

A Path Toward Stability and Opportunity

Dear Bread for the City Family,

As I reflect on 2026 marking my 30th year at Bread for the City, I keep coming back to the same truth: this work has always been a labor of love. It has never simply felt like a job.

For three decades, I've had the privilege of walking alongside DC residents as they face burdens no family should have to carry alone. Our mission is to help neighbors living with low income develop the power to determine the future of their own communities. Every day, that mission takes shape in practical, human ways: food when cupboards are thin, clothing when families need essentials, medical care when health cannot wait, and legal and social services when a system has placed too many barriers in the way.

I feel immense gratitude for the opportunity to work alongside so many incredible people who have made this possible, including you.

I've seen our staff, volunteers, partners, and community members extend that same care outward. When one person achieves stability, they reach back to help someone else do the same. That chain of compassion reflects the kind of community we're trying to build together: one where people are treated with dignity and respect, and where care does not stop with one person.

A bag of groceries protects a family today. A medical visit can prevent deeper harm. Legal and social services can help someone navigate barriers that shouldn't exist in the first place. But if we don't also challenge the racial and economic systems shaping those hardships, the burden simply returns.

That is why our work joins direct service with advocacy. We seek justice through community organizing and public advocacy because vulnerable people deserve more than temporary relief. They deserve the chance to shape their own future.

Thirty years into my time here, I am still convinced: these problems are solvable. And the evidence is in every family that found stability, every neighbor who learned to fight for their own rights, and every policy that opened a door that used to be closed.

When people show up for each other, systems change.

Thank you for helping to sustain hope, protect dignity, and nurture a stronger DC.



With gratitude,



George A. Jones
Chief Executive Officer
Bread for the City

Leadership and Legacy: Three Decades of Leadership

When George Jones joined Bread for the City thirty years ago, he made a bold commitment to DC. What has followed is a legacy built on vision, persistence, and an unwavering belief in what is possible when people come together for justice.

Under his leadership, a small food pantry and free medical clinic with an annual budget of \$1.2 million have grown into a multi-service organization with a budget exceeding \$23 million, reaching thousands of DC residents every year.

George doesn't just stay in his office. He packs grocery bags. He drives clients to board meetings and back home again. During the COVID-19 shutdown, he personally helped deliver supplies so staff could stay safe. He will joyfully show you the latest photos of his grandbabies. Because that is who George is—a leader whose love for his community is most visible not in recognition or titles, but in the moments when he simply shows up.

Bread for the City is stronger because of him. So is DC.

Public Benefits at Risk and How You Can Help

Federal and local policy changes are cutting access to programs DC residents depend on. Immigrant neighbors are losing health insurance. Federal work requirements are removing families from SNAP. New, complicated Medicaid paperwork requirements take effect in 2027.

Your gift helps Bread for the City respond:

- For a neighbor losing health coverage, our medical clinic provides free care regardless of insurance status.
- For a family cut from SNAP, our food pantry offers free groceries every month, no questions asked.
- For someone navigating red tape and Medicaid paperwork, our legal and social services teams help neighbors meet requirements and protect their benefits.

Every act of generosity, no matter the size, helps us advocate for policy change and respond to our neighbors' health and nutrition needs.



Cutting Through Red Tape: Legal Advocacy Secures Lifelines



By Hannah Eichner,
Staff Attorney & Equal Justice Works Fellow*

Serenity**, a 19-year-old college student, came to Bread's office for help. She was 39 weeks pregnant and had applied for Medicaid six months earlier, but despite repeated visits to the DC Department of Human Services (DHS), her application remained unprocessed, likely due to a computer error. Each time she went in person while she was meant to be on bed rest. In fact, her "bed rest" had been on friends' and family members' couches while experiencing homelessness.

I gathered all her documentation and contacted senior DHS officials. Within hours, her Medicaid was approved, just in time for her to give birth. I then helped her secure additional support: Medicaid for her baby, cash assistance (TANF), and food stamps (SNAP). While Medicaid and cash assistance were approved, her SNAP application was denied. DHS claimed that because of her age, Serenity belonged in her mother's SNAP household. This was incorrect. She had no stable home, which exempted her from that rule. I appealed, and DHS ultimately reversed its decision and approved her benefits. With the support of these public benefits, Serenity could care for her child and herself while remaining in college.

