



GEM STATE NEWS

FALL 2025 EDITION (September - January) www.gsdcdpa.com



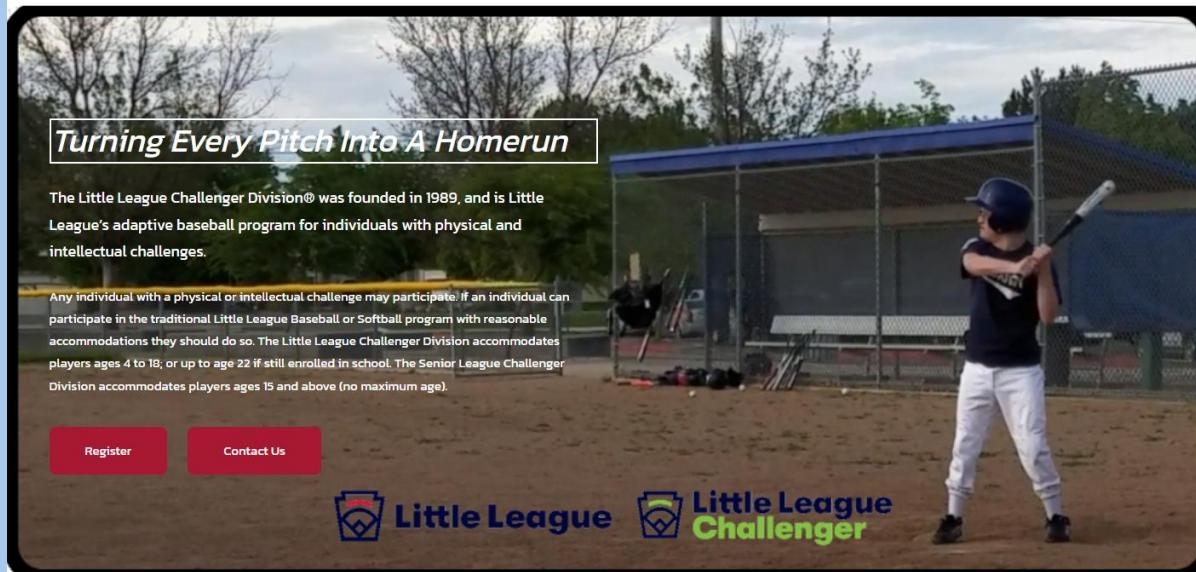
Table of Contents

Challenger Baseball Announcement	2
DSP Week 2025	3
GSDC Yard Sale	4
What Do You See? (Seven Hidden Items)	5
Participants Just Want to Have Fun!	6
Honoring Veterans' Day	8
Halloween Fun!	10-14
Have a Happy, Jolly Christmas!	15-16
Staff Holiday Party	17
We Are the Champions, My Friends!	18
Happy Boss Day!	19
Medicaid Unites Us!	20
I Have a Dream	21
9/11 National Day of Service	22

Idaho Challenger Little League

Website: [Idaho Challenger Little League](http://IdahoChallengerLittleLeague.com)

Do you have an interest in sports? Would you like to play baseball this Summer with friends—and maybe make new ones along the way? Challenger Baseball is a fun and welcoming way to get involved. It helps build confidence, encourages teamwork, promotes physical activity, and provides meaningful social connections in an inclusive environment where everyone gets to shine.

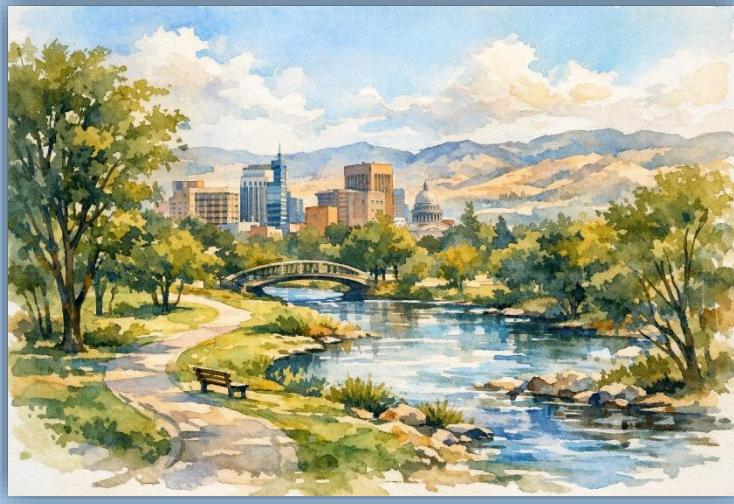


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Registration for the 2026 season is now Open. They start on April 11th, and games are played every Saturday until June 20th, with the picnic on June 27th.

