



Member of
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

School Pantry

A PROGRAM OF THE IDAHO FOODBANK

IMPACT REPORT

AUGUST 2021



Together, we
can solve hunger.

During a typical school year, families and school-age children have access to supplemental food in an environment that is both familiar and supportive. School 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

2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

35/18

participating schools
and counties

12,173

total households served; 58%
of people served were children

360,202

meals for those in need statewide –
an increase of food for 52,360
meals from the year before

5

new School Pantries will be added
in the coming year

Survey Results Tell the Story

- **88%** 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.
- **94%** of parents said program participation improved their overall communication with the school.



Rising to the Challenge

School Pantries in Idaho provide the whole household with nutritious food to supplement the groceries they have at home. This past year made access to School Pantries more challenging, but our school partners were quick to adjust. The School Pantry Coordinators at almost all our School Pantries moved to a mobile distribution.

To address closures and safety practices in schools, Pantry Coordinators pivoted from a store-like client choice model to one that provided boxes of food filled with nutritious food that was ready for pickup. This food box distribution model enabled families to get nutritious food in a safe way during the pandemic. Families reported feeling comfortable asking their school for resources, with many seeking assistance for the first time. This safe and helpful environment helped ease a burden on families during a difficult time.



Jill Robertson (right in picture above) runs the School Pantry at Lewis and Clark Elementary in Pocatello, ID. Lewis and Clark was an early adopter of the School Pantry program for The Idaho Foodbank and Jill has been there since the beginning. Jill not only runs the pantry, but she is also instrumental in helping families in need with clothing and household items. Jill also assists families with finding and applying for additional resources that may be available to them.

“A new family came to our school that was homeless. We sent them home with many resources including a shopping cart full of food. Later in the week they told us they were going to do everything they could to keep their kids at school because they knew how much we cared about our families. Simply having food on-site gives families hope and encourages them to keep their students in school. Thank you so much IFB.”

– School Survey

“One elderly community woman on disability income takes care of her younger grandkids during the day and always shares how grateful she is for the extra food she can provide for them.”

– 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.



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