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Photo Credit for Photo 1: SydCreate

Photo Caption for Photo 1: The Idaho Community Foundation Giving Station

Photo Credit for Photo 2: Quade Family

Photo Caption for Photo 2: ICF Board Member, Daneille Quade, and daughter visiting The Giving Station in North Idaho

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vend A Hand: Innovative Pilot Program Launched by The Idaho Community Foundation Visits the Magic Valley

Twin Falls, Idaho – In the winter of 2023, The Idaho Community Foundation unveiled an innovative initiative designed to foster a culture of philanthropy and make charitable giving an integral part of the Idaho way of life. The Giving Station, a fun and interactive tool, is designed to engage residents in supporting local nonprofits and making a tangible impact in their community.

This pioneering pilot project aims to bring Idaho philanthropy to the forefront, highlighting the essential support The Idaho Community Foundation provides to nonprofits across the state. Since its launch, the Giving Station has embarked on a statewide journey, making its debut at Jack’s Urban Meeting Place (JUMP) in Boise before traveling to the Salvation Army Kroc Center in Coeur d’Alene. The next stop on its tour is the Magic Valley Mall in Twin Falls from August 15 to September 19, with a ribbon cutting at 10am on August 15th. The public is invited to attend.

The Idaho Community Foundation’s Giving Station is no ordinary vending machine. Instead of snacks and drinks, it offers a unique opportunity for community-minded individuals to make a direct impact by funding local nonprofits. With a simple swipe of a credit card, participants can choose from a curated list of 24 deserving organizations and contribute to causes that matter most to them.

This initiative is designed to inspire meaningful conversations about philanthropy and ignite a passion for philanthropic giving at a local level. “The absolute perfect scenario with this machine is that you have an individual or a group of friends or a family... and they are looking at all those organizations and having a conversation about, ‘what’s important to us?’” said ICF CEO & President Steve Burns. “That kind of conversation sparks a movement and a commitment to support the local community.”

The 24 nonprofits participating in the pilot program cover a diverse range of causes, including animal welfare, arts and culture, education, social services, healthcare, and more. Organizations such as People for Pets - Magic Valley Humane Society, Magic Valley Arts Council, and Habitat for Humanity of the Magic Valley are among those featured, reflecting the breadth and depth of community needs being addressed. Linda Fleming from Habitat for Humanity of the Magic Valley says:

"Habitat is excited to be included in The Idaho Community Foundation Giving Station. As the cost of land is exploding in our community, additional funds are needed to offset the cost of our homes purchased by Habitat partners. Without increasing our funding in creative ways, homes cannot be built and sold at an affordable price. We are hopeful this community will step up to help. Our current inquiry list is at an all-time high with over 170 families in need of our services right now... Habitat's fingers are crossed that The ICF Giving Station is a HUGE SUCCESS for the Magic Valley charities inside."

The Giving Station is initially touring the state, with plans for expansion based on community feedback and impact assessment. Supporters and stakeholders are encouraged to visit www.idahocf.org/giving-station for more information on how to participate and support local nonprofits through this transformative initiative.

By making charitable giving accessible, fun, and engaging, The Idaho Community Foundation is spearheading a movement that champions the spirit of giving and strengthens the fabric of our communities. Together, we can build a brighter future for Idaho.

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For 35 years, The Idaho Community Foundation has helped Idahoans make their communities even better through philanthropy. If you want to support the nonprofits, schools, recreational opportunities and more that make your community special, please contact us at info@idahocf.org or visit: www.idahocf.org.