



newsletter

FALL
2018

 BreadfortheCity

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Dear Bread for the City Family,



I hope this issue of our newsletter finds you enjoying these waning days of summer and preparing for a joyful fall and winter. We here at Bread for the City have been keeping busy, but we have also been taking the time

to reflect on all of the goals we've recently achieved thanks to the hard work of our staff, volunteers, donors, and friends in the community. For example, this summer we partnered with a local food bank to hold more than a dozen free farmer's markets. In the spring, after years of concerted effort by our staff and generous donors, we celebrated the ceremonial groundbreaking of our new Southeast Center! And standing alongside our fellow nonprofits and community leaders, we even scored a victory for tenants when DC City Council passed the Evictions with Dignity Act, which ensures tenants have a right to access their belongings for seven days after an eviction—instead of the 48 hours the council had previously proposed.

But unfortunately, poverty is a persistent issue in DC, and one that our efforts alone cannot solve. The reality is that nearly one in five DC residents and one in three children live on a very low income or are at risk of homelessness. Even while the DC economy thrives, too many residents in the District, especially people of color, are being left behind.

That's why our goal at Bread for the City is not only to meet the immediate needs in our community, but also to change the system that leaves so many people stuck in the cycle of poverty.

This has been our mission for more than 40 years, and we will continue pursuing it with the passion and purpose you have come to expect. [Thank you for standing with us.](#)

Sincerely,
George A. Jones
Chief Executive Officer

FREE FRESH PRODUCE ALL SUMMER LONG!

Bread for the City's Summer Free Markets Are Addressing the Food Access Gap

Corn, watermelon, eggplant, blackberries—these, I'm sure, will sound to many of us like staples of summer. But for hundreds of DC residents, fresh produce is out of reach—physically and financially.

“For many people in our city, grocery stores are inaccessible,” says Bread for the City's Sonya Springfield. “In fact, 11.3 percent of DC is considered a food desert.”

The situation is especially bad for Washingtonians who live east of the Anacostia River. More than three-quarters of the food deserts in the District are located in Wards 7 and 8. As Sonya explains, “There are people in Ward 8 who would have to walk 40 minutes just to get to a grocery store—and even if they could get there, the price of fresh produce puts it way out of budget.”

That's why Bread for the City partners with Capital Area Food Bank to bring free, fresh produce to DC residents all summer long through our **Summer Free Markets**.

Our Summer Free Markets are held throughout the summer at our Northwest and Southeast centers. On market days, volunteers arrive early in the morning to sort as much as 10,000 pounds of donated produce. When we open to the public at 10 am, people are lined up and ready! The market remains open for about two hours, and in that time as many as 200 people will come through the line to fill their baskets with healthy fruits and vegetables they might never get to eat otherwise.



“There are people in Ward 8 who would have to walk 40 minutes just to get to a grocery store—and even if they could get there, the price of fresh produce puts it way out of budget.”

—Sonya Springfield,
Volunteer & In-Kind Manager



An Evening of Good Friends, Good Food, and Good Hope *Good Hope Gala a shining success!*

On April 28, our Bread for the City family joined together once again for an evening of dinner, dancing, and celebration of the many ways we are facilitating positive change in Washington, DC.

It was a night to remember, and by the time our plates were empty and our feet were sore from dancing, our hearts were also full: we had raised more than \$1.26 million in support of our essential services and programs! That's \$1.26 million that will be used to provide food, clothing, legal assistance, medical care, social services, and advocacy for more than 34,000 DC residents who need a helping hand.

Adding to the celebratory mood was the chance to kick off the official start of our Building on Good Hope campaign! This campaign to build a new SE Center on Good Hope Road will allow us to provide even more services to more than 20,000 people each year in DC's largely underserved Anacostia community.

Thank you to all of our Gala attendees and sponsors. We are already looking forward to next year's event!

BREAD FOR THE CITY GOES TO THE THEATRE!

For our gala this year, Bread for the City tried something totally different: we put on a show! Staff and clients wrote and directed their own skit about hope: what it means, where we can find it, and how we create it in ourselves and our community. Huge thanks to the staff, Board members, and clients who participated, as well as artist Sarah Ewing who provided guidance and feedback during the rehearsal process.

You can check out their hard work on our YouTube page at www.youtube.com/user/BreadForTheCity.

Save the Date

**Bread for the City's 2019 Good Hope Gala
Dinner and Live Auction**

May 11, 2019
Omni Shoreham Hotel
Doors Open at 6pm

**Sponsorship Opportunities
available! Contact:**

Ally Blaine,
Events and Corporate
Partnerships Associate
ablaine@breadforthecity.org
Phone: 202-480-8970



Join Us for Holiday Helpings!

At Bread for the City, we firmly believe that our neighbors who are living below the federal poverty line shouldn't have to forgo holiday celebrations. That's why we come together through our Holiday Helpings program to provide free holiday meals—a turkey and all the trimmings—for our clients to enjoy at home with family and friends.

Thanks to your support, we provided nearly 9,000 meals last year! We can't wait to do it again this holiday season.

Please join us by sponsoring a family or two, or host your own fundraising drive. ***Learn more about this special way to give back this season at www.breadforthecity.org/holidayhelpings.***

EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT: Tracy Davis

The Advocate Anyone Would Want; The Attorney Our Clients Have.

When DC residents living on low incomes are having trouble accessing SNAP benefits (food stamps), are facing eviction, or struggling with domestic violence, they can turn to the dedicated lawyers and advocates at Bread for the City, like Tracy Davis.

