



Backpack

a program of The Idaho Foodbank

Impact Report

August 2014

The Idaho Foodbank Backpack program ensures that elementary-age students in need have access to adequate food over the weekend by providing them with a backpack full of nutritious, kid-friendly food every Friday during the school year.



Making a Difference in Children's Lives

The impact of the Backpack program goes beyond the immediate effect of filling hungry tummies; providing food and keeping hunger at bay impacts a child's social, emotional, and physical well-being. In addition to affecting the child, the Backpack program also helps create happier families by relieving financial stress and the emotional burden of not having enough food in the home. When basic needs are met, children and families thrive.

Solving Hunger in Idaho

2013/2014 School Year

62,722

backpacks distributed



2,209

children served



159/53

participating schools
and districts



Survey Results

Tell the Story

- **80%** of children responded that the backpacks made them very happy.
- **98%** of parents definitely or somewhat agreed that the Backpack program helped stretch their household dollars to be used for other critical family needs.
- **96%** of parents definitely or somewhat agreed that the Backpack program has made a positive difference in the well-being of their child.

Enabling Success at School

Teachers and counselors report that the Backpack program has created the largest noticeable difference in student attendance, self-esteem, disposition, and energy levels. These positive changes help children learn and enjoy school, which has a significant impact on education attainment down the road.



Support from Parents, Teachers and Counselors



“Before this program sometimes my daughter only had hot dogs to eat on weekends. This really helps make sure she has healthy meals.”

“We have students who would not have adequate food on the weekends without it.”

“The Backpack program helps our students in a very positive way. They look forward to it every Friday.”



The Idaho Foodbank is a donor-supported, nonprofit organization dedicated to relieving hunger through food distribution, education and advocacy. Food is distributed through facilities in Boise, Pocatello, and Lewiston to a network of more than 200 community partners working in 39 of Idaho's 44 counties.

For additional information about the Backpack program, visit our website:

idahofoodbank.org/backpack-program/

Together, we are solving hunger.

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