



During the school year, families and school-age children have access to emergency food in an environment that is both familiar and supportive. Pantries stock food items such as fruit, canned tuna, peanut butter, and pasta that are popular and easy to prepare. Families receive enough food to prepare nourishing meals for three to five days.



Recognizing The Need

Early in the Backpack program, the Foodbank staff recognized that more than 80% of participating students were sharing their weekend food with siblings and parents. Rather than make more food available in the packs, program specialists decided that a better solution would be to provide families with food through a pantry set up inside the school where access would be convenient for students and family alike. A School Pantry pilot was launched in 2010 with three schools and the full support of school staff. Since its debut, the program has shown steady growth and is now considered in concert with the highly successful Backpack program.

Solving Hunger in Idaho

2013-14 School Year

28

schools participated



1,153

people served
monthly from October – April



55%

of people served were children



129,787

meals from distributed food



Survey Results

Tell the Story

- **88%** of parents agreed that without the School Pantry program, their family would have to skip one or more meals.
- **100%** of parents agreed that the School Pantry program helped stretch their household dollars to be used for other critical family needs.
- **75%** of parents indicated they felt more comfortable asking for help at the School Pantry versus a community food pantry, and the convenient location helped them save on gas and travel time.

Promoting Student and Family Engagement

School staff notes that the School Pantry program has improved relationships and communication with families. Moreover, participating families consistently show an increased interest in their child's academic performance, as well as greater awareness of school events in general.



Making a Real Difference

A high school student remarked that the School Pantry program made it possible for him to stay in school instead of dropping out to work.



“Several of our families give back to the pantry with donations when they are able to.”

“Our family doesn't qualify for food stamps or any other assistance but that doesn't mean that we are doing well. This gives us a chance to help feed the kids and we really appreciate the help.”

“Parents and children are very excited when they get to the food pantry.”

“A great help to our family, when we can't receive other assistance. Thanks!!”



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 School Pantry program, visit our website:

idahofoodbank.org/school-pantry/

Together, we are solving hunger.

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