



The Otto family, Drew, Beth, Bob, Shannon, Pierce and Crystal with a tree that fits their newly dedicated home.

*Photo by William Buntor*

**Hello to our  
old and  
new friends  
at the Fuller  
Center for  
Housing!  
Season's  
Greetings  
from the  
Otto  
Family!**

We were Blessed with the third home built by this wonderful group of compassionate human beings, way back in 1996, we moved into our new home right before Christmas! This was the most wonderful "gift" you could have given our Family! Thank you so much for all your hard work and your investment in our lives!

It's hard to believe that this home has been here taking great care of our growing family for 24 years! We homeschooled our kids for 12 years. We have had 2 of our girls' weddings right here in the country! We have had beautiful gardens and lots of flowers all around us. As we consider the growth of our five children and now their children (7 of 'em) we have so many wonderful memories!

Bob and I celebrated our 42nd wedding anniversary this year. Now we are gingerly approaching retirement age. Whew, what a wonderful life here in Cataldo, Idaho. Also, we have been able to pay off our mortgage, years ago, we own our own house! This is the gift that keeps on giving! Allowing us to look forward to what's next.

May God bless you all for keeping the life changing momentum going in the Silver Valley! We are especially grateful for Verne and Judy Blalack's belief in us and their mentoring us and our children and all the other families that they have touched and changed for the better!

Gratefully and Respectfully,

Beth Otto for the whole Otto clan!



CPA, Kereen Dose, comes to Cataldo to research in the records on file in the storage building, originally built by Jim Shadle. She is updating SVFCH's financial records.



Homeowner & beautician, Linda Miller showed part of her decorations when Judy picked up the Wild Rose certificates.

Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:

Luke 6:37

## Fuller Center Volunteers Can Be Very Active

By Brian R. Lee

Ellie Arguimbau came to the Silver Valley for the opportunities to enjoy in the outdoors. Through the Silver Valley Fuller Center for Housing she has been able to bicycle all over the world without leaving the valley.

Ellie has been to many different places, starting out in Massachusetts where she grew up. Always drawn to the West, she chose to attend college at the University of Colorado in Boulder where she majored in history. That eventually led her to Helena, MT, where she worked for 35 years as an archivist for the Montana Historical Society. When she retired, she felt like Helena was growing too fast for her as she saw development taking over some of her favorite hiking trails.

She then moved to Kellogg, ID, because of the many opportunities for hiking, bicycling and skiing without having to take on a high cost of living. "There are not very many places that have outdoor possibilities where ordinary people can afford to live," she noted.

Within a few months she began volunteering for Fuller Center, which became a good fit for her because of the fund-raising events it offered for bicyclists. As a result, she has been a big help for the annual Ride The Wall bicycle event for over 6 years.

This year has been a different one for her, just as it has for everyone else. Because of the COVID 19 pandemic, Ride The Wall was lifted from the trails to a virtual version. The crowds of people who gather each year at Enaville to register for Ride The Wall was not going to be conducive to the health recommendations of social distancing. As a result, the event was one of many events this year that took on a virtual transformation. People were asked to register online and submit photos of themselves bicycling on routes of their own choosing while wearing Ride The Wall t-shirts.

Meanwhile, The Fuller Center International organization was facing the same issue with their annual cross-country bicycle ride and came up with the Global Home Challenge. In the past, participating bicyclists would stop off at Kellogg and many other communities on their way and spend a few days helping with local construction projects for lower income families. But again, this year was different.

This year, in The Fuller Center International's Global Home Challenge, volunteers were asked to register and choose their own locations to bicycle or walk whatever distance they felt able to do. While that meant there would be no volunteer construction workers, it did allow folks to help raise funds for underprivileged people in poorer parts of our country as well as third-world countries, to obtain improved housing of their own. Over 100 people took part around the country.

"I was involved in both of them," Ellie said of the virtual events. She helped organize a team representing the Silver Valley, and they were part of many groups all over the United States who were able to virtually log in miles all around the world, from Nepal to Columbia. While it meant no hands-on work for those joining these events, raising the funds through donating the registration money and recruiting sponsors is very important.