Tracy serves as one of Bread for the City's Managing Attorneys and supervises the family law work of our legal clinic. On a more specific level, she helps survivors of trauma navigate their way through an adversarial legal system that, too often, is not well-suited in how it provides justice to victims. She understands how the argumentative, sometimes hostile style of court can retraumatize her clients, and does everything in her power to mediate these effects. To Tracy, her legal degree is a privilege and acts as a reminder to her that we all have an obligation to uplift one another. These ideals are woven into the work that she does on behalf of her clients.

For one client, Maria, whom Tracy was representing in a domestic violence case, Tracy and other staff members went the extra mile: when she found a new place to live, they helped her find furniture and then rented and drove a U-Haul truck to deliver it to her new home.

She firmly believes, "The best thing I can do is earn the trust of my clients and make sure that they know that I'm fighting for them every way that I can."

It is not an easy job, and with the increasingly vehement anti-immigrant sentiment coming from the government, it is getting even harder to provide many of her immigrant clients who are victims of domestic violence the support they need. "We're hearing more and more that area immigrants are afraid to ask for help because of what might happen if they draw attention to themselves," she says.



This keeps Tracy up at night because she knows that women and children are staying with abusers, going without food, and skipping much-needed medical care because they are afraid of the repercussions in the current political climate.

But she and our entire Bread for the City family are here to keep fighting for them—no matter what they need. And with the recent hire of a new attorney who brings with her years of immigration and family law experience, Tracy and the rest of the family law team are as prepared as ever to provide domestic violence survivors with the legal help they need to lead safe and dignified lives.

Through every case, Tracy tries to keep her staff inspired and her clients motivated to keep going. Fighting the overwhelming nature of poverty, anti-immigrant zeal, and systemic racism can feel like an impossible challenge, but any bit of dignity restored to her clients is a victory to her.

As Tracy says, "You've got to focus on the little things." And she's right, because little by little, she is making a big difference!

amazon.com
Wish List

Add a holiday gift to Bread for the City the next time you shop online!

Donate food, clothing, or other items from our Amazon Wish List. See our Wish List at [BreadfortheCity.org/wishlist](https://breadfortheCity.org/wishlist).

Here are some of our most-needed items this holiday season:

- ✓ Diapers
- ✓ Children's books, especially in Spanish
- ✓ Cleaning supplies/laundry detergent
- ✓ Gift cards for grocery stores and pharmacies
- ✓ Plus-sized clothing for men and women
- ✓ SmarTrip cards
- ✓ Toiletries and other household items

November 27 is Giving Tuesday!

You know about Black Friday and Cyber Monday. This year, don't forget about Giving Tuesday, the day people across the nation show their charitable

support for the organizations they care about most. On that special day, please remember to give generously to help Bread for the City remain on

the frontlines of fighting poverty in DC. **Make your gift on November 27 at BreadfortheCity.org/GivingTuesday.**

ALWAYS GROWING TO MEET THE NEED: Bread for the City's New Southeast Center Set to Open in 2020!

We've been working toward this milestone for years—ever since our current Southeast Center reached full capacity within months of its opening in 2002. For over a decade, we have struggled with a facility that limited our reach. Because of space issues, we were unable to provide comprehensive medical services; had to limit the hours and growth of some of our programs, including our diaper and clothing programs; and hallways and rooms had to serve multiple purposes, so they were always packed to capacity.



But now our work is underway on a building designed to provide all of our comprehensive services and more: legal assistance, food and clothing, social services, advocacy, and for the first time at our Southeast Center, in-house medical care including primary care, vision, dental, and behavioral health support. It will even have a fitness center and locker rooms!

The building will also feature a new jobs center with a smart classroom, computer lab, counseling rooms, and training spaces. With this expansion, we can double the number of participants in our Pre-Employment Program (PEP), which provides job seekers with training, mentorship, case management, and paid internship opportunities.

So while we have still our work cut out for us, we're starting to be able to see more clearly all of the incredible things that lie ahead. And every week there is more progress! Construction is scheduled to be completed in 2019, with programs opening to the community in 2020.

With so many exciting and innovative goals and programs planned for our new Southeast Center, we're still counting on the dedicated support of our friends in the community. Please consider making a gift towards our new building by visiting www.breadfortheCity.org/givegoodhope.

More Than Bread!

Do you know about Bread for the City's **Housing Access Program**?

The Housing Access Program (HAP) provides general information on housing options for low-income DC residents and ensures that our community is aware of the resources and agencies that can help. Since the program was created in 2010, more than 100 of Bread for the City's clients have successfully moved into subsidized housing! The 100th client to be housed, Anita, who was forced to sell her home and found herself struggling with homelessness after losing her government job of 32 years, says "It's very humbling to know that there are programs like HAP dedicated to helping people in situations like mine."

Workplace Giving Opportunities



Stand up for families. PURPLE THURSDAY

Bread for the City is proud to participate in the 13th annual observance of Purple Thursday on October 25 to raise awareness about domestic violence and celebrate survivors and healthy relationships in our city and nationwide.

Join us!
Wear purple on

**THURSDAY,
OCTOBER
25.**

Help Others Every Month!

The best way to support our work is through a monetary contribution.

Become a monthly donor today and help us sustain our programs year-round at BreadfortheCity.org/givemonthly.

Can't make a monthly commitment? Make a one-time gift at BreadfortheCity.org/FallNews.



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