



About the Foodbank and the Need

May 4, 2009

www.idahofoodbank.org

- The Idaho Foodbank is a private, independent, non-profit corporation that has distributed **76 million pounds** of food to hungry Idaho families since 1984.
- We have warehouses in Boise, Pocatello and Lewiston.
- We supply food to 211 smaller agencies (food pantries, feeding sites, etc.) throughout the state.
- In FY 2007-8, we and our agencies distributed **5.56 million pounds** of food, and people received assistance more than 928,000 times. For calendar year 2008, it was **6.1 million pounds**.
- The Foodbank's *Hunger in Idaho 2006*, the largest study ever done in the state, found that 15,100 people needed emergency food assistance on any given week, and 81,400 people per year needed assistance.
- The USDA has ranked **Idaho the 24th hungriest state**, down from 13th in 2004-2006, and found that **3.4%** of those households had members who went hungry. (USDA: Household Food Security in the US, 2007) This means an average of **60,663 (11.4%)** Idaho families worried they could not afford to buy food between 2005 and 2007, down from 14.6% in 2002-2004, while 18,093 families (**3.4%**) had members who actually went hungry compared to 3.7% in the previous survey but higher than the 3.3% who experienced hunger in 1996-98). (USDA)
- 65,517 Idaho **children** (16.6%) are food insecure, the **27th** highest rate in the country, down from 6th highest. For children under the age of 5, the rate of food insecurity is 20.2% (23,008 children), the **10th highest** rate in the country. (This is a first-time study of children under 5.) In the U.S. there are 12.5 million food-insecure children. (Feeding America)
- Two of every three people who rely on the Foodbank are either **children** too young to work or **seniors** who have worked most of their lives. In fiscal 2008, agencies supplied by the Foodbank served children 372,975 times. We also served seniors 116,972 times and adults 448,312 times.
- The 2005 **poverty rate in Idaho was 13.4%** (186,500 people). In **Ada County**, it was 9.4% (31,500 people). The **child poverty** rate in Idaho was **13.8%** (54,439 children). In **Ada County**, the average was **11.2%** (9,600). The national average in 2005 was 12.6% (37 million people), up from 12.5% (35.9 million people) in 2003. (All from US Census) An estimated 2,700 people are homeless in Boise daily (NAEH 2007); 18 died in 2004.
- More than **40% of households** that receive food from the Foodbank currently have at least one person **working**. About half those work fulltime jobs. More than **70% of households** that receive temporary food assistance do so because their household income has temporarily dropped below **\$10,000 per year**.

- Our programs include Lunch Break, Picnic in the Park (summer feeding), Backpack for Kids, Community Garden, Grow a Row, Meat the Need, Chefs to the Rescue, Grocery Alliance and fundraisers such as A Chefs' Affaire and Empty Bowls. We also conduct and benefit from a wide variety of food and fund drives large and small.
- In 2007-8, 17,164 volunteers donated 49,006 hours to Foodbank programs.
- The Idaho economy is *not* creating enough **living-wage jobs**. In **Boise**, a family of four needs an annual income of \$34,645 just to pay for such necessities as housing, food and health care. In **rural Idaho**, a family needs \$33,800. **39.1% or 96,000** families in Idaho earn less than they need to meet those basic needs. (Economic Policy Institute)
- In 2007, **emergency food requests nationally were up 7%** for the year, and **48%** of those who requested food assistance were **families** with children. 2007 was the 21st consecutive year that the demand for food has increased. Tragically, 26% of the cities reported they had food-assistance facilities that may have to turn people away this year because they lacked the food to distribute. The mayors expect the need to increase yet again in 2007. (U.S. Conference of Mayors annual survey)
- The Foodbank's *Hunger in Idaho 2006*, the largest hunger study ever done in the state, found that 17,300 people in Idaho needed emergency food assistance on any given week, and 81,400 people per year needed assistance.

It also found:

- ◆ 32% of the members of households in Idaho are children under 18 years old.
- ◆ 10% of the members of households are children age 0 to 5.
- ◆ 4% of the members of the households are elderly.
- ◆ About 85% of clients are Non-Hispanic white, 4% are non-Hispanic black, 6% are Hispanic and the rest are from other racial groups.
- ◆ 44% of households include at least one employed adult.
- ◆ 85% had incomes below the federal poverty level during the previous month.
- ◆ 26% are homeless.
- ◆ Among all client households served by emergency food programs in Idaho, 85% are food insecure (in a state of being unable to provide food for oneself or family). This includes client household who are food insecure without hunger and those who are food insecure with hunger.
- ◆ 42% of the clients are experiencing hunger.

- ◆ Among households with children, 85% are food insecure and 35% are experiencing hunger.
- ◆ 55% of clients in Idaho report having to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities.
- ◆ 34% had to choose between paying for food and paying their rent or mortgage.
- ◆ 36% had to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care.

What We are Doing to Lead the Fight Against Hunger

The Idaho Foodbank buys little of the food we distribute. Our largest expense is the trucking needed to move food from the donor – usually out of state – into Idaho. Because we pay primarily for transportation rather than food, we can stretch every dollar and achieve maximum efficiency.

- The Idaho Foodbank distributed 5.6 million pounds of food last fiscal year (2007-2008) and 6.1 million pounds in calendar year 2008.
- The Idaho Foodbank supplies food to more than 200 food pantries, feeding sites, and homeless shelters throughout the state of Idaho along with a direct distribution focus to children through our Children's Nutritional Services programs and Mobile Pantries to reach underserved needy Idahoans.
- The Idaho Foodbank is a non-profit corporation. There is no federal funding. The summer feeding program receives partial state reimbursement.
- The Idaho Foodbank operates on a 3% administrative overhead, assuring public support goes directly to programs and acquisition and distribution of food.
- The Idaho Foodbank's *Picnic in the Park* program operates in seven parks in the Treasure Valley and will work in conjunction with the Boise School District, which will have another seven locations. All sites will serve free lunches to children during the summer.
- The Idaho Foodbank's *Backpack for Kids Program* addresses child hunger directly. Schools identify children who show symptoms of not getting enough to eat over the weekends during the school year. Backpacks containing eight pounds of nutritious food are supplied to these children once a week on Fridays. The program has proven to improve performance and behavior in students who receive it.

- The Idaho Foodbank has 40 full time employees at three facilities (Boise, Lewiston, & Pocatello) to help service the people of Idaho who rely upon our services.
- The Idaho Foodbank's *Chefs to the Rescue Program* picks up about 4,000 pounds of prepared food each month from 32 restaurants in the Treasure Valley and takes it to homeless shelters and other agencies.
- The Idaho Foodbank's *Grocery Alliance Program* picks up nearly 90,000 pounds usable meats, fresh produce and dairy products each month from grocery stores. It is picked up daily and distributed as soon as possible.
- \$1 donated provides over three pounds of food
- \$1 donated provides \$5.03 worth of food
- \$1 donated provides three nutritious meals

"You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give."
Winston Churchill (1874-1965)

Thank you for your help!