

# A SCRAPPY PLAN RAISES SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

By Sherry Squires

Bill “Action” Jackson encouraged young music students not to let financial downturns or difficult situations derail their educational plans during a luncheon this summer recognizing students who received scholarships to attend Boise State’s Chamber Music Camp.

“Find the wherewithal to make it happen,” he said.

That’s just what he’s done. The John William Jackson Fund that he and his wife, Jackie, founded along with Italy residents Pat and Marcus Meier and local friends has provided more than \$45,000 in scholarships to Boise State students since 2003.

In 2007 — a time when fundraising was particularly challenging — Jackson devised an innovative “green” strategy. He works with contractors to place scrap metal collection containers at major construction sites around the valley, including Boise State’s Environmental Research Building under construction along University Drive, and the recently completed Aquatics Complex at the Student Recreation Center.

The fund promotes environmental stewardship in Idaho and coordinates with Pacific Steel & Recycling to pick up scrap metal

construction materials and properly recycle them. The contractor receives a tax-deductible receipt and the fund uses the money to help students achieve their dreams.

“I’ve made a commitment to Idaho youth to help raise money for their education and help young students understand that getting an education is the key to their future success in life,” Jackson says. “Thanks to the generosity of many community partners, the Idaho Youth Education Recycling Partnership has been a huge success.”

The John William Jackson Fund, part of the Idaho Community Foundation, was set up to honor Jackson’s son, John, a 1994 Centennial High School and 1998 Georgetown University graduate. He died in 2000, along with his climbing partner, Shou-Te from Taiwan, in a climbing accident in Central Asia. At the time of his death, he was conducting graduate research at the University of Montana.

Armed with the enthusiasm, passion, contemplation and enterprise that John Jackson exhibited, the fund has given more than \$163,000 to help Idaho youth. More than \$60,000 of it has been raised through recycling.

Bill “Action” Jackson has managed to gather financial support for Idaho students from sources in 49 states and six foreign countries. In addition to providing scholarships, the fund supplies musical instruments to rural Idaho schools and local school districts, introduces children to symphony music and opera and funds outdoor sporting opportunities for Idaho youth.

“Education is the single most important gift we can impart to our children and all of the children of Idaho,” Jackson says. “There’s a role for all of us to play.”

For more information on Jackson’s endeavors, visit [www.johnwilliamjackson-fund.org](http://www.johnwilliamjackson-fund.org).



Bill “Action” Jackson (left) and Don Perkins, ESI Construction, collect scrap metal from the Environmental Research Building site along University Drive to recycle and, ultimately, turn into cash for scholarships. Above: Jackson with students at Boise State’s annual summer Chamber Music Camp.

JOHN KELLY