

Let me introduce myself. My name is Herb Boreson, lifelong member of the Lewis-Clark Valley. I am currently a volunteer on five different boards. I serve as president of the Beautiful Downtown Lewiston Board, vice chairman of the Life Choices Clinic Board, board member of Downtown Lewiston Parking Committee, member of the Emergency Medical Services Board, and member of Faith Tabernacle Church Board.

With my experience on these various boards I have worked with many different volunteers and it has been my experience that volunteers are good but not always available, many times due to no fault of their own. We currently hired an executive director at BDL because 12-14 volunteers could not keep up or even begin to do what one paid staff could do. Although I feel this is a very important issue, it pales in comparison to the work done by the various caseworkers, occupational therapists, developmental therapists, etc. I realize volunteers can and currently are being used as assistants but the amount of training and education necessary to take their place is unattainable to the vast majority of volunteers. An Idaho economist has estimated over 2 million volunteer hours is needed to cover services for adults needing developmental or psycho-social rehabilitation services. At 100 annual hours per volunteer, Idaho will require 22,000 additional volunteers. Further, each volunteer must also submit to and pay for a criminal background check at approximately \$55 each and they must carry their own liability insurance. While I totally understand the current economic conditions in the state of Idaho I think you must be more persistent in pursuing revenue sources such as taxes on internet sales and looking at our current tax system and many different exceptions to our sales tax.

On a personal note, my wife and I had a son who suffered from severe mental and physical handicaps and it was only through his various speech and occupational therapists and the countless hours they spent working with him that he was able to gain any physical strength at all in his tiny little body. After many years of speech therapy he was able to speak only a few words but those few words were worth all the money in the world to his parents. Was this money well spent? That's a question we have to ask ourselves. But as for me, the words that I remember are when you do it to the least of these, you do it to me.