

Connections

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Sonny Claus

Idaho Power Biologist Sonny Cabbage brings holiday cheer to deaf children through sign language.

Lending Our Helping Hands is a Holiday Tradition

As Idaho Power's year-long 100th anniversary celebration comes to a close, the company proudly recognizes employees for their commitment to a tradition of community involvement.

Sonny Cabbage is one of the many Idaho Power employees who volunteer in the communities we serve. His story is especially unique, as he brings smiles to dozens of deaf children each holiday season by using sign language.

Sonny, who is deaf, grew up in an all-deaf family. "I remember going to the mall to

see Santa a few times when I was a kid," he said. "I wrote down my Christmas wish list on a piece of paper, handed it to Santa and got a candy cane in return. It was disappointing. I wasn't able to talk to Santa or understand what he said."

More than 20 years ago, he was approached by Jill Muir, a family friend and education specialist for Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and Blind, about being a signing Santa for children in local schools.

"At the time, I thought it would be a great way to give these kids a direct and full

experience of talking with Santa, just like hearing kids have," said Sonny. "It proved to be very rewarding to interact with these kids as Santa, and it always puts me in the holiday spirit." Co-workers and friends affectionately refer to him as "Sonny Claus."

Jill coordinates Sonny's visits to elementary schools with deaf programs. Parents bring babies, toddlers and preschoolers in to see Santa along with the elementary-age children, and she voice interprets the sign language

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News Feed

Employees Recognized and Rewarded for Volunteerism

Idaho Power's Volunteer Involvement Program, established in 1991, annually recognizes employees for their volunteer efforts in our communities. Recognition comes in the form of contributions to the causes these top-performing employees support.

Last year, the company donated \$500 to Boy Scout Troop 112 in the Treasure Valley on behalf of employee Roger Pipkin, top individual award winner. He has supported the troop for 16 years, volunteering more than 600 hours in 2015.

Payette Lakes Ski School also received \$500 in recognition of volunteer activities that earned Tom Ackerson and Dain Bates the top group award. The school is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to providing outdoor emergency medical care services and training.

In addition, the company made smaller donations to 39 other nonprofits that received charitable service from Idaho Power employees in 2015.

Annual Report Highlights Charitable Giving

Learn how IDACORP Inc.; its primary subsidiary, Idaho Power; and our employees invest in the health of communities throughout our service area in our *2015 Charitable Contributions Report*.



The report highlights total giving, including donations, sponsorships, scholarships, grants and employee volunteerism. The causes we support reflect our corporate values and employees' diverse interests. Whether we're working to prevent hunger, heal the sick, stop domestic violence or rescue abandoned pets, we're committed to making a difference in the communities we serve.

▶ idahopower.com/community

Helping Hands *(continued from page 1)*

so parents can listen in on conversations between their child and Santa.

As a signing Santa, Sonny says it's especially gratifying when the quieter kids who don't say much in class really open up to him and have a conversation about what they want for Christmas. Last year, a young boy asked Sonny why he didn't get any presents after sharing his wish list with Santa. Sonny worked with Jill and the school and they purchased gifts for the little boy and his sister, as well as food for the family. The gifts were delivered to the family on Christmas Eve.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors in Need

Employees across Idaho Power's service area find many ways to brighten the holidays for children and families in difficult situations.

Imagine being a child who doesn't have a winter coat, enough to eat or any hope of having a holiday wish list fulfilled. Employee volunteers work with local organizations, such as the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, school districts and the Boys & Girls Club, to help identify the needs of children

and families facing the greatest challenges.

Some Idaho Power teams adopt families and raise funds to provide clothing, gifts and a holiday meal. Others conduct food drives or make donations to the Idaho or Oregon food banks or smaller pantries in the communities where they live.



Together, employees also pool their contributions year-round to support Idaho Power's Employee Community Funds (ECF) program (see back page story). During the holidays, ECF has paid for gifts for children whose families are struggling financially. Last year, volunteers purchased and wrapped gifts for kids in Idaho City, Mountain Home, Bruneau/Grandview, Boise, Pocatello, American Falls and Blackfoot. In total, ECF volunteers surprised 167 children with gifts.

