

# Creative Community Partnerships for Idaho Libraries

Read to Me Rendezvous, Nov. 7, 2019

## **BLOCK Fest (Twiga Foundation)**

**Katie Bauer**, Director  
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**Patricia Kempthorne**, Founder/CEO  
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What is BLOCK Fest®? Started in 2005, it's a fun, interactive hands-on block experience to encourage parent-child engagement, boost early learning, and introduce STEM education; During this hour event, families explore five different block stations and are guided by a trained facilitator to support parents in discovering how to help their child learn early math and science concepts and the usage of open-ended questions. Idaho STEM Action Center has generously granted 20 event scholarships (a \$750 value) to bring BLOCK Fest® to communities across the state; apply for an Idaho Block Fest Experience Scholarship for your community at: <http://www.blockfest.org/ibfe/>. The scholarship covers registration assistance, the time and travel of a BLOCK Fest® Host to facilitate your event, and the transportation cost of the exhibit.

## **Delta Dental of Idaho**

**Angela Powers**, Community Outreach Program Assistant  
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or  
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Delta Dental of Idaho is Idaho's leading dental insurance carrier offering affordable employer and individual dental benefit plans backed by the nation's largest network of dentists. Our goal is to provide exceptional customer service, community advocacy, and preventive treatment for all Idahoans so we can all smile a little bit brighter. DDID invested over \$2 million in 2019 to provide valuable outreach programs for Idaho students and aging adults. Learn about their community outreach programs, including Grins on the Go 2 which has served over 70,000 Idaho students. While their teams of hygienists are busy with this program during the school year, they are more free in the summer to offer pop up clinics and educational programs for libraries. They also have a list of free dental items which they will donate to any event. Contact their outreach program assistant Angela Powers at: [apowers@deltadentalid.com](mailto:apowers@deltadentalid.com) or learn more at: <https://www.deltadentalid.com/Community-Outreach>

## **Idaho Children's Trust Fund/ Prevent Child Abuse Idaho**

**Taryn Yates**, Grant Manager/Planner  
208-386-9317  
taryn.yates@ctf.idaho.gov

The Idaho Children's Trust Fund (ICTF) is the lead agency in the State of Idaho for child abuse and neglect prevention, as designated by the governor. The ICTF is dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect through funding, educating, supporting and building awareness among community-based organizations who share our mission. One of the major ways we do this is our annual grants program: we offer grant funding of \$1,000-\$5,000 to programs in Idaho that prevent child abuse & neglect by strengthening families and promote their well-being. Taryn Yates will offer training for library staff and/or trustees on social issues libraries face, why the libraries might serve food, the brain game demo, and pinwheels for prevention in April. Check out the resources on their website at: <https://www.idahochildrenstrustfund.org/> or contact Taryn at: [taryn.yates@ctf.idaho.gov](mailto:taryn.yates@ctf.idaho.gov).

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## Idaho Diaper Bank

**Kate Aravich**, Executive Director  
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By focusing on diaper need, the Idaho Diaper Bank (IDB) works to meet the basic needs of Idaho children and families. Our vision is to ensure every diaper-wearing person in Idaho has access to the diapers and diapering supplies they need to remain clean, dry, happy and healthy. The IDB relies on the community to help collect diapers and raise dollars to purchase diapers in bulk. Nearly 33,000 infants and toddlers in Idaho need more reliable access to diapers. Programming includes: Disposable Diaper Program, Cloth Diaper Program, Warehouse on Wheels, and P is for Potty Training. Libraries can both help IDB by hosting diaper drives or drop-off bins in their libraries and benefit from IDB by inviting IDB to library programming that will benefit their patrons such as a Community Baby Shower event. Find out more and contact them at: <http://www.idahodiaperbank.org/contact/>

## Idaho Housing and Finance Association

**Lisa Stevens**, Senior Manager, Rental Assistance Department  
208-331-4740 LisaS@ihfa.org

**Cheryl Brown**, Rental Assistance Coordinator  
208-331-4780 Cherylb@ihfa.org

Idaho Housing and Finance Association began offering a literacy program called “Ready, Set, Read!” in 2017 to help improve literacy and enrich lives in low-income children in our housing programs. Each child in the household gets an age appropriate book annually. IHFA administers the Housing Choice Voucher program in 34 of 44 counties in Idaho through its 4 Branch Offices located in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho Falls, Lewiston and Twin Falls. Currently, there are over 2,500 children living in voucher assisted households served by IHFA (fluctuates). Since inception of this program, IHFA has given over 3,600 books to low-income children in Idaho. IHFA is striving to collaborate with local libraries and encourage families to participate in reading programs. Contact Lisa or Cheryl directly for more information.

## Idaho Home Visiting Program

**Kelsey Hofacer**, Health Program Manager  
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**Adriana French**, NFP Nurse Manager  
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The Idaho Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program is provided through local organizations, managed by the Division of Public Health in the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. The MIECHV program is designed to identify and provide comprehensive services to improve outcomes for families who reside in at risk communities and improve coordination of services for target communities. The Idaho MIECHV program offers two evidence-based home visiting models: 1) *Parents as Teachers* - A free, voluntary home visiting program for families, which provides parenting education to encourage development-centered parenting and enhance family well-being; 2) *Nurse Family Partnership*—A free, voluntary home visiting program for first-time moms. Nurse home visitors use input from parents, nursing experience, & clinical practice coupled with motivational interviewing to promote personal growth & prenatal health for mothers, healthy development for children, & economic self-sufficiency. Learn more at: <https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Children/Visiting>.

