**Idaho Runs on Nonprofits**

By Kevin Bailey

Idaho prides itself on limited government and champions the private sector. As a result, nonprofits are asked to provide services that our communities need to thrive and to hold up our quality of life, one of the highest in the nation. Simply put, Idaho runs on nonprofits.

This is increasingly evident across all areas. You cannot walk more than a block without encountering the impact of a nonprofit. Organizations are responsible for providing meals for seniors, protecting beautiful views, jobs for veterans, world-class musical performances, helping youth achieve their dreams, and so much more.

Nonprofits continue to impress as the fifth largest private employment sector in the state with over 67,000 Idahoans employed. Collectively, these organizations add over $5 billion into Idaho’s economy and are ranked [highly] trusted by Idahoans.

The 2022 State of the Nonprofit Sector report, published by the Idaho Nonprofit Center with Boise State University and the University of Idaho as contributors, illustrates more accomplishments made by organizations.

Although the nonprofit sector is highly skilled, as our state continues to grow rapidly, the stretch and strain on what organizations are asked to do will be a challenge. How might you help usher your favorite organizations through this tension?

Keep giving monetarily to nonprofits so the sector can meet future obstacles, especially during Idaho Gives (run by the INC) in May. Keep giving your time to advocate for policies and legislation that help nonprofits and your neighbors thrive.

Most importantly, please continue to stay involved, joining boards, volunteering, and being civically engaged. It makes *all* the difference in a state that runs on nonprofits.

***Kevin Bailey is the CEO of the Idaho Nonprofit Center. The Idaho Nonprofit Center strengthens Idaho’s over 9,000 registered nonprofit organizations through training, advocacy, and collaboration.***