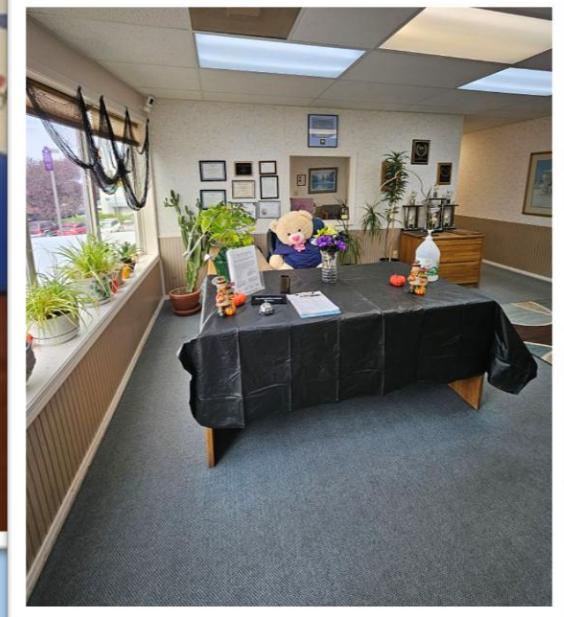
Deadline for registration is March 15th.

Registration link: [Online Registration – Idaho Challenger Little League](http://IdahoChallengerLittleLeague.com)



DSP WEEK 2025!

This year, we once again recognize the incredible work our staff does. Their dedication and compassion makes a difference of those we serve every single day. Thank you!



GSDC Yard Sale

Yard sales give our participants a sense of belonging to the community. They provide hands-on practice with communication, decision making, and social interaction. They help build pride, confidence, independence, and some extra spending money!



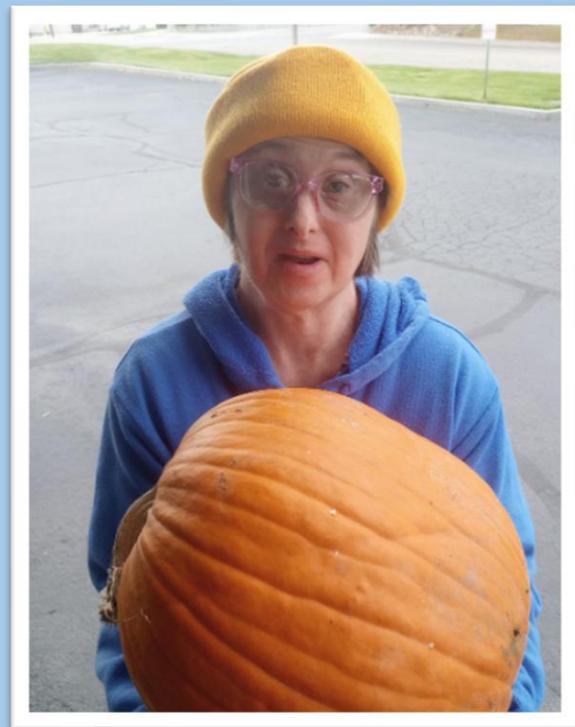
What Do You See? (Seven Hidden Items)

Baseball hat, butterfly, coffee mug, tape measure, game controller, drum, backpack



Participants Just Want to Have Fun!

Pumpkin patches offer rich sensory experiences, encourage independence through choosing a pumpkin, promote natural movement while exploring the patch, and create meaningful social connections in a relaxed, festive environment.



Here are a few beautiful expressions from our participants. These activites promote hand-eye coordination, confidence, and social bonding with peers.