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## Idaho Parents Unlimited

**Angela Lindig**, Executive Director  
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208-342-5884

Joe Gonzalez: joe@ipulidaho.org  
Sarah Tueller: sarah@ipulidaho.org

Founded in 1985, Idaho Parents Unlimited, Inc. (IPUL) is a statewide organization which houses the Idaho Parent Training and Information Center, the Family to Family Health Information Center, Idaho Family Voices and VSA Idaho, the State Organization on Arts and Disability. "As a parent led organization, we recognize that caring for children with special health care needs is often complex. Like you, we are parents of children and young adults with physical, developmental, and mental health challenges, and we have firsthand experience negotiating the maze of health care services and programs in our state." In Idaho there are over 33,000 students from birth to college who are accessing special education. IPUL serves the state and Joe and Sarah will travel to offer training to parents and professionals. Because libraries are viewed as safe spaces, hosting these types of trainings for families at a library is a great fit. "Let's work together and remove the barriers." Contact IPUL at: <https://ipulidaho.org/about-ipul>.

## Idaho Public Television

**Cindy Lunte**, Education Specialist  
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Cindy.lunte@idahoptv.org

**Samantha Hill**, Education Specialist  
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Idaho Public Television has three staff members who work and travel throughout the state to offer education/outreach programs for communities. They have really ramped up these efforts in the last few years. They offer early literacy and STEM activities together. "They work with local libraries and community partners to offer story times, demonstrate fun science activities, and give away free books to children. Our goal is to show families low-cost ways they can get their kids ready for school and excited about learning." They are also working with incarcerated women about how to interact with their children to improve literacy. They offer a summer slide program called Book and a Bite throughout the Treasure Valley and are presently putting together a manual for others to use on how to do it yourself! Check out all their great resources and contact them today at: <https://www.idahoptv.org/learn/communities/>

## Idaho Sound Beginnings, Idaho's Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program

**Andrea Amestoy**  
208-334-0829  
andrea.amestoy@dhw.idaho.gov

A part of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Idaho Sound Beginnings offers early hearing detection and intervention. Did you know? "Hearing Loss is the most common birth disorder in newborns. It affects how your baby perceives sound and is able to communicate with you and the world. 90% of infants with hearing loss are born to hearing parents. Andrea Amestoy, ISB's Parent Outreach Coordinator, is available to come to libraries and offer hearing screenings at your events. Learn more about Idaho Sounds Beginnings and view their Resource List: <https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Children/IdahoSoundBeginnings/tabid/2489/Default.aspx>

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## **IDEal—Idaho College Savings Program**

**Goldie Bishop**, Project Coordinator  
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**Nick Thiros**, Field Rep  
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Did you know? A child who has a college savings account of even \$25 is 7 times more likely to get some education beyond high school. Today, many adults are also saving for their own higher education or job retraining. The Idaho College Savings Program, IDEal, is looking for ways to get the word out to parents about their college savings program. The Project Coordinator, Goldie Bishop, would love to talk to your library about ways to collaborate on events for families/parents and are excited to work with libraries across the state. They have 3 staff members who can travel around the state and she is happy to send out materials and bookmarks, for your library or community events. Visit their community outreach page to learn more about what they can offer your library:

<https://www.idsaves.org/home/outreach/community.html>

## **Nutrition Works**

**Anji Armagost**, Program Director  
**Melissa Smicker**, Communications Specialist  
208-336-5533  
info@nutritionworks.org

“Nutrition Works is a sponsoring organization of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) that is committed to the wellness, healthy growth and development of children in Idaho. We offer support and training to child care providers and afterschool care programs so they can serve nutritious foods and teach healthy eating habits to the children in their care.” Nutrition works can act as a sponsor for libraries who want to serve afterschool snacks. Libraries are in a unique situation and may not clearly fit the mold of their program but are encouraged to reach out to Anji or Melissa to discuss their situation and what Nutrition Works may be able to offer them. Learn more at: <https://www.nutritionworks.org/index.php>

## **State Dept. of Education, Child Nutrition Program**

**Domonique Ayarra-Sykes**,  
Coordinator, SFSP, CACFP  
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The Idaho State Department of Education also has a Child Nutrition Program which libraries may be able to partner with for summer meals. In fact, 85% of summer nutrition sites in Idaho partner with a library! And over 1 million meals served over the summer in Idaho. There are many resources highlighted on their website but the easiest way to determine if your library can be a summer meal site is to contact Dominique and discuss the details. Learn more at: <https://www.sde.idaho.gov/cnp/>

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**Ready! for Kindergarten  
(Idaho Association for the  
Education of Young Children)**

**Hailey Michalk**, Ready! Coordinator  
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READY! for Kindergarten, a project of the Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children, is an early learning program which “supports parents in their role as their child's first and most influential teacher...READY! for Kindergarten workshops encourage parents to talk, sing, read and play with their child in simple ways that foster essential pre-literacy, pre-math and social-emotional skills and is based on current research.” Hailey Michalk is currently working with local libraries to offer the READY! for Kindergarten classes. She may have some grant-funded programs still available. Check out their website and contact her for more information: <https://idahoaeyc.org/ready>