



Idaho Falls Area Humanitarian Center

Monthly Newsletter



Volume IX

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February 2023

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Wendy Hays

anxiety and depression following a stroke, and my husband's

Two years ago, I could not have imagined the wealth of friendship and love I would enjoy today through my Idaho Falls Area Humanitarian Center associations. I returned to Idaho Falls after a four-year absence. As a widow living with a daughter, I needed something to do with my time. I had struggled with

passing and the secondary losses that came with that brought me to a new emotional low. It was all I could do to get from one day to the next. I felt lost. Volunteering here felt so good because I was doing something, unlike dishes or laundry, that stayed done. It felt especially good to do something that could help someone in need.

At first I made it a point to keep to myself in an attempt to mask my anxiety, panic attacks, and a long history of clinical depression. I felt broken, damaged, and hopeless. The life I had known and loved was gone, and I no longer knew how to navigate a world that had shattered around me.

One day our Director asked me if I would be willing to give up volunteering in the sewing department to do administrative work. I had retired after 30 years as an administrator and middle manager. I was willing to help out and do what I could. I love organizing and

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STEWARDS OF RECOVERY

McKayla Todd, program coordinator at Stewards of Recovery, has a background in law enforcement as a former deputy and parole officer. She now works with both residential and out patient clients in Idaho Falls and Blackfoot, helping youth ages 5 to 18. Stewards of Recovery orders our hygiene kits and pillowcases. They opened in 2015 and have expanded rapidly since that time. Funded primarily through Medicaid, they are able to serve 80 residential clients. Currently they also serve about 125 out patient clients with counseling and support services such as

clothing, housing, transportation, and education—helping clients get their GED online.

Clients struggle with substance abuse and mental health and trauma issues. They may be referred through the court probation system, CPS, or pre-trial services. They may also just walk in to seek help. The agency focuses on helping others seek treatment vs. having them spend time in jail.



**PLEASE FORWARD THIS NEWSLETTER
TO OTHERS!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1 FEB.....FIRST DAY OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH
- 7 FEB.....6:30 PM IFAHC OPEN EVENING
- 8 FEB.....8 AM IFAHC EXECUTIVE MEETING
- 14 FEB.....VALENTINES DAY
- 16 FEB.....IFAHC BOARD MEETING
- 20 FEB.....PRESIDENTS' DAY
- 21 FEB.....6:30 PM IFAHC OPEN EVENING



McKayla Todd
Program Coordinator

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

FEBRUARY

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE,

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taught computer applications for eight years at a business college. I was in my element, and I started having some fun. The feedback I received was positive; everyone was so kind and expressed appreciation. I felt valued, that I was doing meaningful work, and I was doing a small part to move our mission forward. Gradually I learned names and began to relax and be less introverted. Those around me were generous with their encouragement.

Over time, acquaintances became friends, and I began to share with them a small part of the journey that had brought me through our doors. Like the good Samaritan, people around me reached out, bound up my wounds, carried me along, and fed and clothed me with friendship and the bestowed the mantle of kindness.

Two innkeepers in scripture stand out to me. One in Bethlehem had no room, and one on the road to Jericho cared, comforted, and ministered according to the Master's instructions. I find IFAHC to be an inn of the second type. Here you will find acceptance, healing and help, love, friendship, compassion, and connection. Words are inadequate to express my gratitude to each person. You have touched my life for good. The work you do here is the work of the Master.

We cut, sew, sand, stitch, repurpose and repair donations that come to us discarded, damaged, unneeded, or broken. During the process of our work, we as volunteers are also restored and repaired in subtle ways. George Blair's poem, *The Carpenter of Nazareth*, captures the essence of what I have both observed and experienced here at the Inn we call IFAHC.

In Nazareth, the narrow road,
That tires the feet and steals the breath,
Passes the place where once abode

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KROGER AND AMAZON SMILE

Amazon Smile is going away. We're sad, but we will still receive donations through Kroger, so here's a reminder on how to make sure you're signed up so your Fred Meyer purchases benefit IFAHC:

Kroger, Inc. owns Fred Meyer and Smith's Food and Drug; they will donate a percentage of your order to IFAHC. Supporting IFAHC is as simple as updating the Community Rewards selection on your digital account. Just sign into your account at <https://www.fredmeyer.com/signin?redirectUrl=/account/communityrewards/>

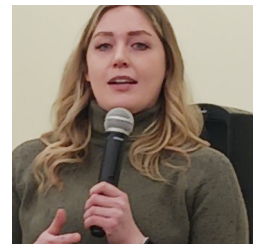
Search for Idaho Falls Area Humanitarian Center.

Select us from the list and click "Enroll." Any transactions using the Shopper's Card number associated with your digital account will be applied to the rewards program.



CASA AGENCY VISIT

Kim Murphy recently represented Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) as a guest speaker. Serving over 500 children in 2022, CASA volunteers each spent between 5 and 15 months visiting with children and stakeholders to help provide needed stability and consistency in families in distress, focusing on reunification of parents and children



Kim Murphy

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DONATIONS URGENTLY NEEDED

12 OZ SHAMPOO
DISINFECTANT SPRAY
LAUNDRY DETERGENT

ASSISTANT DIR., CON'T

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The Carpenter of Nazareth.
And up and down the dusty way
The village folk would often wend;
And on the bench, beside Him, lay
Their broken things for Him to mend.
The maiden with the doll she broke,
The woman with the broken chair,
The man with broken plough, or yoke,
Said, "Can you mend it, Carpenter?"
And each received the thing he sought,
In yoke, or plough, or chair, or doll;
The broken thing which each had brought
Returned again a perfect whole.
So, up the hill the long years through,
With heavy step and wistful eye,
The burdened souls their way pursue,
Uttering each the plaintive cry:
"O Carpenter of Nazareth,
This heart, that's broken past repair,
This life, that's shattered nigh to death,
Oh, can You mend them, Carpenter?"
And by His kind and ready hand,
His own sweet life is woven through
Our broken lives, until they stand
A New Creation—"all things new."
The shattered [substance] of [the] heart,
Desire, ambition, hope, and faith,
Mold Thou into the perfect part,
O, Carpenter of Nazareth!

LAST MONTH'S IMPACT

Individual center workers.....	337
First-time volunteers.....	48
Onsite service hours.....	4,553
Offsite service hour	4,422
Total center items produced	4,553
Total at-home items checked in.....	5,957

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As I move away this month, I feel much like the piece of wood, discarded yarn, or donated fabric remnant we see daily at the center. Like so many before me, I have been transformed, restored, repaired, and renewed thanks to each of you who do the work of the Master.

CASA, CON'T

whenever possible. CASA needs volunteers and provides training including child protection services and case studies. They also provide volunteer supervision. An individual case may last an average of 18 months. CASA clients range in age from 0-18 years. Murphy says there is pending legislation that will extend the age range to age 21.

CASA uses our lap blanket and newborn kits for their clients. Murphy says that the handmade touch makes all the difference compared with a \$20 item from a retail store.



FAREWELL TO ELLEN

Best wishes to Ellen Bates who has stepped down as our crochet and knitting department lead to attend to family and health issues. We hope to see your beautiful smile from time to time at the Center.



Ellen Bates

WAYS TO DONATE



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

THE LAST WORD

"He drew a circle that shut me out—heretic, rebel, a thing to flout. But love and I had the wit to win: We drew a circle and took him In!" —Edwin Markham

