

## Jim Scanlon

### Memories of a Life Dedicated to Service and Science

**“A kind, gentle man died yesterday, April 14, 2005, in San Rafael, California...”**

That is the way the story by Virginia McCullough (Newsmakingnews.com) begins. Most of the following is taken from the article she wrote.

A native of New York City, Jim Scanlon worked as a juvenile probation officer in Marin County, California for a quarter century, retiring in 1994.

In addition to being one of the most compassionate and effective people involved in supporting children in trouble, Jim was a role model of a citizen scientist. He searched the literature and spent his own money to attend sophisticated scientific conferences sponsored by the American Geophysical Union (AGU) and the International Society of Optical Engineering (SPIE).



Jim Scanlon helped fund environmental data rescue efforts at the Maggiorino Borgatello Museum in Puntas Arenas, Chile.

Jim practiced science as well as studying it. Using a borrowed instrument, Jim measured the ozone layer at Punta Arenas, Chile the world’s southernmost city about 100 miles from Antarctica, at the tip of South America.

He became concerned about the lack of atmospheric measurements at that site. On

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IEDRO News

# Help Rescue Data...

## One *Click* at a Time

### Predicting the Future

By preserving environmental records, data rescuers are doing more than just saving history. They are helping improve the future.

A more accurate understanding of cyclical weather, disease and pest cycles can help farmers improve their yields, doctors acquire appropriate vaccines and medicines, and engineers plan for catastrophic events.

Tracking environmental changes in the past can save lives in the future.

### What IEDRO Needs

The International Data Rescue Organization (IEDRO) supports record rescue efforts across the world.

IEDRO needs technical and administrative volunteers to help with finding records, developing rescue and digitization protocols, and spreading the word about the importance of data protection.

What IEDRO needs most, however, is money. Invaluable records are being lost everyday because we simply do not have the funds to locate and rescue them.



*Understanding the relationship between weather cycles and disease spread may help scientists be able to prepare and distribute important vaccines to where they are needed. Photo from the CDC.*

### An Easy Way to Help

By using GoodSearch.com for your internet searches, you can help IEDRO rescue environmental records, digitize the data, and make the information accessible to the international scientific community.

Using GoodSearch.com is free and easy to use. Simply enter “iedro” in the charity box at GoodSearch.com and confirm that you want your click credited to the International Environmental Data Rescue Organization in Deale, Maryland. Each search you complete raises money for IEDRO.

It only takes a moment to help save lives by saving data. Support IEDRO at [www.GoodSearch.com](http://www.GoodSearch.com) today.

# Service and Science

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his last trip, he donated a few thousand dollars and some equipment to help the administrator and his staff of the Maggiorino Borgatello Museum, a [Salesian Society](#) museum of natural history and prehispanic ethnic groups.

The museum has been archiving a treasure trove of old weather and climate observations dating back to the 1850s. Taken at a local Catholic school by the teaching priests, this information extends back about 100 years earlier than data possessed by the Chilean National Meteorological Service.

In February 2005, three months before his death, Jim met with me and told me that he was getting too old to continue being involved and asked if we would take over the effort. Those are the records IEDRO is now rescuing and digitizing for the US National Weather Service. We are determined to complete the job in Jim's name.

One hundred percent of any contributions made in Jim's name to continue the data rescue support in Punta Arenas will go only to fund that effort. No administrative overhead whatsoever will be taken from those donated funds.



I would especially like to thank Ken Scanlon, Jim's brother who sent a few photos and some obituaries from the local San Rafael, California

newspapers on which this article was based. We had told Ken that we intended to write a short article about the man who got IEDRO involved in data rescue activities in the Patagonia Region of Chile.

Ken attached a note to the material he sent. I think it says it more eloquently than anyone else could...

**“Jim was the best brother any boy would ever ask for. He was the BEST! “**

Rick Crouthamel  
Executive Director, IEDRO

## IEDRO News

### 2007 AMS Meeting

Dr. Richard Crouthamel, Executive Director, and volunteer Sally Barnhart represented IEDRO at the American Meteorological Society meeting in San Antonio, Texas, January 15-19.

The IEDRO booth drew about 700 visitors and gained several leads about

environmental data in need of rescue.

### New Rescue Efforts

Through funding from the **National Weather Service International Activities Office**, we hope to begin rescue efforts in three new countries. The first new program will be in Tanzania starting in early 2007.



*Sally Barnhart mans the IEDRO booth at the 2007 AMS meeting in January*

## About IEDRO

The mission of the International Environmental Data Rescue Organization is to assist the scientific and educational communities of mainly developing countries locate, rescue and digitize all environmental data currently at risk on perishable media, and to make those digitized data freely and openly available to the world scientific and educational communities before it is too late.

**IEDRO is a registered 501(c)(3) organization.**

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