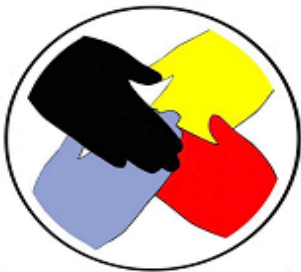


P4P News

Partners for Prosperity
NEW BEGINNINGS FOR EASTERN IDAHO



Collaboration and teamwork works!

That is the lesson learned by the Partners for Prosperity Early Learning and Care Council, the recipient of a \$994,000 grant aimed to benefit young children and their families in Eastern Idaho. Recently, Congressman Mike Simpson announced the "Ready, Set, Go!" grant project that was obtained through the collaborative efforts of over 30 regional community members at a press conference in Idaho Falls. "An incredible team offered support and commitment to the Early Learning Opportunities Act (ELOA) grant process," says Jerry Brady, chair of the Partners for Prosperity Early Learning and Care Council. "The grant application and award serve as a model of community collaboration in Eastern Idaho."

The grant, which will be administered by the United Way of Southeastern Idaho Success by 6 on behalf of the Partners for Prosperity Early Learning and Care Council, will serve over 8,000 children and 170 care providers in Bannock, Bingham and Bonneville counties as well as Fort Hall and the city of Rexburg.

"This grant is just one of many funding opportunities that the Partners for Prosperity Early Learning team is looking to secure," says Tom Putnam, facilitator of the Early Learning Working Group. A diverse team of people have worked together over the past eight months to develop a strategic plan to improve early childhood education opportunities across the region. Educators, early childhood professionals, non-profit organizations, parents, business leaders, and concerned citizens from across the 16 counties of Eastern Idaho have come together in an effort to address challenges and issues in relation to early childhood education and to work toward solutions.

The Working Group Model is used by Partners for Prosperity to bring people from across the region together to collaboratively address poverty issues and solutions. Each working group develops a plan or a project and then looks for funding opportunities. All people are welcome, regardless of background or experience and all members have an equal voice. There are no dues or fees for the working groups we simply ask that members give of their time, talents, and abilities whenever possible to help create prosperity for our region.

Our next meeting is set for January 13, 2005 from 9:00 a.m.—12:00 noon at Blackfoot City Hall. Please contact Tom Putnam at 785-0059 or putnthom@isu.edu for more information.

Welcome from the Director

Welcome to our first P4P newsletter! For those of you who are new to Partners for Prosperity, I encourage you to get to know more about our organization and mission to reduce poverty. For those of you who have been with us awhile, we not only welcome you to our first newsletter but thank you for your continued support. This is an amazing time to be part of poverty reduction efforts in Eastern Idaho because not only do we have a regional community committed to implementing our ten year strategic plan, but we now have a central office and a dedicated staff. You could say that the rubber is hitting the road! Although it took several months to get our structure in place, we have built a solid foundation for implementation. As you are all aware, the success of our plan depends on the commitment of community members willing to tackle a tough problem and create systemic change.

There are several projects P4P is currently working on. In October, P4P signed an agreement with the Marshall Public Library to create a satellite library at our Blackfoot office. This library will be part of the Marshall Library's Eastern Idaho Funding Information Center and will provide numerous resources for our regional partners in the following areas: nonprofit management, financial management,

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The mission of the **Adult Education and Training Working Group** is to explore programs and opportunities in adult education and training that reduce poverty for people in the lowest economic quartile and meet the needs for a skilled workforce in the business community providing long-term employment paying a living wage. The group has met twice and has identified adult education needs in our region and brainstormed about what barriers exist that prevent adults from pursuing education and training. Those barriers were broken down and placed in distinct categories: internal and external motivators, and education and employment. Strategies were developed from those categories and subcommittees will begin working on activities, benchmarks and measurements. Everyone is invited to attend the Adult Education and Training Working Group. For meeting dates and times, please call our hotline number, 785-5865 or contact Judy at 785-0059 or mccljudy@isu.edu. If you are a community member who requires travel and/or child care reimbursement please call Bonnie at 785-0059.

Judy McClanahan, Community Resource and Referral Specialist

Staff Member
Spotlight



I remember always a white Christmas, endless blue skies, and summer softball. I am a native of Blackfoot where I attended school K-12. After high school, I moved to Los Angeles where I worked for a pharmaceutical company and attended California State University, but after six years I returned to Bingham County to raise my family. I have two boys and one girl; Matthew, Davian, and Celeste.

Because I feel that giving back to my community is what makes it a better place to live, I have been actively involved in various community organizations. Also, because the Latino population is one of the fastest growing minority groups in Southeast Idaho, it is more important than ever for us to understand diversity in our communities. I am currently a program specialist with Partners for Prosperity. Partners for Prosperity gives me the opportunity to work with people.

Sonia Martinez, Program Specialist

Welcome cont'

grant writing, funding sources, entrepreneurship, and many other areas related to government and non-profit organization funding and fund management. This library will be open to everyone and will include a database of funding sources from the Foundation Center, a widely recognized leader in funding information. We anticipate the satellite library opening in December. More information about this will be available in the weeks to come.

Also in October, we filed our final application with the Internal Revenue Service to become a nonprofit organization (501(c)3) with status as a publicly supported charity. As many of you will recall, we became a legal nonprofit corporation in March, however we do not have advance standing yet as either a publicly supported charity or a private foundation. Once we have received our letter of advance standing we can proceed with the final separation from our grant administrator—Idaho State University. We are thankful for the University's assistance and anticipate forming a partnership similar to the partnerships we have with Brigham Young University-Idaho (BYU-Idaho) and Eastern Idaho Technical College (EITC).

