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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Idaho Community Foundation Partners with Sawtooth Botanical Garden to Inspire Philanthropy Under Idaho's Night Skies

KETCHUM – The Idaho Community Foundation is returning as sponsor of the Dark Sky Dinner series at the Sawtooth Botanical Garden, using one of the Wood River Valley's most magical winter experiences to inspire philanthropic giving.

The Dark Sky Dinners bring small groups together at the Garden for a "farm to greenhouse" dinner and educational experience with local astronomers to explore the Central Idaho Dark Sky Reserve.

As Idaho's only statewide organization dedicated to growing a culture of philanthropy, the Idaho Community Foundation sees events like the Dark Sky Dinners as a natural bridge between appreciation and action.

"These dinners are about more than stargazing," said **Daryl Fauth**, Hailey resident and Board Member of the Idaho Community Foundation. "Special places like the Sawtooth Botanical Garden exist because people choose to give back."

Since 1988, the Foundation has partnered with community-minded people in every region of Idaho to simplify charitable giving and connect resources to local needs. IN that time, the Foundation has granted more than $230 million across Idaho.

"Philanthropy is not just about major gifts or big foundations," Fauth said. "It's about everyone doing their part, whether that's a contribution from a donor-advised fund, a small monthly gift, participating in Idaho Gives, or volunteering with a nonprofit you care about. Nights like this help people see that they are part of that story."

For the Sawtooth Botanical Garden, philanthropic support is essential to keeping the five-acre, high-altitude public garden open and accessible year-round, and to offering programs that connect people to the region's unique beauty and foster environmental stewardship.

"We're incredibly grateful to the Idaho Community Foundation for championing the Dark Sky Dinner series," said **Hillary Billinski**, Executive Director of the Sawtooth Botanical Garden. "The Foundation has deep ties to the Wood River Valley, and we love the connection to philanthropy and this educational event celebrating the night skies at the entrance to the Central Idaho Dark Sky Preserve."

Billinski noted that the Garden does not receive government funding and is sustained through charitable contributions, grants, memberships, event income, and gifts in-kind. "When someone attends a Dark Sky Dinner, becomes a member, or makes a gift, they're directly investing in a community resource that educates, inspires, and brings people together," she said.

"Idaho is a place of possibility where everyone can contribute to thriving communities," Fauth said. "However you choose to give, what matters most is that you take that step."

For information about the Dark Sky Dinner series and ticket availability, visit **sbgarden.org**. To learn more about how The Idaho Community Foundation is helping Idahoans support the communities they love, visit **IdahoCF.org**.

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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.