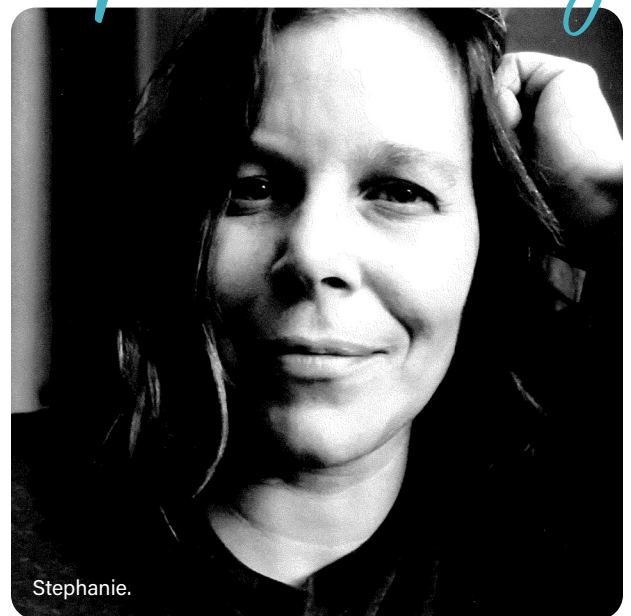




FROM SURVIVAL TO STABILITY: *Stephanie's Journey*

When Stephanie first walked through the gates of Daily Bread in 2018, she was simply trying to make it through each day. Living in her car, struggling with untreated mental illness, and feeling like her life had unraveled, she came to Daily Bread for a hot meal and a shower—but what she found was a community that believed in her even when she didn't believe in herself.

Stephanie, now 46, has lived a life marked by both extraordinary hardship and profound resilience. From an early age, she struggled with symptoms of mental illness—symptoms that were intensified by trauma, including the loss of her father to suicide when she was just 11. She became a mother at 16 and experienced the heartbreak of her young daughter, Samantha, suffering cardiac arrest and being diagnosed with cancer at just four years old, while Stephanie was also navigating college and addiction. Following three subsequent cancer diagnoses, Samantha has recovered. Stephanie went on to have two more children, Alex and Logan, and pursued a career in finance, holding respected jobs at the City of Palm Bay and the Housing Authority of Brevard, and doing contract work for L3Harris.



“There were years when it was all I could do to survive every day,” Stephanie says. “But Daily Bread helped me keep going. They were always there.”

But even as she built a life on the outside, Stephanie was battling an internal storm. Her mental health diagnoses—schizoaffective disorder, bipolar I, PTSD, anxiety, and depression—went untreated or were mismanaged for years. She searched for the proper medications, relapsed into addiction, and eventually lost her housing. By 2017, her children weren't living with her, and Stephanie was on the streets.

That's when she found her way to Daily Bread.

Over the years, Stephanie became a regular presence at Daily Bread, coming in for meals and showers. But the real turning point came when she was connected with Joel, our Outreach Specialist. Joel saw beyond her circumstances and helped her access psychiatric care. For the first time, Stephanie received the care and medication that truly worked for her, and Daily Bread was able to cover the cost of her medications.

(story continued on pg. 2)

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*“Once I was stable,
I didn’t need to self-
medicate anymore,”
she says.*

That shift—paired with the steady support from the Daily Bread team—set her on a new course.

In April 2024, Stephanie celebrated a significant milestone: sustained sobriety. She landed a job she loves with the City of Indialantic and passed her drug test. All she needed was to reinstate her driver’s license—and Daily Bread was there to help with that, too. Though she was still living in a tent, her hope was growing. She connected with a roommate through the Women’s Center, and she finally got a roof over her head again.

Today, Stephanie is dreaming of the future. She wants to rebuild a life with her children, buy a mobile home in Hollywood Estates, plant a garden, get her teeth fixed, and reclaim the pieces of life that addiction and instability once stole from her. She’s not just surviving anymore, she’s living.

Stephanie’s story is a powerful reminder that dignity, stability, and hope are possible—even after years of struggle—when people have access to compassionate care and real connection. At Daily Bread, we are honored to walk alongside individuals like Stephanie, meeting immediate needs while building a bridge to brighter days.

