



## Guest column: Idaho Gives ... Will you?

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### ***Jerry and Carrie Scheid***

On May 3, Idaho Gives will give you the opportunity to make the world a better place, one charity at a time, write Carrie and Jerry Scheid.

Carrie: Guess what today is?

Jerry: Let's see. It's too soon for Cinco de Mayo and tomorrow is "Wines at the Willard Arts Center." So, I give up...what's today?

Carrie: It's "Idaho Gives," the sixth annual statewide online giving day for Idaho nonprofits. Last year, Idahoans gave more than \$1.3 million to over 600 charities across the state. This year, they're hoping to raise \$1.5 million.

Jerry: OK, remind me how it works?

Carrie: Go to [www.idahogives.org](http://www.idahogives.org) and search for your favorite nonprofits by name, location (e.g. Bonneville County, Idaho Falls, etc.) or category like "arts and culture," "seniors," "animals," etc. Click on the name of the nonprofit you might be interested in and a webpage will pop up describing some of their projects that need help. Click the donation button for whatever amount you wish to donate, and voila....you've made the world a better place!

Jerry: Is there a minimum donation amount?

Carrie: \$10.

Jerry: What good would \$10 do for a charity?

Carrie: You'd be surprised! Ten dollars buys three 2x4's for a Habitat for Humanity house. Or an immunization for an abandoned cat at the Snake River Animal Shelter. Or a visit to the Museum of Idaho for two students.

Jerry: I'll probably do more than that. I'd like to make a donation to the Idaho Conservation League. They're one of my favorites.

Carrie: Great idea! The Idaho Conservation League's page says they have \$5000 in matching funds from other donors. So whatever you give them will likely be doubled! Some other nonprofits also have donors offering matching funds.

Jerry: I like those odds! Are there other ways to get more bang for your buck?

Carrie: Yes. Once an hour, a donor's name is randomly drawn. It's called the "golden ticket." Whichever charity they donated to gets a \$500 or \$1000 prize. Last year in eastern Idaho, the Idaho Falls Swim Team, Art Museum of Eastern Idaho and Tautphaus Park Zoo each got a \$500 cash prize because one of their donors got lucky and won the golden ticket.

Jerry: You mean a \$10 donation could win another \$500 or \$1000 for your favorite nonprofit? That's a sweet deal!

Carrie: Exactly. There are also prizes ranging from \$250-\$2000 for the nonprofits who get the most donors. There's a scoreboard on the Idaho Gives website which shows how each charity is doing. It's divided into large, medium and small charities. That way the little guys don't have to compete against the goliaths.

Jerry: So who dreamt all this up?

Carrie: The Idaho Nonprofit Center. They are the statewide association of nonprofits. I recently retired from their Board of Directors after serving for six years. Eastern Idaho's new Board representative is Karen Baker who is the Executive Director of the Museum of Idaho. She's terrific!

Jerry: Where do they get all the money to do this?

Carrie: The major sponsors from our region are Idaho Central Credit Union, the Idaho National Laboratory and PacificSource Health Plans. By putting up the seed money, they generate a lot of giving from people all over the state.

Jerry: Reminds me of one of my all time favorite quotes "We make a living by what we get...but we make a life by what we give."

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**Jerry is a retired farmer/rancher and native Idahoan. Carrie is a retired nonprofit administrator. They live in Idaho Falls.**