



## A Note from George

Dear Bread for the City Family,

Whew! After the hectic holiday season, it's

always nice to hunker down somewhere warm and take stock of everything we've accomplished. And wow, it's been a very busy time at Bread for the City. In addition to continuing to provide the vital programs that our community needs, we ALSO gave out 9,000 holiday meals between Thanksgiving and Christmas, AND we started construction on our new Southeast Center on Good Hope Road!

All of this work has been done at a time when budgets are particularly tight and federal dollars more uncertain than ever. But Bread for the City made a promise to advocate for our DC neighbors in good times and in bad, and we intend to keep it.

**That's why I want to take this opportunity to personally thank you for the support you give.** As you read this issue of your Bread for the City newsletter, please take a moment to reflect upon the work you are making possible. Each time we provide a bag of groceries to a neighbor stretching their dollars to make ends meet, lay another brick in our new Southeast Center, or speak at a city council meeting to help end the entrenched racial disparity in DC that keeps people of color trapped in a cycle of poverty, **you are right there with us.**

I could not be more grateful for your commitment. Thank you for caring about your community and making a difference in the lives of your neighbors in need.

Sincerely,

George A. Jones  
Chief Executive Officer



## WE'RE UNDER CONSTRUCTION!

### ***Bread for the City's New Southeast Center Set to Open Next Year***

It used to be a dream, then plans on paper. **Today, thanks to supporters like you, our new Southeast Center on Good Hope Road is being built—brick by brick!**

Construction began in January, and you can already see the very beginnings of how this incredible new facility will welcome and provide members of our community with the basic resources they need for survival and growth.

Everything about this building, including the layout, considers the needs of the people we serve. Community members will enter the building and find our clothing and food programs right on the first floor, alongside public computers and space reserved for our community organizers. Fully accessible by elevator, the two floors above will welcome visitors who are seeking medical care, legal and social services, and employment assistance. When BFC's medical clinic sees a patient who is finding it challenging to afford sufficient groceries, the team can immediately walk the individual downstairs to our food pantry for healthy food options. When a survivor of domestic violence has to leave everything and turns to BFC's legal program for help, our attorneys can walk them over to our clothing room, where the start of a new wardrobe awaits. The new facility will be more than three times the size of our existing facility, allowing us to serve more people with more services in a more efficient and welcoming way.

The building will look great, too! The modern design combines an open feel with an appearance that fits into its surroundings. **The new center will open to the community early next year.**

***For construction updates and to follow our progress, go to [www.breadfortheCity.org/goodhope](http://www.breadfortheCity.org/goodhope).***

# WE CAN'T END POVERTY IN DC BY DOING THE SAME THINGS OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "As long as there is poverty in this world, no man can be rich even if he has a billion dollars."

At Bread for the City we agree with Dr. King's sentiment. No matter how many resources the District has, the fact that one in five DC residents and one in three children live on a very low income or are at risk of homelessness means there is a lot of work left to do.

**You are helping Bread for the City put as many resources as possible into meeting the immediate needs of our community with food assistance, clothing, and urgent social services. But as our chief executive officer George A. Jones explains, we cannot stop there.**

"You can't end poverty without transforming the systems that keep people stuck between a rock and a hard place, generation after generation," he says. That means taking a hard look at disparities in our community and calling for changes that will create equitable systems and policies that give every DC resident a fair chance.

"Let's be honest," Jones explains. "Nearly every person who comes to Bread for the City is a person of color. We need to open our eyes to the fact that poor people in our city are people of color. The poverty rate for African Americans in the District is 27.9%—four times higher than the 7.9% poverty rate for whites. We solve poverty by focusing on the group that is disadvantaged. So let's focus on it. Ultimately, that will help everyone."

Jones uses disparities in housing as a prime example. "When you drive around the District, you see housing that none of the people we serve can afford. It's no surprise. If access to housing is based on how much you can pay, then people of color, who already have less because of hundreds of years of institutional and economic racism, will continue to be disadvantaged," Jones says.

