

MAKING THE CHURCH CONNECTION

— By David Creamer, Development Manager

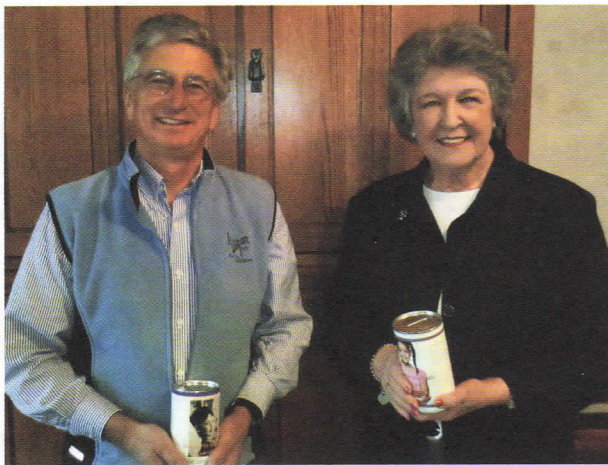
In Intermountain's 100-plus year history, churches have provided a backbone of support that has been critical to the organization's success. Being founded by a minister, the connection is a natural one. But as Intermountain has become more and more sophisticated, it is easy to overlook how critical a church's connection can be. Easy, that is, until you visit a church like First Presbyterian of Kalispell.

The connection between Intermountain and Pastor Glen Burfeind's congregation goes back decades, like so many other churches in Montana. Since services began in the Flathead less than three years ago, the congregation's passion has grown tremendously. The effort has been led by Intermountain President's Council (IPC) members Wayne and Rhudi Miller of Kalispell, who are members of First Presbyterian. Rhudi has spoken passionately to the congregation on multiple occasions, lending credibility to Intermountain that the agency couldn't get on its own.

In their most recent "Change for Children" campaign, they raised \$2,145, one of the best totals Intermountain has ever received in the

history of this effort. But "Change for Children" is only part of First Presbyterian's fervor for the mission of Intermountain.

Their Presbyterian Women's group frequently contributes cash and in-kind donations, the church donates out of its general fund, and the Kalispell Development office has fielded dozens of calls from church members interested in donating, volunteering and spreading the word about Intermountain.



Reverend Glen Burfeind and Rhudi Miller, President's Council member

The significance of relationships like these is not lost on anyone at Intermountain, and especially not Jim FitzGerald, Chief Executive Officer. "It's

impossible to state just how critical our relationships with churches have been in our century of service for Montana's children," FitzGerald said. "First Presbyterian of Kalispell is the perfect example of a group of people joining together to make our work for children possible."

If you're a member of a church, civic club or social group and you'd like ideas on how to get the group more involved in Intermountain's work, we would love to help you get started.

Contact the Development Office at 406-457-4804 with questions.