



## 2017 - FACT SHEET

### History:

- The Meridian Food Bank was founded in 1999 with a goal of providing food assistance to people in need. In 2006, it was incorporated as a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization operating under the name of The Meridian Food Bank.

### Mission:

- To provide services in the Treasure Valley that contribute to meeting the emotional, physical and spiritual needs of individuals and families. The issue of food insecurity is specifically addressed by supplying food pantry and school food backpack services.

### Organization:

- The Meridian Food Bank is an all-volunteer organization with no paid positions. Over 150 volunteers conduct day-to-day operations for both the Food Bank and School Backpack Program.
- A volunteer management team directs daily operations.
- There is a nine member Board of Directors with managerial oversight by the Chairman/Executive Director.

### Services:

- **Food pantry services**

The Meridian Food Bank distributes food via a "choice pantry" model. When an individual has checked in to receive food, he/she is provided with a shopping cart. The individuals are monitored as to quantity they take, but the choice of food is theirs. The pantry shopping area contains fresh produce (when available), meat (when available), dairy products, and bakery products, canned and dry foods. Food is available to individuals and families in need. Client households are permitted two visits per month.

Hours: Monday - 12pm to 6pm

Wednesday - 12pm to 6pm

Thursday - 12pm to 4pm

- **School backpack program**

Students in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program and/or identified by a counselor to be food insecure within the West Ada School District, and children enrolled in the Meridian Head Start Program are provided backpacks containing nutritious food for the weekend. The packs contain six easy to prepare meals and snacks. Backpacks are distributed every Friday or last school day of the week during the school year.

### Facility:

- In June 2012, the food bank was relocated to the former Meridian Senior Center near downtown Meridian - in the city's low to moderate income district.

- The Building was purchased and donated to the Meridian Food Bank by an anonymous donor.

### **Demographics:**

#### **Food Pantry**

- Geographic area
  - Currently serving 26 communities throughout the Treasure Valley area with 62% of the clients being served residing in Ada County.
- Economic Status - Income information pertains to the client's previous year's gross income.
  - 66% Very Low Income
  - 24% Low Income
  - 9% Moderate Income
  - 1% High Income
- Age Categories
  - 35% - ages 0 to 17
  - 47% - ages 18 to 59
  - 18% - ages 60 and above
- Ethnicity
  - 24% of clients are Hispanic

#### **Backpack Program**

- Currently serving 48 of 56 schools within the West Ada School District.
- 64% of children receiving food sacks are elementary school age, 19% middle school age, and 11% high school age. Meridian Head Start represents 6%.
- 45% of the food sacks provided go to the 9 schools in the West Ada School District identified as Title 1 schools.

#### **Benefit:**

- Food Bank
  - 50,120 individuals served in 2016.
  - 19,075 food baskets and 1,998 holiday boxes were distributed in 2016.
  - Approximately 1,057,970 lbs. of food distributed in 2016.
- Backpack Program
  - 18,953 food sacks provided in 2015-2016 school year.
  - 17,554 food sacks provided in 2014-2015 school year.

#### **Donations:**

- 2016 Funding Sources (Projected)
  - 59% Donations from individuals, local organizations and businesses
  - 18% Community Development Block Grant Funds
  - 23% Foundations, Corporations, and Fundraisers
- Contact Information
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