When people don't have access to housing they can afford, they end up in shelters, which costs the city far more money than providing affordable housing in the first place.

**The answer is clear: We must make systemic changes to the quality and amount of housing in DC. It's one of the most important**

**things we can do to create the equitable city we believe in.**

**The number of affordable housing units in the district has dropped by 50% while the city has seen an unprecedented boom in luxury buildings.**

**Over 60% of people living on extremely low incomes, mostly people of color, spend more than 50% of their income on housing.**

**This is an untenable situation and leaves entire families on the brink of homelessness month after month.**

But knowing the answer isn't the same as achieving it. Bread for the City spends every day leading by example. Not only do we send every one of our employees to racial equity training, but we implement what we learn.

One of the most important things Bread for the City does within our organization is ensure that people of color have a voice at the highest

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## Thank You for Making Our 2018 Holiday Helpings a Success!

We want to take a moment to recognize our more than 1,469 friends who supported Bread for the City between November 1 and December 24 for our annual Holiday Helpings program.

We raised enough funds to provide holiday meal kits for 6,500 families in time for Thanksgiving—and then another 2,500 households before Christmas Eve! Our success meant that families living with low incomes across the District did not have to forgo their holiday celebrations just because they didn't have the money for a holiday meal. **They enjoyed turkey, the special trimmings, and the warmth that comes with knowing neighbors like you care.**

**For more information about our Holiday Helpings holiday tradition, go to [www.breadforthecity.org/holidayhelpings](http://www.breadforthecity.org/holidayhelpings).**

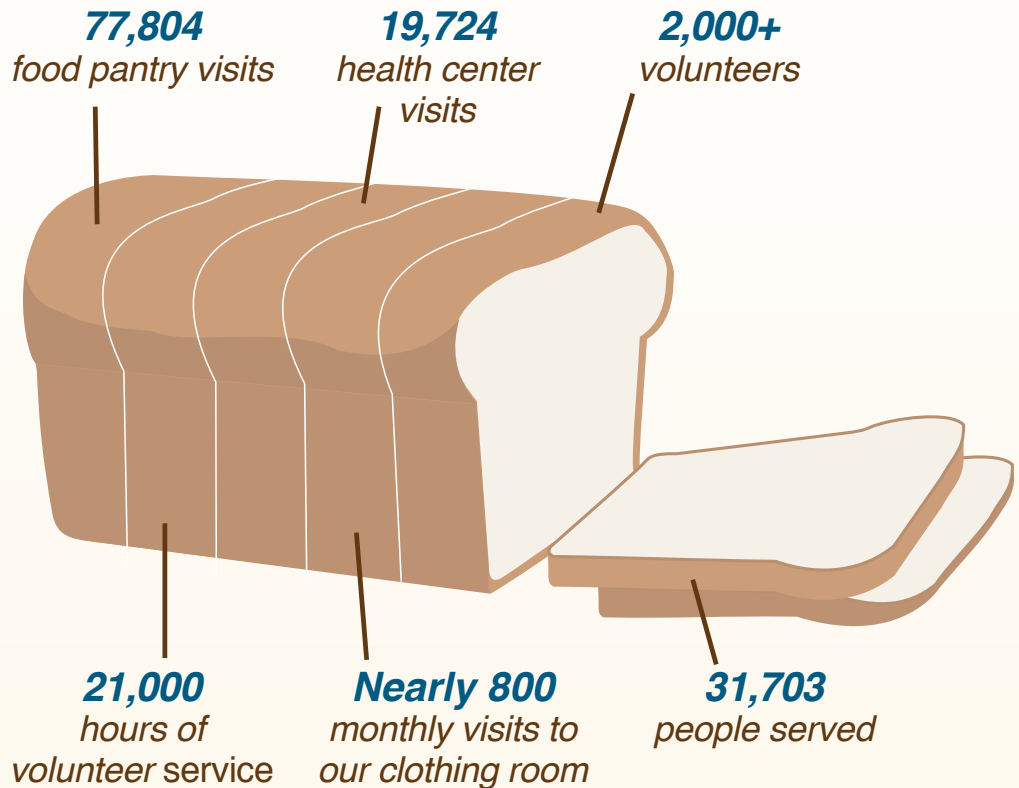
# MORE THAN BREAD!

