



Member of
**FEEDING™
AMERICA**

Backpack

a program of The Idaho Foodbank

IMPACT REPORT

AUGUST 2018

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 their children. When basic needs are met, children and families can thrive.

Solving Childhood Hunger

2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

62,779

backpacks distributed statewide

2,847

children served statewide

159/49

participating schools and districts

348

children on program waiting list

Survey Results Tell the Story

- **95%** of parents definitely or somewhat agreed that the Backpack program helped stretch their household dollars to be used for other critical family needs.
- **97%** of parents definitely or somewhat agreed that the Backpack program has made a positive difference in the well-being of their child.
- **93%** of school coordinators rated the Backpack program as very beneficial to children and families.

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.



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“The program has made a difference for a family going through a difficult time with a job loss. Just that extra bit of food for the students has been a blessing for them.”

– School Coordinator

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Backpack Helps Families

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“It makes me feel happy that I have something to eat.”

– Backpack Recipient

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“It makes me feel happy and great about my life that this world cares about me.”

– Backpack Recipient

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“I think the program is great. I appreciate the help more than I can express.”

– 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 distributes around 1.5 million pounds of food each month through a network of more than 400 community partners. These include schools, food pantries, emergency shelters, feeding sites, and senior centers. 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

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Recognized as a Four Star Charity
for 8 consecutive years.