



Helping our Idaho neighbors since 1984.



TOGETHER, WE CAN SOLVE HUNGER.

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Working with the Community in Minidoka County

According to Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap report, Minidoka County has a food insecurity rate of 10.3 percent. This is higher than Idaho's overall food insecurity rate of 8.2 percent. In Idaho, 15% of individuals who are Hispanic are facing food insecurity.

At the beginning of 2023, The Idaho Foodbank hosted a food distribution in partnership with the Minidoka School District with a specific focus on increasing food access to agricultural workers in the community. This food distribution was the first in a series of pilot Mobile Pantries that are aiming to improve services to underserved Hispanic and Latino communities. This was the result of the work by community champions and recommendations from our Community Liaison program.

In 2020, with the help of grants from Feeding America and Micron, The Idaho Foodbank employed Community Liaisons to better understand the needs of historically marginalized populations in Idaho, including Hispanic and Latino communities. The Community Liaisons came back with several recommendations to improve access to food to underserved Hispanic and Latino communities. These recommendations included holding a food distribution on a weekend or during the evening;

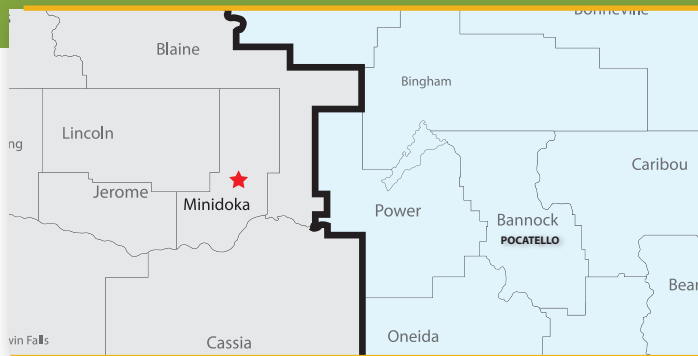


providing culturally relevant foods, including masa and tomatillos; having bilingual volunteers and materials available in Spanish; and hosting the food distribution at an easily accessible location, such as a school.

that would be convenient for families needing food and to market to the underserved population. Families learned about the food distribution through social media, the school newspaper, Spanish radio, and word of mouth.

At this food distribution, more than 200 households were served. Families contacted the school the following week and shared that they were grateful for the food provided, and expressed their thanks for the variety and freshness of the food.

Ending hunger requires access to community resources that lift individuals and families out of challenging times and into stable situations. We know that to provide food today and resources for the future we have to work in partnership to find meaningful solutions. The partnerships formed in Minidoka are a great example of how we can work together to address the needs in our communities, particularly for those who are underserved. We look forward to continuing to work together to find new ways to serve all our neighbors in need.



Partner Highlight: Kamiah School Pantry



Not far from the Clearwater River in Lewis County sits the Kamiah Elementary, Middle, and High schools. In a school district where nearly 10% of their students are experiencing homelessness, Terry Law runs the School Pantry on the school campus. Terry works hard to help children and families get the assistance they need with both food and resources. 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 the family pick out their food. This is also an opportunity for the families to talk about their challenges. Terry can tell the family about other resources that are available to help. Terry shared that families appreciate being able to get assistance without someone making them feel bad about needing help.

In addition to shelf-stable food, the Pantry also has refrigeration and freezers that were donated so they can 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 realize some of the needs in their community and contribute to solutions. Terry knows there is a significant need in the community that does not disappear when school is out. To help meet the need for



Left to Right is Lisa Turpin, The Idaho Foodbank; Terry Law, Kamiah School Food Pantry; Mike Wigen, The Idaho Foodbank

assistance, the Pantry was also open twice a month last summer, with over 40 families visiting each time the Pantry was open.

When discussing the families she works with, Terry said they are nice people in a bad situation. She shared how rewarding it is to see the sheer joy people experience when they get food from the Pantry or are connected to other assistance they need. Terry was also struck by the amount of kindness among the people who come to get food – many of them want to make sure they are not taking the last of any food item in case someone else needs it.

