



Pathways Home

Daily Bread Newsletter | DailyBreadinc.org FALL 2023

CASE MANAGEMENT IS KEY TO SUCCESSFUL HOUSING: *Bruce & Natacha*



Tacha and Bruce at Heritage Park

Bruce Dumas is a long-time local, having moved to Florida when he was three years old. He is a Melbourne High School graduate and briefly attended Daytona Community College. After dropping out, Bruce made his way back to Brevard County where he got mixed up with the wrong group of people.

For 20 years Bruce struggled with drugs and alcohol and his abuse eventually landed him in and out of jail. After his most recent stint in jail, Bruce came directly to Daily Bread for assistance and coincidentally attended a celebration of life for a Daily Bread client and friend, Keith Cunningham. It was during this emotional service, Bruce recalls, “I had a moment - the light switch suddenly came on and I knew it was time to change my circumstances.”

Following the celebration of life, Bruce began working with Tacha Walker, one of Daily Bread’s housing support specialists, determined to get his life back in order and eventually get his own place. Tacha is one of six dedicated homeless service professionals who work side by side with chronically homeless persons sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation such as cars, parks, abandoned buildings, vacant lots, and streets or sidewalks. At Daily Bread, we understand that each unsheltered person’s challenge differs based on their own history and circumstance. Therefore, we have a person-centered, housing-focused approach that allows us to get to know each person, respect their origin, and provide the support needed to help them find a home, and then be successful in that home.

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LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear friends of Daily Bread,

I always say that you meet the most interesting people in town at Daily Bread. And we have the privilege of sharing in their challenges...and joys! You meet a few of these interesting folks in our newsletter, including

Bruce, Kevin, Stacey and Gary. It warms my heart to hear them talk about how much they appreciate Daily Bread helping them through challenges. Then we get to share in their joy when someone finds their pathway home!

When I came to Daily Bread five years ago, our Board of Directors was ready to make a shift to focus on helping people get off the streets into housing. At that time we began to take an intentionally "housing-focused" approach to our work at Daily Bread. That meant expanding our case management team to include more housing support case management. We also partnered more fully with the Brevard Homeless Coalition to gain access to funding that would help the people who come to Daily Bread receive access to housing.

The change in focus had a dramatic impact. In 2019, we housed 100 people through supportive housing, family reunification, and support to market-rate housing. In 2020, we helped 123 people find success in housing in those ways. In 2021, we were able to assist 147 people. When the housing market tightened last year, this became much more challenging. We still maintain support for the people we have helped with housing, the vast majority of whom have been successful.

We have learned that someone coming out of homelessness needs three things to succeed in housing: case management support, financial subsidy, and housing availability. It's that last one that is so hard to find today. There's just not enough apartments and other housing available. We are working to address that housing need with our plans for the future.

Thank you for being part of the journey with us as we help more people find their pathway home.

Jeffrey Njus

Jeffrey Njus

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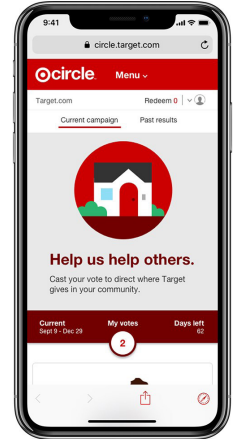
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Use your Target Circle app to support Daily Bread!

Here are the steps:

- 1) Download the app and save one of the following stores as your store:
 - Target on 192 in Melbourne
 - Target on Palm Bay Road in Hammock Landings
- 2) Make your in-store and online purchase count by taking one of these actions:
 - scan the wallet in the app at checkout
 - enter your mobile number at check out
 - scan or enter your receipt
- 3) By logging your purchases in one of these three ways, you will earn votes that you may direct to Daily Bread.
- 4) Use your votes to support Daily Bread October 1 through December 31.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate acts of its members."

– Coretta Scott King

GIVE a one-time gift or become a monthly donor at dailybreadinc.org/make-a-donation

DONATE needed items: hygiene supplies, adult clothing, shoes, blankets, and sleeping bags (check out our wish list on our website: dailybreadinc.org/needed-supplies)

LEAVE A LEGACY by including Daily Bread in your Will/Estate: dailybreadinc.org/leave-a-legacy

VOLUNTEER your time and talents at dailybreadinc.org/volunteer

SHOP at WalMart and round up, shop at Target and vote, and shop from our Amazon wish list

FOLLOW us on social @dailybreadinc on Instagram and Facebook

THE REALITY OF HOMELESSNESS



This is Gary. Gary grew up in Melbourne and worked as a marine mechanic. His homeless situation is the result of an injury incurred on the job. On the day this photo was taken, he was able to get some work trimming trees before coming to Daily Bread for lunch. Gary hopes to get his tools back and go back into the marine business.

