



Idaho Falls Area Humanitarian Center

Monthly Newsletter



Volume XI

Issue 5

May 2025

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

In a world often driven by personal ambition and individual success, the quiet power of serving others remains one of the most profound sources of joy and meaning. To serve is not simply to give—it is to connect, uplift, and become part of something greater than oneself. True service stems from compassion. When we choose to help another person—whether through kind words, time, or effort—we contribute to the well-being of our communities and to our own sense of purpose. As Mahatma Gandhi wisely said, *"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."*

Serving others doesn't require grand gestures. It begins in small, everyday moments: listening without judgment, offering help without expecting recognition, or simply being present. These acts ripple outward, creating a culture of care and interconnectedness. It softens the heart, expands empathy, and often provides perspective in difficult times. In helping others, we often heal ourselves. So whether in big ways or small, serving others is not just a blessing to them—it is a gift to us all.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Brent Jackson began working with the Idaho Falls Area Humanitarian Center family in May 2024. Brent, a proud Ririe native, has also lived in Idaho Falls and Menan. His strong work ethic comes from years of experience in dairy and cattle ranching, as well as working with Dome Technology and in shipping at Melaleuca.

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GUEST SPEAKER



On April 15th, we welcomed Marilee Hunt as our guest speaker. Marilee is the Rehab Program Manager at Community Connections, Inc., an organization that supports adults with disabilities who are on A&D or

DD Medicaid waivers and in need of housing assistance.

In addition to housing support, Community Connections offers a range of services to their clients, including assistance with cleaning, cooking skills training, and help with shopping. Currently, they operate three homes in Idaho Falls, each accommodating 3 to 4 residents. They also extend their services to individuals living at home or with family.

UPCOMING EVENTS

5 MAY CINCO DE MAYO
6 MAY 6:30 PM IFAHC YOUTH NIGHT BY RESERVATION
8 MAY 6:30 PM IFAHC OPEN EVENING FOR ADULTS ONLY
11 MAY MOTHER'S DAY
14 MAY 8 AM IFAHC EXECUTIVE MEETING
15 MAY 5 PM IFAHC BOARD MEETING
17 MAY ARMED FORCES DAY
20 MAY 6:30 PM IFAHC YOUTH NIGHT BY RESERVATION
26 MAY MEMORIAL DAY



Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 10 am – 3 pm

Phone: 208-497-2868 Website: ifareahumanitariancenter.org

The Idaho Falls Area Humanitarian Center is a non-profit / non-denominational organization

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(Volunteer Spotlight continued)

What drew Brent to the Center? Simply put—the opportunity to serve others. His genuine desire to help make a meaningful difference in the lives of those he serves. One of the most inspiring parts of volunteering, he says, is knowing that we can help others.

When he's not at the Center, Brent enjoys fishing at different spots and getting out to camp once in a while. He also treasures time with his family, especially just being able to enjoy moments together.

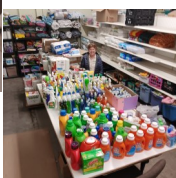
To fellow volunteers, Brent shares how much he enjoys the company of others at the Center, making connections while giving back. We are grateful to be able to serve with Brent.



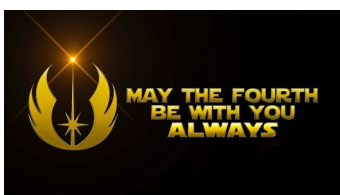
Community Council of Idaho brought treats and a thank you note for us. We are grateful for their kindness and support.



Ashton Idaho Stake and Community donated many items to our community room and a cash donation to use towards other needed supplies. Thank you!



Moreland 6th ward donated hygiene kits.



LAST MONTH'S IMPACT

Individual center workers.....	349
First-time volunteers	12
Onsite service hours	5378
Offsite service hour.....	11778
Total center items produced	3807



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GUEST SPEAKER



On April 21, Becky Jackson from Ambitions of Idaho came to speak to us and explain their organization and how they use the products we supply to them. Ambitions of Idaho is an extension of an organization first organized in Washington in 1992.

Their goal is to help developmentally delayed adults in our area. They provide homes for clients who can't live alone and need 24-hour-a-day assistance. Typical homes are maintained for three adults, currently serving 33 people in an age range of 19-65 years old.

These clients typically have health and/or mental issues which preclude their living alone, and are homeless or come from families who can't provide for them.

It is non-denominational, and can serve persons coming from jail, for their own safety, and some are able to work a little. One resident currently serves here at the Humanitarian Center one day a week, and others are provided job coaches to help them find work and to be successful at their jobs.

They have a highly qualified staff, because they can be picky about who they hire, and pay better than most agencies.

Clients who are on Social Security pay their own rent and utilities. This service requires a lifetime commitment, because most clients don't move on to live an independent life.

Becky reported they appreciate using many of our products, including hygiene bags, quilts and weighted blankets. They always need and appreciate volunteers, so if you find yourself with some time to spare, check with Ambitions of Idaho and see how they can use your talents.

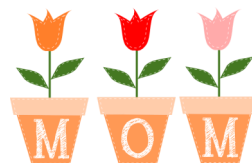
WAYS TO DONATE

ifareahumanitariancenter.org/donate

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



venmo



GUEST SPEAKER



We recently had the opportunity to hear from Kimberly Murphy with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). CASA is an organization dedicated to supporting children who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned. Their mission is to ensure every child has a voice in court and the chance to grow up in a safe, permanent home. As Kimberly emphasized, "Every child has a right to a safe and permanent home."

CASA volunteers, who come from all walks of life, advocate for the best interests of children in the foster care system. In addition to legal support, they provide children with basic essentials—especially for those who have had very little—reminding them that they are seen, supported, and cared for.

CASA was founded in the 1980s when a judge recognized the need for dedicated advocates for children navigating the foster system. What began as one judge's vision quickly grew as volunteers stepped forward to help. While CASA's primary focus is always the child, they also work to support families and encourage reunification when it is safe and possible.



Kindness is spreading
sunshine into other people's
lives regardless of the
weather. ~Unknown Author

We appreciate Amanda's service! We will miss her.



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DONATIONS NEEDED

SHAVE CREAM

DEODORANT

TOOTH PASTE

BABY WIPES

TOILET PAPER

YARN 4 PLY

COTTON YARN

HYGIENE KIT SUPPLIES



EVENING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Youth Groups—1st and 3rd Tuesdays 6:30-8:30

Adults Only—2nd Thursday of each month

Reservation Required—Contact Randy 208-589-4974