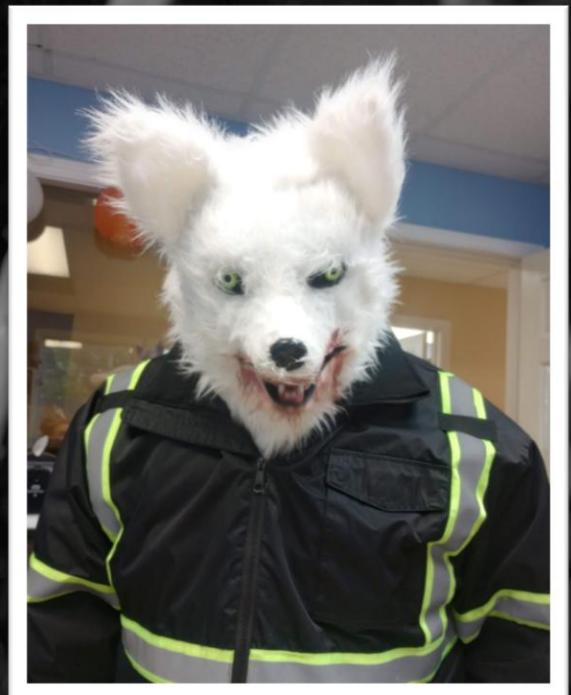
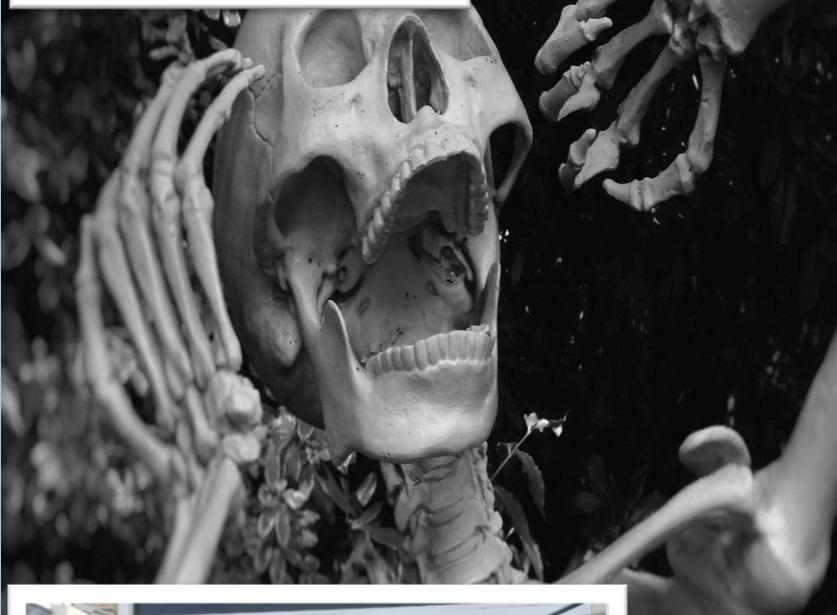
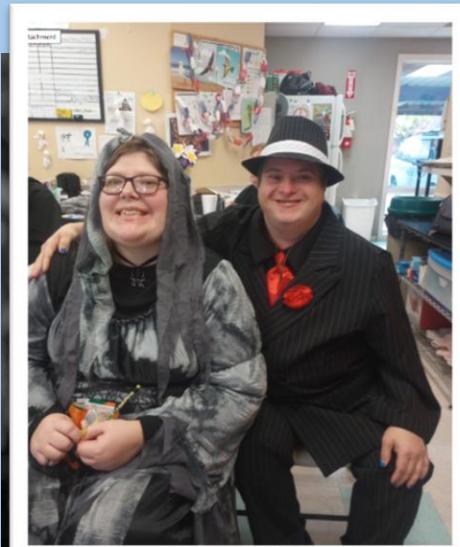
Honoring Veterans' Day

