Serving Every Idaho Community

As Jannus approaches nearly 50 years of serving Idaho, we continue to bring people and programs together to help individuals, families, and communities realize a brighter future. As we work in an increasingly complex world, we are grateful for the opportunity to serve.

Jannus brings attention to the needs of the most vulnerable among us, giving voice to change the circumstance of those limited by poverty and inequity. Jannus creates opportunities that increase self-sufficiency, empower participants, and celebrate possibilities. Jannus provides nurture to young children and families, and those with aging family members. Jannus supports people in crisis and those struggling with mental illness and their families. Jannus cares for and engages veterans and seniors. Jannus invests in entrepreneurs and small business owners and welcomes refugees and immigrants. Jannus dedicates its resources to promoting health, advancing public policy, and creating economic opportunity with eighteen programs serving Idahoans locally, regionally and statewide.

Jannus embraces diversity, equity and inclusion, and innovates in response to community needs. In the face of the first pandemic in over 100 years, Jannus programs helped over 45,000 Idahoans overcome barriers to prosperity. Programs used new strategies and technologies to reach participants, deliver services, and create new partnerships. Thousands in Idaho will benefit from changes led by Jannus’ policy team.

We hope that you will be inspired by the stories of our participants and programs. We are exceedingly grateful to all our volunteers, our supporters and our donors who come along side our teams and our participants as they build a brighter future.

Jannus Programs and Leadership

Karan Tucker | Stephanie Bender-Kitz
Executive Directors-Shared Leadership

Slobodanka Hodzic
Director

Anna Almerico
Director

Katrina Hoff
Director

Melissa Radloff
Director

Kelli Parker
Director

Tara Wolfson
Director

Kimberley Seitz
Director

Lee Flinn
Director

Christine Tiddens
Director

Alejandra Cerna Rios
Director

Anji Armagost
Director

An unwavering commitment to a culture of belonging and to fostering diversity, equity and inclusiveness is at the heart of Jannus. We embrace and celebrate the diversity of our staff, partners, volunteers and the communities we serve as reflected in our dedication to furthering these values through our policies, programs and all that we do.
A Message of Gratitude

As we reflect on 2021 and on our combined 30 years of work history at Jannus, we hold much gratitude for the opportunities we’ve had to lead and support Jannus team members, our programs and services. The work of Jannus impacts tens of thousands of Idahoans each year.

We look forward to preparing the organization for its new leader with excitement and enthusiasm. As we retire, we know Jannus’ next leader will come with new perspectives and different experiences that will lead the organization into the future. We have every confidence in our Board, our organizational and program leaders and team members to continue changing lives long into the future.

With gratitude,

Karan & Stephanie
Executive Director-Shared Leadership

Encouragement and Purpose

What a blessing and privilege to be involved with Jannus and serve alongside extraordinary, purpose-driven people helping individuals and families in transition.

Despite a challenging year, I’m proud of the people behind our programs who remained steadfast in working to change lives for the better by educating families, analyzing policy impacts to vulnerable populations, coordinating renewed refugee resettlement, counseling entrepreneurs, and supporting mental health.

Gratefully, hope remains. The challenges of the day have forged stronger relationships. Creative solutions developed to serve well during a pandemic and amid workforce transition remain. New ideas, new people and renewed purpose will drive our next wave of collaborative caring.

We thank all our supporters for engaging as active, caring partners in this great work.

John Curtis, Jannus Board President

Board of Directors
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Vice President: Molly O’Leary, JD
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She Found Her Voice

When Niya was in grade school, she kept to herself — so much so, that people often thought she couldn’t talk. Before moving to the U.S., Niya survived a massacre in Burundi that took the lives of her older brother and her younger sister.

“I went from being the middle child to an only child,” Niya said. She dealt with the trauma by holding back her tears and her words.

When Niya got to middle school, she joined Ms. Linda Byron’s theater class. Students were instructed to do a monolog and lip-synch a performance from an artist of their choice. Niya chose a song from African gospel artist Anastacia and wore kitenge, traditional African fabric, for her presentation. In those moments in front of the class, something began to unfold within her.

