



**TOGETHER, WE CAN SOLVE HUNGER.**

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# FOOD for Thought

Helping our Idaho  
neighbors since 1984.

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## Hunger does not discriminate.

Hunger doesn't care if you work as a first grade teacher, live in a famous resort town, or served in the military. It can affect healthy people with jobs, the elderly living alone, or a single mom trying to complete her college education.

The simple fact is that too many Idahoans are just one crisis away from food insecurity. This could be anything from car trouble, to an unexpected medical bill, or a job loss. And this was before the COVID-19 crisis.

The Idaho Foodbank works with 465 partner organizations and supports every county in Idaho.

Food pantries, homeless shelters, mobile distributions and CFAP (Coronavirus Food Assistance Program) pop-ups have seen more faces than ever before.

The hard truth is that many of the people waiting in these lines are people who have never asked for help before. For the first time in their life, they are struggling to put food on the table for their family. In fact, national reports from Feeding America share that 4 in 10 people seeking food assistance are doing so for the first time.

## Giving Cupboard Choice Food Pantry in Jefferson County saw over a 45% increase of families in need since the pandemic.

We met one of these families at a distribution in Nampa. Rebecca is a mother of two and a full-time nursing student. Her family does not qualify for food stamps or other forms of assistance. She was grateful for her boxes of nutritious food for her family as well as for her grandmother. Although her



grandma is on food stamps she receives just \$50 in food assistance each month, leaving her fridge empty much of the time.

When schools closed and direct access to the free or reduced breakfast and lunch programs was cut-off, families felt intense pressure. Elementary, high school and college campuses rushed to help their students, and teachers, by expanding on-campus pantries and access to free food.

At a Mobile Pantry distribution in Eastern Idaho we met a woman whose family was impacted by school closures in more ways than one. She shared that her son and nephew, who live with her, both work in education. Her young nephew had a steady job at the local university, "But he didn't work enough hours to qualify for unemployment and once schools closed down, the work shut down too."

Visiting The Idaho Foodbank wasn't something she had ever planned on. She said, "Life without it would be hard. We appreciate this help."

The Idaho Foodbank is working tirelessly to meet the need in Idaho. Over 2.6 million pounds of food per month are being distributed throughout the state, with some regions receiving double and triple the food they received pre-pandemic.

It is with the help and generosity of individuals and businesses across the state that The Idaho Foodbank can answer to this need. The schools and agencies have developed new partnerships and systems, from working with Emergency Response teams to designing socially distanced drive-thru food distributions. The state has come together more than ever before. These persistent volunteers, donors and staff are dedicated to delivering the help and hope Idahoans need.

For additional stories, program information, or to show your support, visit: [idahofoodbank.org](http://idahofoodbank.org)

## YOUR DONATIONS ARE NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER.

\$1 Can provide food for five meals

29,000 Volunteers

94% Donations that go to programs and services

70,000 Donated hours of service

## 2020 Reflection and Response

It's almost impossible to comprehend all that has happened this past year.

There have been so many seismic disruptions and the ground continues to shift under our feet as we navigate the next challenge. What has stayed steady is the dedication and commitment of our volunteers and donors. The mission of The Idaho Foodbank and the daily efforts of our 465 partners on the frontlines of food insecurity in neighborhoods across Idaho would not be possible without this unwavering support and trust.

Thanks to this foundation of support, The Idaho Foodbank has and continues:

- **Increasing** food distribution across the state by an additional 49% – averaging 2.6 million pounds per month which is enough food for 2.2 million meals per month.
- **Purchasing** historic amounts of food – spending over ten times our annual budget to create an immediate flow of food into Idaho to meet the rapid increase in need due to the pandemic. In a normal fiscal year The Idaho Foodbank would spend an average of \$200,000 for food with the remainder being donated. From April - October 2020 we have spent over \$2.2 million to secure food by the truckload.
- **Securing** not only pounds, but the right type of nutritious food to ensure people seeking our help remain healthy. In the last fiscal year, 85% of food distributed by The Idaho Foodbank was considered nutritious. We are determined to continue this trend during COVID-19 and beyond.
- **Transitioning** to prepackaged food box distributions and drive-thru models to maintain a safe and effective method of food access for all in need.
- **Accomplishing** a five year milestone by moving the Southwest operation to a new facility in Meridian. This move has already allowed The Idaho Foodbank to expand its ability to provide a greater quantity along with a variety of fresh and healthy food across the state – giving Idahoans struggling with hunger free access to nutritious product and the tools to build healthy habits.

We are proud to be a part of the hunger network of Idaho and to be in partnership with amazing organizations and people who are giving Idahoans the strength to get through a tough time and the hope that comes with the knowledge that someone cares. As we enter into a new year, we are grateful for your compassion and generosity. We are proud to stand with you in the fight for a hunger free and healthier Idaho.



Increase of  
food distribution –  
**49%**



Food purchasing  
10xs over budget –  
**\$2.2 million**



Nutritious  
food distributed –  
**85%**



## Our Support Comes From You

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

The Idaho Foodbank is only able to serve communities in all 44 counties thanks to the generosity of donors giving what they can to uplift their neighbors in need. During the pandemic you inspired us to new heights as more and more supporters came forward, giving and asking how they could help. We are grateful and humbled by the trust our supporters, you, place in us to assure that each dollar is spent wisely. We take pride in being ranked a four star charity for the past eleven years by Charity Navigator and are committed to continued transparency and effective operations.

To the more than 19,000 donors - to each of you - from the kids bringing in piggy banks and collecting cans of food instead of birthday presents, donors who have walked beside us for 15 years or more, companies matching employee donations, our Nourish 365 monthly donors, and our Legacy donors - we can't do this work without each of you.

Thank you for helping to lift up kids, seniors and families throughout this challenging time and providing both nutrition and hope for a better tomorrow. Knowing you care makes all the difference to those we serve and The Foodbank team! Together we will bring hope to the holidays and beyond.

**A special thank you to our Vision Donors for their ongoing partnership and investment in a healthier and hunger free Idaho.**

Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation  
JR Simplot Company Foundation, Inc.  
Regence BlueShield of Idaho  
The ALSAM Foundation  
The Albertsons Companies Foundation

Micron Technology Foundation, Inc.  
Yardi Systems, Inc.  
MJ Murdock Charitable Trust  
The Kroger Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation



## Capital Campaign Update

For years The Idaho Foodbank has struggled with the challenge of providing more food within the limitations of our facilities. In fact, we have had to turn away food donations each year that otherwise could have gone to help Idahoans struggling with hunger. During the height of the pandemic we utilized the Boise Centre as well as temporary storage units at all three of our facilities in order to provide more food to those facing hunger, many for the first time.

We are proud to announce that we are now operating our warehouse and volunteer services out of Idaho's newest hunger relief facility in Meridian. The shelves are stocked and we remain on track to achieve the organization's goal to expand capacity across the state to distribute nutritious food; just in time for the winter months, which are some of the toughest for our Idaho families struggling to put food on the table.

Thanks to our generous lead donors including Jacksons Companies, Norco, Scentsy, and Simplot as well as many other supporters, we have raised 82% of our fundraising goal. But we aren't finished yet. Our aim is to meet our fundraising goal and put all the finishing touches on the new facility for a Grand Opening in 2021.

Please help us meet our goal and build a hunger-free and healthier Idaho. Contact Chief Development Officer Morgan Wilson, [morganw@idahofoodbank.org](mailto:morganw@idahofoodbank.org) for more information or visit <https://idahofoodbank.org/fresh-approach-capital-campaign/>

To learn more go to: [idahofoodbank.org](https://idahofoodbank.org)

