




Member of
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

School Pantry

a program of The Idaho Foodbank

IMPACT REPORT

AUGUST 2020



**Together,
we can solve
hunger.**

During the school year, families and school-age children have access to supplemental food in an environment that is both familiar and supportive. Pantries stock popular, easy-to-prepare food items such as fruit, canned tuna, peanut butter and pasta.

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 adding more food to the backpacks, 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. Since its inception in 2010, the School Pantry program has been responsible for distributing more than a million pounds of food to families in need.

Solving Childhood Hunger

2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

38/14

participating schools
and counties

3,745

total households served

56%

of people served
were children

369,410

pounds of food provided;
enough for 307,842 meals

Survey Results Tell the Story

- **100%** 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.
- **88%** of parents said program participation improved their overall communication with the school.

COVID-19 Impact

The COVID-19 pandemic has spurred an increased wave of food insecurity throughout Idaho and children are feeling some of the worst of it. One such example is in Clearwater County, where the Joint School District 171 reports 56% of its students receive free and reduced lunch. The School Pantry program is in addition to the breakfast and lunch programs, allowing parents or guardians to pick up much needed food, household supplies and items like diapers and shoes. The School Pantry may be the primary food source for these families.



"There are many families who benefited all year from the pantry. After school closure, we had new families who did not have access to food. They had not experienced food insecurity and were not aware of outside programs. Their children typically received breakfast and lunch at school and or they had jobs and income to provide food for their children. Some of our families have physical, emotional, or economic obstacles which make it difficult for them to access other resources."

—Teacher in Clearwater County

"There are a few students that really suffer... one was so hungry on a Monday that he threw up after lunch because he had not eaten all weekend and his stomach was not ready for so much food from lunch.

In cooperation with his teacher and his parents that family has been coming to the school pantry and the two little boys that are in that family in our school have improved their grades and are more alert in class."

— Teacher in Clearwater County



Community Schools:

The Community Schools model is gaining traction across Idaho. This model focuses on co-locating resources at schools with high-need. The food is provided by The Idaho Foodbank to School Pantries from Latah to Bannock county with 14 counties total participating in this model.

BOISE SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Frank Church Elementary
- Garfield Elementary
- Morley Nelson Elementary
- Whitney Elementary
- Whittier Elementary

NAMPA SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Central Elementary
- Iowa Elementary
- Sherman Elementary
- Snake River Elementary

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.



PROGRAM SUPPORTED BY:



*The Estate
of Bert Miller*

**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



*The only Idaho nonprofit to receive a
four-star rating for 11 consecutive years.*