Catholic Charities of Idaho

She's 77. Her income is fixed . . . but inflation is not.

Without help, she'd be homeless.

This Christmas, you could make all the difference for an Idaho neighbor in crisis.
*If you give right away, your gift will be **DOUBLED** by matching funds.*

December 1, 2026

Dear <Primary Salutation>,

Have you ever felt like someone is looking right through you?

Like they "see you" but not what you're up against?

That's how it is for 77-year-old Siew Hoon Allen.

Maybe it's because *she smiles from the heart.*

Maybe it's because *she's so spirited.*

For example, Siew Hoon (who lives in Caldwell and goes by "Siew," which sounds like "Sue") once stood up to the mafia (!) in the British Virgin Islands, *in spite of their death threats.* For years she was a professional chef on sailing yachts around the world. And before her rent kept rising, she loved to bake pineapple pastries for dozens of church friends every Christmas.

But Siew is a senior. Her income is fixed, yet inflation keeps going up.

This is how people end up on the street, even in their "golden years."

Which is why I'm asking you today: **Will you please make a special Christmas donation to *help keep Siew safe and sound*, with four walls and a roof of her own . . . and to be there for other Idaho neighbors who are in crisis now?** (Give now, and your gift will be doubled by matching funds.)

Just weeks ago, Siew came *this close* to being homeless.

over, please ↗

Siew has no family here. No one to turn to.

She can't count on anyone… except caring people like you.



If you could meet Siew in person, I'm sure you'd be inspired.

She's chock-full of wonderful stories.

Here's one. Siew grew up in Singapore. She was known for being stubborn. The nuns at her Catholic school said, "Why do you ask so many questions?" "Because I want to understand," Siew answered.

As a young woman, she sailed from England with a friend on an old wooden boat with no refrigerator, no ice, and only a kerosene stove on which she baked bread.

One day they anchored near a sailing yacht.

Siew asked, "You have a job for me?"

They did. Without further ado, she became a professional chef on the high seas.

Before long her bosses said to her, "Siew, you're so good with everybody, we're going to have you teach now too." From that day on, Siew taught guests to be captain for a week.

Another time, while living in the British Virgin Islands, Siew called the police after she witnessed a crime in the street. The police came…but did nothing. Soon enough, a local mafioso tracked Siew down and threatened her, saying, "You want to end up in the hospital?" She shrugged it off. "I didn't care. I stood up to him."

so true! ↘

Two things strike me about this incident. 1.) Siew is an incredibly strong person. 2.) You never know what your Idaho neighbors in danger of becoming homeless are going through now, or have been through along the way.

<First Name>, please give today, if you can. Your impact will be doubled by matching funds, if you give right away.

Eventually, Siew met a man online and they got married in Las Vegas.

He died in 2013 after eight months in the hospital.

continues on page 3 . . .

"I was there every day without fail. I prayed a lot. I saw so many miracles then, eleventh-hour miracles I never expected. It cemented my faith."

Her husband's Social Security benefits gave Siew $1,000 a month. At first that was okay. She could pay her rent. But every year, the rent went up. Meanwhile, since she doesn't drive, taking an Uber to church every week was expensive.

By 2024, Siew was feeling desperate.

She was in debt.

She prayed, "Lord, I've been tempted not to go to church because of money and Uber, but I trust in you. I'm going."

Right after that, Siew connected with Catholic Charities of Idaho, and with Julie Hart, our Social Services Supervisor.

"Julie appeared like an angel. She helped me with my rent. She helped get me on several budget-saving programs. She went through my bank account charges with me and helped me cut back on my spending. She listened when I explained things. She helped me renew my Green Card. My subsidized housing came through after she chased it for seven months. I just moved in on October 1st. My rent is half what it used to be. *I'm so grateful.*"



This is what Catholic Charities is all about.

Christ's love in action, through people like you.

Please make a special Advent gift to be the difference for an Idaho neighbor like Siew who needs urgent help right now…even as the lights twinkle on the Christmas tree and the carols in the air promise joy to the world.

It's a beautiful mystery, what God can do through your kindness.

As Siew says, "CCI is the only charity I know that is actually doing God's work in the purest sense. The people there are full of God's spirit. They treat every life as precious, with dignity and respect. They show what it means to be Catholic."

She wanted me to tell you directly, "You are doing God's work!"

there's more . . .

Would you do me a favor and add an Idaho neighbor like Siew to your Christmas list this year? You can be there for them with life-changing emergency assistance as well as essentials such as clothes, winter coats, sweatshirts, gloves, hats, blankets, diapers, wipes, hygiene kits … and emotional support and guidance.

This might be the most important gift you give all year long.

Thank you for believing and investing in your neighbors.



Sincerely yours in Christ,

Eddie Trask
Executive Director
Catholic Charities of Idaho



P.S. **Please give by December 31** to be there for your Idaho neighbors in crisis this Christmas. You could make all the difference for them — by keeping a senior like Siew off the streets … or a child in warm winter gear … or a family on its feet. *What a wonderful gift to receive, and to give.*

Don't forget:
Matching funds will double your gift and your impact if you give now!

You can rush your gift to help Idaho neighbors right away at

CCIDAHO.ORG/DONATE