



Dear Bread for the City  
Family,

The safest communities in America are the ones that are best resourced. Think about that. When I think about true community safety, I think about our client community at Bread for the

City. I think about the men and women who want the best for their neighborhoods. And while some try to justify band-aid solutions to “solve” violence and crime, these stop-gap measures often harm those who need security the most. Those who feel the most exposed and vulnerable in the face of increasing violent crime *and* the over-policing that disproportionately harms their families.

At Bread for the City, we aren’t afraid to look racism in the eye. With help from faithful supporters like you, we’re leveraging pillars of our strategic plan—antiracism and racial equity, systems reform, new and improved client services, and sustainability—to help realize our mission of an antiracist Washington, DC, for *all* residents.

For example, we offer free racial equity training on systemic racism. At these classes, community members learn about the history of racism, read about the policies created to harm people of color (particularly Black people), and take in the hard facts and data about racial disparities.

*The point is to try to demystify racism so we can work toward finding real solutions to problems like city violence while undoing racism in DC and the rest of the country.*

And the training is already sparking change! In response to attending one of our sessions, several policymakers created and passed the Racial Equity Achieves Change (REACH) Act, requiring all new legislation in the DC City Council to be subjected

to a Racial Equity Impact Assessment before any votes are taken. As a result, policymakers are forced to think critically about how certain proposals could affect communities of color like expanding the police force.

*And this is only the beginning.* But now is a critical time to be an active member in the fight against racism. As we face an uncertain economic future, public funding should be put to good work, resourcing historically marginalized communities in need of direct services.

You and I both know social programs that assist residents living in poverty help to create safer neighborhoods. That’s why I’m so grateful for people like you who are working with Bread for the City to seek justice for our community members who have been historically marginalized and are still being overlooked—or worse, *targeted*—by many policymakers today.

We are making Washington, DC, an antiracist city, and I’m thrilled people like you have joined us on our mission.

As you read through our latest newsletter, I hope these articles make you feel courageous and appreciated for the bold role you play in making Washington, DC, a nurturing community—one in which *all* residents have access to the basic material resources needed for survival and growth.

Thank you for everything you do for our neighbors.

Sincerely,



George A. Jones  
Chief Executive Officer

# FOOD PANTRY REOPENING: TRANSFORMING THE CLIENT EXPERIENCE

As part of Bread for the City's strategic plan to center our work and services on the client experience, we recently reimagined our food pantries so they provide a more dignifying and empowering experience than a typical food bank.

At both our Northwest and Southeast locations, DC residents have access to nutritious foods like fresh fruit, vegetables, meat, and shelf-stable items. But what makes our approach different is its unique grocery store layout, designed to make clients comfortable and give them more choices about what goes in their grocery bags.

When visiting one of our food pantries, all someone needs is their current ID and proof of household size. Based on the number of people in the home, a client receives points they exchange for groceries. A staff member walks them through the process and takes them through the aisles while explaining the options available to the client.

We understand that everyone has personal preferences—maybe you don't like peas? Then feel free to swap that out for a can of fruit. Or perhaps someone in the household has an allergy. Our new points system allows clients to avoid certain foods when necessary.

And, with choice comes agency. Our restructured food pantry is a testament to our commitment to offering a respectful and dignified experience to all our clients, where people from all walks of



life, regardless of their race or socioeconomic background, are treated with respect.

This revamped pantry model not only enhances the client experience but also streamlines site management. The operation of our food pantries is now far more sustainable, aligning with a crucial aspect of our new strategic mission—to evolve in response to changing times with an unwavering focus on sustainability. This forward-thinking approach will ensure that Bread for the City will be around to continue to serve DC's residents for many years to come.

Thank you for making it possible for Bread for the City to rethink how we provide direct services. Your generosity and partnership have been critical in making Bread for the City what it is today—a social justice organization striving to support our clients as we build power in our communities.