“I remember just feeling free and just like myself,” Niya said. “I remember I did cry during that monolog. I just felt like that crying moment was a moment for me to let out some of that anger that I kept in my heart. I could actually cry — not just for the monolog, but for myself.”

Niya started to open-up to the other students and taking more theater classes in high school. She is on track to graduate in theater arts from Boise State University. She credits Ms. Linda for helping her find her voice.

When Niya was sharing her story at a recent event of the Refugee Speakers Bureau, she recognized a familiar face in the audience. She paused and asked, “Is that you, Ms. Byron?” Linda, having recognized Niya, ran to the stage and gave her a giant hug. It was only after that reunion that Linda learned how Niya processed so much pain and loss through her theater class.

“I didn’t know that, and I’m very moved by it,” Linda said. “And, I must say, the most important thing in my life, is to make a difference.”

Learning each other’s stories is the most powerful way to connect and build empathy. Meaningful conversations like this one are made possible through the community’s support of the Refugee Speakers Bureau.

Building Strong Communities

The Southwest Idaho Area Health Education Center (SWIDAHEC) helps bring the resources of academic medicine to address local community health needs - like the shortage of rural health providers. The AHEC Scholars program provides classroom and clinical training to college students in health fields. More than half of the AHEC scholars said they plan to work in a rural community. One scholar recently shared his story.

“I left for spring break and returned to a world of Covid chaos. As a medical student, I felt the need to help. While being in a clinical setting was unsafe, I collaborated on a community project to pool resources and organize volunteers in a safe way to help support the needs in my community during this strange time.” – An AHEC Scholar
Always Here... Ready to Listen

Active duty soldiers, veterans and military family members are among the thousands that reached out to the Idaho Suicide Prevention Hotline for help last year. Over 1,300 family members of a person who served or is currently serving called for help. The Hotline has 112 trained volunteers who gave over 15,000 hours of service as phone responders. When a person calls, a trained responder evaluates the person’s situation, conducts a suicide risk assessment, helps the person identify strengths and assists the help-seeker by creating a safety plan. Most importantly, they help the caller recognize their reasons to live.

The Idaho Suicide Prevention Hotline is a research partner with St. Luke’s Health System. Half of people who die by suicide seek health care within a month of their death. This research project will seek to better understand and respond to this troubling trend.

“My teenager has been struggling with school during the pandemic. I was afraid he was slipping into depression and didn’t know what to do. Thank you for talking to me so I could support him and keep him well.” - A Hotline Caller

2022: The Hotline will deploy 9-8-8, the universal telephone number for reaching a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system. The volume of calls will increase three-fold.

24/7 Response

16,386 Contacts (Calls, Texts & Chats)
15,027 Volunteered Hours
4,932 Safety Plans Created
1,869 Veterans, Active Duty and Military Family Members Served

Source Data: Hotline Annual Report
Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Being the Parent I Wish I Had

“I always wanted to have secure interactions within my family, but my past has had a way of hanging a heavy cloud on my good intentions. Early Head Start was there to help give me insight and knowledge on how to make these connections... partly through the Circle of Security and by involving me and my child in fun playgroups, visits, games and songs. I am learning how to have balance and kindness toward myself as a parent, and to step back to see the real issues underlying my child’s behaviors. The training has helped me to be the parent I wish I had as a child.” - An Early Head Start Parent

2021: Early Head Start was able to conquer technology while maintaining the human connection that supports success.

2022: The Early Head Start team is looking forward to full enrollment, more in-person services and starting a new Perinatal Support Group.
STEAM Powered Learning

Think Make Create (TMC) labs are like portable workshops filled with hands-on activities for elementary students. All contained in a makerspace trailer, the low-tech materials engage students in activities in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math, or STEAM. The Idaho Out-of-School Network (ION) deployed 16 mobile makerspace trailers to increase opportunities for STEAM learning in rural and underserved Idaho communities.

Over 125 adult educators and afterschool staff from Bonners Ferry to Bear Lake were trained on the TMC Lab so that 8,000 students in rural Idaho can have greater access to STEAM education.

