



IDAHO FALLS AREA HUMANITARIAN CENTER

MAY 2026

ISSUE FIVE

VOLUNTEER----DONATE ---- SERVE

WE ARE A NON-PROFIT, NON-DENOMINATIONAL ORGANIZATION 501 (C)(3)

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Drew & Bonnie Beasley



Drew and Bonnie have been associated with the Humanitarian Center since 2011 – when we were in the church's cultural hall. Drew and Bonnie were volunteer JustServe Specialists (Feb 2022 -Feb 2024) and in that capacity began a partnership with the Humanitarian Center where volunteer and other needs are published on JustServe.org. Drew and Bonnie authored the organization page and made a video of the Center – all critical elements in introducing the Center to the community/those who want to give back and improve our community. Bonnie periodically volunteered as a quilter at the Center. Drew served on Champ's Heart Board of Directors, including starting their veteran's program. (continued on page 2)

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Meet our friend, Elaina Williams!

Elaina has worked in the Center for four years. Her sister worked here and invited her to “come and see” what happens here. After a tour, Elaina was hooked and “the rest is history.”

Elaina grew up in Woodville, ID; moved to Shelley where she attended/graduated from Shelley HS. She currently lives in Firth, ID. She is the youngest of 6 children and her early years were spent on a farm. Family trips were to Utah. She is strong-willed and determined. If told it can't be done, she does her best to prove it CAN be done!

After marrying Raymond (painting department), they moved to Oregon, then Washington (they've been married 36 years!). She has two beautiful daughters, a grandson, and two granddaughters. Elaina has visited all but 4 states in the USA! She's traveled to Disneyland, Las Vegas, and Hawaii with her girls and her niece drove her to Maine, and Florida (Disneyworld). She loves sitting on beaches – watching the ocean and her favorite place on earth is the sand dunes in St. Anthony!

(continued on page 2)



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1415 Northgate Mile, Idaho Falls

Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile.

~Albert Einstein



Director's Message: Drew & Bonnie Beasley
(continued)

Bonnie and Drew are a service-oriented military family for 34 years. They have blessed many through their efforts as construction missionaries, building coordinators for the Sellars Creek Camp and Trekking site near Bone, ID; and most recently serving a Military Relations mission to three bases in the Jacksonville, FL area. Their thoughts about these experiences? "We saw the miracles of service and caring every day." As childhood sweethearts, we enjoy serving others as a couple; the Humanitarian Center provides that perfect opportunity to do so."

Volunteer Spotlight - Elaina Williams (continued)

Elaina has worked as a printer and in the office/customer service at Zip Print. After 25 years, she was up for a new challenge. She became a convenience store clerk, then a bookkeeper.

Her family is her life - from children to siblings - she is part of a close-knit family. Elaina especially enjoys get togethers with family and friends, listening to and sharing memories. She enjoys cooking, making home-made candles, crocheting and sewing. Really, anything she can get her hands on!

Elaina works in the sewing department and enjoys watching the products we create go to people in need. She enjoys making new friends. "I've never seen so many people dedicated to helping others. It makes me feel blessed to be a part of this."

Last Month's Impact

Center Activity:

Total Volunteers.....1,427

First-time volunteers.....5

Service Hours:

Total Hours.....15,956

Total On Site Hours.....5,065

Total Off-Site Hours10,891

Items Donated3,155

Items Produced.....3,686

Total Items Delivered4,177

WAYS TO DONATE

ifareahumanitariancenter.org/donate

In person or by mail
1415 Northgate Mile
Idaho Falls, ID 83401



<https://IFAREAHUMANITARIANCENTER.ORG/DONATE>

Evening Volunteer Opportunities:

Youth Groups: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Adults Only: 2nd Thursday of each month, from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Reservations required: Contact Frannie 208-227-4229

The Center's Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 10 am - 3 pm

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Website: ifareahumanitariancenter.org



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THE BEST WAY TO FIND YOURSELF IS TO LOSE
YOURSELF IN THE SERVICE OF OTHERS.
~ MAHATMA GHANDI



Upcoming Events:

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| May 5 | 7:00-8:30 pm Youth Night
(By reservation only) |
| May 13 | 8 am Executive Meeting |
| May 14 | 7:00-8:30 pm Adult Night
(By reservation only) |
| May 19 | 7:00-8:30 pm Youth Night
(By reservation only) |
| May 21 | 5:00 pm Board Meeting |

IFA Humanitarian Center

Driggs, Idaho Youth are part of the Solution!

