



Idaho Falls Area Humanitarian Center (IFAHC) Newsletter



Volume VIII

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Oct 2022

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Doug & Patti Owen

The Journey of a Toy Car

A few months ago, Jim Meyers, who paints wheels and jump rope handles here at IFAHC, offered a thought in our morning prayer meeting about the number of people involved in the production of a simple wooden toy. With his permission I offer my version of the process that he described. For our purposes let's say that the wooden toy is a car. While these steps follow that toy car through the most "stops" possible, it is meant to illustrate the number and variety of individuals that give of themselves to deliver a wooden toy car to a deserving child. Wood Cutters – Our wood cutters are the one group in our work force that do their job almost entirely off site. Our wood cutters are a dedicated assortment of workers who, in their basement, garage or workshop, cut a wide variety of shapes and sizes of toys for our center. They do this almost entirely using wood that they procure on their own. This is where our toy car begins its life.

Sanders – Using sheets of sandpaper, a small bench top belt/disc sander, and most often, a Dremel-type tool with a sanding drum, our

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NEW COMMUNITY ROOM DIRECTORS



Betsy and Eric Schultz

IFAHC welcomes Betsy and Eric Schultz as new Community Room coordinators! They wanted to serve a service mission for their church and chose IFAHC from their available options.

Eric is from Mesa, Arizona, and Betsy was born and raised in Minnesota. They have lived in Minnesota, Missouri, Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Idaho. Betsy says, "We have six amazing sons. Three of them live here in Idaho, one lives in Utah, and two live in California. We have five wonderful daughters-in-law and 21 wonderful grandchildren—12 grandsons and nine granddaughters. We celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in April of this year and went on our first cruise to Alaska. We loved it!

"When we first started working at the Center, we tied

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- 11 Oct10 am Sam's Club Service Project here
- 12 Oct 8 am IFAHC Executive Meeting
- 18 Oct 6:30 pm IFAHC Open Evening
- 25-26 OctHalloween Pumpkin Carving Contest
..... and Pot Luck
- 28 Oct1-6 pm Setup for Stand Down
- 29 Oct 9 am-12pm Stand Down
.....12 pm Stand Down take down
- 31 OctHappy Halloween!

WE WILL BE CLOSED THE WEEK OF THANKSGIVING

Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 10 am – 3 pm

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October

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, CONTINUED

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sanding crew spends their days transforming rough cut wood into paint-ready car bodies (as well as animals, puzzles, airplanes, etc.).

Base painters – While not everyone is an aspiring artist, we have an ongoing need for base painters. This is the most common activity among our drop-in volunteers and off-site group projects. This step is essential to provide a clean and colorful canvas in preparation for details to be added in our toy car's next stop on our assembly line.

Detail painters – For those aspiring Rembrandts, we are always in need of detail painters. These painters add the lights and windows to our toy car.

Clear Coat Painters – Yes, a third step in the painting process. Providing both protection and a professional looking gloss finish to our little car, we have a few volunteers that take care of the bulk of this step in our car's journey through our assembly line.

Wheel painters – While we use pre-manufactured wheels (that we purchase by the thousands), these wheels come to us as nature intended, as raw wood. Our dedicated team of wheel painters paint the thousands of wheels that we use on a yearly basis. While most are painted black, we do use wheels in every color in the rainbow. Our toy car will be receiving a shiny set of black wheels.

Wheel Clear Coat Painters – Yes, our little wheels deserve the same protective, shiny finish coat so that they will look great on their new car.

Wheel installers – One more step that is handled by a just a few of our volunteers, installing wheels takes skill to ensure that our car is ready to roll for many years to come.

Inspector and Labeler – Not every toy car that makes it this far will pass muster. Each car is inspected to ensure that it is completely painted and top coated as well that the wheels are working properly. Next a label is affixed to each car to remind parents that their child's new car includes small parts. Finally, each car is placed in a plastic bag and set to our inventory area/warehouse.

Warehouser – We have a pretty remarkable inventory area/warehouse at the Idaho Falls Area Humanitarian Center. There, nestled among quilts, jump ropes, folder games and other wooden toys, our toy car awaits the call from an agency that seeks to take care of a child's desire for a new toy.

Order filler - The Order Fillers in our Community Room take the requests from our partner agencies and fill their requests, pulling items from our warehouse, in this case, our toy car, to box it up

and send it on its way.

Delivery Driver – We even have individuals that spend their time, in their own vehicles, making sure that our toy car makes its way to the requesting agency.

