



Member of
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

School Pantry

A PROGRAM OF THE IDAHO FOODBANK

IMPACT REPORT

OCTOBER 2022

**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

2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

36/19

participating schools
and counties

15,916

total households served; 54%
of people served were children

353,278

lbs of food for 294,398 meals
for those in need

4

new School Pantries will be added
in the coming year (2022 - 2023)

Survey Results Tell the Story

- **87%** of parents agreed that without the School Pantry program, their family would have to make one or more of their household meals smaller.
- **100%** of parents said the program had made a positive difference in the well-being of their family.
- **70%** of Families have not had to use additional pantries since using the School Pantry.



Making an Impact

Not far from the Clearwater River in Lewis County sits the Kamiah Elementary, Middle, and High Schools. Terry runs the School Pantry on the school campus and she works hard to help Kamiah children and families get the assistance they need. In addition to being a very rural county, it is estimated that 20 percent of children in Lewis County are food insecure.

The Kamiah School Pantry is open after school for two days a week during the school year. Approximately 25 families visit the school pantry each week. When someone visits the school pantry they are greeted by Terry or one of her volunteers. They walk with the family through the pantry to help them pick

out their food. This is also an opportunity to talk about their struggles and share information with the family about other resources that are available to help. In addition to shelf-stable food, the pantry's refrigerators and freezers allow them to provide perishable food items for families. Terry has also co-located other services with the pantry, including a closet of donated clothes that students can visit if they are in need.

When food for the Kamiah School Pantry arrives from The Idaho Foodbank, Terry enlists student volunteers to help unload the food. This is a great way for students to better understand some of the need in their community and contribute to the solutions.

“One family we had been working with was in a hotel. We were able to help her get a crockpot and then shop the pantry to create some meals for her kids. She was very excited to be able to provide well rounded meals for her kids.”

– School Survey

“We got the school counselor involved and came to realize that his [a student's] situation was very dire. He really needed this food. He considered himself responsible for helping to feed 4 younger siblings. He has since become one of our favorite students. If he sees us packing things downstairs, he rushes to help.”

– 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 for more information. You can also find us on your favorite social media platform.



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The only Idaho nonprofit to receive a four-star rating for 12 consecutive years.