



Mobile Pantry

a program of The Idaho Foodbank

IMPACT REPORT

AUGUST 2020



Mobile Pantry is an effective means for The Idaho Foodbank to get food directly to people in need. Refrigerated trucks transport the food to a predetermined location, and local volunteers distribute it.

Mobiles Meet the Need

Mobile Pantries address a wide variety of hunger-relief challenges.

Many rural communities in Idaho lack a brick-and-mortar food pantry despite having a large number of food insecure families, children and seniors. With the help of local volunteers, the Mobile Pantry provides monthly food support.

Mobile Pantries also deliver food to areas of need in urban centers, such as low-income apartment complexes for seniors or neighborhoods where a high percentage of students qualify for free or reduced lunches.

Mobile Pantries are an integral part of The Idaho Foodbank's hunger-to-health initiative. Through partnerships with healthcare providers, many food distributions include free health screenings.

Mobile Pantry is delivering results for Idahoans in need.

Solving Hunger in Idaho

2020 FISCAL YEAR

497

mobile distributions in a year, including healthcare mobiles, school mobiles and special distributions

17,911

people served (monthly average)

52

communities served

3,683,758

pounds of food distributed

23,221

volunteer hours

COVID-19 Impact Story

Every third Wednesday of the month the parking lot outside of the Cornerstone Assembly of God Church in Weiser, ID is filled to capacity. The drivers remain in their cars; some are reading, some are knitting, some are listening to the radio or chatting with a fellow passenger. All of them are patiently waiting for Pastor Mark Burgess and his crew of volunteers to set up. When the pastor gives the signal, the drivers slowly pull their cars out of the lot in single file. Each car eases towards a row of pallets containing fresh vegetables, fruits and proteins along with canned food and dry goods. Each car stops at a pallet where a smiling volunteer greets the driver and then places the nourishment in the trunk. The vehicle then glides to the next pallet to repeat the process. This is a "mobile" pantry – literally.



According to the pastor this drive-thru model of distributing food is effective and efficient. "Allowing a person to stay in their car gives them comfort and control. Clients can also carpool with another neighbor who cannot drive," says Pastor Burgess. It is also beneficial from a physical standpoint as the volunteers do all the heavy lifting; carrying and loading the food into the vehicles. "This is especially helpful for our elderly patrons and moms with little ones," says Pastor Burgess.

Cornerstone Assembly of God Church has been hosting this motorized mobile pantry since January of 2018. On average it serves 260 families and seniors from Weiser, Cambridge, Midvale, Payette, Fruitland and Annex, Oregon. According to the pastor most come on a consistent basis. "We see the same faces every month. Eventually we get to know them and their stories. Many are on extremely limit budgets, so the food provided helps them survive until the next month," says Pastor Burgess.

Unfortunately, since the pandemic hit Idaho the Pastor and his volunteers have seen a few more new faces. They are now serving approximately 320 households every third Wednesday of the month. And since June 2020 they instituted a second mobile pantry that distributes the USDA's Farmers To Families food boxes. This second drive-thru pantry brings the total number of families that the church is serving to 640 households per month.

It is important to note that this Weiser Mobile Pantry always instituted a drive-thru model as it best served the needs of their community. Since March 2020 all Mobile Pantries throughout Idaho have implemented the drive-thru model to maintain safety and health protocols due to the pandemic.

Delivering Hope

North	Driggs	Council
Central:	Dubois	Fairfield
Bovill	Elk Bend	Filer
Craigmont	Idaho Falls	Glenns Ferry
Elk City	Leadore	Garden City
Genesee	Malad	Gooding
Juliaetta	McCammon	Hagerman
Lapwai	Montpelier	Homedale
Lenore	North Fork	Jerome
Lewiston	Rexburg	Kimberly
Moscow	Roberts	Marsing
Potlatch	Soda Springs	Melba
Riggins	St. Anthony	Meridian
Stites	Victor	Nampa
Weippe	Southwest:	Rupert
White Bird	Boise	Shoshone
Eastern:	Burley	Weiser
Arco	Caldwell	Wilder
Challis	Carey	

Healthcare Mobiles:

Compassion Caldwell
Idaho State University-Meridian
Garden City Community Collaborative
Saint Alphonsus Mobile Health Clinics
Veterans Affairs Homeless Stand Down

Special Distributions:

Boise Bicycle Project
Boise School District - Ready, Set, Go!
Boise State University
College of Idaho
Garden City Boys & Girls Club,
Share the Day Event

Schools:

Whittier Elementary School

About The Idaho Foodbank

The Idaho Foodbank is an independent, donor-supported, nonprofit organization and is the largest statewide distributor of free food assistance in Idaho. The Idaho Foodbank was established in 1984 and since that time has distributed millions of pounds of food through its facilities in Lewiston, Meridian and Pocatello. In the last fiscal year, The Foodbank provided food for more than 18.6 million meals to Idahoans living with food insecurity. The Foodbank distributes food through a network of more than 400 partners including schools, food pantries, senior centers, feeding sites, shelters, mobile pantries and churches. Recognizing the crucial connection between hunger and health, The Idaho Foodbank focuses on providing nutritious food and collaborates with community organizations to promote nutrition education, wellness tools and healthy living. Visit idahofoodbank.org for more information. Find us on your favorite social media platform.



SUPPORTED BY:



**Southwestern Idaho
Administrative Offices**
3630 E. Commercial Crt.
Meridian, ID. 83642
(208) 336-9643

Eastern Idaho
555 South 1st. Ave.
Pocatello, ID. 83204
(208) 233-8811

North Central Idaho
3331 10th St.
Lewiston, ID. 83501
(208) 746-2288



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