"Daily Bread is a good place. If you have nowhere to go and need help, come here."

This is Stacey. She first became homeless two years ago as a result of a brain injury. Prior to her injury, Stacey had a handyman business. She's currently doing day labor and working with a Daily Bread volunteer to build a resume and complete applications for something more regular.

"I appreciate Daily Bread. I have been working during the day and would love to see a nighttime version. I need access to the same services after work so I can be clean with food in my belly."



Tacha and Bruce discussing bills.

(cover story continued)

In Bruce's case, this required Tacha's advocating to the Housing Authority of Brevard on behalf of Bruce so that he could once again become eligible for a housing voucher post-incarceration. On May 23, 2023, just four months after he submitted his paperwork, Bruce Dumas signed the lease on his apartment at Heritage Park. Tacha regularly receives text messages from Bruce saying, "I love this place!!! Thank you guys for getting it for me."

While we're happy that Bruce is now sleeping indoors, his story doesn't end there. Although he has been successful in removing himself from negative influencers, Tacha will continue to check up on him throughout his first year of housing to ensure he continues to do well. Tacha spends two days a week at Heritage Park, where she and another Daily Bread employee manage the transitions of about 25 residents in addition to Bruce. Tacha states, "Providing housing for someone challenged by homelessness does

not necessarily solve all their problems. It is important to keep in communication with the individual the first year to help in their success in maintaining their housing. My primary strategy for helping people be successful in housing is giving them the tools they need to be independent of our services." Tacha regularly utilizes a written action plan specific to each individual that identifies their needs, challenges and steps to meet those needs.

Tacha has been working as a social worker for 20 years. For her, it's not a job, it's a calling. She says, "I grew up in a marginalized community of people that didn't speak up and advocate for themselves. I knew that if someone in need talked to me, I'd be there to listen."

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: *Chef Brad*

When Brad started working in the kitchen at the Crowne Plaza on A1A in Indialantic (then the Holiday Inn) in 1997, he had no idea he would rise to the position of Executive Chef and lead a team of 24 full time employees. He had no idea he would stay for 23 years and he had no idea that the culmination, and most satisfying part of his career, would be feeding hundreds of homeless and hungry people at Daily Bread.

The seed was planted for Brad when he learned that the Crowne Plaza offered a volunteer program that would provide financial resources to employee-led volunteer initiatives. Brad started volunteering in the kitchen at His Place, a ministry located at US1 and Strawbridge, that also provides outreach and resources to the unhoused population. It was there that Brad met a Daily Bread employee and soon started cooking at Daily Bread as well.

While getting active with volunteerism, Brad was planning for an August 2020 retirement from the Crowne Plaza and knew that he would become even more active upon retirement. When COVID hit in March, the hotel business suffered, and Brad retired early knowing that there was a higher purpose for his skills while so many people were out of work and struggling. Soon, he was volunteering seven days a week at Daily Bread and continued this schedule for six months until Executive Director, Jeffrey Njus, offered him the chef position with one stipulation – Brad had to take off two days per week.

Brad has never looked back. Brad says, “When you work in a corporation, you work under a microscope. It’s all about profit. There is no profit at Daily Bread. **My goal is to make sure our clients get the same quality of food as they would at a five star hotel.**” He adds, “At Daily Bread, I can give a lot back at no cost.”

“But history will judge you, and as the years pass, you will ultimately judge yourself in the extent to which you have used your gifts and talents to lighten and enrich the lives of your fellow men. In your hands lies the future of your world and the fulfillment of the best qualities of your own spirit.”

– Robert F. Kennedy



Brad in his kitchen with essential volunteers



DAILY BREAD CHAMPION: *Jaime*

For the past two years, Daily Bread’s clients can rely on a fresh haircut and a smile from Jaime every Tuesday. For the recipients of a haircut, it’s the opportunity to feel good about themselves. For Jaime, it’s the opportunity to remember her mom, and recognize her struggles and others experiencing similar challenges.