Employees and retirees in Pocatello shop for gifts.





Employees wrap gifts.

Thanks to donations from the ECF in the Treasure Valley, matching donations from the company and support from corporate partners Walmart and JC Penney, 212 local school children received new winter coats and 106 local families received turkeys for Thanksgiving dinner.

Each year, employees also brave the cold to ring the bell at local stores to raise money for The Salvation Army.

Supporting Employee Volunteerism

“This is just a snapshot of the many activities our employees and retirees take part in during the holidays and throughout the year,” said Vern Porter, Vice President of Customer Operations. “Many of these same activities are happening across our service

area again this year, and our company is proud so many of our employees care about their neighbors and actively serve in their communities.”

Jill appreciates Idaho Power’s support of employee volunteerism and the flexibility given to employees like Sonny to plan their work schedule around helping out in the schools. “Sonny is such a great role model for the kids and their parents,” she said. “As a biologist, he sends the message that being deaf does not keep you from going to college, getting a degree and landing a good job.”

This holiday season, Sonny continues his mission to help deaf children in his community.

[▶ idahopower.com/community](http://idahopower.com/community)



Powering Healthy Communities

The holiday season is not the only time Idaho Power employees and retirees contribute time and talent to the causes that are important to them.

They serve as mentors for youth, champion search and rescue operations, paint the homes of seniors and volunteer at hundreds of nonprofit organizations in southern Idaho and eastern Oregon.

“Because Idaho Power employees and retirees live and work in the communities we serve, they feel a deep connection to improving the quality of life in their own backyards,” said Dave Joerger, Customer Service & Regional Operations General Manager. “After 100 years of serving our local communities, generation after generation, it’s no surprise our employees have such a hometown spirit.”



Rake Up Boise™ volunteers clear leaves for residents needing assistance.



Employees paint the homes of seniors.



Employees mentor students at Monroe Elementary School in Boise.

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Changing Lives Through Employee Community Funds

For more than 50 years, Idaho Power employees have contributed to nonprofits and helped co-workers in times of crisis through the Employee Community Funds (ECF).

When employees and retirees choose to contribute to the ECF directly or through recurring payroll deductions, those donated funds are administered by an employee volunteer board. Employee volunteers serving on regional local area groups review ECF requests, make recommendations to the board and distribute needed funds in their communities.

ECF contributes to 501(c)(3) health and human services organizations, such as:

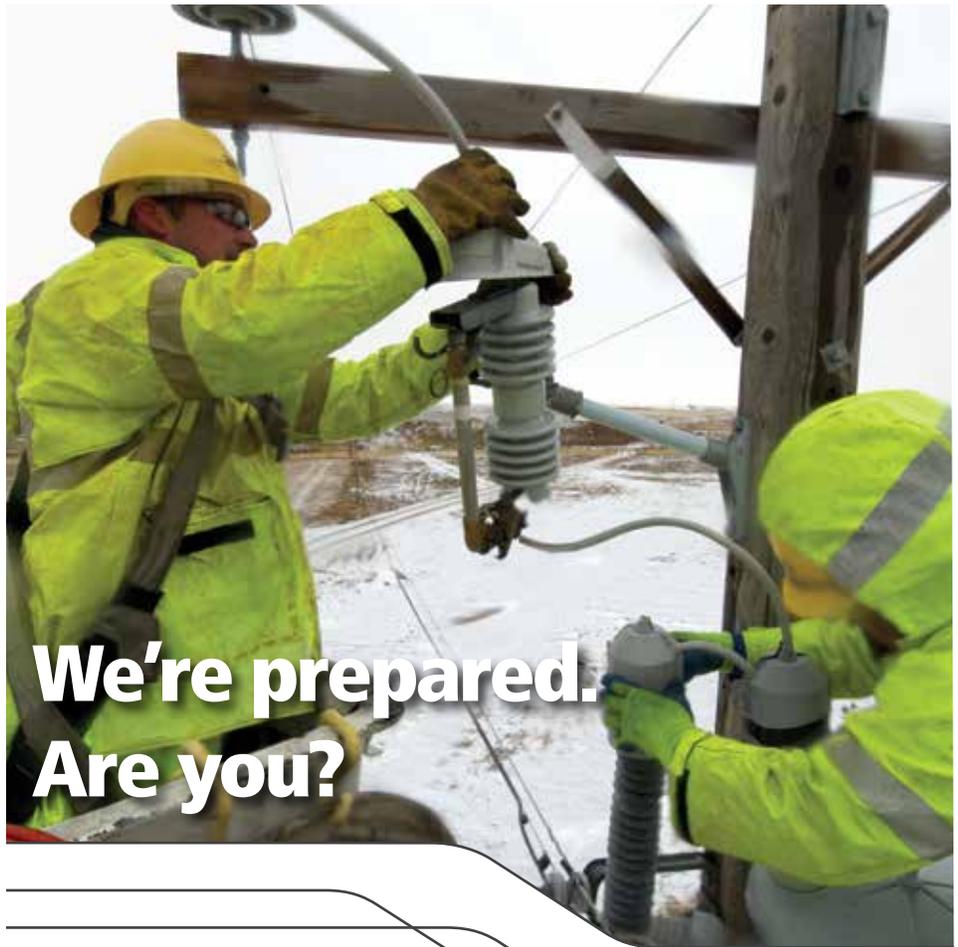
- Health organizations
- Hospice emergency services

