Students, faculty and staff assist area food bank, sponsor needy family for Christmas

College of Pharmacy students will continue the tradition of giving during the 2004 holiday season by adopting a needy family in the Pocatello area and assisting them with Christmas gifts and dinner.

“This is the eighth year the Pharmacy Student Senate, faculty and staff have sponsored a family for Christmas,” said Dr. Cynthia Culbertson, Student Senate advisor.

This year’s family consists of a mother and five children; three boys, 11, 7 and 6-years-old and two girls, ages 9 and 2.

Donors select items from a wish list posted in Leonard Hall to purchase, or they contribute cash donations or gift certificates.

In addition to sponsoring a family, Senate leaders agreed to donate $50 from their account to purchase several cases of diapers for a toddler who is undergoing treatment for leukemia.

Last year, students chose to sponsor a single mother and her son.

“When Christmas Eve came and I discovered that we really were going to have a nice Christmas dinner instead of hot dogs and chips, I was overwhelmed,” the mother recently wrote in a letter to the College. “As Christmas draws near, I just wanted you to know that I still feel the warmth of your care from a year ago, and I will never forget it.”

Pharmacy students, faculty and staff contributed non-perishable food items and a total of $482.25 in a recent food drive before Thanksgiving to donate to the Idaho Food Bank in Pocatello, Culbertson said.

To assist with the Christmas family sponsor program, contact Culbertson at 208-282-3223 or by email at cynthia@pharmacy.isu.edu.
With the busy and much-anticipated holiday season upon us, attention naturally turns to giving gifts. Our thoughts and our hearts focus on family, friends and colleagues. As we search for appropriate expressions of appreciation, friendship and love, inevitably, we tend to focus on what is really important in life - on values and lasting impressions. In the midst of this reflection, all of us at the College of Pharmacy urge our generous alumni and friends to seize the timely opportunity to include Idaho State University in your giving plans.

Please consider your charitable giving for the remainder of this year. Your gift to Idaho State University will have maximum impact - both for our College in developing future pharmacists and leaders, as well as for you and your family.

It’s helpful to remember that incentives for making charitable gifts continue to be a significant factor in our nation’s tax laws. Gifts of cash as well as stock, bonds, mutual funds and other assets offer very attractive tax benefits when it comes time to file your income tax return for this year - but only if you take specific action before the end of the calendar year.

Following are some helpful tips and options you and your family may wish to consider when planning your gifts for the remainder of the year:

**Gifts of Cash**

Usually made in the form of a check payable to the ISU Foundation, cash gifts are the most common type of charitable contributions. Tax benefits are available for gifts of cash when you itemize deductions on this year’s tax return. Address your gift to: ISU Foundation, Campus Box 8050, Pocatello, ID 83209-8050.

**Gifts of Assets Other than Cash**

If you own appreciated stock, it can be more tax-wise to contribute stock rather than cash. This is because a gift of appreciated stock generally offers a two-fold tax benefit. First, you avoid paying any capital gains tax on the increased value of the stock. Second, you receive an income tax charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the stock at the time of the gift. Make sure that you have owned the stock for a “long-term” period of time (this generally means that you held the stock for more than one year) to qualify for these significant tax advantages.

**Matching Gifts**

Some employers will match charitable gifts, meaning your gifts are worth even more. If your company or firm has a matching gifts program, simply enclose the form along with your check payable to the ISU Foundation. To find out if your company has a matching gifts program, ask your employer’s personnel, human resources or benefits administrator, or contact Tressa Rockwood at the ISU College of Pharmacy.

**The Biggest Benefit of All**

Educating our students to fill the new role of today’s pharmacist is an enormous job. Your gifts go a long way in making it all possible. We are grateful and proud of our many alumni and friends who in the past have made so much possible for this wonderful institution.

The Happiest of Holidays to all of you, and all the best for a prosperous New Year.

Tressa Rockwood

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**Editor’s Note:** Tressa Rockwood has returned to the College of Pharmacy to continue her service as the Assistant to the Dean for Development.