As a member of the Silver Valley Fuller Center governing board, she has noticed the volunteer labor has been harder to come by locally even before the corona virus hit, largely due to a growing older age demographic in the valley. There's not enough volunteer labor so we're hiring out some of the work," she said. The Fuller Center has not built any new houses from scratch for a number of years due to the high cost and lack of volunteers, but sometimes lower-income families are helped in the purchase of a fixer-upper house in which they provide some of their own sweat equity to get it where it needs to be for habitation. Other times, through the Greater Blessings Program, an older couple or person might receive help in needed repairs to houses they already own and be allowed to pay back the costs over time at whatever they can afford per month. No interest is charged with either program. Whatever the situation may be, Fuller Center needs funds to make these things happen, so with the generous support of local businesses we have held numerous fund raisers such as Ride the Wall, our annual walkathon, and participating in the Osburn Craft Fair.

However, Ellie isn't going to stay in front of a computer working on how to overcome a pandemic. In addition to skiing and walking, Ellie likes riding her recumbent tricycle, and has been trying to do 10 miles on it most days. "I'm not a hard-core bicyclist by any means," she said. But she added, "I'm not going to sit in my house and do nothing. I need to get out every day. I've got to keep active."

And active she is. Ellie also volunteers at the Kellogg and Pinehurst libraries. Volunteering has always been an important part of her life. During her college years she was involved in the Civil Rights movement by working in the Mississippi Freedom Summer where she helped register Black people in the Freedom Democratic Party, which was interracial, because they were barred from joining the Democratic Party, much less exercising their right to vote. "Like most 19-year-olds, I felt invulnerable," she said. But she still paid a price. "My uncle, who lived in Mississippi, disowned me and said I was no longer a part of the family."

It was a tumultuous time, as it has been in some areas of our country this year. But, things can get better. Just as it has become easier for minorities to vote these days, the Fuller Center is helping fulfill dreams of home ownership for many people who might not otherwise be able.

## Raffle Prizes —Silent Auction

**Each prize group is worth over \$200**

**Top bid gets #1, next highest gets # 2, & 3<sup>rd</sup> highest gets # 3.**



### Item

### Donor

Antler Lamp	Twin City Furniture
Auto emergency kit	Les Schwab
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6-inch SUB	Kellogg Subway
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4 Passes	Sierra Silver Mine
\$30 Certificate	The Snake Pit
Woman's Hair Cut	Linda Miller-Wild Rose
\$30 Certificate	City Limits Pub
Massage Certificate	D-Spot
5 Coffee Certificates	6 <sup>th</sup> Street and Cedar
Mission Photo	Shela Hinsz at Past-Present Shop
Cross Necklace	Private Donor



Musical Jewelry Box	Vintage Particulars
Framed photo	Private Donor
Coin Bank	Columbia Bank
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Manicure	Tranquility Salon & Spa
1 Tour Certificate	Oasis Bordello Museum
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\$25 Certificate	1313 Club
5-Coffee Certificates	6 <sup>th</sup> Street & Cedar
Man's Hair Cut	Linda Miller-Wild Rose
Bag of Burgers & Fries	Humdinger Drive In
Heart Earrings	Private Donor
\$20 Certificate	B&C Salon



Wine Basket	Funky Monkey
Auto Emergency Kit	Les Schwab
Choo Choo Sox & more	Northern Pacific RR Museum
\$25 Certificate	The Bean
\$25 Certificate	Mom's Vintage Eatery
One Night Stay	The Brooks Hotel
1 Tour Certificate	Oasis Bordello Museum
One Hair Cut	Sheryl Regan-Wild Rose
5 Car Washes	Silver Valley Tire
\$35 Certificate	Best Little Hair Salon
2 Pizza Bread Certif	Pizza Factory
\$15-\$20 Certificate	Q's
\$100 Certificate	Silver Streak Zip Line Tours
Recipe Book	Private Donor

*We have more prizes promised from The Mouse Pad, Shoshone Honda & Kohal Pharmacy, and maybe others.*

*Send me an email to [judyblalack@gmail.com](mailto:judyblalack@gmail.com) or call*

*208-682-3240. I am screening calls so please leave a message saying who you are and your bid. Only submit one bid at a time. I will keep the top bid posted and noted on my messages. Final bids will be made at the Wallace Elks' birthday party for this year's 60-year-olds on November 28<sup>th</sup>.*

*We thank these businesses for supporting our newsletter.*

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**Thank You,  
October Donors**  
You lift our spirits like the last  
flower garden bouquet.

