



# Backpack

a program of The Idaho Foodbank

IMPACT REPORT

OCTOBER 2022

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

2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

65,000

Backpacks distributed  
statewide

1,976

children served statewide

173/61

participating schools  
and districts

## Survey Results Tell the Story

- **85%** of parents “definitely or somewhat” agreed that the Backpack program has made a positive difference in the well-being of their child.
- **72%** of parents “definitely or somewhat” agreed that the Backpack program helped stretch their household dollars to be used for other critical family needs.
- **93%** of school coordinators rated the Backpack program as “very beneficial” to children and families.



## Making an Impact

The Idaho Foodbank's Backpack Program provides students who are food insecure with nutritious, kid-friendly food that fits in their backpack every Friday during the school year. Meals consist of items that are kid-friendly and easy to prepare in case there is not an adult nearby to prepare a meal. Supply chain issues over the last year made it a bit more challenging to find the nutritious foods that are easy for kids to open, such as cans with a pop-top lid. Our

team was able to successfully navigate these challenges and get the right food to fit the unique needs for these kids. This program would not work without our tireless teachers, counselors and other staff partners at schools across the state.

There are many ways to measure the impact of this program, but sometimes it is best to hear it from the kids. When asked how the Backpack Program makes them feel, one child answered: "happy!"

"This year we had an overwhelmingly high need for weekend food bags. We communicated this need and it was met with understanding and care. We were granted the number of bags we needed to meet all of our students' needs.

Thank you!"

— School Survey

"One of our students, we found out, was taking care of their younger siblings at night because both parents worked late. They were so excited to get food they could eat without having to wait until the parents got home."

— School Survey

### About The Idaho Foodbank

The Idaho Foodbank is an independent, donor-supported, nonprofit organization. It 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 nutritious food through its facilities in Lewiston, Meridian and Pocatello. In the last fiscal year, The Foodbank provided food for 22.6 million meals to Idahoans living with food insecurity. The Foodbank distributes food through a network of more than 480 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 resources and healthy living. Visit [idahofoodbank.org](http://idahofoodbank.org) for more information. You can also 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 12 consecutive years.