The Driggs Idaho Stake youth donated **840 hygiene kits** to the Center on Tuesday, April 28. The stake collected the items and then assembled the hygiene kits in a recent weekend activity. There was over 100 youth and over 40 adults who participated in assembling the kits.

We are grateful to JR Berezay, former High Councilor & Stake Young Men's President, now a member of the Driggs Idaho Stake Presidency, for organizing this effort.

Our Center provides over 150 hygiene kits to our partner organizations **weekly**. This donation will make an enormous difference for those in need.

Thank you for your support, generosity, and kindness!





*People matter
most.*



Guest Speakers: Sarah O'Banion and Shawntel Lee from Family Services Alliance (FSA)

- The mission of the Family Services Alliance is to promote safe and thriving families, work to end physical, sexual and emotional abuse and provide victim support.
 - Sarah has worked for over 20 years in the Domestic Violence career.
 - FSA sees over 1500 new people every year. They also have weekly support groups. Established in 1974, FSA has offered help and hope for thousands of victims of domestic and sexual assault.
 - Their largest office is in Pocatello/Bannock county, and in Soda Springs/Caribou County. They also have “Sister Organizations” in Blackfoot, Bingham, Malad, and more locations.
 - “FSA is considered an emergency shelter, anything we can do to help people build healthy connections. They may have lost their church family, or Sunday school class, even their birth family, and the victims have found themselves in complete isolation. They no longer feel a part of anything. At FSA we care about them and their needs”
 - o Sarah shared her gratitude to every volunteer that comes into the Humanitarian Center to make items that can help those victims in need.
 - o FSA has been working with the Humanitarian Center for over 14 years. Every item that comes out of the Center has given hope and comfort to those victims in need.
 - o When a victim is removed from their home because of the abuser, they literally leave with nothing. Sarah said it is an honor to give them items from the Center, i.e. hygiene kits, a brand-new quilt, toys, folder games, and more. Every item makes a difference to a victim in need.
 - Sarah shared that her mom was a quilter. She would make quilts with different materials from a family shirt, or family blankets, and more. Sarah would look at one of those homemade quilts and have a memory of those fabric squares...This is not the case with the victims.
 - o Beds are a dangerous place and blankets are bad memories. So, to give a quilt to the victims helps them to distinguish the good verses the “bad” memory. Every item created does “matter to these individuals”. Sarah always teaches each victim “they matter”.
 - Sarah said to the volunteers today that “your willingness to come in and serve and take the time to make something so beautiful for these victims has been a blessing in so many ways.”
 - Sarah’s dad was a woodworker and owned a jigsaw. The wooden toys at the Center remind her of her father.
 - o The Center gives wooden toys that kids get to take home and it “belongs to them”. With the variety of colors of wooden dogs, cats or cars, the kids get to pick the one they want. The kids get to own something and that matters!!!
 - Every Christmas, they have a Santa Claus and a Mrs. Claus at their organization. The Center is one of the organizations that are the “elves”. The Center will give the FSA unpainted wooden toys each year. This allows the kids to paint on their own.
 - o Some of the favorite items for kids include the burrito babies, educational folder games, and puppets. She shared about a woman victim who was abused. She had twin daughters. The burrito babies were given to the girls. They loved those dolls because they had curly hair and looked like them. The woman later became a police officer and six years later, she is an advocate for the victims of sexual abuse and at FSA.
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