*Did you know that Bread for the City means more than just groceries? We explain why we're More Than Bread.*

Did you know that \$25 can be the difference between staying housed and experiencing homelessness? For many of our clients, a minor issue with rent or other basics can snowball into a huge problem.

That's why Bread for the City's Small Favors Fund exists: to provide a small, one-time grant to make sure a little problem doesn't turn into something bigger and harder to solve—like a period of homelessness. The **Small Favors Fund** provides emergency financial assistance to help DC residents pay utility bills, catch up on rent, and fulfill other immediate needs like car repairs. Sometimes this small amount of support is all that is needed to help someone get back on their feet.

**This fall you did a BIG favor for our Small Favors Fund—by helping us raise more than \$8,640 that will go right to work helping DC residents when they need it most.**



**Any way you slice it, you helped Bread for the City make a difference last year!**

## MAKE HELPING YOUR COMMUNITY PART OF YOUR LEGACY

All your life, you've made helping your neighbors a priority. Please consider continuing your legacy of caring after you are gone. By including Bread for the City in your estate plans, you can make sure your generosity extends to those in need for decades to come.

Making a planned gift to Bread for the City is easy, and we're here to help. If you would like to speak with someone about your specific goals and interests, please contact Emmy Torruellas at [ETorruellas@BreadfortheCity.org](mailto:ETorruellas@BreadfortheCity.org) or 202-480-8908.

*"I know that Bread for the City will continue to invest my support wisely, both during my lifetime and beyond. I rest a little bit easier knowing I am helping ensure the financial future for BFC and, more importantly, ensuring that our DC neighbors experiencing poverty have a place to turn for help."*

**- Mary Christie,  
Board Member and Volunteer**



# WE CAN'T END POVERTY IN DC BY DOING THE SAME THINGS ... (CONTINUED)

levels. Over 50 percent of our governing board of directors is made up of current and former Bread for the City clients and leaders of color. Their presence and influence on the board helps Bread for the City better understand and respond to what our community members really need. For instance, we began scheduling our meetings to best accommodate board members who have the least flexible schedules, as opposed to working around those in higher positions of power who can leave work without fear of lost income or termination. We also provide a small honorarium to all of our members to help cover the financial costs of board service.

Real-life experience from our client board members has guided Bread for the City in many ways. For example, we've changed our service hours and made them more fluid. "We heard again and again that you can't tell the working poor that you need to be somewhere from 9 to 5, so, of course, we listened," Jones said.



We also take what we learn to DC policymakers to help illuminate where changes in the system are most urgent and could be most beneficial. For instance, Bread for the City has joined the Fair Budget Coalition, Children's Law Center, Law Students in Court, the Legal Aid Society, and the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless to call for long-term housing solutions for families experiencing homelessness. We've put forth a series of specific recommendations to reallocate

funding from failed temporary housing programs and invest those dollars toward long-term housing supports.

DC has the resources to make these investments, but they won't be made until the city changes the way it addresses poverty, policy, and equity. As Jones says, "We need to put the same kind of innovative thinking, energy, and aggressiveness into the task of eradicating poverty as we do trying to lure billion-dollar corporations into the District."

At Bread for the City, we know that DC is wealthy enough and kind enough to end poverty. We are committed to doing our part to inspire policymakers to use the city's resources to recreate systems to meet this urgent goal.

In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., **"There is nothing new about poverty. What is new, however, is that we have the resources to get rid of it."**

## 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 6 p.m.

#### Sponsorship opportunities available! Contact:

Christina Puppi,  
Corporate Partnerships and Events Associate  
cpuppi@breadfortheCity.org  
Phone: 202-480-8970



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