People won’t have to beat the odds if we change the odds.

- George A. Jones, CEO
Bread for the City
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When Bread for the City says we’re “Building on Good Hope,” our vision goes beyond the literal. Certainly, we are excited to be nearly 80% through construction for our expansive, three-story facility that will open on Good Hope Road next spring. But more than that, we’re honored to stand as a symbol of hope for DC residents living with low income and struggling with systemic inequity.

At the end of July 2019, a Washington Post article reported, “Unless you’re living in a household raking in nearly $133,000 a year, it’s probably hard to feel comfortable with the cost of living in the District.” For BFC clients --- seventy-five percent of whom have an income below $10,000 a year --- “comfortable” is not even close to being an option.

Often, poverty is communicated as unfortunate statistics: DC has one of the nation’s highest rates for pushing low-income residents, especially African-American residents, out of neighborhoods. 321,000 DC households are food insecure. Meanwhile, nationally, more than 38% of unemployed white citizens find work in less than five weeks while 41.7% of unemployed African-Americans remain unemployed for 15+ weeks. And we could go on …

But rather than only focusing on the negatives, we at Bread for the City choose to look toward the possibilities. Each day, in spite of all we see, our staff and board believe that it is possible for residents living with low-income to thrive in our city. We envision a city where progressive policy solutions support long-term residents, and we know that leaders in Washington, DC have the resources to remove the barriers of discrimination, segregation, and racism that unfortunately make poverty predictive based on race or zip code.

We challenge the DC Government to fully commit to policies that put workers, tenants, and their children over developers. Our city can repair public housing and make housing a right for all income levels. We can make healthy food options accessible, and we can invest in education to ensure that DC high school graduates are college and career ready. Bread for the City will continue to work with others to build the courage and political will to create these and other changes that will benefit not just residents living with low income, but all of us.

And while we work towards these big systemic changes, our doors in Northwest and Southeast DC will continue to remain open to help those with immediate needs each and every day.

The hope of those we serve is the hope of Bread for the City. Just like anyone else, hard-working DC residents living with low income want to suffer less and access more opportunities. With your help, Bread for the City can continue as an organization that alleviates the burden of poverty and supports individuals reaching toward a better future.

Sincerely,

George A. Jones
Chief Executive Officer

Jonathan Fee
Board President
At Bread for the City, we share a vision of Washington, DC as a nurturing community, where all residents have access to the basic material resources they need for survival and growth, and the prosperity of their social, emotional, and spiritual lives.

The mission of Bread for the City is to help Washington, DC residents living with low income to develop their power to determine the future of their own communities. We provide food, clothing, medical care, and legal and social services to reduce the burden of poverty. We seek justice through community organizing and public advocacy. We work to uproot racism, a major cause of poverty. We are committed to treating our clients with the dignity and respect that all people deserve.
In spring, Bread for the City will open the doors to our brand-new 27,650 square-foot center on Good Hope Road. Because of the generosity of our donor community, we’ve raised more than 83% of our ambitious project budget, and at present, construction work is more than 80% complete!

"Building on Good Hope" has been more than a campaign slogan, it’s what we hope to do in the Southeast community where we are based. Inequity has held too many of our DC neighbors in a vice grip for years, particularly those east of the Anacostia River in Wards 7 and 8. Lack of access to quality healthcare, or even any healthcare at all, has too often led to adverse or fatal health outcomes.

Immediately when our new Southeast Center opens, Bread for the City will bring our comprehensive medical services to Wards 7 and 8 for the first time. But we also recognize that equity, access, and quality of care in our exam rooms are only part of the wellness process, so in addition to medical, dental, and vision care, the new building will have space for mental health services, job training, and fitness. Plus, all of our familiar programs (food, clothing, legal, advocacy, and social services) will have bigger and better spaces in which to grow and thrive.

Our new Southeast Center will be a model for the region: holistic, wrap-around services that provide support to community members where they are, then helps organize those same people to use their power to reform the systems that perpetuate poverty in their communities. Join us at the grand opening in spring 2020 to learn more!

Contribute to the campaign at www.breadforthecity.org/goodhope
According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, there is a \(-30,438\) shortage of rental homes affordable and available to extremely low income renters in DC.