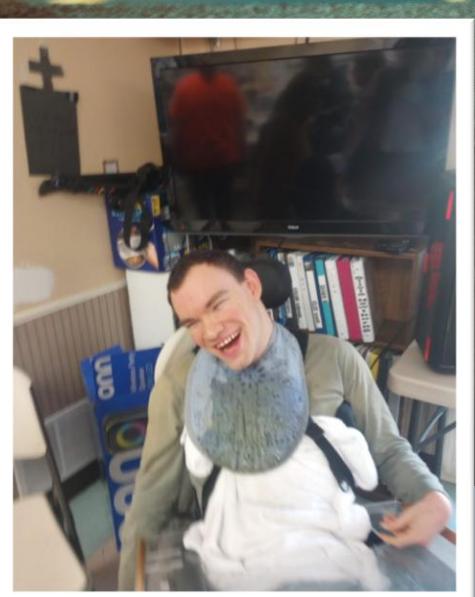
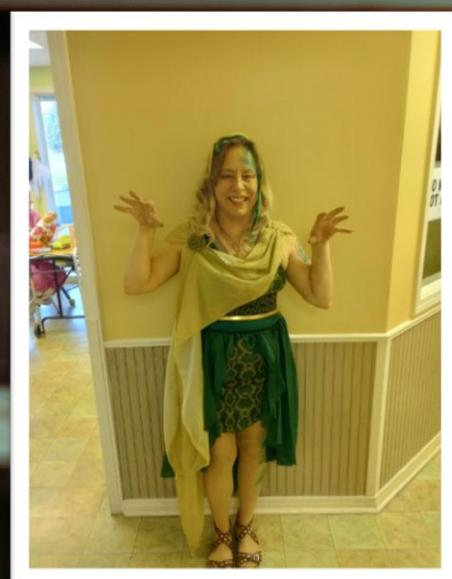
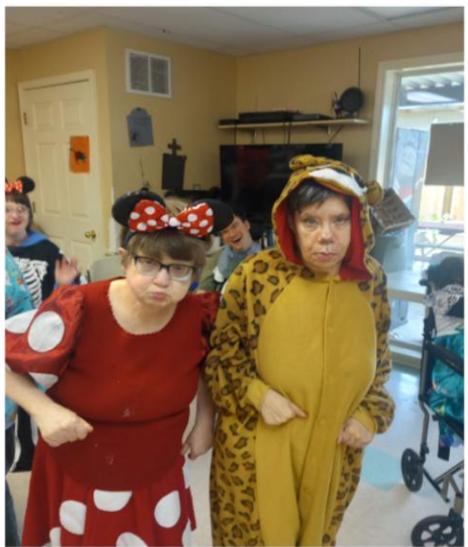
We honor our veterans because it helps us feel connected to the community and teaches the value of gratitude and service.

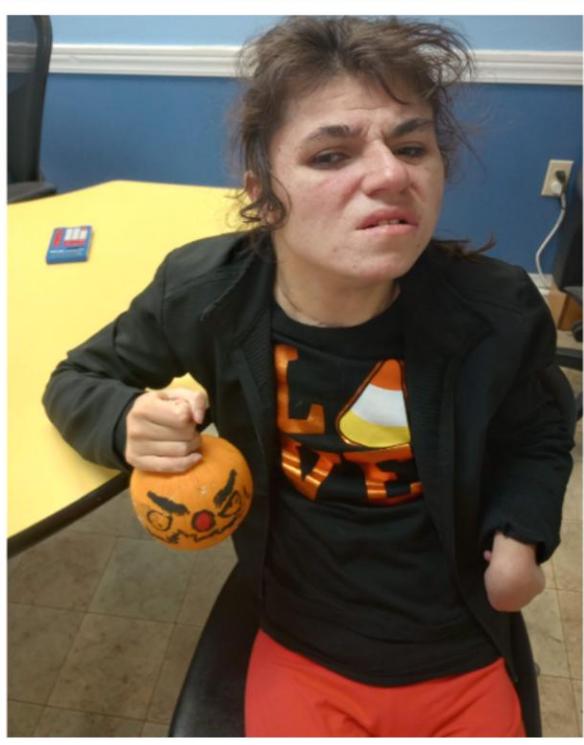


Halloween Party 2025

Halloween combines creativity, community connection, sensory experiences, and opportunities for self-expression in ways that are fun and validating.







Halloween gives us a fun, creative way to celebrate and feel included in the community. We get to choose our costumes and adopt the personality of the fictional characters of our choosing.