# COMMUNITY EVENTS



## JUNETEENTH BLOCK PARTY RECAP

On Saturday, June 17, 2023, Bread for the City and Mema's Poppups threw our second annual Juneteenth for the City. This epic community block party served as a commemorative platform to honor the end of slavery and promote unity, reflection, and celebration. The streets were filled with music, performances, and thought-provoking talks about history.

The event drew in neighbors, friends, and family who had the chance to enjoy a variety of foods and shop among small, local, Black women-owned businesses and artisans. But our Juneteenth gathering was more than a party—it was an exploration and a recognition of the profound struggles and triumphs experienced by Black Americans throughout the nation's history. Together, we embarked on a journey in recognition of both our progress from a painful past and the ongoing fight for equality.

By delving into the roots of racism and acknowledging its presence in our lives today, we are making strides toward an antiracist DC in which we can all thrive. We hope to see you at next year's Juneteenth for the City event to continue to learn, celebrate, and think critically together!

## DID YOU KNOW...?

The Michelle Obama Southeast Center of Bread for the City offers more than just food, medical, and dental services to DC residents living with low income... It also serves as a hub for fun community events! From wellness seminars to confidence-building workshops, budgeting classes to yoga sessions, there's something for everyone on the calendar each month. Come discover a new hobby, learn how to make a new dish, or even take part in a discussion-based workshop led by one of our Racial Equity Managers. One example of a workshop you might join is *Housing Justice 101*, a class led by Racial Equity Manager CAM which outlines current housing issues in DC and proposes potential housing justice strategies.



To join us for an upcoming session, check out [www.breadforthe-city.org/events](http://www.breadforthe-city.org/events)

## HOLIDAY HELPINGS

Navigating the holidays can be tough for DC residents living with low income. That's why for more than three decades Bread for the City has provided additional support to our neighbors during the holiday season. Don't miss the chance to be part of this special tradition!

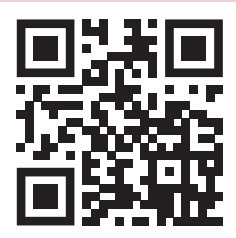


*Holiday Helpings* is an annual campaign that offers community members experiencing hardship a turkey dinner with all the fixings. More than that, people also receive direct monetary aid in the form of flexible debit cards. Each year, we reach thousands of local families with the best of both worlds—a gift of choice and a meal on the table.

So mark your calendars! With your help, we can ensure the spirit of the season extends to every home, heart, and table that needs it in our beloved DC community. Let's make this a truly special season for all!

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

Donate food, clothing, household supplies, or other items from our Amazon Wish List! Just visit <https://a.co/h7pbyll> → the next time you're shopping.



**HERE ARE SOME OF OUR MOST-NEEDED ITEMS THIS WINTER:**

- ✓ Diapers of varying sizes
- ✓ Children's pajamas
- ✓ Grocery store gift cards
- ✓ Canned fruit, vegetables, and fish
- ✓ Pots and pans
- ✓ Bedding and towels

Looking for other ways to help?  
Visit [www.breadforthe.org/give](http://www.breadforthe.org/give) today!

# VOLUNTEERS WANTED



**We need you!** As a community-centered organization, the ongoing efforts at Bread for the City would be impossible without the dedication and care of volunteers who help us provide food, clothing, delivery services, and more for clients. Each weekday, we need at least 10 volunteers at our Northwest Center to pack bags of food for distribution—and every Tuesday and Thursday, volunteers are needed in the Michelle Obama Southeast Center of Bread for the City for the diaper delivery program. The Southeast Center is also expanding new services each day with more opportunities to make a tangible impact on our community.

**Sign up today at: <https://rb.gy/x98fu>**

(NOTE: All volunteers are required to be fully vaccinated. Social distancing and masks are also required while volunteering to ensure public safety. If you have professional experience [medical/legal], please be sure to view the unique sections for work in your field.)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT** of Bread for the City. Visit [www.breadforthe.org/Fall-News-23](http://www.breadforthe.org/Fall-News-23) to make a special tax-deductible gift by filling out the enclosed form.

To help even faster, donate online by scanning the code with your smartphone.



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