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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Idaho Women’s Charitable Foundation awards Valley Regional Transit a \$40,000 grant**

MERIDIAN – The Idaho Women’s Charitable Foundation (IWCF) recently awarded Valley Regional Transit (VRT) a \$40,000 grant to provide affordable job access transportation services to low-income populations.

“The support from the IWCF will further the mission of Valley Regional Transit’s Village Van program – *Bridging the gap between needs and opportunities, by connecting employers and workers with an affordable and reliable transportation option,*” said Tod Morris, Planner for VRT. “Without the financial contribution from the IWCF, the current Village Van was at risk of discontinuing service. However, with IWCF’s support, the program now has a real opportunity to develop some momentum and transition into a more sustainable model.”

VRT has provided low-income job access transportation for the past five years, serving populations with commuting needs beyond the times and locations of the traditional bus system. In southwest Idaho, comprehensive public transportation services range from minimal to nonexistent in terms of: days of week, times of day, and frequency of services. This creates a tremendous gap for low-income workers without access to a vehicle. The Village Van program provides a reliable and affordable commuting option for the region’s workforce.

IWCF’s support has been matched with generous contributions from other organizations to provide this safety net service. VRT anticipates that the Village Van program will provide an estimated 7,500 rides over the next year.

**About Idaho Women’s Charitable Foundation**

IWCF was founded in Sept. 2001, by a small group of women whose mission was to inspire other women with the power of collaborative philanthropy. Fifteen years later, and more than 350 members strong, IWCF has invested \$3.2 million to 80 pooled-fund grant recipients in southwest Idaho and to more than 400 individual designees chosen by its members.

Members learn about the community’s greatest needs. Then, through an educated, democratic process they direct their pooled funds to those projects that will provide the greatest community impact. IWCF is recognized for exercising a rigorous process to evaluate potential grant recipients to ensure that pooled funds are spent effectively and sustainably. Through the

individual designation process, members have the additional opportunity to direct half of their annual contribution to nonprofit organizations that are personally meaningful to them.

### **About Valley Regional Transit**

Valley Regional Transit is the regional public transportation authority for Ada and Canyon counties. Its mission is to *“Develop and manage transportation resources and to coordinate the effective and efficient delivery of safe transportation options to the region’s citizens.”* VRT manages service contracts that provide ValleyRide bus services and ACCESS paratransit services in Boise/Garden City, Nampa/Caldwell, and inter county service between Ada and Canyon counties. VRT also manages Boise GreenBike, the city of Boise bike share program.