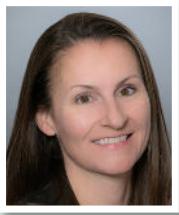
My fellowship experience has occurred during a devastating time in public benefits. Policy decisions have led to significant cuts and restrictions, shifting my focus from long-term improvements to urgent mitigation. As changes continue, more eligible residents risk falling through administrative gaps. Legal advocacy is essential for helping clients secure vital benefits. I am committed to this work for the long haul, and grateful to have started my career at Bread for the City!



**The Equal Justice Works fellowship is a two-year program designed to launch recent law school graduates into public interest legal careers. Hannah's fellowship is sponsored by Covington & Burling and Northrop Grumman. In the calendar year 2025 alone, Hannah helped obtain \$649,320 in benefits for District residents. This included costly home care aid.*

***Name changed for confidentiality.*

The Department of Human Services Cut People's Benefits. We're Stepping in to Help



By Allison Miles-Lee, Managing Attorney

Our DC community is reeling from budget cuts that have significantly reduced health insurance eligibility for too many residents.

The most immediate blow came in the form of Medicaid changes. Neighbors who had previously qualified were moved into a different plan with reduced benefits, leaving some without coverage for services like dental, vision, hearing, and certain prescription medications. Others were never enrolled in the new plan at all, even though they were eligible.

For many people, the first sign that anything had changed was a moment of crisis: standing at a pharmacy counter, or showing up to a doctor's appointment, and being told their insurance didn't work anymore.

Our legal and medical teams are working side by side to find neighbors who need help getting the right coverage and to make sure anyone who paid out of pocket during a gap gets reimbursed. We're also out in the community every Friday at our Farmers' Markets and at senior

housing buildings, because we'd rather reach people before this becomes a crisis than after.

Since this change, our teams have helped clients correct wrongful terminations, enroll in the right plan, and recover reimbursements for care they paid for out of pocket. Bureaucratic obstacles threaten neighbors' health and stability, but our legal advocacy helps them manage. For some, it opened a door to care that had been closed for months.

Real change happens one resolved case at a time.



Community in Action: From Holiday Helpings to Summer Support

Care often looks like neighbors showing up for one another in practical, generous ways.

During Holiday Helpings, donors and volunteers come together so DC families can mark the season with dignity. They gather food, pack bags, and shape a community effort with many steady hands. What could feel overwhelming for one family becomes lighter when people decide to carry it together.

That kind of support reminds families that they're seen, valued, and not alone. It protects a sense of belonging that every person deserves. When a holiday meal is within reach, it brings comfort and relief. It also sends a message: this community cares what happens to you.

The same spirit is carrying forward now.

(continued on p. 4)



(continued from p. 3)

As summer approaches, families across DC face a different set of pressures: kids lose access to school meals and higher temperatures lead to increased utility bills, making daily needs harder to meet.

Once again, our community is responding with commitment. The same neighbors who helped protect holiday traditions are helping to meet summer needs with the same steady care. That continuity says something powerful about who we are.

Compassion is not seasonal. It does not appear once and fade. It grows through shared effort. Every gift, volunteer hour, fundraiser, and message shared helps strengthen our community. Because of you, our neighbors are better supported, more connected, and more resilient.

Thank you for helping to build a community where care is not abstract. It is packed, carried, offered, and shared. And because of that, more families can move through the year feeling protected by the people around them.

Stay Connected in the Ways that Work for You

There are many ways to be part of this community, and not all of them involve making a gift. Whether you have time to share, items to give, or simply want to stay close to the work, we want it to feel easy to engage in the way that best fits your schedule, interests, and preferences.



Volunteer With Us

From staffing our food pantry to helping at our weekly Farmers Markets, volunteers are the backbone of what we do. This summer, we also need help at pop-up shops and clothing support events. If volunteering feels like the right fit for you, visit breadforthe.org/volunteer or contact us at volunteer@breadforthe.org.



Item Donations

Item donations can make an immediate difference for families. Diapers are one of our most-needed essentials right now. For current needs and drop-off information, please visit our website at breadforthe.org/diaper-program.

Our current needs:

- Diapers sized 3-6
- Pull-ups for potty-training babies
- Wipes
- Formula



Juneteenth for the City

If you'd like to connect in person, we'd love to welcome you to our annual Juneteenth celebration on Friday, June 19, from 1–4 PM at 1700 Marion Barry Ave SE. Hosted by Bread for the City and Mema's Popsups & Events, the afternoon will include live performances from local artists, Black-owned businesses and food trucks, and family-friendly activities. It's a celebration powered by the community and created for the community.

Connect with Us



Scan to help neighbors find stability. Fast, easy, and secure.