



About the Foodbank and the Need

February 1, 2010

www.idahofoodbank.org

- The Idaho Foodbank is a private, independent, non-profit corporation. We have no affiliation with the state of Idaho and have distributed **76 million pounds** of free emergency food through our partner agencies to hungry Idaho families since 1984.
- We have warehouses in Boise, Pocatello and Lewiston.
- We supply food to more than 220 partner agencies (food pantries, feeding sites, etc.) throughout the state at no charge. There is no fee to be a partner agency and no cost to the food recipient.
- The Foodbank is the largest distributor of free emergency food in Idaho. In FY 2008-9, we and our agencies distributed **6.8 million pounds** of food. For calendar year 2008, it was **6.3 million pounds**.
- The Foodbank provides **100,000** people per month with free emergency food.
- The Foodbank's *Hunger in Idaho 2006*, the largest study ever done in the state, found that 15,100 people needed emergency food assistance on any given week, and 81,400 people per year needed assistance.
- The USDA has ranked **Idaho the 29th hungriest state**, down from 24th in 2005-2007 and 13th in 2004-2006. This means an average of **53,539 (11.4%)** Idaho families (144,021 people) were not sure of their food supply between 2006 and 2008, down from 14.6% in 2002-2004, and **3.9% (18,316)** households had members who went hungry compared to 3.4% in the previous survey. (USDA: Household Food Security in the US, 2008)
- **65,517 Idaho children** (16.6%) are food insecure, the **27th** highest rate in the country, down from 6th highest. For children under the age of 5, however, the rate of food insecurity is 20.2% (23,008 children), the **10th** highest rate in the country. (This is a first-time study of children under 5.) In the U.S. there are 12.5 million food-insecure children. (Feeding America)
- The 2008 **poverty rate** in Idaho was 14% (**216,100 people**), which puts it at 18th highest among the 50 states and Washington, D.C. In Ada County, the poverty rate was 8.7% (33,140 people). The **child poverty rate** in Idaho was 18% (**79,100 children**), which ranks 11th highest. The national poverty rate in 2008 was 18% (54.9 million people), up from 12.5 percent in 2007. It is the highest rate since 1997. (All from US Census) An estimated 2,700 people are homeless in Boise daily (NAEH 2007); 18 died in 2004.
- More than **40% of households** that receive food from the Foodbank currently have at least one person **working**. About half those work fulltime jobs. More than **70% of households** that receive temporary food assistance do so because their household income has temporarily dropped below **\$10,000 per year**.



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- Our programs include Mobile Pantry, Lunch Break, Picnic in the Park (summer feeding), Backpack for Kids, Community Garden, Grow a Row, Meat the Need, Chefs to the Rescue, Grocery Alliance and fundraisers such as A Chefs' Affaire and Empty Bowls. We also conduct and benefit from a wide variety of food and fund drives large and small.
- In fiscal year 2009, 19,705 volunteers donated 53,174 hours to Foodbank programs.
- The Idaho economy is *not* creating enough **living-wage jobs**. On average, for a family of four with both adults working, a living wage is a total income is \$34.97 an hour or \$72,740 a year. In **Ada County** income should be \$36.93 an hour or \$76,814. In **Bannock County** a living wage is \$33.39 or \$69,451. In **Nez Perce County** it is \$34.54 or \$71,842. A living wage is defined as is a wage that allows families to meet their basic needs, without public assistance, and that provides them some ability to deal with emergencies and plan ahead. (Northwest Federation of Community Organizations, "Job Gap 2009")
- Of all job openings in Idaho, **43%** pay less than the \$12.41 an hour living wage for a single adult. Almost nine out of ten, **89%**, pay less than the \$26.98 an hour living wage for a single adult with two children. (NFCO)
- In 2008, **emergency food requests nationally were up 18%** for the year, but the food supply was up only 5%. 2008 was the 22nd consecutive year that the demand for food has increased. Tragically, 26% of the cities reported they had food-assistance facilities that may have to turn people away this year because they lacked the food to distribute. (U.S. Conference of Mayors annual survey)

It also found:

- ◆ 32% of the members of households in Idaho are children under 18 years old.
- ◆ 10% of the members of households are children age 0 to 5.
- ◆ 4% of the members of the households are elderly.
- ◆ About 85% of clients are Non-Hispanic white, 4% are non-Hispanic black, 6% are Hispanic and the rest are from other racial groups.
- ◆ 44% of households include at least one employed adult.
- ◆ 85% had incomes below the federal poverty level during the previous month.
- ◆ 26% are homeless.



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- ◆ Among all client households served by emergency food programs in Idaho, 85% are food insecure (in a state of being unable to provide food for oneself or family). This includes client household who are food insecure without hunger and those who are food insecure with hunger.
- ◆ 42% of the clients are experiencing hunger.
- ◆ Among households with children, 85% are food insecure and 35% are experiencing hunger.
- ◆ 55% of clients in Idaho report having to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities.
- ◆ 34% had to choose between paying for food and paying their rent or mortgage.
- ◆ 36% had to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care.

What We are Doing to Lead the Effort Against Hunger

At The Idaho Foodbank, we buy little of the food we distribute. Our largest food expense is the trucking needed to move the food from the donor – usually out of state – into Idaho. Because we pay primarily for transportation rather than food, we can stretch every dollar and achieve maximum efficiency.

- The Idaho Foodbank is a non-profit corporation. There is no federal funding. The summer feeding program receives partial state reimbursement.
- The Foodbank distributed a record 6.8 million pounds of food last fiscal year (2008-2009) and 6.3 million pounds in calendar year 2008.
- The Foodbank supplies food to more than 200 partner food pantries, feeding sites, and homeless shelters throughout the state of Idaho along with a direct distribution focus to children through our Children's Nutritional Services programs and Mobile Pantries to reach underserved needy Idahoans.
- The Foodbank has 37 full time employees at three facilities (Boise, Lewiston and Pocatello) to help service the people of Idaho who rely upon our services.



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- The Foodbank operates on a 3% administrative overhead, assuring that public support goes directly to programs and the acquisition and distribution of food.
- The *Picnic in the Park* summer program operated in five Boise parks and two apartment complexes and worked in conjunction with the Boise School District, which had another seven locations. The Foodbank program served more than 20,000 free lunches to children during the summer.
- The *Backpack for Kids Program* addresses child hunger directly. Schools identify children who show symptoms of not getting enough to eat over the weekends during the school year. Backpacks containing six meals of kid-friendly nutritious food are supplied to these children once a week on Fridays. The program has proven to improve performance and behavior in students who receive it. There are currently 1,400 children enrolled, but with additional support we could reach more than 7,000 children.
 - The Mobile Pantry program, which delivers truckloads of food directly to underserved communities, gave out 2.3 million pounds of food in fiscal 2008-2009.
 - The *Grocery Alliance Program* picked up nearly 130,000 pounds usable meats, fresh produce and dairy products each month from grocery stores. It is picked up daily and distributed as soon as possible.
 - \$1 donated provides three pounds of food
 - \$1 donated provides \$4.00 worth of food
 - \$1 donated provides two nutritious meals

"You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give."
Winston Churchill (1874-1965)

Thank you for your help!