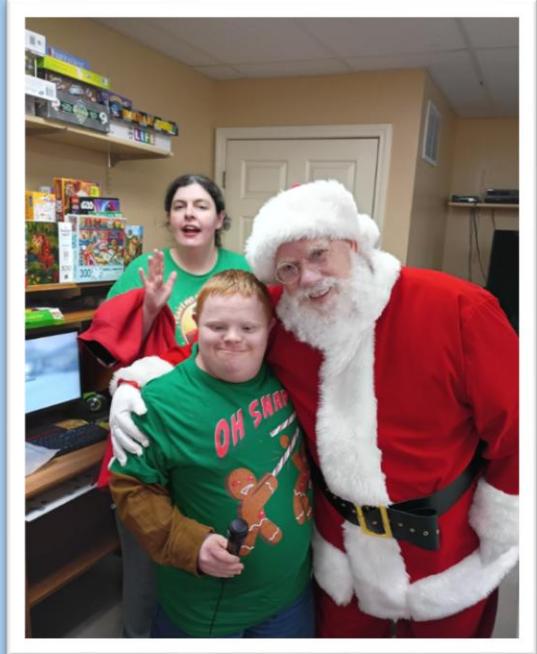


Have a Happy, Jolly Christmas!

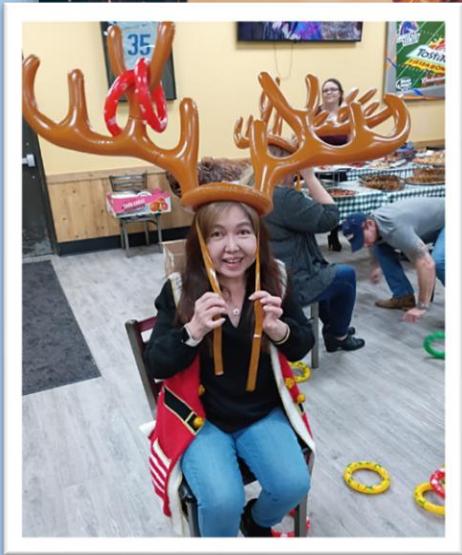
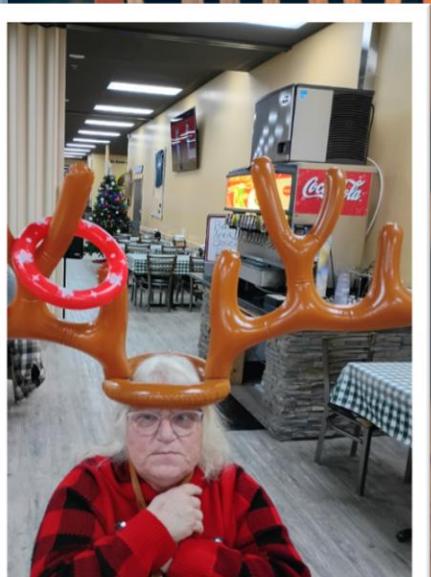
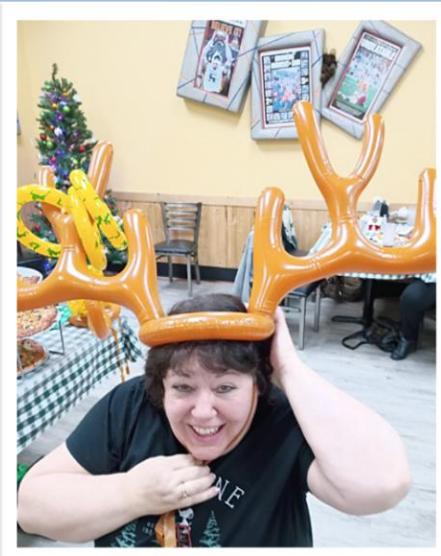
This special time of the year fosters belonging, joy, creativity, and meaningful social connection. It supports a festive environment for families, friends, and community.



Christmas gives us the spirit of family and friends. We exchange gifts and warm wishes for times we can celebrate our connections. Thank you to one of our parents (Chris G.) for his great performance as Santa Clause, and his two helpers, Brandy and Tammy. We love the look.