Catching a Second Wave

When you meet Louis, it’s easy to picture him catching waves off the coast of Southern California. At 64, he still carries that laid-back surfer spirit — only now, his board glides over the Atlantic swells of Florida’s Space Coast.

Louis moved from California to Melbourne in April 2022 for a fresh start. He was exiting a shaky relationship, and a friend had connected him with an opportunity to provide live-in care for an elderly man with dementia. For eight months, Louis cared for him, surfed the East Coast, and set aside some savings. But when the man passed away, the stability Louis had built disappeared overnight.

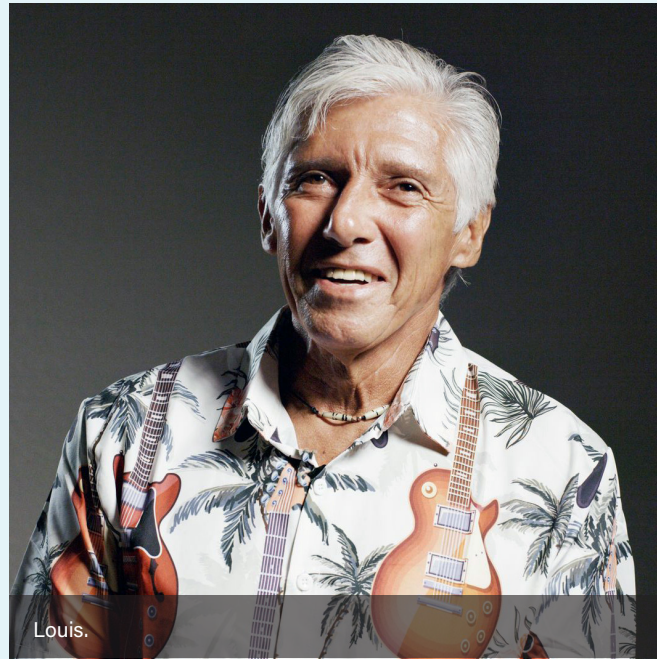
Without a home or transportation, and with his savings quickly dwindling from renting rooms, Louis ended up sleeping on the beach. Old struggles resurfaced, and after eight years of sobriety, he relapsed. Back in his days surfing in Southern California, Louis used to help feed the homeless on Venice Beach. He recalls, “I suddenly looked like the people I used to serve meals to.”

*“I’m grateful for the connections I made through
Daily Bread,” Louis says. “They helped me put my
life back together.”*

That’s when Louis found Daily Bread. What began as a place for a hot meal became something much more. He connected with church volunteers who served on campus and even joined a group of musicians who played for guests. Music and faith helped him find his footing again — and his sobriety.

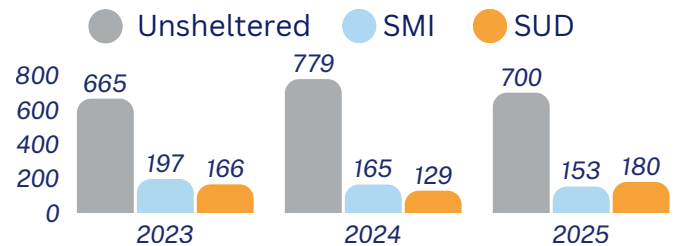
Daily Bread staff helped Louis obtain a Florida ID and secure his Social Security benefits. Louis was connected with a VA representative, who worked with him to find affordable housing. After months of persistence, he found a place in Palm Bay with a reasonable rent and a compatible roommate.

Today, Louis has been stably housed for nine months. He’s back to surfing, playing music, and living with a renewed sense of peace. Because of the partnerships between Daily Bread, local churches, and veteran services, Louis’s story is no longer about homelessness — it’s about community, recovery, and hope.



Providence Connects is a proud participant in the annual Point in Time Count (PITC) with the Continuum of Care. The PITC is a count of individuals experiencing homelessness in Brevard County on one night in January. Here are some highlights from January 25, 2025.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONDITION



In 2025, just 22% had a serious mental illness (SMI) and 26% had a substance use disorder (SUD). Most aren't in a behavioral health crisis – they're in a housing crisis.

