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IDAHO FALLS AREA HUMANITARIAN CENTER

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE THREE
MARCH 2026



Leader's Message - Sue Hunter

Sue started volunteering at the Center in 2018. She has served in the Jump Ropes Department since starting at the Center. Also, Sue and Chuck, her husband, have enjoyed working at the IFAHC booth at the Roaring Youth Jam every summer handing out the toys and jump ropes that come from the Center to the kids. Sue has been so impressed by the dedication of all of the volunteers at the Center.

Sue is from Connecticut and met her husband in St. Louis where he was studying dentistry. Sue was studying physical therapy. After graduating, they lived in Ohio and New York. (see page 3)



Volunteer Spotlight Becky Christiansen

Becky started at the Humanitarian Center in February 2022. One of the joys in her life is to sew. She knew that by serving at the Center, she would help many in our communities.

Becky has lived in Ohio, Utah, Washington and Idaho. She has 3 children; they are grown and married. She is blessed to be called "nana" to 8 wonderful grandchildren. She met her sweetheart right out of high school, and it was the best decision of her life!!!

Some of her work experience includes: bank secretary, construction office manager at Fin Fun Mermaid Co, INL Admin, and also worked at school district 91 as a Title One Tutor.

She loves to travel and has travelled across the United States. The sun, warm and beaches are her favorite places to visit. She has also adventured to Mexico and the Dominican Republic. Becky also enjoys swinging in her hammock just enjoying nature!

She shares her amazement of seeing the number of finished products that the Center provides to so many in need. The amount of quilts, hygiene kits, weighted blankets and many other items is such a joy to her. It is heartwarming to think of all the people we can help and the countless service hours provided.

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Upcoming Events:

March 3	7:00-8:30 pm Youth Night (By reservation only)
March 11	8 am Executive Meeting
March 12	7:00-8:30 pm Adult Night (By reservation only)
March 17	7:00-8:30 pm Youth Night (By reservation only)
March 19	5:00 pm Board Meeting

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

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

**PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND
NEIGHBORS**



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IDAHO FALLS AREA HUMANITARIAN CENTER

"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves" Romans 12:10



Volunteer Spotlight - Becky Christianson (continued)

One fun fact about Becky is that she and her husband were in a Toyota Commercial. "It was super fun to have my friends and family see us on TV for a while."

The people who serve here are wonderful, inspiring, kind and loving. If you ever have a problem, there is someone here who can help you.

She said, "I ALWAYS leave feeling better. It is a form of therapy for the soul."

Guest Speaker Presentation



"Humanitarian work is about building bridges – between need and help, between despair and hope, between strangers who become neighbors. Today, as we begin, we step onto that bridge together.

Every act of service, no matter how small, plants a seed of hope in someone else's life. When we serve together, those seeds grow into a forest of compassion that can shelter an entire community."

Claudia Pine, the Community Director of Happyville Community Farm, a nonprofit urban farm, came to the Center to share valuable information about their farm. The Farm is located at 640 S. Saturn Avenue, Idaho Falls.

- Claudia has 30 years of experience in organic farming.
- Happyville Community Farm is a registered 501 (c)(3) organization.
- They started planting in 2020 at the farm, 1.2 acre vegetable garden
- It is a suburban farm, located in one of the poorest neighborhoods in the city, lots of widows/widowers, and young families
- They grow healthy fresh organic vegetables, and harvest 12 months a year
- 90 pounds of carrots were harvested last week.
- They have three High Tunnel, Solar Powered Greenhouses.
- The food is donated to the soup kitchen, food pantry, and other locations of need.
- Every Wednesday afternoon in the summer, there is a farm stand. (end of May-October)
- They grow fruit, vegetables, lettuce, herbs, and flowers for pollination.
- Classes are taught, youth groups are on Tuesday evenings.

DONATE:



<https://IFAREAHUMANITARIANCENTER.ORG/DONATE>

WAYS TO DONATE

ifareahumanitariancenter.org/donate

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



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Sue Hunter - continued:

After graduation, they lived in Ohio and New York while Chuck was in the Air Force. They served as mission leaders in Venezuela for 3 years when their kids were 12 and 14. They also served a mission in Chili two years ago.

Sue loves playing tennis and skiing. They have worked as mountain hosts at Big Sky Resort for the past 9 years.

"It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit !"

Guest Speaker: Chesska Motloch

The AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Volunteer Program (FGP) is sponsored by United Way of Eastern Idaho.

The Foster Grandparent Program is not the same as foster parents- the children do NOT live with you.

The AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program matches seniors 55 and up with children aged 2-17 who need a little extra support with social, behavioral, or minor academic goals. We match you within our 24-county region, from Jerome to Teton, based on your preferences such as tiny humans or high school aged kids. You then work one on one or in small groups as a supportive, caring adult sharing your wisdom, time, and experience.

This position does provide a small, non-taxable stipend that does not interfere with any government benefits such as Medicare, for those who qualify.

Get Involved as a Foster Grandparent Share Today, Shape Tomorrow!



Last Month's Impact

Center Activity:

Total Volunteers.....532
First-time volunteers.....5

Service Hours:

Total Hours.....11,276
Total On Site Hours.....3,382
Total Off-Site Hours7,895

Items Donated5,083

Items Produced.....2,141

Happyville Community Farm (continued)

Their Mission: Food Bank Farm, and follow Matthew 25: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat..." Also to help people understand how to grow and cook food. Classes are taught throughout the summer in their garden: Come over and learn how to plant their rainbow carrots, learn about bugs and insects

There are a lot of volunteers, and the donations are used to purchase seeds and fruit trees and high tunnels.

200-250 volunteers each year, service missionaries continue to volunteer.

Turn Trash into Treasure: Claudia also talked about saving plastic. The plastic should be a "stretchy" plastic, examples include grocery plastic bags, the bags around the toilet paper and paper towels, etc.

- They turn the plastic in at Albertsons
- They turn in over 1,000 pounds of plastic each year.
- It is then shipped to a Texas Factory. They in turn reward Happyville with resin park benches. Those visiting the farm have a place to sit. They have several along their sidewalks.
- She will be providing a recycling bin for the Center for plastic donations.