67% of these households currently spend more than half their income on housing.
Bread for the City’s two food pantries --- the largest in the District of Columbia --- are a vital support for many DC residents living with low income.

More than 8% of the 321,000 food insecure households in the city secure healthy grocery options monthly from Bread for the City, but like all social services nonprofits, we wish we could do more to meet the need. At present, our Southeast Center in Ward 8 sees 22.3% more food pick-ups than our Northwest Center. Among other things, this is a consequence of displacement, which has resulted in ever-increasing numbers of displaced low-income residents moving to the comparatively more affordable neighborhoods in Wards 7 and 8.

Thankfully, Bread for the City is there when our neighbors need us the most. In addition to the monthly five-day supply of food (based on household size) that all clients can receive, seniors (60+) in the Grocery Plus program pick up a supplemental 30 lb box of food each month. BFC also hosts two monthly Free Farmers Markets, sponsored by Capital Area Food Bank, which often see up to 200 attendees each.

YOU CAN HELP

Clearly, there is a significant need for healthy food options in the communities that Bread for the City serves. To help us do this work, we accept donations of healthy food year-round. Non-perishable foods in easy-to-open containers (pop-top cans, tear packages, etc.) are great for those who may not have a kitchen. Can openers and gift cards to local grocery stores can also make a difference! Feel free to drop off your donations at either BFC Center on Mondays - Thursdays between 9 am and 5 pm.

NATIONAL

37.2 million
households
11% food insecure

WASHINGTON, DC

321,000
households
10.6% food insecure

BREAD FOR THE CITY

76,437
food pantry visits which fed
25,927
DC residents
Thirty-five years ago, when he was just 21, Marco Thomas left the tobacco farm where he had worked with his grandfather and joined the Army. Since that departure, he hadn’t once planted a seed in the ground -- until Spring 2019, when he received a garden plot of his own at Bread for the City’s Southeast Center.

“The opportunity was there,” Thomas said, remembering the volunteer who introduced BFC’s SE Center garden as he stood in line to receive fresh produce at one of our monthly Farmers Markets. “I had been thinking about gardening for a long time, but I hadn’t acted on it.”

For months, Thomas had been watching gardening videos on YouTube, and mentally, he was gearing up to begin growing. “I was only thinking about doing it from my balcony. I had never thought about the community garden that was sitting here all the time!” he said.

During this year’s growing season, Thomas grew tomatoes, bell peppers, banana peppers, beets, collard greens, scallions, oregano, basil, thyme, rosemary, cilantro, and mint on the Southeast Center’s rooftop. He also tried dill and strawberry, but those didn’t turn out as well.

“All of them, I’ve used in my food dishes, from chicken to spaghetti to seasoning my meat ... hamburgers, all of that. I also dehydrated a lot of them to have fresh, dried vegetables. I also made two jars of fresh tomato sauce from the cherry tomatoes,” Thomas noted. When summer heat began to blaze, many clients gave up their gardens, but Thomas came faithfully multiple times each week to water and tend to his plants (and a few others that had been abandoned). Some of his produce grew so attractive that others plucked items he wanted to save.

“The current garden is not a perfectly controlled area,” he sighed. But Thomas hopes the garden program will continue in 2020 at the new SE Center. “I really want to grow my food organically and naturally.”

When asked what his grandfather might think about his garden plot, Thomas knew exactly what he’d say: “Good job, Marco.”

As workers dig deeper into savings to pay for bills and basic necessities, charities have started to offer supplementary outreach programs. Food bank Bread for the City, which normally caters to low-income residents in D.C., has extended its services to meet the needs of furloughed employees across the District, Virginia and Maryland. Starting this week, Bread for the City provides furloughed employees with five days’ worth of food once a month. The organization normally serves about 310 people per day, but within the first two days of extending service to furloughed workers, the number spiked to 530. Bread for the City has doubled its food orders to match demand.

“This is the first time in history that [the shutdown’s] been this long,” said food, clothing and facilities director Melissa Frazier, who also worked at Bread for the City during the government shutdown in 2013. “We’re coming together and trying to build our community for everyone that’s involved.”
Right now, Bread for the City’s clothing room is only slightly larger than a roomy walk-in-closet. Still, the popular space enjoys about 600 visits a month. And often, its visitors are looking for more than attire.