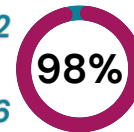
AGING IN HOMELESSNESS



From 2023 to 2025, 1 in 3 were 55+, many of them unsheltered.

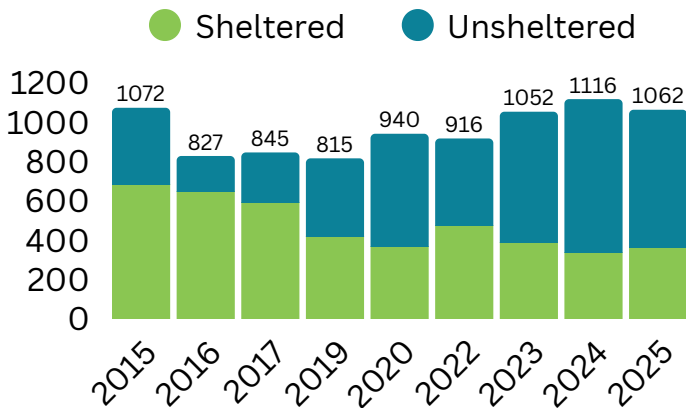
Adults & Child – 12

Adults Only – 586



UNSHeltered HOUSEHOLD TYPE

Families represent 2% (5% in 2024) of the total unsheltered population.



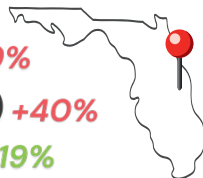
UNSHeltered SURVEY GEOGRAPHY



North: 96 (14%) **+19%**

Central: 313 (45%) **+40%**

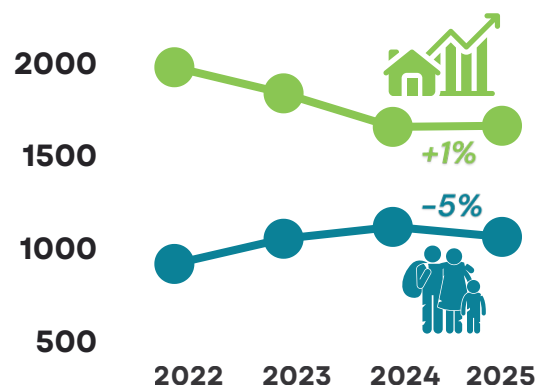
South: 291 (42%) **-19%**



HOMELESSNESS IS HOME GROWN

81% of those unsheltered first lost housing right here in Brevard!

HOUSING IS THE SOLUTION!



In 2025, a small **1%** increase in housing led to a **5%** drop in homelessness. Even modest gains in housing make a real impact.



BREVARD
HOMELESS
COALITION

Data and graphs compliments of
Brevard Homeless Coalition.

DAILY BREAD CHAMPION:

Debbie Irizarry

From Duty to Devotion: Debbie's Journey with Daily Bread

When Debbie Irizarry first walked into Daily Bread's hygiene center in 2019, she did so out of a sense of responsibility. Her cousin—once her closest childhood friend and now unhoused—had long struggled with mental illness. Debbie couldn't shake the feeling that she needed to do something. She told herself it was the right thing to do. She wanted to model compassion for her daughter. But it wasn't easy.

"After my first day, I thought, 'I'm not doing this. It's too hard,'" Debbie recalls. "It was more intimate than just dropping off clothes. Seeing girls come in who were the same age as my daughter—it hit too close."

But something shifted not long after. One day, she stood behind the counter in the hygiene center, pulling clothes for a young woman who had just asked for her size. Debbie looked up and realized just how much courage it takes to walk through the doors of a homeless shelter.

"I realized—I want to be with them. I want to help people feel seen. I want them to know they're not invisible."

From that moment on, Debbie began showing up not out of obligation, but from the heart.

When Daily Bread launched its mobile outreach initiative, Debbie was one of the first to volunteer. "I'm just going to show up and see what it's all about," she said. She was surprised by what she found.

"It was beautiful," she said. "It's the same as Fee Avenue, just



Debbie pictured with a client at an outreach site.

outdoors. But what struck me most was that there's no separation. You're not behind a wall. You're standing with people. It's more hands-on. More human."

