

Words of Wisdom

A Potlatch Fund Publication



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Please Continue to Support Potlatch Fund

This is the season for giving. All smart nonprofits ask for money at this time of year as donors can take advantage of the tax benefit of such donations as they do their taxes early in 2010.

We have been criticized for asking for money at the end of the year—because many of our supporters have already given at the Gala. We also this year have had supporters sponsor Potlatch Fund staff who took part in Seattle Marathon events.

However, the reality for all nonprofits is that we also have to rely more on our longstanding donors. Your donations help us to keep our operations sustainable. We could not do what we do if we only relied on the grants from the foundations that fund us.

If you have already given to us this year—then please skip ahead if you wish to the rest of this newsletter. However, if you can please consider Potlatch Fund in your end of year giving.

I know that I am biased, but I do sincerely believe that Potlatch Fund is demonstrably bringing significant benefits to Indian Country.

We have in the last year paid out over \$200,000 donations to small and emerging Native groups.

We have held more than 40 workshops and educational sessions with more than 600 attendees.

We are helping Native groups to tell their stories and bring positive media attention to their activities.

We have been working with mainstream foundations to open their eyes to the needs and opportunities that exist.

We are highlighting ourselves the amazing work and the amazing people that we see.



Annie Clark

This work is making a difference and we are seeing significantly higher levels of funder and donor engagement across the region.

However, this work all costs money. We have lost some funders this year and have reduced our costs to fit and we are on target to break even in 2009.

I now ask you to consider helping us to start 2010 in an even stronger position so that we can continue this vital work—inspiring the Native tradition of giving and expanding philanthropy in Northwest Indian Country.



Reps from Ke Kukui Foundation

In the spirit of the potlatch,

Ken Gordon - Executive Director

Calendar of Events

- January 27/28** – *The Journey to Successful Fundraising*
Duck Valley, NV
- February 3/4** – *The Journey to Successful Fundraising Financial Management*
Spokane Tribal College

Please continue to monitor the online calendar for new updates and schedule changes www.potlatchfund.org/training/workshops.html.



Memorial Blanket
A Memorial Blanket was featured at the Gala to honor our loved ones and leaders who have passed away.



Potlatch Fund

We are a grantmaking foundation and leadership development organization. Our mission is to inspire and build upon the Native tradition of giving.



BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation

Philanthropists of the Year

Each year Potlatch Fund recognizes individuals or organizations who have done something extra-ordinary to support philanthropy within the Northwest and within Indian Country. This year the award is being presented jointly to:

Chad Lewis and Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux

These recipients are being honored for the roles that they played in helping the Duwamish Tribe achieve their dream of attaining their own Longhouse in Seattle. In the early 1900s Seattle banned Indians from the city and burnt down the Duwamish Longhouses. 30 years ago Duwamish dared to dream that they could rebuild a Longhouse to re-stake out their ancestral home. Hundreds of people and supporters were involved. But we want to honor one man and one Tribe who heard the call for help, and whose support at key times made the difference, culminating with the Duwamish Longhouse opening amongst the winter snows in January this year.

Chad Lewis came to the project just over four years ago. Chad re-invigorated the fundraising efforts, worked with architects to design an achievable project, connected with foundations and other funders and helped the Tribes Business Committee reconstitute itself so it could present a professional face to the world. Chad was the right person at the right time for Duwamish. Duwamish had difficulty funding the kitchen for the Longhouse and had the prospect of opening without the ability to feed people. The call went out nationally to see if the community could step up to cover this challenge. The Duwamish Tribe was therefore humbled and incredibly grateful when the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux agreed to fund the kitchen. There were no strings attached and this incredibly generous contribution meant that project was able to open on budget in January this year.

Sheryl Fryberg (Tulalip)

We all have the power to be philanthropists and our next recipient, Sheryl Fryberg from Tulalip, epitomizes this as she has been making regular monthly contribution to Potlatch Fund since at least 2006. Ms. Fryberg makes this contribution to Potlatch Fund because a Potlatch Fund canoe journey grant back in 2006 had helped her family join the journey that year, and that the journey had literally been a life changing and life saving event for two of her children. Ms. Fryberg really wants other young people to have the huge benefits that she saw accrue for her children and the only way she could be sure of this happening was to write this monthly check to Potlatch Fund.

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation over the last several years has been very good to Indian Country in the Northwest. Potlatch Fund watches foundation grants closely and at times up to 35% of the Pacific Northwest Grants have gone to Indian Country. This level of funding is 100 times higher than the long term national average and this support for Indian Country needs to be honored. The Foundation processes have been fine tuned to make it easier for Indian Country, they understand the timelines that exist and they help to introduce Indian Country projects to other funders. Most importantly they are just great people to work with.