“The enthusiasm of children to build, make, and experiment is contagious,” said ION’s AmeriCorps Instructor, Crystal Ivie, “Makerspaces can change a child’s life and help them build dreams and goals for themselves as they see makers in action.”

2021: Sponsors contributed over $400,000 to build 16 TMC Labs; AmeriCorps members invested over 2,500 hours building and preparing the labs.

2022: ION will build 6-8 more labs and increase the use of all TMC Labs through additional professional development and training.

“Ion has been a huge benefit to my program. Their online trainings on intentional planning has helped connect our fun projects to distinct educational goals. Their continued support is invaluable.”

- Director, Upriver After School Program, Fernwood

Decision Makers Need to Hear This

For 12 years, the Carter family lived in a comfortable neighborhood full of happy kids who regularly came to play in their yard. Out of the blue, they received a 30-day notice to move out. In the two weeks following, the family searched all over the Treasure Valley. No rentals were available, they were facing homelessness.

They had been saving to buy a house, but they couldn’t compete in a skyrocketing market. So, with no other solution, Laura and her husband used their savings to buy an RV and park it on a friend’s land. They were thankful to be all together, but they were hours from work, friends and school.

Idaho Voices for Children leads a coordinated policy effort to address the housing crisis and help decision makers understand what families are going through.

“I am so busy taking care of my family and working two jobs,” explained Laura, “so I am very thankful to Voices for reaching out to lawmakers and sharing my story.”

2021: Idaho Voices for Children helped secure $175 million in federal rental assistance that will help thousands of families in Idaho avoid homelessness.

2022: Idaho Voices for Children will continue to stand up for children and families in the areas of housing, healthcare and early education.

Over 40% of Participants are Children

23,299
Children Served

2,218,942
Healthy Meals Provided

8,000
Students with Increased Access to STEAM Learning

284
Childcares and Classrooms Supported

Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021
Seniors Cross the Digital Divide

Aging Strong Programs provide opportunities for seniors to stay engaged and contribute to their community. Foster Grandparents are volunteers over 55 who assist teachers and children in classrooms. When schools shutdown during the pandemic, volunteers were cut off from the classrooms and students they love. But not for long!

Staff and volunteers mobilized to overtake the digital divide.

“We’ve been so proud of our seniors,” said Volunteer Coordinator Lisa Underwood, “at the beginning of the pandemic we had about 25% of our volunteers who were comfortable with Zoom, now, 75% are using it every day.”

One senior volunteer figured out how to connect a camera to her laptop while she read a book to kindergarteners, so the kids could see the pictures. Another volunteer provided weekly geography lessons to 4th graders based on her own travels.

“One of my favorite moments,” said Lisa, “was watching one of our seniors on a zoom call on her phone. She needed to use her magnifier to see people on the tiny screen. It provided a chuckle as her face was really enlarged for everyone on the call. It made me realize how courageous and resourceful our volunteers are!”

2021: Aging Strong staff provided over 300 hours of small group digital education to volunteers. Powerful Tools for Caregivers registered over 100 caregivers in nine Idaho counties for the 6-week series online.

2022: Aging Strong Programs will increase the number of ‘older’ adult volunteers contributing to the community, while providing financial, social and educational support as they age with purpose.

Walking in Their Shoes

Rahma is a single mother, new homeowner, and proprietor of two small businesses including a specialty store and a home-based childcare. She grew up in Somalia but fled tribal warfare coming to the U.S. as a refugee in 2014.

Just a few months after buying her first home in 2020, Rahma was struggling to get a new group childcare license. She feared losing her home as the pandemic impacted her small businesses. Fortunately, the staff at Jannus’ Refugee Childcare Business Development program (RCBD) were able to help her complete the detailed application online and her childcare was up and running within a few weeks.

RCBD also helped Rahma secure COVID-19 relief funding which has helped sustain her childcare despite fewer kids due to COVID-19. Rahma is grateful that Jannus programs helped her start her business and buy her home.

She says of her role as a childcare provider, “I am a single mom and I know how hard single parenting can be. These parents are hardworking people and I know what it’s like to be in their shoes.”

2021: All childcare business owners enrolled in RCBD sustained their businesses without reduction in hours throughout the pandemic.

