



Idaho Falls Area Humanitarian Center (IFAHC) Newsletter



Volume VIII

Issue 12

Dec 2022

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Leanna Winder

I recently read a little note that made me giggle and spirited my thoughts to the realities of life and service. "Be decisive. Right or wrong make a decision. The road of life is paved with flat squirrels who couldn't make a decision." We all want to make the good decisions. If we dilly-dally or put off making a decision, it will be made for us by default. Much to our dismay, this could leave us unhappy, wanting, and result in becoming a "flat squirrel" on the road. No "flat squirrels" here at the Humanitarian Center. We can create HOPE. By choosing to serve others, we make the decision to help those who experience loneliness, fear, death, loss, shyness, financial problems, and those who have lost everything. You and I have consciously decided to give part of ourselves to help others—to lift

(Continued on page 2)

2022 HOMELESS STAND DOWN



L-R Eric & Betsy Schultz, Peggy Maynes, Nancy Deschamps, & Sylvia Marlow

helped transport items and clothing racks to the venue, hang clothing, arrange items, and set up areas where items were distributed. Pictured here are those who helped on the day of the event. Special appreciation to all who helped make this year's event a success.

BIRTHRIGHT VISITS IFAHC

Director Cyndi Garnier of Birthright Idaho Falls recently presented information about the organization's mission and impact. "Birthright began in Canada in 1968 when Louise Summerhill, mother of seven, felt something should be done to help women facing unplanned pregnancies. By offering love, hope, support, and resources (www.birthright.org/learn/),"

Birthright has grown to become an international non-profit pregnancy support service fostering respect for human life through non-judgmental, confidential service regardless of client circumstances. In Idaho Birthright has offices in Coeur d'Alene, Meridian, and Idaho Falls. The local office is a 100 percent volunteer, interdenominational service providing emotional support, practical help such as pregnancy tests and education and community referrals for pre-

(Continued on page 2)

Thank you to all who helped set up, take down, and participate in the 2022 Idaho Falls Homeless Stand Down, the first held in two years. Jill Crooks organized our participation this year. So much behind-the-scenes work was accomplished by Betsy and Eric Schultz in sorting and preparing warehouse items. Volunteers

UPCOMING EVENTS

- DECEMBER 6 IFAHC OPEN EVENING
- DECEMBER 13-14 *HOLIDAY TASTING TABLE*
- DECEMBER 20-31 *IFAHC CLOSED*

Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 10 am – 3 pm

The Idaho Falls Area Humanitarian Center is a non-profit / non-denominational organization
PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS



DIRECTOR, CON'T

(Continued from page 1)

that sometimes stifling weight of everyday life. The world today is filled with much hatred, unhappiness, untruthfulness, and selfishness, how can we not try to bring a little joy, happiness and HOPE to others. Especially when we ourselves are so blessed. You cannot imagine the impact a simple smile, eye contact, or a word of encouragement and acknowledgement can be in making someone feel needed, valued or important. You can become a superstar with these three little acts. It's not painful; it could be scary the first time to step outside your comfort zone, but once you decide it is smooth sailing the next time.

Don't become a "flat squirrel." Make the decision to serve others now. The rewards are beyond anything you can imagine for you and those you serve. Merry Christmas!

BIRTHRIGHT, CON'T



Director Cyndi Garnier

(Continued from page 1)

natal care, financial assistance, legal advice, counseling, adoption services, and much more.

Birthright orders IFAHC newborn kits and hygiene kits. Pre-COVID the agency served about 100 clients annually and continued to serve clients remotely during COVID. The agency offers follow up care after delivery with referrals and

assistance such as diapers and children's new or gently used clothing up to size 4T. "We help anyone in need [who has] a child," Garnier said. There is no typical client, since ages range from teens to those 50 and older.

Clients can call or walk in the office located in the Heritage Plaza building on 17th Street. New clients receive a free pregnancy test and needs assessment followed by referrals to community resources for both mom and baby. Garnier explained that Idaho law

does not require a parent to sign for adoption at the beginning of the pregnancy, unlike other state. A signature is not required until after the child is born, so referrals to adoption agencies are offered.

