



2026 Governor Cecil D. Andrus Volunteer of the Year Honoree

David Roberts: A Life Built by What He Gives



David Roberts does not talk about volunteering as something separate from the rest of his life. For him, service is not a line on a résumé, a committee assignment, or a way to be recognized. It is a way of moving through the world — shaped early, practiced often, and strengthened over a lifetime of showing up for people and causes that matter.

That spirit began in Weiser, Idaho, where David grew up watching his parents model community involvement through banking, civic clubs, and local service. His father's involvement with the Lions Club introduced David to the rhythm of volunteering: cleanup days, community events, and the annual National Old-time

Fiddlers' Contest. By age 7, he was fascinated by the Festival of Trees that supported Weiser Memorial Hospital. By 16, he was chairing it.

Even earlier, David was finding ways to help. After a devastating 1994 fire damaged the Intermountain Cultural Center and Museum in Weiser, he drew a picture of the building as a sixth grader and raffled it to raise money for restoration. He later helped organize dances and other fundraisers for the rebuild. Those early experiences taught him that young people are capable of meaningful service — and that one person willing to begin can bring others along.

Today, David's community involvement stretches across the Treasure Valley and beyond. He has served in leadership and volunteer roles with Saint Alphonsus, including the Festival of Trees and Capitol Classic; the American Cancer Society – Idaho Chapter; Special Olympics Idaho; The Salvation Army; Boise Rescue Mission Ministries; Junior Achievement of Idaho; the Idaho Foodbank; the Boys & Girls Club of Ada County; and the Boise Metro Chamber Ambassadors. Through D.L. Evans Bank, where he serves as a Vice President Branch Manager and Community Development Officer, he also helps connect nonprofit needs with business resources, sponsorships, and volunteers.

His impact is often practical and behind the scenes. At Saint Alphonsus' Festival of Trees, David helped develop move-in and move-out plans, supported hundreds of



volunteers, and contributed to record-setting fundraising years for the event. He brings the same steady, solutions-oriented approach to every organization he serves — not simply lending his name but rolling up his sleeves and asking what needs to be done.

That instinct comes from a simple belief: if you want community, you have to help build it. David describes himself as someone willing to stay late to put away folding chairs, make the call, step into the room, or say yes when help is needed. He learned from his parents not to burn bridges and not to underestimate the value of being dependable. “Service before self” is more than a phrase to him; it is a leadership philosophy.

David often returns to the motto, “We make a life by what we give.” Volunteering, he says, “fills his cup and gives him purpose.” It is also deeply personal. Health care causes, for example, resonate because everyone is touched by health needs in some way, and David’s own father passed away from cancer. When the Saint Alphonsus Festival of Trees supports areas such as cancer care or heart health, he sees the work not as an event, but as part of a larger promise to care for neighbors.

Those who know David describe that commitment as sincere and consistent. Ron Wolfe, SVP Chief Banking Officer at D.L. Evans Bank, called David “an incredible advocate and inspiration,” noting that he does not serve for recognition but from “a servant’s heart and deep commitment to helping others.” Paul Fleming of the Boise Metro Chamber has praised David’s credibility, trustworthiness, and habit of putting people’s best interests first. Grace Davis Lasco, who once recruited him, said he represented his company “beyond the greatest expectations” and became a strong advocate for clients and businesses alike.

For David, this award is humbling because he sees himself as accepting it on behalf of the many volunteers who show up every day without applause. He is quick to point out that no one does meaningful work alone. Behind every long week, early morning, or late night, is a support system of colleagues, friends, family, and fellow volunteers who make the work possible.

That is part of what he wants others to understand about volunteering: it does not require having everything figured out. It begins with saying yes. David encourages people to step into the unfamiliar room, make the cold call, try the volunteer role, and look for someone else who may also be unsure where to begin. “You don’t know until you try it,” he says.



His invitation is simple and generous: lean in. Show up. Give your best. Let your actions be the spark that lights the way for others. David Roberts is deserving of this honor not because of one title, one event, or one accomplishment, but because he has built a life around helping others build stronger communities. In doing so, he reminds us that service is not an obligation. It is an opportunity — and one of the most meaningful ways we can make a life.