2022: RCBD will assist more new childcare businesses in Canyon County where the need for quality childcare is high.
Economic Impact

34
New Businesses Started

39
New Jobs Created

162
Individuals Increased Their Income

$123,835
Dollars in Personal Loans

Source Data: Economic Opportunity, Global Talent, Global Gardens and Agency for New Americans Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Sewing A Dream

Mariam came to the United States as a refugee from Sudan to build a new life for her three children. She was resettled in Twin Falls, Idaho.

Mariam has a gift for sewing and loves to create beautiful clothing and home décor. She dreamt of opening her own business but didn’t have the funds needed for a sewing machine.

Mariam was thrilled when she heard about the services offered by Economic Opportunity (EO) from Asmaa Albukaie, Jannus’ specialist in Twin Falls. Asmaa helped Mariam apply for a loan and participate in credit education. Mariam purchased the sewing machine she needed, paid off her loan, and built her credit history. For Mariam and her family, purchasing that sewing machine was a big step toward forging a new life.

2021: The Economic Opportunity team provided high levels of service in 2021; 59 loans were dispersed supporting 144 borrowers and their families; the average size of an EO loan was $2,099; 21 small business loans helped entrepreneurs launch new local businesses; and 95% of loans were paid back during 2021.

2022: The team is optimistic about their increased capacity to provide technical assistance, additional class-offerings and lending to small business start-ups and individuals.

Donors Make a Great Difference

The work of Jannus is funded from a diverse portfolio of federal, state, private foundation and corporate grants and thousands of individual and corporate donors. We are deeply appreciative for your ongoing support as we journey together to create new opportunities, to fight poverty and inequity in all forms, to build welcoming and life-giving communities and to change lives in Idaho.
Jannus Financials for Fiscal Year 2021

Revenue

- Grants and Contracts $13,479,064
- Fees $1,465,371
- Contributions and Special Events $1,005,555
- Other (In-kind & Investment) $627,322

Total Support and Revenue $16,577,312*

Expenses

- Program Services $10,911,417
- Direct Support to Participants $2,997,327
- Support Services (Administration) $1,537,415

Total Expenses $15,446,159

*Includes a one time $959,520 Paycheck Protection loan to ensure critical and essential services were continued and our dedicated workforce retained during the unprecedented COVID pandemic.

Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Welcome and Belonging

Familiar foods can bring a powerful sense of comfort and community. The Idaho Office for Refugees and the City of Good in Boise wanted to provide comfort and welcome to dozens of new Afghan arrivals. Together they partnered with three Boise restaurants to deliver warm, familiar meals to families temporarily staying in hotels, creating feelings of welcome and belonging.

Idahoans old and new stepped up in response to the evacuation of Afghanistan by sharing housing rentals, donating warm winter clothing and household items, and hosting Thanksgiving meals. Our community’s support of new Americans makes these and so many other authentic gestures of welcome possible. One donor shared, “I think about how I would hope to be treated - if my life were uprooted, my family split apart, and landing in a foreign city where I didn’t speak the language or have a job. The littlest gesture can go a long way.”

2021: The Idaho Office for Refugees engaged hundreds of community members in online cooking classes with chefs from Laos, Syria, Kenya, Venezuela, Gambia, China, Cuba, and Afghanistan. Participants reported that they increased their understanding and appreciation of their refugee neighbors.

2022: IOR will build new bridges through innovative programming, support Idaho resettlement agencies and mobilize volunteers as hundreds of additional refugees arrive from Afghanistan and many other countries.

“When I see the love and appreciation and the hope, I’m humbled by what one person can do to help change lives. I just want to know I’m making a difference for even just one person. Love and kindness go a long way - that’s why I give.”

- A Donor
What Touches You?

In 2019, Global Gardens, a beloved program that supported refugee farmers and supplied the community with fresh produce, faced an unclear future when a major funding source dried up. During that time of uncertainty, Boise residents rallied to keep Global Gardens afloat. One donor was Tami Gordon, a single mom and math teacher. Tami learned about Global Gardens at the Boise Farmers Market, where she had gotten to know some of the farmers.