Louise Summerhill said, "It is the right of every woman to give birth...and the right of every child to be born." Garnier feels Birthright is accomplishing its mission if they are helping children and mothers. "If we have saved just one child, we have done God's work. Working in the Idaho Falls office since 2010, Garnier knows of five children whose mothers would have chosen abortion without the services of Birthright.



POLICY #1009: TIME AND MATERIALS

From time to time it is good to be reminded of our policy regarding time and materials at IFAHC. Our Board approved policy #1009 states: All volunteers who sign in for volunteer hours will work exclusively on manufacturing IFAHC production items to be entered in to IFAHC inventory. Volunteer time and materials from the Idaho Falls Area Humanitarian Center (IFAHC) may not be used for personal profit or gain. All materials taken from the Idaho Falls Area Humanitarian Center must go through the established check in and check out process. No equipment or materials from IFAHC may be used for personal projects. Items that are not used at IFAHC may be found in the designated bin (Give Away Tote) at the front of the Conference Room. These items are available for volunteers to take home for their personal use. Personal projects may not be sold at IFAHC.

GOD BLESS US EVERY ONE
-Tiny Tim

Teach the Children

Late one Christmas Eve, I sank back, tired, but content, into my easy chair. The kids were in bed, the gifts were wrapped, the milk and cookies waited by the fireplace for Santa. As I sat back admiring the tree with its decorations, I couldn't help feeling that something important was missing. It wasn't long before the tiny twinkling tree lights lulled me to sleep. I don't know how long I slept, but all of a sudden I knew that I wasn't alone. I opened my eyes, and you can imagine my surprise when I saw Santa Claus, himself, standing next to my Christmas tree.



He was dressed all in fur from his head to his foot just as the poem described him, but he was not the "jolly old elf" of Christmas legend. The man who stood before me looked sad and disappointed. And there were tears in his eyes. "Santa, what's wrong?" I asked, "Why are you crying?" "It's the children," Santa replied sadly. "But Santa, the children love you," I said. "Oh, I know they love me, and they love the gifts I bring them," Santa said, "but the children of today seem to have somehow missed out on the true spirit of Christmas. It's not their fault. It's just that the adults, many of them not having been taught themselves, have forgotten to teach the children." "Teach them what?" I asked. Santa's kind old face became soft, more gentle. His eyes began to shine with something more than tears. He spoke softly. "Teach the children the true meaning of Christmas. Teach them that the part of Christmas we can see, hear,

which we now observe, and touch is much more than meets the eye. Teach them the symbolism behind the customs and traditions of Christmas. Teach them what it is they truly represent." Santa reached into his bag and pulled out a tiny Christmas tree and set it on my mantle.



Teach them about the Christmas tree. Green is the second color of Christmas. The stately evergreen, with its unchanging color, represents the hope of eternal life in Jesus. Its needles point heavenward as a reminder that mankind's thoughts should turn heavenward as well." Santa reached into his bag again and pulled out a shiny star and placed it at the top of the small tree. "The star was the heavenly sign of promise. God promised a Savior for the world and the star was the sign of the fulfillment of that promise on the night that Jesus Christ was born. Teach the children that God always fulfills His promises, and that wise men still seek Him" "Red," said Santa, "is the first color of Christmas." "He pulled forth a red ornament for the color of the life-giving blood that flows through our veins. It is the symbol of God's greatest gift. He shed his blood for them that they might have eternal life. When they see the



color red, it should remind them of that most wonderful gift." Santa found a silver bell in his pack and placed it on the tree. "Just as today for all to be guided to the fold. Teach the children to follow the mantle and lit it. The soft glow from its one tiny flame brightened the the gift of God's son that Christmas Eve long ago. Teach the children light shine before people that all may see it and glorify God. This is what's symbolized when bright shining lights, each of them representing one of God's precious children's light shining. Again Santa reached into his bag and this time he brought forth a tiny red and white striped candy cane is a stick of hard white candy. White to symbolize the virgin birth and sinless nature of the foundation of the church, and the firmness of God's promises. The candy cane forms a "J"