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Hunger in Rural Communities

Many rural and farm communities — the very places where crops are grown to feed the world — face hunger. It seems impossible, but in lands of plenty, food insecurity is often prevalent.

Rural Hunger Stats

11%

of rural households were food insecure in 2021.

63%

of all counties in the United States are rural.

89%

of counties with the highest food insecurity rate are rural.

To learn more go to: idahofoodbank.org

Extraordinary Volunteers



Volunteers are essential to The Idaho Foodbank and our network of Food Distribution Partners as we work together to end hunger in Idaho. In fiscal year 2022, volunteers donated 58,302 hours of their time working at The Idaho Foodbank. This is equivalent to the work of 28 full-time employees! Volunteers at The Foodbank do a variety of jobs, including re-packing large produce donations into family-size bags, filling food boxes for seniors, assembling bags of food for our Backpack Program, or directly giving food to the people in need at one of our Mobile Pantries.

Our volunteer program staff at our main facility in Meridian celebrated 12 Volunteer Team Leads during Volunteer Appreciation Month in April. These Team Leads have done everything, such as picking up extra, sometimes last-minute volunteer shifts; running volunteer shifts on their own; to and helping with a variety of other necessary activities and tasks.

The Eastern Idaho branch of The Idaho Foodbank in Pocatello celebrated the Steadman Family and Corey Schenk during Volunteer Appreciation Month. The Steadman Family – Jared, Erin, Nathan, Emily, James, and Claire – have become regular volunteers at our Pocatello warehouse. During our Thanksgiving Distribution, they pulled together nearly 80 volunteers to help distribute Thanksgiving food to those in need.



Pocatello Volunteer, Corey Schenk

Corey Schenk began volunteering at The Idaho Foodbank's Pocatello warehouse as part of a COVID relief support program. He found other employment about a year later, but continues to volunteer twice a week on his days off from work. Corey has found that his volunteer work is a positive way to work through and manage any of life's challenges.

The North Central branch of The Idaho Foodbank celebrated Greg and Kersten Eggers during Volunteer Appreciation Month for their outstanding volunteer work. Since their retirement in 2021, Greg and Kersten have served over 500 volunteer hours with The Idaho Foodbank. Greg and Kersten volunteer at the warehouse for two to three shifts per week. They also volunteer at our Mobile Pantry distributions and special events. With her sunny disposition, Kersten is an amazing ambassador for The Idaho Foodbank in the community. Since reopening our choice food pantry in Lewiston, Greg has given us great feedback on how to streamline the process to make it more user-friendly for our neighbors. He has also volunteered as our traffic controller at the Lewiston Mobile Pantry for the past year.

Volunteers are an integral part of our work to help Idahoans who are struggling to make ends meet. We are grateful to be able to work closely with our spotlight volunteers year-round, and we are grateful for the support of all of our volunteers.

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Meridian Team Leads



The Steadman family, Pocatello Volunteers



Greg and Kersten Eggers, Lewiston

To learn more go to: idahofoodbank.org



The Idaho Foodbank
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Provide Nourishment 365 Days a Year

Every single day of the year there are Idahoans that do not know where their next meal will come from. Nourish 365 members are individuals that elect to give recurring donations. Your donation is put to work daily to create a hunger-free and healthier Idaho.

To learn more visit idahofoodbank.org/nourish365.

The Idaho Foodbank serves all 44 counties of the state. Of Idaho's 44 counties, 35 are considered rural, including 16 that are defined as frontier.

- Backpack
- School Pantry
- Senior Food Program
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program
- Food Pantry
- Mobile Pantry

Our Vision

A hunger-free Idaho.

Our Mission

To help feed, educate and advocate for Idaho's hungry through collaborative partnerships to develop efficient solutions that strengthen individuals, families and communities.



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