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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Idaho Community Foundation Ushers in a New Tradition

BOISE – More than 250 philanthropic Idahoans from across the state gathered at the Boise Centre on November 20th to usher in a new tradition of giving at the inaugural **Idaho Philanthropy Hall of Fame**, celebrated at the first-ever **Gem Ball**.

Hosted by The Idaho Community Foundation, the evening honored ten **Founding Philanthropists**, names many Idahoans recognize. Their philanthropy, made possible through decades of hard work and deep commitment to community, has helped shape Idaho's "neighbors helping neighbors" tradition that continues today. Their stories are available online at idahocf.org/philanthropy.php.

The Hall of Fame also recognized three pillars of philanthropic excellence as its first inductees:

- **Greg Carr**, whose philanthropic leadership spans human rights, conservation, and community building in Idaho and around the world.
- **Alice Hennessey**, whose decades of leadership at The Idaho Community Foundation and across Idaho's nonprofit landscape have inspired generations of givers and leaders.
- **The Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation**, whose consistent, statewide investments in education, nonprofits, and community infrastructure have strengthened every region of Idaho.

Two additional awards highlighted Idaho's volunteer spirit and nonprofit leadership:

- The **Governor Cecil D. Andrus Volunteer of the Year Award** was presented posthumously to **Carrie Getty Scheid** of Idaho Falls. Known for her tireless work on behalf of the arts, animals, education, and civic engagement, Scheid was



honored for her unwavering dedication to advancing the common good and amplifying often-overlooked voices in her community.

- The **Nonprofit Leader of the Year Award** recognized **Tricia Swartling**, Executive Director of **The Advocates** in Hailey, for more than three decades of leadership in domestic violence and sexual assault prevention, survivor support, and sector-wide collaboration in the Wood River Valley and beyond.

“Tonight was about more than awards. It was a reminder that Idaho has always been built by people who quietly roll up their sleeves and take care of their communities,” said **Steve Burns**, President and CEO of The Idaho Community Foundation. “Our Founding Philanthropists, our Hall of Fame inductees, and honorees like Carrie and Tricia show us that philanthropy isn’t just something wealthy people do, it’s a way of life in Idaho.”

Launching a new Idaho tradition

The Idaho Philanthropy Hall of Fame and Gem Ball are envisioned as an annual tradition, highlighting the powerful partnership between philanthropy and nonprofit impact in every Idaho community. Future Hall of Fame awards will continue to honor those whose generosity of time, talent, and treasure creates lasting change across the state.

“The Gem Ball is our way of saying: philanthropy is for all of us,” Burns added.

“Whether you give through your time, a small monthly donation, or a major legacy gift, you are part of the story that keeps Idaho communities thriving.”

To learn more about the **Idaho Philanthropy Hall of Fame** visit **idahocf.org** or contact **info@idahocf.org**.

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About The Idaho Community Foundation

For nearly 40 years, The Idaho Community Foundation has been a trusted partner in philanthropy, helping generous Idahoans invest in the people, places, and causes they care about most. Now united with the Idaho Nonprofit Center, we’re strengthening communities through philanthropy, elevating nonprofit impact, and



connecting Idahoans to the heart of their communities. Our vision is simple: Idaho is a place of possibility where everyone contributes to thriving communities. Join the movement to build a culture of giving at www.idahocf.org or email us at info@idahocf.org.