



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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7th Annual Alternate Giving Fair Expands

Twenty-five different local charities are coming together for the 7th Annual Holiday Alternate Giving Fair. The event will be held November 10 and 11, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Idaho Falls Elks Lodge (640 E. Elva St.).

The 2012 giving fair is expanded and improved! The fair outgrew its previous venue at the Community Outreach Center, so this year it has moved to the Elks Lodge. The new location provides much more space, allowing more organizations to participate and have more space to promote their missions.

The added space also allowed organizers to add some exciting new shopping opportunities:

- Fair trade products of chocolate and coffee will be available for purchase
- Hand-thrown pottery bowls (created by the ISU Craft Department) will be available for purchase – with homemade soup for hungry shoppers or to add to shoppers' gifts.

The alternative giving fair highlights area non-profit charities and provides an opportunity for holiday shopping that makes a difference. All of the participating organizations are from the local area and accomplish a tremendous amount for the community. Over the past six years, the event has raised almost \$100,000 for local charities!

One hundred percent of the proceeds from the fair stay in the local area and support the participating charitable organizations in accomplishing their missions. This year's organizations include Breaking Boundaries, Club Inc., Community Family Clinic, Community Outreach Center, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center, Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership, Emergency Housing Exchange, FAITH, First Book, Friends in Service Here (FISH), FreeMed, Girl Scouts Silver Sage, Habitat for Humanity, Hospice of Eastern Idaho, The Haven, Help Inc., Idaho Falls Community Food Bank, Idaho Falls Community Pathways, Idaho Falls Rescue

Mission, Museum of Idaho Education Programs, School District 91 Education Foundation, Shepherd's Inn, Snake River Animal Shelter, St. Vincent de Paul Christian Ministries, and the Soup Kitchen.

At the fair, people can shop for "gifts" for friends and family by making donations in their honor to the participating local organizations. Once shoppers select their gifts, attractive holiday cards will be completed with the recipient's name and information about the special charity chosen.

The Soup Kitchen will be serving lunch and snacks both days for donations.

The Community Outreach Center is a local 501c3 charitable organization dedicated to assisting those in need in our community. The COC provides space for several social service agencies, which allows them to dedicate their funds entirely to helping those in need. The COC also organizes the annual alternate giving fair to highlight local charities and all the great outreach efforts in this community.

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