



2018 - 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 nutritional services that meet the food insecurity needs of individuals and families throughout the Treasure Valley.

Organization:

- The Meridian Food Bank is an all-volunteer organization with no paid positions. Over 200 volunteers conduct day-to-day operations for both the Food Bank and School Backpack Program. The total number of volunteer hours worked were 32,811.
- 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 food bags containing nutritious food for the weekend. The bags contain six easy to prepare meals and snacks. Food bags 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 22 communities throughout the Treasure Valley area with 99% of the clients being served residing in Ada and Canyon County.
- Economic Status - Income information pertains to the client's previous year's gross income.
 - 63% Very Low Income
 - 23% Low Income
 - 13% 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 49 of 56 schools within the West Ada School District.
- 60% of children receiving food packs are elementary school age, 23% middle school age, and 9% high school age. Meridian Head Start represents 8%.
- 45% of the food packs provided go to the 9 schools in the West Ada School District identified as Title 1 schools.

Benefit:

- Food Bank
 - 19,577 households received food.
 - 1,949 holiday boxes were distributed in 2017.
 - 1,108,946 lbs. of food distributed in 2017.
- Backpack Program
 - 17,025 food packs provided in 2016-2017 school year.
 - 18,953 food packs provided in 2015-2016 school year.

Donations:

- 2017 Funding Sources
 - 61% Donations from individuals, local organizations and businesses
 - 16% Community Development Block Grant Funds
 - 23% Foundations, Corporations, and Fundraisers

Contact Information

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