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AMERICA**

# Backpack

a program of The Idaho Foodbank

IMPACT REPORT

JULY 2017



Together,  
we can solve  
hunger.



*The Idaho Foodbank's Backpack program ensures that students who are chronically hungry 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 Backpack program does far more than satisfy hungry tummies. It improves a child's social, emotional, and physical well-being. In addition, it creates happier families by relieving parents of the fear and anxiety associated with not being able to provide for your children. When basic needs are met, children and families can thrive.

## Solving Childhood Hunger

2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

**63,407**

backpacks distributed statewide

**2,636**

children served statewide

**163/51**

participating schools and districts

**360**

children on program waiting list

## Survey Results Tell the Story

- **70%** of children responded that the backpacks made them very happy.
- **93%** 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

School staff report that students who participate in the Backpack program often show improvement in classroom performance and behavior. This is supported by data that shows consistent access to nutritious food helps children focus better at school, get sick less often, have more energy, and feel better about themselves.



# Backpack

Helps Families



"It makes me feel loved by others. Thank you."  
- Backpack Recipient



"This is a cool program. Thank you. Every little bit helps me to raise my two daughters as a single dad."  
-Parent



Kids have told me they would starve over the weekend without the bags. They are so happy to have the security of food bags and know they will not go hungry. Their parents are grateful It helps kids feel cared for, their needs are met, and they do better at school. " -School Coordinator



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 170 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 Backpack program, visit our website:  
[idahofoodbank.org/programs](http://idahofoodbank.org/programs)

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for 8 consecutive years.