Staff Holiday Party!



We Are the Champions, My Friends!

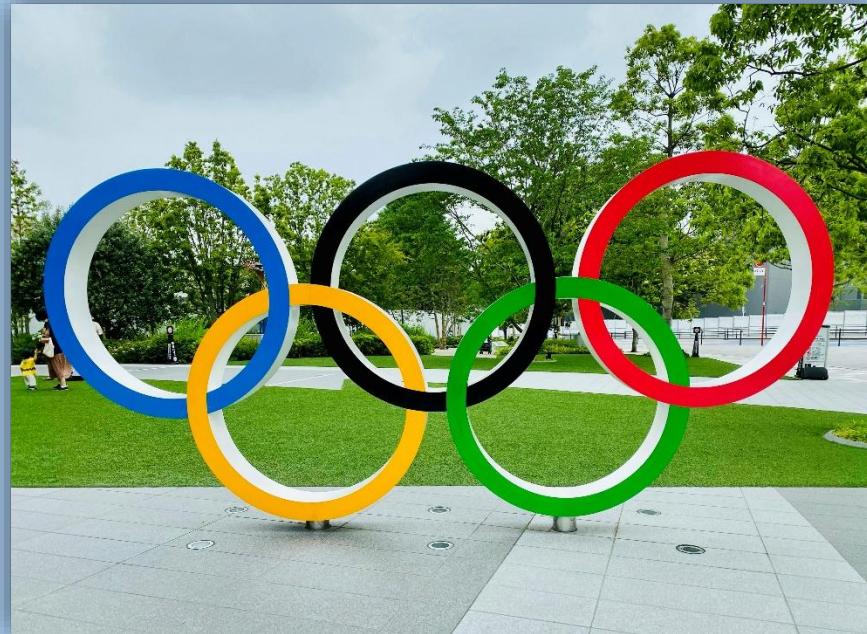
Special Olympics provide a meaningful way to build confidence, and develop physical and social skills through opportunities, and a sense of achievement and belonging.

Here we have our athlete DJ, proudly showing off his many well-earned medals.

