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Melbourne, FL 32901



1st Ever for Daily Bread!
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Daily Bread

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM OUR MAIN CAMPUS, FOOD WAREHOUSE AND THRIFT SHOP

APR / MAY 2017

CALENDAR

NEW!
STRAWBERRY
FESTIVAL
MARCH 25th & 26th
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LETTER CARRIERS
FOOD DRIVE
MAY 13th
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SUCCESS STORY:
YOU JUST HAVE
TO WANT IT
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YOU HAVE *GOT*
TO SEE THIS!
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OUR VISION & MISSION

Daily Bread's **vision** is to ensure everyone has access to the food and services necessary to become self-sufficient.

Daily Bread's **mission** is to improve the dignity and quality of life of the hungry and needy we serve. We do this by offering a daily free meal at our soup kitchen, supplying food to local agencies for redistribution to the needy and providing hygienic and social services, in collaboration with partners.

YOU JUST HAVE TO WANT IT

Regina Ray's life changed forever on March 20th, 2016. While getting ready for work, her boyfriend attacked her with a screwdriver, stabbing her 28 times. "I should be dead."

Originally from Orlando, Gina moved to Palm Bay in 1994. "I had small children and a baby, and I didn't want them growing up in Orlando." A high school honor student, Gina has worked in the restaurant business all her life. "I always did well in my positions and was well liked at my job." However, her husband became abusive and violent. She left him in 2007 and was divorced in 2012. "I was in a vulnerable position, and got into another relationship that went bad." Drugs and alcohol were a big part of the problem. "I was functioning, but he was a non-functioning addict." Gina was working two jobs while trying to make things right. "I have always tried to fix things." Their troubled lifestyle landed them on the street, living in her car. That's when Gina came across Daily Bread, around January 2013. "We could get a good meal, a shower, and clean clothes. They also helped with getting food stamps—anything you need. They are awesome, wonderful people!" But their pattern of drug and alcohol abuse led to domestic violence. "He was arrested four times in 2013, and after I pressed charges in 2014 he went to prison." A year later, Gina got a letter from him. He wrote that he didn't want to be the person he was, wanted a normal life, and couldn't forgive himself if he ever hurt her again. "I believed him." He left prison in June 2015 and got a job with a landscaping company. "I was going to NA and AA meetings and was clean, but I didn't have a job. He was going to work every day." But soon he relapsed, spending all his money on drugs and alcohol. Gina sought a change. Through the library, Gina found job opportunities in Boston, and they moved. "I got a job, and I got him a job." Things were fine there for about 3 weeks, but then he found drugs up there. After becoming publicly violent with Gina, he was arrested. "I decided to come back to Florida without telling him." Arriving in November 2015, she got a job and lived in a tent on a residential property, paying the homeowner \$50 a month to use the facilities. He showed up in February 2016, but had a March court date in Boston. He stayed with her, but on March 19th he got high and missed his bus. When Gina left to get away from him, he dragged her back to the tent. The house owner came out, told him to stay in the tent, and let Gina sleep in the house on a lounge chair. The next morning, when she went to the tent to get her shoes for work, he attacked her.



After 5 days in the hospital, they were going to make her leave before she was able. "I called Daily Bread and John Farrell came and fought for me—I got to stay another day." From there she went to a domestic violence center. A year later, Gina is still recovering with hopes of going back to work. Now clean and sober, she goes to support meetings and counseling every week. "I'm blind in my right eye, but I survived—I believe God saved me." Counseling has helped her realize the truth. "I used to be afraid all the time, now I'm not. I no longer think I have to try and fix everything, and I realize alcohol doesn't solve anything. And, I've learned to love myself." Gina lives in Orlando but wants to move back to Palm Bay to be near her adult children. "When I was on the streets I rarely saw my kids—I see them regularly now." Gina intends to go back to school to become a domestic violence advocate. "I want to help people, and I believe everyone can do better—you just have to want it."

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR . . .

Yesterday was Groundhog Day tomorrow is Easter Times are certainly changing!

With Christmas and New Year's in the past, we now look toward Spring. Yesterday, the groundhog saw its' shadow, so six more weeks of winter. Yet for us it's been a mild, warm winter so far. It certainly is less hard on the homeless than it could have been, . . . thank God.

On a personal note, I began weekly chemotherapy on January 30th and daily radiation treatments to battle lung cancer. I'm working out of my home to avoid infection, and am blessed that I feel no ill effects so far and can continue to work. Thanks to all of you for your support and prayers!

I am excited about our first Strawberry Festival and seeing so many volunteers, sponsors, and committee working so hard on so great a project! We have a true opportunity to involve many others, acquaint them with Daily Bread's mission, and accept their volunteerism and participation. I have no doubt it will be a memorable event, and the first of many to follow.

At the end of March, we will say goodbye to two great men who have helped make our mission successful. Greg LaVanture will be retiring as Manager of our Food Bank Warehouse. We certainly thank him for his efforts over the years, turning our warehouse into a well managed, efficient and productive Food Bank. There is not enough space on this page to convey all the thanks Greg deserves!

Joe Gassman will also move on to become the Orlando Diocesan Director of Diaconate—a position that he was meant for! We thank him for such a great job as Director of Operations and for his tireless efforts to advance our mission. We will miss him, but certainly understand his greater mission and passion for serving God.

Yes, times are changing, and we welcome all the new volunteers, donors, and service partners that will enable us to expand our efforts to serve the poor, hungry, and homeless of South Brevard County.