Sid & Brenda Armstrong, Lee Lewis,  
Lois Arvidson, Tom & Tami Atkins,  
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**Greater Blessings Fund**

Judy and Verne Blalack, Josh and Christina Mace

**Special Thank Yous**

Silver Valley Assembly of God

Kissler Family Foundation

(A member of Idaho Community Foundation)

From Charlotte and Roger Duckett

In Honor of Judy and Verne Blalack

The Ducketts remember working with Verne on their first  
Habitat for Humanity project in 2001. ☺

**Ride the Wall**

Our thanks go to participants and donors of this year's  
virtual ride:

Ellie Arguimbau, Judy Blalack, Verne Blalack, Cathleen  
Britschgi, John Edmar, Jan Engwar, Curt Green, Carolyn  
Hinss, Jan Kirk, Marc Kroetch, David Kuntz, Mike Pierce,  
Patrick Stanford, Larry Sullivan, John Wilson, Marian  
Wilson, Alan Cannaday, Buffie Minter, Tom Richards,  
Kirstie Richards, Jim McMillan and  
Silver Valley Dental Care.

Registration is still open. Enjoy the nice weather while we  
have it. Go to [www.svfch.org](http://www.svfch.org) for info.

**Coming Events**

Nov 3---Board & Committee Meeting, 6 PM, Mt. View  
Congregational Church  
Nov 26---Thanksgiving  
Nov 28---Elks' 60s birthday party & SVFCH silent auction

**We Are Honored to Receive These Memorials.**

*From Robert Fisher*

*In Memory of Terry Sverdsten  
and of Jay Bell*

*From Ken & Carolyn Kimpton  
In Memory of Don Samson*

*From Verne & Judy Blalack  
In Memory of Jim Striker  
Of Terry Sverdsten  
And of Gary Corbiell*

*From Janet Snider  
In Memory of Terry Sverdsten*

*From Robert and Dana Stovern  
In Memory of Terry Sverdsten*

*From Peggy Williams  
In Memory of Terry Sverdsten*

*From Jay and Betty Higbee  
In Memory of Terry Sverdsten*

*From Lucia and Randy Anderson  
In Memory of Terry Sverdsten*

*From Frank and Rose Frutchey  
In Memory of Terry Sverdsten*

*From Nola and Charles Jenicek  
In Memory of Marvin Lake*

*From Margie Warner and Sarah Warner  
In Memory of Terry Sverdsten*

**Here's Help for SVFCH . . .**

- ❖ I'd like to join the "300 Club" and pledge at least \$10 per month for one year. Please note 300 on your check.
- ❖ Here is my pledge for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month for one year.
- ❖ Here is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
- ❖ I have a house and/or land to donate.
- ❖ I can make a no-interest loan for \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Please call about working out the details.
- ❖ I can provide construction materials either discounted or at no cost.
- ❖ I would like to help with construction and/or committee work. Please call me to help or send a volunteer form.

I do not wish to be on your mailing list.

I do not wish a receipt or thank-you.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to Silver Valley Fuller Center for Housing, Inc.P.O. Box 338, Smeltonville, ID 83868 ☐ 786-6013**



## ***STILL WISHING***

- ❖ Committee Members (especially for family selection and family partnership)
- ❖ Board Members from Wallace & Mullan
  - ❖ Newsletter Assistant with layout
- ❖ Construction Volunteers and onsite Supervisors
- ❖ PR Chair
- ❖ Data Entry Volunteer

Our crew of Linda Amonson, John Boy Delaney, Verne Blalack, Ellie Arguimbau, Janice DeVoe, Jill Jackson, Bob Whitman, and Norm Holtz work on mailing the October newsletter. Some of the volunteers who come to our mailing workshops leave for the winter including Linda Amonson. We really need more helpers especially with folding the newsletters before we do the mailing, and especially since John Boy is restricted to one box by his doctor.

Our monthly mailing is held in St. Rita's Parish Hall at 9 AM on the first Tuesdays. Please call Judy to help at 208-682-3240.

Please go to our website [www.svfch.org](http://www.svfch.org) for more information about our organization.

### **Fund Raising Special—Silent Auction**

We normally have our Christmas raffle at the Arts and Craft Fair. But, this year we have to be creative.

Please look inside at the 3 groups we are auctioning, with each group worth more than \$200. The bidding will start now. Place your bid with Judy at [judyblalack.com](http://judyblalack.com) or 208-682-3240. I am screening my phone calls, so leave a message with your name and bid. I will update the value as we go along.

The final bids will be made Nov 28<sup>th</sup> at the Wallace Elks' birthday party for this year's 60-year-olds. More info inside.

The printing of this  
newsletter is courtesy of  
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