 – Bonner County**  
General Operating Support

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Innovia Foundation ignites generosity that transforms lives and communities so that every person has the opportunity to thrive. As the community foundation for Eastern Washington and North Idaho, we partner with people who want to make our world better. We work together to address and solve our region's problems, help those in need, identify and respond to our greatest opportunities, and leave a lasting impact. Each year, Innovia Foundation invests more than \$7 million into our communities through grants and scholarships to nonprofit organizations and local students.