Potlatch Fund also wishes to recognize Annie Clark who recently resigned her role at the foundation. Indian Country has seen Ms. Clark as our friend, supporter and our advocate. She has a beguiling sense of humor and an amazing laugh and a deep and sincere commitment to the communities in which we all work. Ms. Clark through her own commitment and passion has helped to humanize and make the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation accessible to this group who did not previously have a relationship with philanthropy.

Honoring Leader Awards

The undoubted highlight of our Gala was the 2009 Honoring Leader Awards. The winners were:

- ◆ The 2009 Antone Minthorn Economic and Community Development Award is presented to **Bill Tovey**.
- ◆ The 2009 Pearl Capoean-Baller Civic Participation Award is presented to **Native Vote Washington**.
- ◆ The 2009 Billy Frank Jr. Natural Resource Protection Award is presented to **Roy Sampsel**.
- ◆ The 2009 Patricia Whitefoot Education Award is presented to **Michael Pavel, Ph.D.**
- ◆ The 2009 Fran James Cultural Preservation Award is presented to **Cheryle Kennedy**.



Profiles of each of these Leaders together with a short video, produced by **Native Lens**, are now available on our website: www.potlatchfund.org.

LEAD Cohort

In 2009/10 Potlatch Fund will be continuing to provide leadership trainings to young (ish) Native leaders. This program is funded by First Nations Development Institute and aims to provide Native people who are already involved with non-profits with the skills that they need to be successful non-profit leaders. The year long program included: fundraising and development; governance; human resources management; financial management and hands on mentorship.

The 2008/09 Graduate Class was: Kris Hohag, Jessica Porter, Dawn Houle, Laura Wong-Whitebear, Loretta DeLora, Crystal Ben, Shasta Cano Martin, Greg Harrison, Bridget Ray, Leslie Johnson, Pam Masterman and Jenna Losik Gonzales.

The new 2009/2010 class is: Heather Miller, Solana Booth, Jefferson Greene, Jeremiah George, Elizabeth Egan, Kathy Pierce, Nina Butler, Alex Mendoza, Misty Oldham, Jason Pretty Boy and Marilyn Sheldon.



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President's Awards

Tim Otani

Earlier this year Tim Otani stepped down from his role at JP Morgan Chase. Tim Otani has been a passionate advocate for Communities of Color and Native American communities over his 17 year as the leader of Washington Mutual's giving programs. During that time the foundation's giving grew from \$600,000 to \$55m per annum. And Mr Otani's own role also changed, with him commencing as the Foundation Manager and rising to FVP/Corporate Giving Manager.



Mr. Otani instigated the idea that giving to Communities of Color should be set with a floor that the giving should not fall below as opposed to the idea of a ceiling that giving should not be gone above. Tim brought his significant experience as a non-profit leader to his role at the foundation. He had been the head of the Institute for Global Security Studies, a Regional Director of the Japanese American Citizens League and had worked in employment and training and youth services. Throughout his career he also maintained his own commitment to volunteerism as a Board member of over 30 separate non-profit organizations and advisory boards.

This vast non-profit experience meant that WAMU's giving program provided operating cost grants to non-profits, had a low impact, easy to complete and fast grant writing process with as few strings attached as possible. As many of you know WAMU became an integral partner with so many non-profits in our community. Importantly WAMU sought out and funded non-profits that many other funders did not.

Michael Evans (Snohomish)

For the last four years Mike Evans has been supporting our Gala by bringing his family canoe – the Blue Heron – into this venue and in doing so stamping this event with a unique Native tone. Many of the attendees at past Galas have said that the honor of helping to move the canoe in and out of this venue has been the highlight of their night.



However, Mr. Evans does much much more to help Indian Country. He is a proponent and teacher of Lushooseed. He never misses an opportunity to teach people, Native or non-Native a new word and the meanings behind that word. He is the chair of the Snohomish Tribe, sits as an honorary member of the Duwamish Tribe, and is the father and captain of the Blue Heron Canoe Family.

TO:

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Our Generous 2009 Gala Supporters

Our Hands Go Up to Family Leadership Fund

Family Leadership Fund and Potlatch Fund have many common goals. The Family Leadership Fund's mission is to improve the lives of children and families in communities of color and communities disproportionately represented in poverty.

What makes us different from most grant makers is that our board and final decision makers are from affected communities and are activists in those communities. Therefore, we have funded organizations that have been overlooked because their issues may not have been understood or thought to be significant.

Potlatch Fund's goal is to inspire and build upon the Native tradition of giving and to expand philanthropy in Northwest Indian Country by funding programs that reflect "the needs and values of our people; dreams for a better tomorrow for our children; passion for the continued flourishing of our arts" and to encourage and empower emerging leaders through culturally-sensitive programming. Cultural identity and pride are the most powerful weapons in fighting racism and issues relating to disproportionately as well as re-establishing cultural values, what some elders have called the Original Instructions, which are accessed through Traditional Knowledge.

