



Dear Bread for the City Family,

If you're receiving this newsletter, there's a good chance you already know what community care means. But what does community care look like?

This question often crosses my mind even though I see it in action every day at Bread for the City.

Community care could look like a bag of nourishing groceries or a free physical exam. It could look like clean clothes and diapers, sound legal advice, or connections to housing and job support. Community care could look like us, together, keeping each other safe and helping each other thrive.

Every person deserves to navigate the world with dignity, respect, and the power to make their own choices. We all deserve to be free from systemic oppression and pervasive racism.

Community care is sustainable, diverting valuable resources that would otherwise be wasted. George Washington University's Green Move Out Day initiative prevents more than 30,000 pounds of reusable items every year

from ending up in landfills. Those clothes, shoes, non-perishable food items, and bedding help keep our community members clothed and fed.

Community care means looking after your neighbors—unconditionally, without judgment—knowing they would do the same for you. After decades of displacement, less than 300 Chinese residents remain in Washington, D.C.'s historic Chinatown. Together with **Save Chinatown D.C.**, we're fighting for an ethical redevelopment effort that considers the residents, including small business owners and low-income, working-class Black and AAPI residents.

As you read through the rest of this newsletter, know that *you* make everything we do possible with your compassion, generosity, and unwavering support. Thank you for being part of our community. I'm grateful you're here.

Sincerely,



George A. Jones
Chief Executive Officer



WITH DIGNITY, RESPECT, AND CHOICE

What many folks living below the federal poverty line often need more than anything else is *choice*. But pervasive intersecting oppressions—like poverty, racism, and sexism—demean dignity and restrict freedom.

At Bread for the City, a person's right to choose guides what we do. We are the experts of our own lives, and we all deserve the power to determine our needs, make decisions that best suit our circumstances, and feel in control over our futures.

To address inequities in the District and build a nurturing city where everyone can thrive, Bread's economic security initiatives—like the Small Favors Fund—help more of our neighbors remain housed without disruption. Community members in need of financial assistance receive a one-time emergency cash grant to help with rent, utilities, and more.

Our CashRx program is literally a prescription for cash, distributed monthly to help people living with chronic conditions like diabetes, high blood pressure, depression, and anxiety. This growing pilot program allows participants to request funds for rent, medical needs, or food.

Since 2020, Bread for the City has helped distribute \$6.8 million in direct cash transfers—and 54% of program participants have spent all, or almost all, of their funds on housing. This program combats the harmful narrative that if given a cash safety net, people won't spend it "responsibly"—but this idea is a deeply racist myth. People just want some relief from the constant strain of financial stress.

Our Representative Payee Program (RPP) partners with individuals living with chronic mental illness to manage their personal finances, including Social Security incomes (both retirement and disability), Supplemental Security Income, and Civil Service Pensions. And for our neighbors who are facing the risk of homelessness, we



spearhead a federal program called SOAR to ensure residents living with a disability get their Social Security benefits.

With the holidays right around the corner, the glow of spending time with loved ones and celebrating our blessings can be overshadowed by worry: *Will I have enough to eat?* Bread for the City is—and has always been—a food pantry that lets people choose their own groceries to accommodate preferences, allergies, and other dietary restrictions. It is now the largest food pantry in the city. And our abundant Rooftop Garden provides our community with fresh, seasonal produce—available at our Free Farmers Market on the first and third Fridays of each month in our Northwest center, in our pantry, or for folks to harvest themselves!

Thank you for being part of Bread for the City as we reimagine a Washington, D.C., that takes care of *all* its residents. Your generosity helps us provide care and resources directly to people who need them—and helps us build power and resilience within our communities.



JUNETEENTH BLOCK PARTY RECAP

In June, Bread for the City and Mema's Popups celebrated our third annual Juneteenth for the City! This joyous community block party was a testament to Black culture and resilience—and we honored Black liberation with 31 local Black-owned businesses, 10 moving performances, and 650 attendees who braved the heat to join us.

But this celebration is more than a party. It's a sacred moment to recognize the injustice that comes with being Black in America—and all the incredible strides our predecessors made in the fight for equality.

We hope to see you at next year's Juneteenth for the City event to continue to learn, celebrate, and think critically about our shared future. Learn more about the event by visiting breadforthecity.org/juneteenth.

LEGACY GIVING



We're so grateful that people like you are partnering with Bread for the City to improve inequities in the District so all our neighbors are empowered, resourced, and supported.

But deep-seated societal disparities

can take generations to rectify, so we must be prepared to feed our community, provide medical care to residents with low incomes, and support folks with referrals—no matter what. We're relying on you to power our services, so we hope you'll take that next step and strengthen your commitment to community care with a legacy gift today.

You can leave a legacy at Bread for the City by remembering us in your estate plans—or you can name Bread for the City as a beneficiary of your IRA, 401(k), or 403(b). Visit www.breadforthecity.org/give and click "Legacy Donors" for more information—and please reach out to us at development@breadforthecity.org with any questions. Thank you for your enduring kindness!

HOLIDAY HELPINGS PREVIEW

Navigating the holidays can be tough for D.C. residents living with low incomes. To address this, Bread for the City has provided additional support to our neighbors during the holiday season for more than three decades.



Holiday Helpings is an annual program that offers community members experiencing hardship a dinner with holiday meats and all the fixings of their choice. Each year, we reach thousands of local families with the best of both worlds—a gift of choice and a meal on the table.

Mark your calendars and don't miss the chance to be part of this special tradition! With your help, we can ensure the spirit of the season extends to every home, heart, and table that needs it in our beloved D.C. community. Let's make this a truly special season for all!

amazon.com[®] 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 the URLs below next time you're shopping:

<https://bit.ly/BFCWishList2>

<https://shorturl.at/Aqyln>

<https://shorturl.at/qAilR>

<https://shorturl.at/6ySVM>

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!

VOLUNTEERS WANTED



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 offer volunteer opportunities at our Northwest and Southeast centers to help support our food and clothing programs, including packing and distributing bags of food, and sorting, hanging, and arranging clothing for our Clothing Boutique in Southeast.

VISIT: <https://breadfortheCity.org/volunteer/#volunteer-opportunities> to learn more about our volunteer program and to sign up for an individual or group shift today.

[NOTE: All volunteers are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. 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.breadfortheCity.org/Fall-News-25 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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