Our new Board of Directors met for the first time in November. They are energized and committed to implementation of the plan. We want to thank the transitional board members who are not continuing as permanent board members: Robert Chambers, Russ Spain, Bessie Katsilometes and Sarah Jackson. Although they will not continue as board members they have each pledged to stay involved and support P4P during implementation. The transitional board members who will be continuing on the board include: Anita Vallidolid, Darrell Shay and Karen Cornwell. A complete list of board members is listed in this newsletter and we welcome them aboard!

We are also implementing working groups that will tackle the priority issues of education, empowerment and economic development. Currently, we have four working groups that are meeting on a regular basis: Early Learning, Adult Education, Primary & Secondary Data, and Prosperity Creation. Each of these groups is working on some exciting projects but we need your help! In order for these working groups to be successful, we need your participation and expertise! The Working Groups will be prioritizing projects and programs and the more input we have, the better! Please contact anyone on our staff for more information. All of the meetings are listed on our meeting and event hotline, 785-5865.

Please join us on this great and innovative approach to community development and poverty reduction. We look forward to the opportunity to working, learning, adapting and celebrating together!

Jessica Sotelo, Executive Director

P4P Board of Directors

Darrell Shay	Chris Peirsol
Anita Valladolid	LaVerne Beech
Karen Cornwell	Marcia Robles
Amando Alvares	Barbara Nash
David Duerden	Lucinda Mortensen
Roger Boe, MD	Jon Warner
Rick Betzer	K.B. Rasmussen

To contact any of our Board members please e-mail to partners@isu.edu or call P4P offices at 785-0059.

Members of the Partners for Prosperity (P4P) staff and board of directors, as well as community members, traveled by bus to Fairmont Hot Springs in Anaconda MT in October to meet with the North Central Montana Community Ventures Coalition, representatives from the Central Oregon Partnership and Northwest Area Foundation. The purpose of the three day trip was for P4P to meet with other venture communities and discuss lessons learned during the planning and initial implementation stage of our projects. The Northwest Area Foundation structured our time together so that we could discuss our individual efforts toward systemic poverty reduction and our prosperity initiatives. We discussed the systemic problems that promoted poverty in our areas, but also recognized our strengths and our regional assets that will help us develop sustainable solutions. We shared our communities' vision for the future, formed relationships and developed friendships with the other teams and united our efforts to reduce poverty. We hope to make this collaboration a yearly event.

The **Primary and Secondary Data Working Group** reconvened in November and held their most recent meeting on Monday, December 13 in Blackfoot. The Primary and Secondary (P&S) Data Working Group is different from the other working groups in that many members were active during the planning phase and assisted with the research design.

Our research efforts are four fold: (a) assessing and understanding poverty as it exists in Eastern Idaho; (b) identifying and mapping community and individual assets throughout the region; (c) assessing methods used to reduce poverty and understanding how those methods could be applied to our region, and (d) assisting community partners in the attainment of information that they need to improve the services they provide. Initially, P4P will review the methods and information gathered in the planning process. All of our research efforts are specifically linked to poverty reduction efforts in Eastern Idaho. The purpose of the P&S Data Working Group is to provide updated poverty information throughout the region in order to explore and develop appropriate solutions that come from the grassroots level.

Any community members who would like to attend this working group are invited. We would also like to make you aware of the efforts of this group so that you can utilize them as a resource to your own poverty reduction efforts. If you have questions about the primary and secondary data working group, please contact Ramona Higley at 785-0059, or higlramo@isu.edu

Idaho Falls Office now open

Partners has now opened the doors to it's Idaho Falls office! We are located at 301 S. Boulevard, in the Community Outreach Building. This is the same building that the Soup Kitchen is located in as well as FreeMed and FISH.

We have a conference room that is available to our community partners for meeting use as needed. Please Call Lori at 785-0059 to schedule the room or to meet with staff members.

Fort Hall Visit

Partners for Prosperity staff kicked off their city county tours by visiting the Fort Hall Indian Reservation October 19-21 as part of a mutual learning session between the organization and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

The first two days of the visit was an opportunity for P4P staff to learn about the tribal government structure and to network with tribal staff. Tribal program and department representatives met with P4P staff to provide an overview of the program/department functions. It was a great opportunity for both organizations to build relationships and form partnerships. The third day of the visit was dedicated to a cultural tour of the reservation. The tour guide, tribal elder Rusty Houtz, provided history and life experience about the reservation land, its people and culture. The tour ended with a welcome speech by Nancy Eschief-Murillo, Fort Hall Business Council Chair, followed by traditional drumming and dancing by Sho-Ban tribal members.

Christelle Edmo, Program Specialist



P4P's site visit to Fort Hall Indian Reservation. Staff members are: Judy McClanahan, Christelle Edmo, Henry Evans, Tribal Elder Rusty Houtz, Ramona Higley, Sonia Martinez, Jessica Sotelo, and Tom Putnam.

Partners for Prosperity: New Beginnings for Eastern Idaho (P4P), is a non-profit organization serving 16 counties in Eastern Idaho and the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. Although not a direct-funding organization, P4P is dedicated to increasing personal and community prosperity by bringing community members together, providing technical resources and assistance and helping to incorporate solutions to the problem of poverty in our region.



Telephone: 208-785-0059
Fax: 208-785-5866
Meeting and Event Hotline: 208-785-5865

Partners for Prosperity serves Idaho's Eastern Counties and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation.

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| | Bannock | Franklin |
| Bear Lake | | Fremont |
| Bingham | | Jefferson |
| Bonneville | | Lemhi |
| Butte | | Madison |
| Caribou | | Oneida |
| Clark | | Power |
| Custer | | Teton |



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