IDAHO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Greg Carr

Restoring What's Been Lost

Philanthropy, for Greg Carr, has never been about recognition. It's about restoration — of landscapes, of dignity, of possibility.

Born and raised in Idaho Falls, Carr grew up beneath wide skies and steady values: self-reliance, stewardship, and the unspoken belief that communities thrive when neighbors care for one another. Those lessons stayed with him, quietly shaping a life that would reach from Idaho's high desert to the rainforests of Mozambique — and back again.

After earning degrees in history and public policy from Utah State University and Harvard, Carr built a groundbreaking career in technology, co-founding Boston Technology and serving as Chair of Prodigy, one of the first online services. Yet even amid innovation and success, he felt a tug toward something deeper — a calling not to make the world faster, but fairer; not just more connected, but more compassionate.

In 1998, Carr answered that call by establishing the Gregory C. Carr Foundation, devoted to human rights, education, and the arts. His giving quickly evolved from supporting causes to rebuilding systems — and eventually, ecosystems.

In 2004, he embarked on a journey that would define his legacy: partnering with the government of Mozambique to restore Gorongosa National Park, once one of Africa's most spectacular wildlife reserves before decades of civil war left it in ruins. What began as an act of conservation became a movement of renewal — blending environmental recovery with human empowerment.

Under Carr's leadership, Gorongosa's forests have regrown. Elephant herds roam again. Local women have become scientists, teachers, and community leaders. Health clinics, schools, and small businesses now stand where silence and loss once prevailed. The park is no longer simply protected land — it's living proof that philanthropy can heal both people and planet.

"The story of Gorongosa is not just about restoring a park," Carr said. "It's about restoring people's faith that tomorrow can be better than today."

That same spirit of renewal flows through Carr's work here in Idaho. He joined many community leaders to help restore the Historic Colonial Theater in Idaho Falls,

bringing light, laughter, and live performance back to a cherished community landmark. He co-founded the Museum of Idaho, ensuring that the state's stories — from its rugged landscapes to its scientific achievements — inspire generations to come.

In Boise, Carr's commitment to human dignity helped shape the Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial and the Wassmuth Center for Human Rights, sacred spaces for reflection and learning. And in one of his most symbolic gestures, he purchased the former Aryan Nations compound near Hayden Lake after a civil rights lawsuit dissolved the hate group. He donated the land to North Idaho College, where it was transformed into a peaceful public park — turning a place once defined by hate into one defined by hope.

Beyond Idaho, Carr endowed Harvard University's Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, a global leader in advancing compassion, justice, and ethical leadership.

Across continents, Greg Carr's work is rooted in the same belief: that every community — whether in rural Idaho or the heart of Africa — has the power to heal itself when given the chance.

"Greg's vision and generosity are the embodiment of Idaho's philanthropic tradition," said Steve Burns, President and CEO of The Idaho Community Foundation. "He reminds us that Idaho's values of stewardship, perseverance, and care for others can ripple outward to change the world."

For his lifetime of transformative leadership and his unwavering faith in humanity, Greg Carr is an inaugural inductee into the Idaho Philanthropy Hall of Fame — a fitting honor for an Idahoan whose heart is as expansive as the landscapes he works to restore.