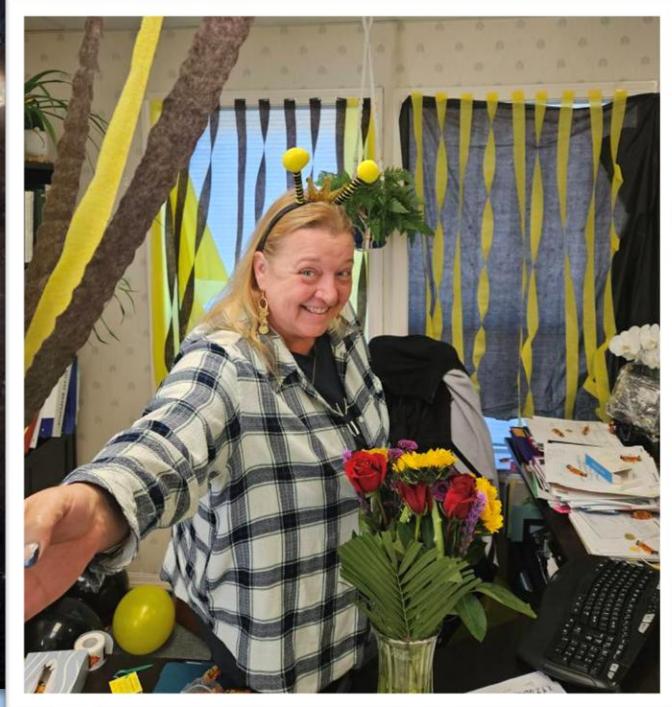


Special Olympics

<https://www.specialolympics.org/>

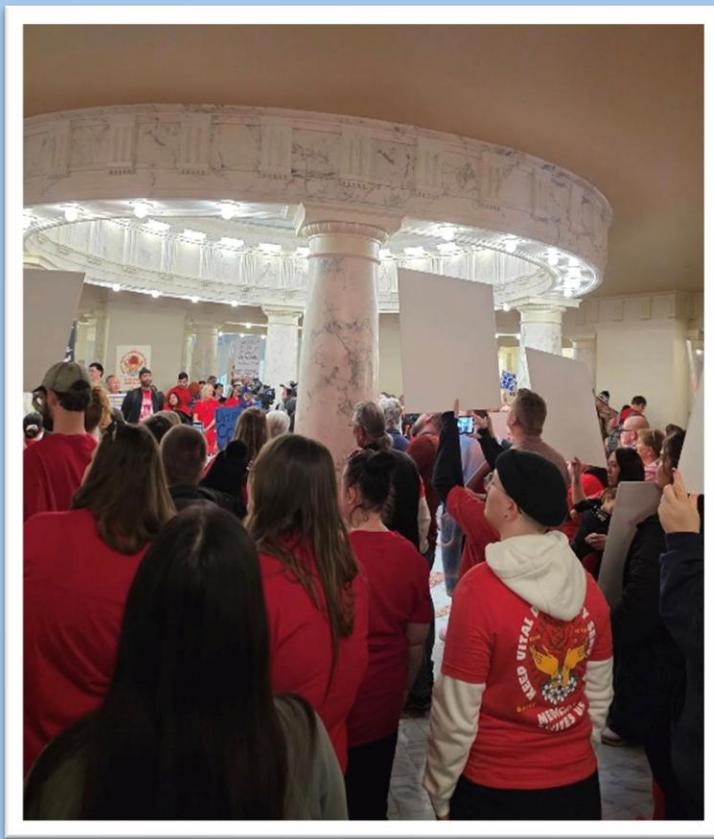
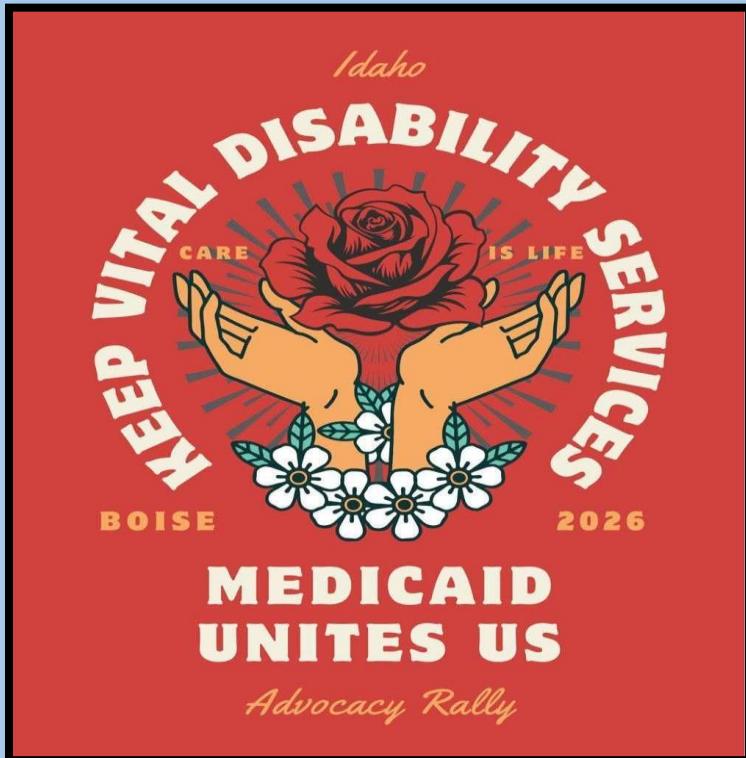


**HAPPY
BOSS DAY !
YOU'RE OUT OF THIS
WORLD, LORI JO**



Medicaid Unites Us!

Our participants and families rally because it helps us protect the essential services and supports they rely on to live healthy, independent lives, and connect to their communities.





I Have a Dream – And That Dream Lives In You!

Celebrating a historical figure who fought for our ability live our lives in a fair, equal, and inclusive environment. We all are examples of this dream, and we honor him by our service.



Remember the hours after Sept. 11 when we came together as one...It was the worst day we have ever seen, but it brought out the best in all of us. - John F. Kerry

Our participants recognize this day because it reminds them that in difficult times, communities grow stronger by supporting one another, and everyone's resilience and contributions matter.

