IDAHO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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Idaho Celebrates Generosity at 2026 Gem Ball and Idaho Philanthropy Hall of Fame

Celebration honors six Idaho leaders and families and raises more than $150,000 to strengthen Idaho's nonprofit sector

BOISE – Idaho's tradition of neighbors helping neighbors took center stage Thursday night as nearly 300 people gathered for the 2026 Gem Ball and Idaho Philanthropy Hall of Fame, celebrating the people who have strengthened communities through generosity, leadership, and service.

The evening honored four 2026 Idaho Philanthropy Hall of Fame inductees: **AJ and Susie Balukoff**, **Steve and Cindy Carr**, the **Oppenheimer Family**, and **Park and Sharon Price**. **Megan Remaley** was recognized as the 2026 Idaho Nonprofit Leader of the Year, and **David Roberts** received the Governor Cecil D. Andrus Volunteer of the Year Award.

Together, their stories reflected a simple idea: **philanthropy is the Idaho way.** It is giving time, sharing talent, contributing resources, stepping forward to lead, and taking responsibility for making the place you call home stronger.

That tradition matters especially as Idaho continues to grow, said 2025 Idaho Philanthropy Hall of Fame honoree **Alice Hennessey**, whose own lifetime of philanthropy and leadership has strengthened Idaho communities and inspired another generation of givers.

> "As Idaho grows and welcomes new people, sharing these stories becomes even more important. Generosity has always been part of who we are. When people see how others have stepped forward to help their neighbors and

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> strengthen their communities, it' a good reminder that all of us have a role to play."

That spirit could be seen throughout the 2026 class.

AJ and Susie Balukoff have spent decades strengthening education, health care, arts and culture, and opportunities for young people throughout the Treasure Valley. Their generosity and leadership have benefited organizations including St. Luke's Health System, Boise State University, Zoo Boise and the Boise Phil alongside many other community causes.

Steve and Cindy Carr have built lives of service that reach from East Idaho to the international humanitarian community. Their contributions span the arts, education, downtown revitalization, human rights, and nonprofit leadership including service with the Museum of Idaho, Idaho Falls Arts Council, and America Red Cross. Steve Carr's Red Cross service ultimately made him the only American elected to the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The **Oppenheimer Family** has shaped Idaho's civic, educational, health care, and philanthropic landscape across generations. From Arthur and Jane Oppenheimer to brothers Skip and Doug Oppenheimer, the family has invested its leadership and resources in organizations including St. Luke's Health System, Idaho Business for Education, Boy Scouts of America and the Idaho Community Foundation, among many others.

For Doug Oppenheimer, that commitment reflects something deeper than philanthropy alone: the responsibility that comes with being part of a community.

> "Giving back isn't something we've ever thought of as extraordinary. It's simply part of being a member of a community. You look around, you see where you can help, and you do what you can because you want what's best for Idaho. That's just what we do."

Park and Sharon Price have spent more than five decades advancing education, economic development, philanthropy, and the arts. Their service has included significant leadership with the College of Eastern Idaho, Idaho State University, Idaho Business for Education and Friends of Idaho Public Television, along with arts and cultural organizations across East Idaho. A founding board member of the Idaho Community Foundation, Park Price became a statewide advocate for philanthropic

giving. Their philanthropy is rooted in the belief that everyone has something to contribute.

The evening also celebrated two Idahoans whose work demonstrates that philanthropy is about much more than financial gifts.

Megan Remaley, President and CEO of United Way of Treasure Valley, was honored as the 2026 Idaho Nonprofit Leader of the Year for collaborative leadership that brings schools, nonprofits, and public agencies together to improve outcomes for Idaho families.

> "Nonprofit leaders spend so much of their time focused on the people and communities they serve. To have that work seen and supported means a great deal. This recognition belongs to the people doing this work alongside me every day, and it's a reminder that Idaho values the nonprofits and people working to make our communities stronger."

David Roberts, Vice President and Community Development Officer for D.L. Evans Bank, received the Governor Cecil D. Andrus Volunteer of the Year Award. His decades of service include leadership and volunteer roles with Saint Alphonsus, the American Cancer Society, Special Olympics Idaho, along with numerous other community organizations. Known for rolling up his sleeves and stepping in wherever help is needed, Roberts has made service a defining part of his life.

Celebration turns generosity into action

The spirit of the evening extended beyond recognition. Guests contributed **more than $150,000 to the Nonprofit Impact Fund**, helping strengthen the organizations and nonprofit leaders serving communities throughout Idaho.

The Nonprofit Impact Fund reflects ICF's broader commitment to investing in nonprofit people, leadership, and capacity so organizations can create lasting community impact.

The result brought the evening's message full circle: celebrating philanthropy is not only about recognizing what has already been accomplished. It is about helping equip the next generation of Idahoans to serve, lead, give, and strengthen the communities they call home.

Nominations for 2027

The Idaho Community Foundation invites Idahoans to help tell the next chapter of that story. **Nominations for the 2027 Idaho Philanthropy Awards and Idaho Philanthropy Hall of Fame are encouraged from communities across the state.**

The awards recognize people whose extraordinary generosity, volunteerism, and leadership have made a lasting difference in Idaho communities.

Learn more and nominate an Idahoan at IdahoCF.org/hall-of-fame.

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About the Idaho Community Foundation

Since 1988, the Idaho Community Foundation (ICF) has helped generous Idahoans invest in the people, places, and causes they care about. Through our statewide programs, including The Nonprofit Center and Idaho Gives, ICF strengthens communities by growing philanthropy, elevating nonprofit impact, and connecting Idahoans to opportunities to give back. Learn more at idahocf.org or contact us at info@idahocf.org.