“It feels so good when we have the necessities for someone,” said Sharlene Blount, BFC’s Clothing Room Supervisor. “When people are getting started or getting back on their feet, they need everything — pots, pans, rugs, plates, sheets, blankets, pillowcases — I try to put those sorts of things in the back to ensure we have them when they’re really needed.”

Next spring, when BFC’s new Southeast Center opens, the clothing room will be closer to the size of a one-bedroom apartment and BFC’s vision for the space will expand as well.

“I look forward to having more room for defined sections ... for example, interview attire separate from casual clothing. I’d also love to group similar items by color. That way, it will be easier for people to find what they need, and people will have enough space to take their time to look,” said Blount.

Today, BFC clients visit the clothing room from 10 am to 2 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. The space offers books, small household goods, and, of course, clothing for all ages and occasions, free of charge. Toiletry packs (often containing soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, lotion, shampoo, conditioner, and other products) are also distributed through the clothing program.

“We have these things to give because so many people donate to Bread for the City,” said Blount. “We couldn’t do it without them.”

“CLOTHING

Bread for the City’s clothing room regularly experiences shortages of men’s clothing in good condition. Encourage the men you know to donate pieces they no longer use at either BFC Center Monday - Thursday between 9 am and 5 pm. Explore breadforthecity.org/wishlist to learn more about other items the center can use!”

“YOU CAN HELP

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“I thank everybody for accepting me and letting me come in.”

Veronica Martin (mother of two)
BFC Client, Volunteer, and PEP Intern
Seventy-one percent of households living with low-income report they experienced at least one civil legal problem in 2016. The rate is even higher for certain households, including those with survivors of domestic violence or sexual assault (97%), with parents/guardians of children under 18 (80%), and with persons who have a disability (80%).

Seven in ten Americans living with low-income say they have recently experienced a civil legal problem that significantly affected their lives.

One in four households living with low-income report they have experienced 6+ civil legal problems over a one-year period.

Americans living with low-income seek professional legal help for only 20% of the civil legal problems they face.

(Learn more in the Legal Services Corporation report, “The Justice Gap: Measuring the Unmet Civil Legal Needs of Low-Income Americans.”)
Bread for the City attorneys help DC residents overcome the hurdles that make it difficult to resolve important justice issues. No one should be excluded from the protection of the law just because they cannot pay, so BFC’s legal team offers free legal help in the areas of housing, family, immigration, and public benefits law.

Over the past fiscal year, the BFC legal team has:

- Closed 1,336 matters in which we provided District residents with advice, brief service, or representation in matters concerning basic human needs, including securing safe, affordable housing; getting protection from domestic violence; and maintaining critical income supports like Food Stamps.

- Provided referrals or legal information to an additional 4,761 community members who needed assistance navigating the legal system and connecting to free legal help.

- Launched its new immigration practice, providing needed representation in securing lawful immigration status for immigrant survivors of domestic and family violence. A BFC attorney has been working with children arriving from Central America without a parent or guardian, securing safe custodial placements and obtaining immigration status so these children can live safely in the United States. She has also been representing adult immigrant clients who have suffered domestic violence or crime in the U.S. and are eligible for certain immigration protections.

- Addressed problems with the District’s administration of the EPD (Elderly and Persons with Physical Disabilities) waiver program, which has resulted in widespread reduction and termination of home health aide hours for seriously ill District residents. BFC legal staff has begun representing District residents in fair hearings to fight the deprivation of this vital benefit.

- Fought against the District’s dramatic loss of affordable housing. BFC’s Community Lawyering Project (CLP) represented 5 buildings with 618 units in Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act, rent control related, and public housing redevelopment matters. In addition, through 11 legal clinics hosted collaboratively with other providers and organizers, the CLP helped 97 individual tenants file proofs of claim in a bankruptcy proceeding involving their property, which could result in significant monetary awards as a result of unlivable housing code violations.
For government attorney Alison MacDonald, finding out she was pregnant led her to not only start planning for the arrival of her first child, but also to start volunteering with Bread for the City’s Domestic Violence Community Legal Services Project, through which she received training and mentoring to handle BFC’s most sensitive cases.

