



Empower Idaho, a Program of Jannus, Inc.
1607 W Jefferson Street
Boise, ID 83702



Dear Debbie Thomas,

Empower Idaho, in partnership with the Region 5 Behavioral Health Board, is pleased to inform you that you have been chosen to receive the 2022 Mental Health Advocate Award in celebration of Idaho Mental Health Month. Each of Idaho's seven Behavioral Health Boards selected an individual in their respective communities who exemplifies community advocacy, resiliency, and passion for mental health. Your work embodies these qualities and deserves recognition and celebration.

A few words from the Region 5 Behavioral Health Board: Debbie is a leader in every way. She consistently shows up for her colleagues and clients, provides her expertise, and creates an inclusive atmosphere that is both motivating and educational. Her willingness to coach and teach other professionals is refreshing and empowering. Her willingness to help is followed closely by her tenacity to represent and advocate for behavioral health services in the state. She continues to push policies supporting mental health and SUD and is currently working towards opening safe and sober transitional housing. Debbie is the CEO of The Walker Center, and serves on the following boards and committees:

- Executive Committee of the Region 5 BHB serving as the private provider of SUD Services.
- Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) for Substance Use Providers beginning in 2008 and was vital in the regional transition from separate RAC and Mental Health Board during the formation of Regional Behavioral Health Boards beginning in 2011.
- Served as the Regional Director of the Idaho Association of Addiction Professionals, the state affiliate for NAADAC, the Association of Addiction Professionals.
- Region 5 Representative to the Idaho Board of Alcohol Drug Counselor Certification (IBADCC) and is the Chair of the Legislative Committee.

Debbie is an inspiration and should be recognized for the work she does in our area. We are lucky to have her working with us in the 5th District and beyond.

Congratulations on receiving this meaningful recognition. The Empower Idaho team is grateful for the opportunity to honor you in this way. We are in the process of creating a physical award to commemorate what you mean to the Idaho Mental Health Community, which will be mailed to you. In the meantime, please accept this certificate in recognition of all of your hard work and commitment to helping others!

Sincerely,

Anna Guida, MPA
Empower Idaho Program Manager