



Dear Bread for the City family,

As we immerse ourselves in the richness of Black History Month this February, I find myself deeply moved by the unwavering dedication and support from community members like you who

actively share our mission of uplifting Washington, D.C., residents in need. Your commitment fuels our journey toward a brighter, more inclusive future for all.

Bread for the City is examining the connection between race and poverty, which directly impacts the quality of life in D.C. Your support is instrumental as we strive to dismantle systemic injustices that disproportionately impact our Black and brown communities, and your generosity makes me optimistic about the future we're building together. I'm eager to witness the impactful strides we'll make together in the year ahead.

As we progress into 2024, your support is sharpening Bread for the City's focus on adapting current operations, adding bold new programs, and strengthening our advocacy work in response to our community's ever-changing economic and social needs. This includes legal advice and representation, medical care, social services, clothing and food programming, advocacy, and community organizing.

Because of our generous supporters, we can offer top-of-the-line wraparound services that meet the needs of our clients. One initiative fueled by donors that stands at the forefront of our efforts is the **Terrance Moore Organizing Institute**.

Terrance Moore, a former client, envisioned Bread for the City as a hub for community organizing—an institute where community members could unite to ignite positive change. Sadly, in 2015, Moore was tragically killed while sleeping in his car. Yet, his

vision thrives in the Terrance Moore Organizing Institute—an initiative empowering our community by instructing and training individuals on the art of petitioning, protesting, and more, all aimed at fostering tangible change. Through this program, several hundred individuals have been empowered to lead campaigns and engage local politicians on pressing issues that directly impact their lives.

With your support, you actively enable Bread for the City to translate our commitment into concrete action and advocacy at an organizational level. Together, we confront and challenge systemic issues head-on. As an example, we recently filed a federal lawsuit against the District of Columbia: ***Bread for the City v. District of Columbia*** which challenges the city's unfair emergency response practice, declaring it a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act. For more about this topic, turn to "Advocating for Those Who Need the Most" on page two of this newsletter.

Moreover, we anticipate accomplishing so much more to support our mission of creating an equitable, just, and anti-racist Washington, D.C., for all.

In the new year, I hope you are equally reinvigorated as myself to continue our progress and promise to Washington, D.C. residents to create a world where equity and justice aren't just ideals, but a lived reality. I am so grateful for your heartfelt support.

Together, let's take more action and make 2024 a landmark year for change and growth in our community!

Sincerely,



George A. Jones
Chief Executive Officer

PUTTING BREAD FOR THE CITY'S STRATEGIC PLAN INTO ACTION

2024 marks the halfway point of Bread for the City's six-year strategic plan. From now through 2027, we are focused as an organization on five main areas of change and reform to make ourselves stronger, more resilient, and support all our neighbors as they thrive.

As you know, central to Bread's mission is our profound dedication to be a leader of **antiracism** and **racial equity** in and outside the workplace. These values are at the forefront of our direct client services where we ensure we create an equitable environment for our neighbors. And these efforts don't stop at direct client services; we also incorporate antiracism and racial equity in our internal initiatives to ensure a safe environment for our staff who serve our clients every day. Lastly, we ensure community voices lead our organizational strategy to broaden programs that tackle racial disparities and build bridges of understanding.

At the same time, we champion **systemic reform** by deepening our commitment to advocacy and government relations through education and advocacy. This aspect of our strategic plan is intertwined with every service we offer, ensuring we address these systems through policy advocacy and partnering with organizations and coalitions with shared values.

In addition, you help us prioritize the innovation of **new and improved client services** to allow us to adapt to meet the changing needs of the people we proudly serve and serve even more neighbors. We're creating pathways to enhance and tailor our existing client services and operations to meet the needs of the community and maximize impact. And through new client services, we identify and optimize opportunities to provide direct support and assistance to historically underserved people and divested communities.

Finally, with your help, we can ensure **sustainability** through ensuring resources and capacity to reach strategic goals, and maintain and expand programs.

As we begin 2024, please remember that your support, in any form, is so much more than a contribution—it's a partnership to create lasting change. Thank you!

To learn more about our strategic plan, please visit our website at www.breadforthe.org/our-strategic-plan.



HOLIDAY HELPINGS: A SEASON OF JOY & EQUITY

This past holiday season, Bread for the City kicked off our 31st Holiday Helpings campaign. Thanks to the generosity of supporters like you, and a \$200,000 donation from Amazon, we achieved our goal of raising **\$1.5 million**. This allowed us to provide 12,950 D.C. residents living with low incomes a hearty turkey (or chicken) dinner, which wouldn't have been possible without you.

While Holiday Helpings is a long-standing tradition, the 31st anniversary of the campaign was infused with a deeper purpose. We intentionally maximized our impact while emphasizing the importance of equity. In a groundbreaking move, **we expanded our mobile food delivery services to help bring holiday supplies directly to residential buildings** in addition to our community centers' two on-site distribution locations.

The success of this year's campaign has been nothing short of remarkable—and it's all thanks to you. The joy brought to thousands of D.C. residents was palpable, highlighting the importance of our work and the strength of our community. Thank you for your generosity that fuels our mission and ensures joy and equity remain at the heart of every holiday season.



ADVOCATING FOR THOSE WHO NEED THE MOST

At Bread for the City, we stand up for what's right.

Recently, we initiated a legal action—*Bread for the City v. District of Columbia*—to challenge the unjust treatment of individuals with mental health disabilities seeking assistance from emergency services. Presently, in Washington, D.C., police officers are dispatched to individuals undergoing mental health emergencies upon calling 911, rather than medical responders.

District residents who are experiencing a medical emergency should receive emergency care from health providers, not the police—just as people experiencing physical health emergencies require medical responders. Our city's current policy is discriminatory and violates both the Americans with Disabilities Act *and* the Rehabilitation Act. Together, we can change this.

Your support in 2024 will play a pivotal role in both our legal efforts and our broader initiatives to address disparities across D.C. Thank you for everything you do to champion the rights of those in need, and I look forward to the year ahead.

GEORGE JONES: NONPROFIT LEADER OF THE YEAR!

We want to give a heartfelt congratulations to our CEO, George Jones, for being named the Nonprofit Leader of the Year by Washington Business Journal!

Jones was recognized for his steadfast leadership of Bread for the City during and through the COVID-19 pandemic, prioritizing staff morale and avoiding burnout while continuing to provide and innovate the way wrap-around services reach Bread's clients.

Washington Business Journal cited Jones's intentional approach to leadership through tumultuous times as a standout model in the nonprofit sector. Congratulations, George!



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Wish List

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.breadfortheCity.org/give today!

MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE WITH A "SMALL FAVOR"

Beyond our wrap-around services, Bread for the City also fields requests from clients who are experiencing an emergency need, like an imminent eviction.

To help those clients, we've created the Small Favors Fund. The Small Favors Fund is a special project that provides a one-time grant to clients to help cover expenses like groceries, rent, and utilities when they are facing a crisis.



To give to the Small Favors Fund, please go to <https://breadfortheCity.org/donation/smallfavors/> or scan the QR code.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF BREAD FOR THE CITY.

Visit www.breadfortheCity.org/Winter-News-24 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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