



Backpack

a program of The Idaho Foodbank

IMPACT REPORT

AUGUST 2021

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 an empty stomach. 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

2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

63,149

Backpacks distributed statewide

2,651

children served statewide

173/61

participating schools and districts

1,851

additional Backpacks will be provided

Survey Results Tell the Story

- **95%** of parents “definitely or somewhat” agreed that the Backpack Program has made a positive difference in the well-being of their child.
- **95%** of parents “definitely or somewhat” agreed that the Backpack Program helped stretch their household dollars to be used for other critical family needs.
- **94%** of school coordinators rated the Backpack Program as “very beneficial” to children and families.

Rising to the Challenge

The Backpack Program ensures that students who are chronically hungry have access to adequate food over the weekend by providing them with a pack full of nutritious, kid-friendly food every Friday during the school year. Despite the challenges of the last year, The Idaho Foodbank and our school partners were able to exceed our goal of providing 63,000 Backpacks.

Several schools in Southwest Idaho that participate in The Idaho Foodbank's Backpack Program recognized that remote learning could decrease



children's access to food. To address the needs of those children, several schools got creative by loading school buses with ready-to-eat meals from the cafeteria, as well as Backpacks from The Idaho Foodbank. The buses followed their regular routes and were able to hand out this food at neighborhood stops.

We cannot thank the hard-working school counselors, teachers and administrators enough for making healthy food possible for thousands of children across Idaho this past year.



“When two brothers with a history of severe abuse and trauma moved to our school, they had many issues around food. They would steal food, hide food and hoard food.

The consistency of taking food bags home every Friday played a part in helping them overcome those issues. At present, neither boy seems to have concerns about food.”

– School Survey

“I have one student who was researching how to find food on his school computer, then we got him signed up for the program and he is excited every week when he gets a bag to take home.”

– School Survey

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 26 million meals to Idahoans living with food insecurity. The Foodbank distributes food through a network of more than 465 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.



BACKPACK PROGRAM
SUPPORTED BY:



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