



TOGETHER, WE CAN SOLVE HUNGER.

FOOD for Thought

Helping our Idaho neighbors since 1984.

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Marsing Hub

In November of 2019 the Marsing School District launched an innovative program aimed at providing wrap-around services not just for children, but for the entire family. "The whole purpose was to focus on the adversities our families were facing," said Norm Stewart, Superintendent of the Marsing Joint School District. Stewart and his staff had long witnessed the toll that food insecurity and homelessness took on their students. They concluded the best way to make a difference in the education of their students was to address the needs of the whole family. "We were determined to take the worry away from the kids so they can focus on their education. Let them be kids," said Stewart.

The result was The Hub. Based in the former and newly refurbished middle school, this community center provides vital services to Marsing students, their families and the surrounding population. In a community with high rates of poverty and migrant households, this multipurpose facility brings services directly to people in need and in a location they can easily access.

The Hub officially opened its doors in February 2020 and takes a 360 degree approach to comprehensive care and wellness by focusing on education, health and safety. The center offers:

- Head Start Program & "Husky Pup" Pre-School
- Adult Education
- ESL Classes
- Health Center - with a nurse on-site one day per week
- Mental Health Services - with a counselor provided by Terry Reilly Health Services



- Migrant Family Liaison Services
- Energy Assistance Resources for Utility Bills
- Owyhee Sheriff's Department Substation
- Food Pantry - stocked by The Idaho Foodbank
- Office & Conference Rooms – for community gatherings & workshops

"Education should not just be about math and history. To be a productive citizen for the world, a child needs to be given the tools to be a success beyond the classroom," said Stewart.

The Hub is now even more critical than ever as the community works together to meet the challenges of the coronavirus.

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For additional stories, program information, or to show your support, visit: idahofoodbank.org

YOUR DONATIONS ARE NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER.

People Served and Volunteerism

201,500 people served monthly
\$1 can provide food for five meals

25,900 volunteers
63,000 volunteer hours

The Idaho Foodbank is committed to our mission to feed, educate and advocate for Idahoans in need.

We are considered an essential service; exempted from the Governors Stay At Home order. We are not going anywhere.

When the virus first appeared in the United States we reached out to our colleagues in Washington. Learning from their experience, we immediately launched a COVID-19 Response Work Team and instituted a response plan.

This work team created a communication unit that is in constant contact with our 400+ partners – pantries, schools, missions, senior centers, feeding sites, shelters, churches – to address their needs and to ensure their doors remained open. Each partner was assigned a member of this unit to be their direct line of support, to identify issues and to coordinate

solutions. Through this personal outreach we learned the demand for food was increasing exponentially across the state. Our partners were seeing a 10% - 50% increase immediately; in some locations the number of clients coming for assistance actually tripled in one week. We anticipate these numbers will continue to escalate as more Idahoans find themselves without income and schools remain closed.

We are determined to provide the highest level of safe service to our neighbors who require our help more than ever.

- We have ramped our food sourcing efforts by committing to the largest one-time food purchase in our history. This precious cargo is scheduled to arrive throughout April and May. In the interim, we acquired over 600,000 pounds of product from generous manufacturing and food industry partners within Idaho including Agri Beef, Chobani, Clif Bar, Happy Day Brands, Lamb Weston and Simplot.
- We engaged the support of the National Guard for 10 days of service in our warehouses in Boise, Lewiston and Pocatello. This vital labor force was also deployed to support partners struggling to fill volunteer shifts and to run programs such as our Mobile Pantry distribution.
- We have transitioned to a prepared food box distribution model for all of our Mobile Pantries to ensure they remain a safe and reliable method of food access; especially in our rural areas.



- We partnered with the Boise Centre, Boise's downtown convention center, as a temporary secondary facility for supplies, food storage and volunteer repack shifts.
- Volunteers are critical to our ability to move food across the state; they are the heart and hands of our organization. Therefore, we have made adjustments for social distancing to ensure a healthy environment for the people who donate their time to our operation and to our partners. These volunteers are essential workers and are also exempt from the Stay At Home order.
- We are part of a COVID Response group formed by the State Office of Emergency Management (OEM). Participants include state agencies, nonprofits, grocery executives and representatives from the hospitality industry.

This is a challenging time for all of us. We know the impact of this pandemic will be far reaching and we are committed to being a resource for our network of partners and the families, children and seniors of Idaho now and throughout the recovery process.

Thank you for partnering with us. We are overwhelmed by the generosity you have shown to our mission and those struggling. It is because of you that we can meet the challenges of today and help our fellow Idahoans find their resiliency and a positive future.

“Idaho is known for its unconditional kindness and that compassion is ever present today as our donors, partners, volunteers and staff rise to meet the increasing need for food during this pandemic. We will get through this historic time stronger, wiser and together.”

Karen Vauk – President and CEO, The Idaho Foodbank

To learn more go to: idahofoodbank.org

A Fresh Approach Capital Campaign Announcement

Our challenge has not been a shortage of food, but a lack of warehouse space.

This has never been more true than now during the Coronavirus emergency food crisis we're currently facing.

A lack of warehouse capacity, especially for perishable goods, limits our ability to distribute food in a timely way to feed Idaho's hungriest families, seniors and children.



Lack of Warehouse Space

With Idaho's population growth and before the COVID-19 pandemic, The Foodbank's goal was to distribute 29 million pounds of food annually, an increase of 9 million pounds over fiscal year 2019.



Lack of Refrigeration

Warehouses, coolers and freezers are at capacity, limiting the variety and amount of food we can accept, store and distribute. Although we have worked quickly to acquire short term storage during the pandemic, we know we need expanded permanent refrigeration to meet the need through the recovery and long-term.



Lack of Teaching Space

A teaching kitchen focuses on hands-on nutrition education while maximizing limited resources. Promoting health through nutrition education is a cornerstone of The Foodbank's mission.



Introducing Idaho's new hunger relief facility

Thanks to a generous lead gift by Jackson Food Stores, The Foodbank purchased a 102,000 sq.ft. building in Meridian in fall 2019. This new facility will serve as The Idaho Foodbank's statewide food distribution facility. Purchasing the new food distribution facility, along with the cost of renovations to add teaching kitchens, office space and a volunteer center total \$13.2 million. With the lead gift of \$1.88 million, and the proceeds from the sale of IFB's current 28,000 sq. ft. warehouse in Boise, the goal of the A Fresh Approach capital campaign is to raise \$8.8 million in donations for the remaining cost of the project.

We have now raised more than 63% of project costs and construction has begun. Our team is working as quickly as possible to move the project forward with the goal of operating out of the new facility in fall of 2020. This timeline is critical as we aim to increase emergency food throughout the state now and throughout the recovery that will be significant. Long after we can all come together again, families will be still be struggling and we will be there for them.

This progress and completion of our new facility will only be possible with support from across the state. Please consider making a donation at idahofoodbank.org/fresh-approach.

To learn more go to: idahofoodbank.org/fresh-approach



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Give Monthly and Join Nourish 365

Every single day of the year there are Idahoans that do not know where their next meal will come from. Nourish 365 members are individuals that elect to give recurring donations. Your donation is put to work daily to create a hunger free and healthier Idaho.

To learn more contact Caroline Lincoln at clincoln@idahofoodbank.org visit www.idahofoodbank.org/nourish365.

The Idaho Foodbank is a statewide organization with a local touch to ensure people have access to the food they need to live healthy lives.

