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## **Teaching Generosity: Raising Philanthropic Children Through Charitable Giving**

In a world increasingly driven by individualism, the act of giving can seem like a lost art. Yet, teaching children the value of generosity through philanthropic giving, charitable work, and volunteerism is more crucial than ever. Establishing a foundation of philanthropy early in life not only fosters empathy and community awareness but also equips the next generation with the tools to make a lasting positive impact. One effective way families are nurturing this spirit of giving is by establishing charitable endowments or donor-advised funds with organizations like the Idaho Community Foundation (ICF) and utilizing innovative tools like the ICF Giving Station, currently stationed at the Kroc Center in Coeur d'Alene through June.

### **The Idaho Community Foundation Giving Station**

The purpose of the Idaho Community Foundation Giving Station is to make charitable giving easy and offers a fun, innovative way for families to teach the next generation of philanthropists about the importance of investing in their community. This special vending machine doesn't dispense chips or candy but lets people donate to one of 24 local nonprofits and programs. Simply swipe or tap your debit or credit card and press a button. You'll receive a card about the nonprofit you selected, and they'll receive your donation!

“We want to make philanthropy fun and accessible. The Idaho Community Foundation’s Giving Station will introduce more people to the joy of giving back to their community and learning more about some of the amazing organizations working hard to make north Idaho such a wonderful place to live,” said Steve Burns.

The Giving Station features Kootenai County nonprofits that serve Idahoans in many ways, including healthcare, recreation, the arts, social services and many more. Donation options range from \$10-\$25. The local nonprofits are:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Boys and Girls Club of Kootenai County | NAMI Coeur d'Alene                                      |
| CDAIDE                                 | North Idaho Centennial Trail                            |
| Children’s Village                     | Safe Passage  |
| Coeur d’Alene Rotary Foundation        | St. Vincent de Paul North Idaho                         |
| Coeur d'Alene Symphony                 | The Avenue Marketplace (Post Falls Foodbank)            |
| Coeur Group                            | The Greater Coeur d’Alene Community Foundation          |
| Companions Animal Shelter              | The Salvation Army Kroc Center - 3rd Grade Swim         |
| EXCEL Foundation                       | The Salvation Army Kroc Center - Clothe a Child         |
| Habitat for Humanity North Idaho       | The Salvation Army Kroc Center - Mental Health Services |
| Heritage Health                        | United Way of North Idaho                               |
| Hospice of North Idaho                 |   |
| Kootenai Health Foundation             |   |
| Love, INC.                             |   |
| Museum of North Idaho                  |   |

## **Teaching Through the Giving Station**

### **1. Engaging with Nonprofits**

The ICF Giving Station allows families to explore various nonprofits addressing critical issues in North Idaho. By visiting the station, children can learn about different causes and see firsthand how their contributions can make a difference. This interaction helps demystify the giving process and makes philanthropy tangible and understandable for young minds.

## **2. Making Collective Impact**

Teaching children that collective efforts can lead to significant changes is a valuable lesson in teamwork and community. The ICF Giving Station exemplifies how individual contributions, when pooled together, can lead to a more substantial impact. This collective giving model demonstrates the power of community and the importance of working together for a common cause.

## **3. Ensuring Responsible Giving**

Through the ICF Giving Station, children can learn the importance of responsible giving. Knowing that each nonprofit has been vetted by ICF reassures families that their donations are being used effectively. This due diligence process teaches children about the importance of making informed and thoughtful decisions when it comes to charitable contributions.

Teaching children to be generous is an investment in their future and the future of our communities. The act of giving, when ingrained from a young age, nurtures a lifelong commitment to making the world a better place.