earth. It also represents the Good Shepherd's crook, which He uses to reach down into all ditches of the world to lift out all sheep, have gone astray. The original candy cane had three small red stripes, which are the stripes of the scourging are healed, and a large red stripe that represents the shed blood of Jesus, so that we can have the promise of eternal life. Teach these things to the children." Santa brought out a beautiful wreath made of fresh, fragrant greenery tied with a red ribbon. It reminds us of the bond of perfection, which is love. The wreath embodies all the good things about Christmas for those to understand. It contains the colors of red and green and the heaven-turned needles of the evergreen. The bow tells the story of good will towards all and its color reminds us of Christ's sacrifice. Even its very shape is symbolic, representing eternity and the eternal nature of Christ's love. It is a circle, without beginning and without end. These are the things you must teach the children." I asked, "But where does that leave you Santa?" The tears gone now from his eyes, a smile broke over Santa's face. "Why bless you, my dear," he laughed, "I'm only a symbol myself. I represent the spirit of family fun and the joy of giving and receiving. If the things, there is no danger that I'll ever be forgotten." "I said Santa. "You're an adult. If you don't teach the chil-



lost sheep are guided to safety by the sound of the bell, it continues to ring true Shepherd, who gave His life for the sheep." Santa placed a candle on the room "The glow of the candle represents how people can show their thanks for to follow in Christ's footsteps...to go about doing good. Teach them to let their the twinkle lights shine on the tree like hundreds of for all to see."

As he hung it on the tree he spoke softly. "The nature of Jesus, and hard to symbolize the Solid Rock, to represent the precious name of Jesus, who came to



the fallen lambs who, like Jesus received by which we bright red bow. "The bow with eyes to see and hearts

to understand. It contains the colors of red and green and the heaven-turned needles of the evergreen. The bow tells the story of good will towards all and its color reminds us of Christ's sacrifice. Even its very shape is symbolic, representing eternity and the eternal nature of Christ's love. It is a circle, without beginning and without end. These are the things you must teach the children." I asked, "But where does that leave you Santa?" The tears gone now from his eyes, a smile broke over Santa's face. "Why bless you, my dear," he laughed, "I'm only a symbol myself. I represent the spirit of family fun and the joy of giving and receiving. If the things, there is no danger that I'll ever be forgotten." "I said Santa. "You're an adult. If you don't teach the chil-



children are taught these other things, then who will?" — Author Unknown



Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 10 am – 3 pm

The Idaho Falls Area Humanitarian Center is a non-profit / non-denominational organization
PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

IFAHC CHRISTMAS PARTY

Volunteers, please join us for our tasting table on **December 13-14**. A special thank you to Costco, Broulim's and Sam's Club who have generously donated food and money for the event. Sign ups for pot luck veggie or fruit trays, salads and desserts are on Mozelle's desk.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Our Outreach Committee has recently contacted EIRMC, Ronald McDonald House, Mountain View and Community Care hospitals, and Wood Funeral Home. We are making a heating pad for Ronald McDonald House and a child size shirt coverup for little hospital patients. Local hospitals also expressed interest in our medical dolls.



THANK YOU MISSIONARIES

What would we do without our wonderful young missionaries?! They keep our facility clean and beautiful, volunteer their time and talents in creating products, and fill in wherever needed, such as preparing Christmas treats for all our center workers. Thank you, one and all. We love you and wish you a merry Christmas and the happiest of New Years!



Merry Christmas



WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS

NOVEMBER: Aide Erives, Brooke Lounsbury, Jane Roberts, Yvonne Searle, Dawnna Walters, Colby Wilson, Kendra Wood



DONATIONS NEEDED

- Newborn diapers
- 100% acrylic yarn (light colors)
- Bleach and laundry detergent
- Deodorant & disposable razors



WAYS TO DONATE



In person or by mail: 1415 Northgate Mile, Idaho Falls, ID 83401; PayPal; Venmo; idahofallsareahumanitariancenter.org

LAST MONTH'S IMPACT

Individual center workers	286
First-time volunteers.....	19
Onsite service hours	4064
Offsite service hour	3750
Total center items produced.....	3145
Total at-home items checked in.....	2971

THE LAST WORD

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart. – Helen Keller