“The research on incidents of domestic violence during pregnancy can be shocking,” MacDonald said. “I wanted to make sure that survivors of domestic violence had the support they needed to get the safety and stability they sought for themselves and their children.”

During 2019, MacDonald took on two Civil Protection Order cases in the Domestic Violence Division of D.C. Superior Court. In both cases, her BFC clients received the orders of protection they sought, ensuring that their abusers were required to stay away from them, and also obtained temporary custody of their children. Often, temporary custody orders are critical to a survivor’s sense of safety and ability to protect their children.

“I had an interest in providing direct client representation, which is not something I get to do in my day job. The domestic violence cases are the cases where you can have a really big impact in a pretty short period of time,” MacDonald said. “I feel it’s so important for people who are coming into that system to have someone by their side who can explain what’s happening ... and who can physically be there with them during a difficult and stressful time.”

And it’s not like MacDonald wasn’t busy. When she’s not volunteering, MacDonald serves as an attorney for a federal banking agency, writing banking laws and regulations. She is also one of her agency’s pro bono program coordinators, which is how she first learned about Bread for the City.

“This has been some of the most personally rewarding work that I have done as an attorney,” said MacDonald. “You can see the impact of your work immediately in these cases.”
“Bread for the City is a wonderful organization that helps people and makes an impact. Now, it should expand its vision.”

Vivian Mercer
President, Client Advisory Council

CLIENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
2009 TO PRESENT
MORE THAN 10 YEARS OF SERVICE TO BREAD FOR THE CITY

Bread for the City’s Client Advisory Council (CAC) offers feedback and insight to help the organization better provide meaningful and impactful programming and services. The CAC also works with staff on outreach efforts, advocacy, and accountability.

Vivian Mercer  President
Michelle Woodward  Vice-President
Christie Gardner  Secretary
Charles Crews  Sergeant at Arms
Tony Lawson  Treasurer
Terri Acker  BFC Staff Advisor

CAC Community Day 2019
ADVOCACY

Through community organizing, racial equity work, and other advocacy efforts, Bread for the City seeks to undo the roots of systemic poverty in Washington, DC.

Building power for change is about more than protesting. It’s about teaching people how power works and helping them to truly believe that their individual voice has impact. Bread for the City’s Advocacy Department is helping our community to imagine a better world and work together to create it. Our collective voices have the potential to not only change the issues on the table, but to also change who sits at that table.

Over the past year, BFC’s advocacy team added a second staff organizer, hosted a retreat for its COREE client leadership group, and began hosting political education sessions to support BFC’s “Right2DC” campaign to preserve and expand public housing.
Bread for the City’s staff and clients are often quoted in local media.

Here’s some of what they said:

“Go-go culture, to be frank, was historically created by people who came from neighborhoods that are often overlooked. When you look at displacement that’s happening in the city, these are the same neighborhoods. Black and brown people who are living on low income, who created this culture and made D.C. what it is today are being pushed out.”

Aja Taylor, Advocacy Director
Washington Post (April 10, 2019)

“We continue to believe that off-site storage for 30 days is essential for families who are evicted. Eviction has a devastating effect on families. If an evicted tenant is confident that their belongings are secure, they can focus their efforts on finding another place to live or accessing the shelter system. The catastrophic effects of eviction are only compounded by the bill.”

Rebecca Lindhurst, Managing Attorney
The Washington Times (July 10, 2018)

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Rebecca Lindhurst, Managing Attorney
The Washington Times (July 10, 2018)

“In my view, I think [DCHA has] lost sight of its actual goal and mission, which is to help people remain and stay housed. It’s looking for an easy way out and being incredibly draconian in the application of regulations, and in some cases making up regs in order to eliminate certain people from programs and reduce people from the waitlist.”

Esther Adetunji, BFC Supervising Attorney
Washington City Paper (May 1, 2019)

“We see flat-out voucher discrimination. Landlords who actually advertise that they don’t accept vouchers — or more subtle discrimination, where landlords use credit history or past eviction as a pretext to not rent to a voucherholder.”

