

Dr. Mary Sanderson Exemplifies the Spirit of Community in Coeur d'Alene

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Treasured Adult Philanthropist 2024

Mary Sanderson

Dr. Mary Sanderson is proof that retirement doesn't mean taking a step back from what matters to you.

A respected retired physician in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Dr. Sanderson has made significant contributions to her community, particularly in philanthropy and healthcare. She's actively involved in the community as a volunteer for several cultural and civic organizations. Dr. Sanderson has served on the board of directors for Coeur d'Alene Summer Theater and is an active member of Rotary and the Coeur d'Alene Library Foundation.

Her lasting impact continues to grow. Recently, she helped establish the Greater Coeur d'Alene Community Foundation, which aims to support local nonprofits, schools, and community organizations. The Greater Coeur d'Alene Community Foundation, an affiliate of the Idaho Community Foundation, will oversee grant distribution to areas where they can make the most impact.

At the Celebration of Philanthropy event hosted by the Idaho Community Foundation this past spring, Dr. Sanderson contributed \$100,000 to the Community Foundation, receiving all-around support and appreciation, including a standing ovation from the attendees. Dr. Sanderson's dedication exemplifies the spirit of community, care, and generosity in Coeur d'Alene.

Asked what inspires her to give, Dr. Sanderson said, "I wanted to do something in the long run for the community. This is the community I grew up in, and people are very generous. I feel very lucky to have grown up here."

Dr. Sanderson's family came to North Idaho many years ago, and it's clear how special this community is to her. Speaking to the Greater Coeur d'Alene Community Foundation, Mary said, "I was impressed with how well the Rotary endowment foundation has done, and how much good it would do. I thought a lot of people who aren't in the Rotary could learn about it, and it's a good way to get others involved. It's a way for people to continue doing good things in the community."

Thanks to Dr. Sanderson's generosity and support, good things will continue to happen in the Cour d'Alene community.

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