“Global Gardens is hands-on support for the people involved, and I think it’s a fantastic program,” she said. “It brings a lot of different aspects of my beliefs together.”

Tami was able to give a generous donation of $1,000 through her family’s trust, the Robert and Judith Sturgis Family Foundation, which aims to better the world by helping others help themselves along their own path. Tami saw Global Gardens in that mission.

She checked in the following year to see how the program was doing. Global Gardens Program Manager Rabiou Manzo invited her to tour the Pond Street Farm, which badly needed some infrastructure upgrades. “The farmers were there, they were washing vegetables,” Rabiou remembers. “It was so muddy, and Tami was jumping to get to the other side. I took her to the walk-in cooler where everything was stacked. It was hard to get in.” Farmer Abdi Haji recalled, “All the water was dripping down and all around was muddy, and it smelled a little bit too.”

Tami invited Rabiou to apply for a grant from the foundation. A couple months later, the Sturgis Foundation awarded Global Gardens a $30,000 grant to improve the wash station with a new rooftop, concrete, salad spinner and drainage and to increase the walk-in cooler capacity.

“Right now, it looks great,” Abdi said. Abdi and Tami share a love for gardening and the impact it makes. “Gardening is just very important,” Abdi said. “No farm, no food.” For Tami, gardening brings solace and healing.

“I think the key to supporting your community is finding what touches you and trying to connect with it,” she said. “With Global Gardens, there was such a clear need there that Rabiou and the program made it easy to say, yes, this is perfect.”

2021: Global Gardens increased Community Shared Agriculture (CSA) enrollments from 250 to over 450, increasing farmers’ income.

2022: Global Gardens will increase land that is available for refugee farmers to cultivate.
Never Give Up

Ghulam was just 12 years old and living in Jaghori, Afghanistan when the World Trade Center was bombed, and his life would never be the same. Fortunately, his family had access to security and financial support from NATO and American troops, so his family was safe and comfortable. Ghulam earned a degree in Power Engineering in 2014 and served as an Electrical Engineer for a construction firm for the U.S. Embassy. Three years later, he was given a Special Immigrant Visa and Ghulam and his wife, Zahra were resettled in Boise, where they knew family friends.

Ghulam was determined to find a position in electrical engineering. His first job upon arrival was with Park BOI but he was eager to return to his profession. Ghulam was introduced to Global Talent and was inspired to hear people’s stories. Global Talent helped him create a professional U.S. resume and the staff supported him in his job search. Ghulam landed a new position as an Electrical Designer at DC Engineering and is pursuing his EIT (Engineer-in-Training) certificate.

“I am grateful to Global Talent for all the help provided to me,” said Ghulam, “They even coached me on how to negotiate my salary and I was able to secure a better salary in my new position.” His advice to other job seekers is, “never give up, be persistent - your hard work, motivation and positivity will pay off one day.”

Ghulam’s success, like so many other GTI participants, underscores what we at Global Talent know so well: that immigrant and refugee professionals have highly desirable skills, immense talent, and valuable experience to offer our local workforce when given an opportunity.

2021: The average annual salary gains of Global Talent job seekers who landed a professional job in 2021 was over $52,000—a new record!

2022: GTI anticipates doubling the number of applicants to the program as professionals from Afghanistan—many of whom worked alongside U.S. troops—seek safety and an opportunity to contribute their skills and talents in Idaho. We are eager to help them.

Making A Difference

Each and every person can make a difference in the life of one person or one family. Joining with Jannus means together, we can make a difference in the whole community. Donations to support current activities can be received as a check by mail or by credit card on our website. These can be specified for any program or Jannus general operations.

Giving your time as a volunteer is a much needed and appreciated contribution. Many of our programs, like the Agency for New Americans, the English Language Center and the Idaho Suicide Prevention Hotline couldn’t operate without the hundreds of volunteers that give their time. Go to www.jannus.org or call Jannus at 208.336.5533 to be directed to the program that interests you.

Jannus has a variety of other ways that you can change the life of a person or a family, and come alongside the many people who come to Jannus for help. We can accept stock donations, donor advised funds and bequests. A contribution to the Jannus Legacy Endowment ensures that programs will have support for years to come.