Rebecca Lindhurst, Managing Attorney
WAMU 88.5 (April 12, 2019)

D.C. minimally needs $400 million in annual affordable housing investments to address an out of control affordable housing crisis that sees Black and other people of color displaced at alarming rates. This budget isn’t a fair shot, it’s a bullet to the heart of people who pinned their hopes on a native Washingtonian mayor who sold them out to developers.”

Aja Taylor, Advocacy Director
Curbed Washington, DC (March 19, 2019)

“Frankly, I wish we were wrong. What this means is the risk to families can no longer be claimed as conjecture: This is real.”

Aja Taylor, Advocacy Director
Washington Post (August 6, 2018)
By combining action with compassion, our case managers, social workers, and counselors helped to fulfill concrete needs, advocate for our community; and provide individuals with needed support.

Our Social Services Program offers a range of direct services while working to make larger systems change. In alignment with Bread’s larger commitment to Racial Equity and Trauma Informed Care, our services and practices are designed and offered through those models.

Over the past year, Bread for the City’s Social Services team conducted nearly 9,000 visits with DC residents.

Representative Payee Program
4,000 monthly financial transactions for 895 clients

Bread for the City provides representative payee services to Washington, DC residents who need assistance in managing their personal financial affairs. The Representative Payee Program (RPP) provides payee services, in collaboration with the DC Department of Behavioral Health (DBH), to consumers with chronic mental illness who are referred by a case manager of DBH or an affiliated Core Service Agency. We help DBH clients manage various types of income, including Social Security benefits (retirement or disability), Supplemental Security Income, and Civil Service Pensions. Most recently, we have partnered with a Racial Equity Consultant to conduct interviews and focus groups with current RPP clients. Our goal is to increase opportunities and pathways for greater financial independence within the program and for those who wish to become their own payee.

Women Empowered
43 clients

Most women who enter Women Empowered have suffered trauma in the past that is impacting their present wellness. The program provides supportive interventions that will strengthen core areas of their lives, including mental health and physical health, improving social ease, providing space for spiritual development, and learning.
Care Management

Our Care Management team is integrated into the medical clinic to provide assessment, resources, follow-up and caring touches to assist patients in meeting their wellness goals. The team recognizes the way social and environmental factors can be barriers to wellness and works with patients to mitigate these risks.

We also staff the Health Resource Room, where medical patients can sign up for patient portal, access health information and wellness programs, navigate the healthcare system, and obtain information about social service resources internally and externally, including a SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery) specialist who can assist patients in the application process for Social Security disability benefits.

Systems Change

Bread for the City has been working with DC PACT (a coalition of medical, government, and social service providers) to better coordinate resource delivery and resource information to individuals living with low income. Our goal is to make it easier for clients to access services and information while making the fewest trips possible and without having to repeat their stories at different agencies, which often have the same questions. In this coordinated model, providers will be able to access shared information, allowing for better coordination of care and a more respectful use of our clients’ time and energy.

Bread for the City’s Social Services team is also working with our own Food Department to address food insecurity in the DC community. We are piloting a Food Home model, where instead of being limited to the regular five-day supply of food per month, a pilot group of medical patients will be offered additional food or resources to help ensure sufficient food for the entire month. Through ongoing interviews, the Social Services team will assess clients’ levels of food security, as well as monitor health and behavioral health outcomes as a result of a more coordinated and streamlined system of food delivery. We’re hopeful that this model can be spread in the future to create a more streamlined system throughout Washington, DC.
HEALTHCARE

In 2019, Bread for the City was awarded two new badges from The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for our work as a “Health Disparities Reducer” and “Access Enhancer.”

A federally qualified health center (FQHC), Bread for the City provides healthcare for all ages, regardless of ability to pay. As a “medical home,” we embed dental, vision, and behavioral health right in our primary care clinic so that patients can get all of their needs met in one place. This allows our doctors to offer high-quality, coordinated, comprehensive services, including examinations, job and school physicals, medications, lab tests, and referrals.

- **PRIMARY CARE**
  - Physicals, Lab Tests, Medications, Needle Exchange, Asylum Examinations

- **DENTAL**
  - Dental Cleanings, Extractions, Dentures, X-Rays

- **VISION**
  - Screenings, Medication Management, Minor Surgical Procedures

- **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**
  - Counseling, Short-term Interventions, Treatment Plans, Wellness Supports

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<th>Latino</th>
<th>Other / Declined Question</th>
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Able Putu acknowledges that he’s had a “tough time,” but his life philosophy is simple: “I don’t let my disability hold me down. I don’t let nothing hold me down.”

