



Volunteer Spotlight: Volunteering Hits the Slopes

To say snow is an important part of Robert Walters' life would be an understatement. As a water resources specialist at Idaho Power, Robert (third from the left in the photo above) maintains ground generators essential to the company's cloud seeding program. He has also spent many winters skiing some of the steepest terrain in the West. And in recent years, he has turned his love of skiing into volunteer work with Boise Adaptive Snowsport Education (BASE), helping people with physical or cognitive challenges share his passion for powder.

"Working with BASE has really re-energized my skiing," Robert said. "I had done all the skiing I wanted to do, had some great ski experiences, done a lot of vertical, but it wasn't fulfilling after a while. Being able to give back to the sport and to develop these relationships with students has really been amazing."

BASE's 104 volunteer instructors served 182 students — ages 4 to 70 — at Boise's Bogus Basin ski resort last winter. Usually, two instructors are with each student. The range of adaptations deployed to help students experience and learn to love skiing is immense. Blind students develop

the skills and confidence needed to ski along with a guide. Students with limb differences or other physical limitations may use hand-held outriggers for extra stability or sit-skis that enable the skier to sit on one or two skis to steer themselves down the mountain.

Instructors work with students who have autism to gain their trust and teach them how to master the snow.

"We even have adaptive snowboards where, with a few pieces of equipment, they can maximize their ability to really get out there and enjoy the sport," Robert said.

BASE started at Bogus Basin in 1978. Robert moved to Boise in 1993. "But I always skied the back side, so I wasn't aware of BASE. I considered starting an adaptive ski program, then I learned it was already being done."

So, Robert jumped on board, first as an instructor, then as a member of the board of directors — a role he has served in for seven years.

"My biggest contribution is on the technology side," he said. "When you are dealing with almost 500 lessons and trying to schedule instructors and communicate with everyone, it takes a lot of work behind the scenes."

After taking a hit during the COVID pandemic, BASE was back to being fully

staffed last winter. But the organization is always looking for new volunteers. Instructors come from a wide range of backgrounds, including college students who often move on and need to be replaced, Robert said.

"It takes a love of skiing and a desire to help people. We warn new instructors: You are going to become attached. The students rarely complain. They always try their hardest. And when you experience their victories with them, there's no better feeling."

Idaho Power employees like Robert give back to their communities by contributing thousands of volunteer hours each year. Learn more about our company's community involvement at idahopower.com/community. To learn more about BASE, visit baseidaho.org.



Adaptive Snowsport Equipment

Giving Back to Support Our Communities

Idaho Power employees love being involved in the communities where they live and work. Each year, the company donates more than \$1 million dollars to charitable causes, while employees volunteer with dozens of organizations to help their neighbors. Here are a few recent examples of employees stepping up to help fill needs across Idaho Power's service area:

Celebrating Power of Community Day



Idaho Power's fall Power of Community Day event in the Treasure Valley was a big success. Dozens of volunteers helped with cleaning and meal prep at the Ronald McDonald House; performed roadside cleanup near Bogus Basin; did landscaping work at Global Gardens; sorted goods at the Boise Rescue Mission; packed food boxes at the Idaho Foodbank; and stocked the shelves with food and school supplies at The Salvation Army. We look forward to doing it again in the spring!

From the Electric Kitchen Slow Cooker Beef Stew

- 1½ lb beef chuck or stew meat, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 6 carrots, peeled and sliced
- 4 russet potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 large onion, cut into chunks
- 2 stalks celery, sliced
- 1 (14 oz) can beef broth
- 2 tsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1 clove garlic
- ½ tsp pepper
- 1 tsp paprika

Place the carrots, potatoes, beef, bay leaf, onion, and celery in a slow cooker in the order given. Combine beef broth, Worcestershire sauce, garlic, and spices. Pour broth over ingredients in slow cooker. Cover and cook on low for 10–12 hours, or on high for 5–6 hours. Makes six servings.

Recipe selected from Idaho Power's Centennial Celebration Cookbook.

Collecting Coats for Kids



Employees held multiple coat collections to help children in need stay warm this winter. In our Coats for Kids drive, Idaho Power's Employee Community Funds helped purchase 300 coats to be distributed to kids at 36 schools across western Idaho and eastern Oregon. We also held a Coats for a Cause drive in the Treasure Valley, with employees donating new and gently used coats for the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to give to kids in need.

Supporting Voices Against Violence



In honor of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, Idaho Power employees paid a visit to Voices Against Violence (VAV) in southern Idaho. As the Magic Valley's only 24/7 emergency shelter for women and children, VAV offers shelter and counsel while empowering survivors of domestic violence. Regional Customer Relations Manager Jim Mason and his team delivered a \$2,500 donation to help support VAV's important work.

December 2024
Dinner



Project Share Helps Keep Our Neighbors Warm



For over 40 years, Idaho Power has partnered with The Salvation Army to help our neighbors in need pay their energy bills.

During the 2023-2024 season, IDACORP shareholders donated \$150,000 to The Salvation Army for Project Share, joining Idaho Power customers' contributions of over \$175,000. Project Share is also funded by donations from customers of Intermountain Gas and other utilities, which allows customers from eastern Idaho to central Oregon to receive assistance, regardless of how they heat their home*.

As you look for ways to give back this holiday season, consider donating to Project Share — even a small amount can make a big difference for someone in need.

And when you donate through your Idaho Power account (whether by rounding up your bill or donating a specific dollar amount), your donation will be partially matched by Idaho Power shareholders, increasing your impact. Donations are tax-deductible and conveniently itemized on your monthly Idaho Power bill.

Find the Project Share flyer in this month's bill to learn more, and donate online at idahopower.com/projectshare.

*Excluding natural gas for Oregon customers

Project Share

Did You Know?

Hydropower is our largest energy resource and helps keep your prices 20-30% below the national average.

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