



Member of
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

School Pantry

a program of The Idaho Foodbank

IMPACT REPORT | AUGUST 2016



Together,
we can solve
hunger.

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 Childhood Hunger

2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR

36/15

participating schools
and counties

12,779

people served

56%

of people served
were children

289,405

pounds of food
distributed

Survey Results Tell the Story

- **98%** of parents agreed that without the School Pantry program, their family would have to skip one or more meals.
- **100%** of parents said the program had made a positive difference in the well-being of their family.
- **95%** of parents said program participation improved their overall communication with the school.



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.



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The school pantry is very helpful to me and my family in our time of need. I am grateful for the program. Thank you very much.
– Parent

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I like that I can visit the food pantry at any time of the day and week. They are always flexible. – Parent

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I really appreciate how kind I have been treated. Thank you so much for your help. – Parent

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The Idaho Foodbank is an independent, donor-supported, nonprofit organization founded in 1984, and is the largest distributor of free food assistance in Idaho. From warehouses in Boise, Lewiston and Pocatello, the Foodbank has distributed more than 151 million pounds of food to Idaho families through a network of more than 230 community-based partners. These include rescue missions, church pantries, emergency shelters and community kitchens. The Foodbank also operates direct-service programs that promote healthy families and communities through good nutrition.



For additional information about the School Pantry program, visit our website:
idahofoodbank.org/backpackprogram/

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Recognized as a Four Star Charity
for 7 consecutive years.