With legs that were damaged during premature birth, Putu relies on a wheelchair to get around. For two years, he could be found sleeping on the streets near Gallery Place and in local shelters, and he was mistreated and discriminated against. Twice, everything he owned was stolen, so today, when he’s in a new place, he straps his backpack to his legs instead of allowing it to hang on the back of his chair.

In the midst of these trials, Putu found one great joy: wheelchair basketball! One day as he played at Kennedy Recreation Center on 7th Street, another player pointed him to the Northwest Center of Bread for the City (just one block away) saying, “They will help you.”

Today, in addition to receiving food from BFC’s pantry, Putu’s finances are managed by our Representative Payee Program, whose assistance paying the rent on the subsidized apartment he received last October helps guarantee his ongoing stability. Plus, Putu is a patient of Bread for the City’s Medical Director, Dr. Randi Abramson.

“She’s a good doctor for everybody,” said Putu. Going beyond basic medical care, Putu remembers how Dr. Randi helped him acquire a quality wheelchair after he received a broken one from an insurance scammer. He also remembers her helping him when he had trouble with his Metro Access pass. “I was treated good from the time I came in. I appreciate everything Bread for the City is doing,” said Putu. “They’ve helped me be more independent. Now, I want to give back.” In addition to occasional service as a BFC volunteer, Putu sells Street Sense newspapers and shares what he has with those who still don’t have a place to call home.
Overall cancer incidence was 59 percent higher among black residents compared with white residents in Washington, DC.

Residents of Wards 7 and 8 have higher rates of heart disease, diabetes, and obesity, compared with other wards.

In DC, 60 percent of adults enrolled in Medicaid managed care with a diagnosis of depression have an unmet need for depression care.

Fewer than 10 percent of DC grocery stores are located in Wards 7 and 8, even though 50 percent of the city’s youth live there.
The provided financials are unaudited. Please visit https://breadforthecity.org/financial-statements/ to review the final calculations.
Individual and Nonprofit Donors

$50,000+
David and Rose Donovan
Irene and Edward H. Kaplan
Jacqueline B. Mars
Lora and Jeffrey Drezner
Loren Mayor and Alex Hoehn-Saric
Marjorie Rachlin
Ms. Marie L. Hesselbach
Roger and Carolyn Johnson
Sandy Wood and Danielle Knight

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Elizabeth Wehrle
Geoffrey Garin and Debbie Berkowitz
Jessie M. Harris and Woody Cunningham
Michael Thomas and Sheridan Strickland
Ronald and Anne Abramson

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A. Katherine Toomey
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Daniel J. Grooms III and Susanne E. Sachsman
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The Honorable Gladys Kessler
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Barbara Easterling
Betty Dunlap
Brenda K. Edwards
Brian and Claire O’Dea
Carolyn Peery and Malcolm B. Haslam
Charles Gilligan
Chris Mundy
Colbert I. King
Cynthia M. Krus and George Corey
Dana and Mary Grubb
Daniel and Roxana Geffen
David and Deborah Astrove
Dennis and Carol Lane
Dennis Deloria and Suzanne Thouvenelle
Doreen Kyere
Eli Kaplan
Erwin Gudelsky
Gail Memler
Gardiner Lapham
George and Carol Jones
Gerard Waldron
Herbert and Jane Stevens
Ira and Marilyn Polon
Jack and Laura Summer
James and Margaret Young
James and Sherrie Croker
Janet and Michael Cornfeld
Jeetander Dulani
Jen and Dan and Jennifer Mendelson

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Kathleen Zimpleman
Keith Egan
Kenton Campbell
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Mary Patrice Brown and Joel Kleinman
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Maureen Woods
Melanie Dorsey and Daniel Standish
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N. James and Ellen Myerberg
Nancy Polikoff and Cheryl Swannack
Nazanine Atabaki
Nicholas Burger and Dawn Alley
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For media inquiries or to arrange an interview with any of the above staff members, please contact communications@breadforthecity.org
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