When Jaime’s mom, Kelly, became homeless almost 20 years ago, she started coming to Daily Bread for a meal and other services. Over the years, as Kelly battled addiction and was in and out of homelessness, she returned as needed. In 2021, when Kelly seemed to be doing very well, she passed as the result of an overdose.

Since then, Jaime has taken one day out of her busy schedule of work and family to offer free haircuts to Melbourne’s unhoused. Homeless people have many challenges to face, one of them being low self-esteem. Jaime says, “I know it’s not much but a haircut can have a great effect on someone - giving them a boost. It’s often not a priority and considered a luxury, but for someone trying to find a job or housing, a haircut can be a necessity.”

If you would like to see Jaime for a hair cut, she’s a manager at the Sports Clips on North Wickham Road near Pineda Causeway.



Daily Bread is proud to partner with Brevard Health Alliance (BHA) to provide healthcare for its clients. The BHA mobile unit is on campus every Wednesday and treats an average of 65 patients for everything from the management of chronic diseases like diabetes to wound care.



MEET: Kevin Tarver

In his own words, Kevin is not your typical homeless person. His circumstances are job related. Essentially, his rent was more than his paycheck and after going through all the savings he had, Kevin found himself on the streets. “I keep to myself, I don’t bother anyone, I don’t judge.” Daily Bread offers Kevin a daily meal, regular shower, and a respite from the streets. He can often be found reading quietly on Daily Bread’s campus and is currently looking for a job as a cook. He says, “I am in good spirits, and I have faith that eventually, I will come out of this.”



Thank you to Collins Aerospace for a \$5,000 grant supporting annual operations. Collins is a long time faithful supporter of our community and neighbors in need.

Legacy

/ˈlegəse/ | noun

the impact and story you leave behind for the next generation

Planning for the future and creating the legacy you wish to leave is one of the most effective ways to ensure a lasting impact. By including Daily Bread in your estate plan, you will be ensuring we are able to continue our mission – that no one faces hunger or homelessness alone.

While planned giving can seem like a daunting, complicated endeavor, the truth is that most planned giving is simple, and worth your time and consideration. Planned giving allows you to leverage your philanthropic passion and meet your personal and financial objectives for your legacy.

Our Legacy of Hope Society honors those individuals who have included Daily Bread in their plans. If you would like to learn more about joining the Legacy of Hope Society by including Daily Bread in your will, establishing a trust, or other planned gifts, please contact Brandy Bean at brandy@dailybreadinc.org.

Have you already included us in your estate plan? Please let us know so that we can show our appreciation now and learn more about your intentions for the gift.

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Legal Name and Address:
Daily Bread, Inc.
815 E. Fee Avenue
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Candid’s Gold Seal recognizes philanthropic organizations that demonstrate a deep commitment to transparency, accountability, and

inclusivity and operate from a position of strong financial health.

YOUR GIFTS TO DAILY BREAD SUSTAIN OUR MISSION:

To ensure that no one faces hunger or homelessness alone.

RECENT DONATIONS OF \$500 OR MORE*:

Alexander Foundation	Linda Hollis	Mary Gail Lubrani	Satellite Beach United
Ascension Catholic Church	Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Community	Richard & Gayle Njus	Methodist Church
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Janice Hill	LGI Homes	Bansemmer and Ms. Linda Johnston	
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*gifts received between
5.11.23 & 8.11.23

OUR MONTHLY DONORS PROVIDE A RELIABLE INCOME SUPPORTING OPERATIONS:

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Community Church of God	Brian Hosken	Neils Poulsen	
	Carolyn Hough	Dennis & Trissa Raiman	
		John & Gloria Reynolds	

Your generous donations make a difference in the lives of Melbourne's unhoused population. From a fresh set of clothes to a blanket for comfort, what may seem like a small donation can make a big difference.



Carolyn, a local Girls Scouts leader, with friends and Daily Bread volunteers from Ascension Catholic Church, delivering 150 blankets made at the national convention held in Orlando in July. Girl Scouts that participated in the activity received a "Warm Up Orlando" patch.



We are so grateful to Donna Brown and members of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church for collecting summer essentials that protect our clients. We're always in need of drawstring bags, sunglasses, sunscreen, bug spray, hats, and ponchos.



Thank you to Roswell Marine – their employees conducted a drive to collect more than 5,000 hygiene items for Daily Bread clients.



Matt McLaughline of Country Bingo collects for Daily Bread every month. He inquires about our needs and then encourages his customers to collect those items. Thank you, Country Bingo!

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