Funding also goes to organizations that provide human services to individuals who are:

- Disabled
- Disadvantaged
- Homeless
- Senior citizens or youth
- Victims of domestic violence

Most employee and retiree donations are matched by IDACORP, Idaho Power's parent company.

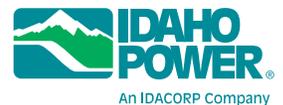
▶ idahopower.com/ecf



When winter storms cause power outages, Idaho Power crews are ready to respond and safely restore your power.

To help keep you and your family safe and comfortable during an outage, we encourage you to have an emergency kit on hand.

For a list of necessary supplies, visit idahopower.com/safety.



From The Electric Kitchen

December 2016

Pumpkin Pie Power Oatmeal

Snack

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1 ½ cup steel cut oats | Dash of nutmeg |
| 3 cups lowfat milk | 1 cinnamon stick |
| 1 cup water | 2 Tbsp each chia seeds and ground flaxseed |
| 3 eggs | ¼ cup raisins |
| ¼ cup pure maple syrup | 6 medjool dates, pitted & chopped |
| ½ cup pumpkin | ¼ tsp salt (optional) |
| 1 tsp vanilla extract | ¼ cup chopped walnuts |
| ½ tsp ground ginger | |

Dietary information per serving:

Calories: **230**
 Protein: **25g**
 Carbohydrates: **8.6g**
 Fat: **10.8g**
 Sodium: **120mg**
 Fiber: **2.5g**

In a medium bowl, whisk milk, water, eggs, syrup, pumpkin and spices. In a medium saucepan, combine oats, cinnamon stick and milk mixture together over medium heat until just boiling. Reduce heat and simmer, stirring frequently for 30–40 minutes. Cooking time depends on desired doneness and liquid absorption; adjust amount of water accordingly. In the final 10 minutes of cooking, add dried fruit, chia seeds, flaxseed, salt (if desired) and nuts. Oatmeal will thicken as it stands. Makes 8 servings.

Connections is published monthly to inform our customers about services we provide, programs we offer and industry issues impacting our service area in southern Idaho and eastern Oregon. Our goal is to engage and inspire you to learn more about Idaho Power and how we are working together to meet your energy needs today and tomorrow.

Comments or questions are welcome at idahopower.com/contactus or Corporate Communications P.O. Box 70, Boise, ID 83707



Recipes are selected for nutritional value and low energy use in preparation. They are approved by Registered Dietitians Holly Hutchinson and Erin Green from the Central District Health Department in Boise, Idaho.