John Farrell

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BRINGING BACK THE FESTIVAL!

Register Now: <http://dailybreadinc.org/events/strawberry-festival-2017> or call 321-723-1060! Encouraged by the community, the Strawberry Festival is back, now benefitting Daily Bread!

DAILY BREAD, INC.

Strawberry Festival

FREE ADMISSION

"A sweet Brevard tradition!"

March 25 & 26

SAT 10 AM - 7 PM SUN 10 AM - 5 PM

Family fun on the Palm Bay campus of EFSC*

FOOD COURT concession foods + all things strawberry!
KID ZONE bounce houses, ride-on train, activities
ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW
ENTERTAINMENT BY TIMMY VEE
OPEN CAR & BIKE SHOW (Saturday)
PANCAKE BREAKFAST (Sunday)
5K RUN/WALK (Sunday)

Proceeds to benefit the mission of Daily Bread, Inc., ensuring everyone has access to the food and social services necessary to become self-sufficient.

*Eastern Florida State College Palm Bay Campus - 250 Community College Pkwy, Palm Bay, Florida
www.DailyBreadInc.org - (321) 723-1060

25th ANNUAL LETTER CARRIERS "STAMP OUT HUNGER" FOOD DRIVE!

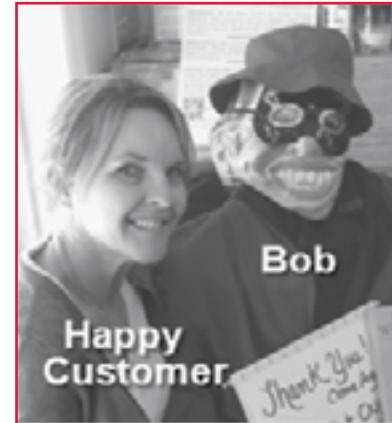
Remember on Sunday, May 13th put non-perishable food bags out by your mailbox. THIS IS A CRITICAL FOOD DRIVE FOR DAILY BREAD AND OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY!

YOU HAVE GOT TO SEE THIS!

Want to really brighten your day? Go to the Daily Bread Thrift Shop's Facebook page and scan through the photos and sales posters (<https://www.facebook.com/DBThriftShop412/>). *What other Thrift Shop has a mascot like Downtown Bob (photo below), and sales & discount days for things like "Wear Your Pajamas," "Male Appreciation Day," "Sing for a Deal"?*



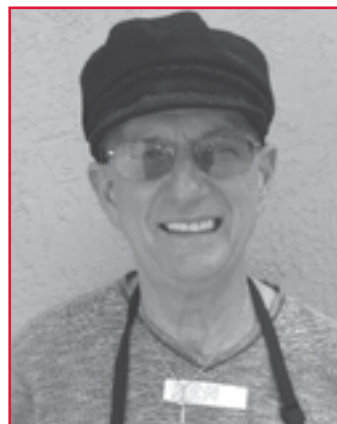
Our brand-new Thrift Shop Manager, Cynthia Ross, has added a lot of fun (and a little crazy!) to daily life at the Thrift Shop. "I have a fantastic team of volunteers and staff, and we want to make our Thrift Shop one of the best shops in the downtown Melbourne area!" Cynthia is a Real Estate agent and marketing professional who has previously run six other charity shops. Originally from New York, she has lived in Miami, Jensen Beach, and Scotland ("loved it!").



"We have all kinds of discounts and sales, all the time—55 and over get 20% off every Tuesday, and we have regular discounts for military, police, and fire department personnel," says Cynthia. "I like to keep things fun and positive." She has a saying: "The more I sell, the better I feel; the better I feel, the more I deal!" Come join the fun, meet Bob, and get some great deals at the Daily Bread Thrift Shop, 412 E. New Haven in downtown Melbourne!

KITCHEN SPOTLIGHT: KEN COCKER

Ken Cocker has been a pastor for a number of churches in Ohio and Florida over a span of 30 years. Afterward he served as a Hospice Chaplain for 11 years. When he retired his wife said, "Why don't you volunteer at Daily Bread?" That was 1 and 1/2 years ago. Ken enjoys coming once a week. "If I didn't have to work a part time job I would be there every day!" He enjoys interacting with the clients, many of whom are homeless through no fault of their own, and working side by side with other volunteers and those working community service hours in the kitchen and on the serving line. "It's like Jesus said: 'As you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me.' I thank God for what Daily Bread's executive director, John Farrell, and the two kitchen directors Omar and Cheryl are doing for those who are hungry in Melbourne." Ken has been married for 44 years, has 2 children and 4 grandchildren.



THIS 'N THAT

FOOD BANK THANK-YOUs!

- PC Keats/Phil Ellis, Downtown Melbourne – Various food items
- Indian River Colony Club – 255 lbs of food
- VFW Post 4536 – Socks, underwear
- Palm Bay Police Dept – Bikes for our Bike Program
- Melbourne Central Catholic High School – Organizing, sorting, cleaning
- Keiser University – Food Bank sorting (5th time!)

GIFT BOOSTER

Whether you're a long time supporter of Daily Bread or first time donor, please be sure to check with your company's Human Resources department to see if they have a matching gift program. It's an easy way to "boost your donation" for everyone's benefit!

LEGACY GIFTS

Have you made a provision to leave a future gift to Daily Bread? If so, please let us know so we can thank you. Please contact Janet Price, Director of Development, at 321-723-1060, ext. 18, or janet@dailybreadinc.org.