Programs supporting the sharing of Traditional Knowledge through storytelling, dancing, drumming, paddling, carving, weaving, beading, language, hunting, fishing, and gathering create individual resiliency and strength, community involvement and cultural and spiritual awareness.

For example, some Native artists carve animals out of wood or stone. They pick out a stone or a piece of wood and sit with it, spending time getting to know it. They listen to the stone or the wood, and when they know it well, they find the shape or animal that it wants to become. This creates not only a beautiful and culturally meaningful piece of art, but establishes a cultural connection as well as a spiritual one.

Potlatch Fund has funded this type of programming for many years, and the Family Leadership Fund has been happy to support these efforts in the past. Today, we are proud to continue our support by presenting our final award, before closing down the Family Leadership Fund, to Potlatch Fund in the amount of **\$24,000.00**.

We know that you will continue your good efforts to improve the lives of our children, families, elders and communities.

Text written by: Carolyn Hartness, Chair - Family Leadership Fund

Thunderbird



Eagle



Raven



Our Generous 2009 Gala Supporters

— Hummingbird —

First Nations Development Institute

Elaine Nonneman
Marguerite Casey Foundation

Ellen Ferguson
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe

— Community Partners —

Bank of America Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Kalispel Tribe of Indians Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Morisset Schlosser & Jozwiak National
Alliance of Tribal TANF Native Americans in Philanthropy Pacific Blue Seafoods LLC Pride
Foundation RIDOLFI INC. Samish Indian Nation Sharp Business Systems Social Justice Fund
NW Squaxin Island Tribe The Prince of Wales Tribal Enterprise Consortium

Table Captains

With great respect and appreciation we would like to thank tonight's table captains.

Burke Museum of Natural History & Culture Bryan & Christine Mercier Chandra Hampson & Chris Shannon Chief Seattle Club
Colleen Jollie Dana Arviso DML Insurance Services, Inc. FNFI: LEAD Cohorts 2009 - 2011 Heather Miller Jim. W. Thomas
John Chess Ken Gordon & Jenn Brandon Kim Teraberry Kimberly Craven Lewis & Clark College Meredith Parker Northwest
Indian College Sweetwater Nannauck The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde The Leake Family The Suquamish Foundation
United Indians of All Tribes Foundation

(\$5,000 to \$24,999)

Family Leadership Fund

(\$1,000 to \$4,999)

Andrea and Alan Rabinowitz
Dena Levine - DML Insurance
Marylin Bard
Native Arts & Cultures Foundation

(\$500 to \$999)

Cassandra Mannuelito-Kerkvliet
and Joe Kerkvliet
Elaine Nonneman
Johnpaul Jones
Kirby Jock
Mary and Jim Dunnam
Meredith Parker
Michael Pavel

(\$100 to \$499)

Anonymous (7)
Anne L. Henigson
Anne Xuan Clark
Annette Squetimkin Ahquoe
Beth McCaw and Yahn Bernier
Bettye Atkinson
Bill Leon
Bridget Ray
Charlotte F. Jackson
Christi Nelson
Cynthia and Bret Masterson
Denise Stiffarm and Marc Taylor
Douglas B. MacDonald
Erin Younger and Ed Liebow
Greg Shaw

Jacqueline Leake
Jean Bateman
Jennifer and Peter Cole
Jody Olney and Aaron Cooper
Joella and Bradley Kirschner
John Chess
John McCoy
John S. Dart
Julie Stein
Kealoha Kalama (Kiki)
Marie Sauter
Marilyn and Roy Sampsel
Mary and Terrence Paananen
Michael Verchot
Michelle and Jeff Andrus
Montoya Whiteman
Pamela Masterman
Patricia Baillargeon
Phillip Riggins
Roberta Conner
Sheryl L. Fryberg
Sue Taoka and Richard Mar
Susan Rants
Tammy Halstead
Valerie Taliman
William Stelle

(Gifts under \$100)

Anonymous (36)
Alaina Capoeman and Joel Moffett
Alex Mendoza
Antone Minthorn
Aurolyn Stwyer-Pinkham
Caroline and David Socha
Clarita Lefthand

Dave Tovey
Deborah Doyle
Gene Tegaban
Herb Cheatham
JoAnne Dominick
John Halliday
June Sell-Sherer
Kara Briggs
Karen Ketner
Ken Thompson
Kim Coleman
Lisa Breckenridge and John Rodakowski
Lynn L Bowman
Martha Brice
Mary Pedersen
Mary Wright and David Szatmary
Myrna W. Tovey
Nelda and Kelly Yalowicki
Norma Ramirez
Patricia Whitefoot
Rhonda Sunde
Sarah EchoHawk Vermillion
Scott Fletcher
Snoqualmie Tribe
Ted Thornton
Thane Somerville
Willard Bill Jr.
Wink Soderberg

***Please contact the office (206.624.6076) if your name has inadvertently been left on this list. Thank you.*