Agency Partners – Over 100 agencies with direct access to those in need in our area are at the front lines in our effort to make sure that our toy car makes its way into the hands of a deserving child. It truly takes a village to do what we do. You, our volunteers, are that village. We look forward to the smiling faces that come to our center and help in the work of building toy cars, quilts, jump ropes, folder games and the myriad of items that we produce. But we would not be able to do what we do without the ongoing assistance of the innumerable community members that provide about two thirds of the hours that are donated through the center. Thank you for being part of our village.

Thanks, the Wooden Toy and Jump Rope Departments.



SCHULTZ, CONTINUED

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quilts,” Betsy continues. “A lady from one of the agencies spoke at prayer meeting. She told of a man who slept in his car and to stay warm drank alcohol. Then he got one of our quilts and didn’t need alcohol to stay warm. We knew that tying quilts made a difference.” Eric worked for over 40 years in the computer field. Betsy was a stay-at-home mom until her last child left home and then worked for 12 years in a special education classroom.

DONATIONS NEEDED

**Women and Men’s Deodorant
Razors
Laundry Detergent**

FOND FAREWELLS TO SPECIAL FRIENDS



Cindy & Gary Branson

We are Gary and Cindy Branson, we were called to serve at the Idaho Falls Humanitarian Center on September 14, 2014. It's amazing to see how quickly eight years passes by while you are busy serving.

We had various positions while first getting started at the Center. We tied quilts, put together puppets, put handles on jump ropes, finally landing in the Outreach Program where we served most of our mission. Each week we contacted all the agencies we were serving to see what their needs were. Then we helped organize the deliveries. We also found great joy giving many presentations all over the Snake River Valley, showing what the Humanitarian Center has to offer and how others could help through donations and volunteering.

It has been a great joy to get to serve those in need, meet others who serve people in need, and be with the many new friends who served with us. Great friendships have been built, and it will be difficult for us to leave. This has become a habit that we looked forward to every week.

We enjoyed going to the stand downs and helping prepare those who are homeless and destitute for winter, giving clothes, blankets, hygiene kits, etc. Most fun was giving wood toys to the children. We had a heartbreaking experience when two young girls (around age 8 or 9) came to our table desperately seeking sleeping bags. They were so cold sleeping in their car. When we told them there were no more sleeping bags they began to cry. We were able to give them a few blankets and quilts to help keep them warm.

It's been wonderful to watch the efforts of the Eagle Scouts and other organization's dedicated efforts to the IFAHC. Some of our favorite projects were working on Christmas gifts for mothers, dispersing the Christmas toys to selected organizations.

We will cherish and be grateful for this experience in our lives. Thank you for the opportunity to serve. Thank You!



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FOND FAREWELLS , CON'T



Leanna Winder

Leanna Winder concludes her volunteer service on October 1. She has been volunteering by helping people check out, make, and finish folder games for about 6 years. She says the time has flown by.

“I started to [volunteer] after I retired. I grew up in a family where service was a daily affair. My parents were great examples to follow. When I was raising my family and working full time, I envied my younger siblings and my parents, especially my mom. They were always giving their time in service. So

when I retired, I knew right where I wanted to spend my time. One of the best memories I have will always be the people I’ve met and new friends I’ve made.” We will all miss Leanna’s warmth, patience, and kindness and wish her every happiness in future endeavors.



IFAHC RECOGNIZES JOHNSON BROS.



L-R David Johnson, Doug Owen, Val Denton, Lindsay Johnson

Director Don Neville, Val Denton, and Doug Owen, Wooden Toys Coordinator, presented brothers David and Lindsay Johnson of Johnson Brothers cabinets a custom plaque commemorating ten years of their generous donations of wood and precision milling. Val told how ten years ago he was telling a friend how he was constantly looking for scrap wood for jump rope handles. As David Johnson was walking by, Val’s friend said David might be able to help. Johnson Brothers began supplying all the wood and using their precision milling equipment to drill out jump rope handles.

Johnson Brothers began supplying all the wood and using their precision milling equipment to drill out jump rope handles.



Doug and Patti Owen designed the special plaque to include a mini jump rope. We are deeply indebted to Johnson Brothers for their generous contribution to the Center.

WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS!

August

John Blacker, Terri Christensen, June Mann, Chris Padigimus, Tom Ray, Debora Scholes, Stacy Stinson

September

Kirby Darrington, Sylvia Engle, Sheri Willoughby, Viona Yost

LAST MONTH’S IMPACT

Individual center workers.....	275
First-time volunteers.....	22
Onsite service hours.....	4,242
Offsite service hours.....	4,248
Total center items produced.....	3,552
Total at-home items checked in.....	5,518

WAYS TO DONATE



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

THE LAST WORD

“You have not lived today until you have done something for someone else who can never repay you. — John Bunyan

