



133 W. Broadway Ave.  
Meridian, ID 83642

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

### Accomplishments

#### Food Bank

- Volunteers worked 32,731 hours in 2023 to provide food assistance to people in need and school backpacks to hungry children.
- In 2023, the food bank received 1,434,551 pounds of food including 136,994 pounds from food drives.
- The Teacher Snack Packs and the Family Emergency Food Packs have continued to help satisfy the need brought on by food insecurity.
  - The Teacher Snack Packs are a supply of snacks for school children. The packs are provided to the Title 1 Schools in the West Ada School District upon request from a teacher.
  - The Family Emergency Food Packs are a 2-day emergency food supply. The packs are provided to schools within the West Ada School District, when requested by a counselor. The schools provide the packs to families of students facing an immediate food crisis.
  - The Family Emergency Food Packs are also provided to families placed in housing by CATCH, Inc. as well as the Agency on Aging when needed.

#### Food Pantry

- 22,899 households received food in 2023, up 26% from 2022
- 68,239 individuals were served in 2023, up 41% from 2022
- 1,411,637 pounds of food was distributed in 2023

#### Backpack Program

The backpack program provides a pack of food each week to students who have been identified by school counselors as being food insecure. The food packs contain two breakfast meals with shelf stable milk, two lunches, two dinner entrees, fruit, and snacks. The food packs are delivered to the schools on Thursday of each week that school is in

session to be given to the needy students on Friday.

- 23,495 food packs serving an average of 672 children weekly were provided in 2023

## **Demographics**

### **Food Pantry**

- Currently serving 29 communities throughout the Treasure Valley area and beyond with 91% of the clients residing in Ada and Canyon counties
- 32% of those benefiting from the food pantry services are under the age of 18, 55% are between the ages of 18 and 59, and 13% are 60 or older

### **Backpack Program**

- Currently serving 47 schools out of the 59 schools within the West Ada School District.
- Of the students receiving food packs, 74% are elementary school age, 15% are middle school age, and 11% are high school age
- 54% of the food packs go to 13 schools in the West Ada School District identified as Title 1 schools

## **Budget**

### **2023 Cash Requirements \$294,000 (Actual)**

- Food Pantry Food Purchases - \$71,000
- Backpack Program Food Purchases - \$103,000
- Operating Expenses - \$120,000

### **2024 Cash Requirements \$321,000 (Projected)**

- Food Pantry Food Purchases - \$78,000
- Backpack Program Food Purchases - \$112,000
- Operating Expenses - \$131,000

Operating expenses are for fuel, insurance, utilities, office expenses, repairs and maintenance. We pay no salaries, no vehicle payments, no mortgages and carry no debt whatsoever.

## Donations

- 93% of the food distributed was donated. The food comes from food drives, private donations, grocery stores, community gardens and local farmers. In 2023, 1,434,551 pounds of food were donated.
- Cash donations in 2023 exceeded our cash requirements thereby adding to our essential reserves.

## Services

- **Food Pantry Services** are available Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday each week. Individuals and families within Treasure Valley are permitted two visits per month.
- **School Backpack Program** delivers food packs weekly to children within the West Ada School District when requested.

## Organization

- Founded in 1999, the Meridian Food Bank received its IRS 501(c) (3) designation in 2006
- The Meridian Food Bank is an all-volunteer organization. There are no paid positions. Over 175 volunteers conduct day to day operations for both the Food Pantry and the Backpack Program.
- 9 member Board of Directors
- 7 person management team directing daily operations
- Managerial oversight provided by Executive Director