Debbie especially loves serving in the mobile "closet"—the spot where guests select a fresh outfit before their shower. "The closet feels like shopping. It's dignified. People feel respected for a little while. I love watching someone come out of that little tent with their new outfit and a smile."

She describes the transformation that happens when someone gets clean clothes, a hot shower, and a meal. "You become a whole new person," she says. "It changes everything."

For Debbie, it's the small things that matter most: a shared laugh, a familiar face, a name remembered. "One man looked at me and said, 'How do you remember my name? Not many people call me by my name.'"

Moments like that keep her coming back.

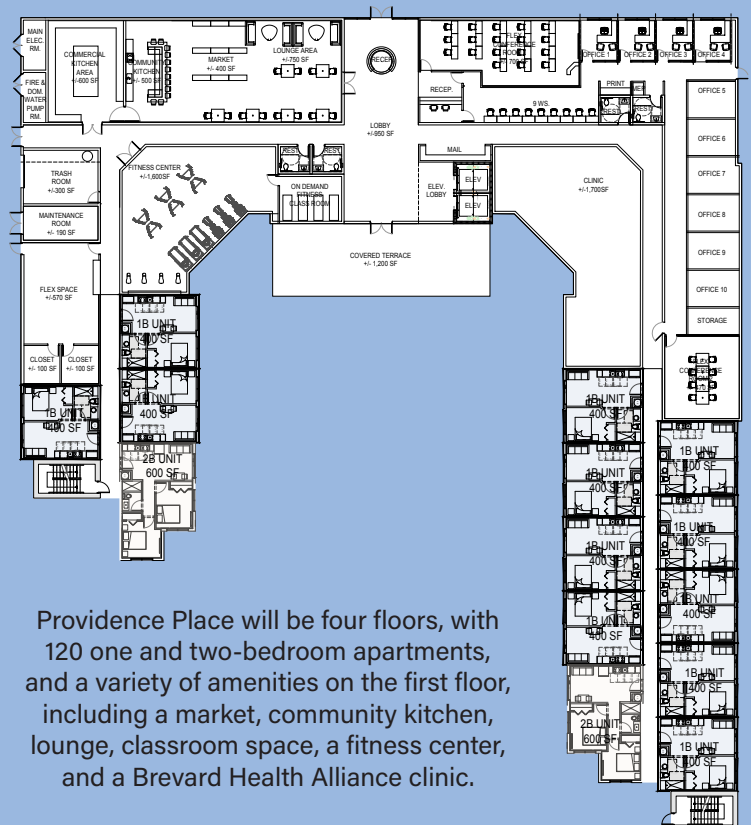
"If this person can humble themselves to ask for help," Debbie says, "then I can humble myself to be present. Today, I'm here because I want to be here. These are my brothers and sisters."



PROVIDENCE
PLACE



Jeff Njus, and Keith Donald of Steadytown (a partner in the Providence Place development) delivered plans to the City of Melbourne for permitting in July.



Providence Place will be four floors, with 120 one and two-bedroom apartments, and a variety of amenities on the first floor, including a market, community kitchen, lounge, classroom space, a fitness center, and a Brevard Health Alliance clinic.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: *Bob Birmingham*

Bob's Next Chapter: Walking with Clients Through the SOAR Process

After a lifetime of service, Bob Birmingham thought he was settling into retirement when he started volunteering at Daily Bread in 2019. Having recently retired from the Diocese of Orlando, he wasn't looking for a job—but something tugged at him. "I had a feeling it would turn into something more," Bob says with a quiet smile.

And it did.

Bob has always followed the call to serve. He first got involved with homeless services in the 1990s through a cold night shelter in Cocoa Beach. That experience planted a seed that would eventually grow into a deep and lasting commitment. Not long after volunteering at Daily Bread, Bob was brought on staff to manage the hygiene center, ensuring people living on the streets had access to basic human needs—like showers, clean clothes, and dignity.

"When you come to understand what people have been through and the causes of their disability," he says, "you love them even more. Childhood trauma is the common denominator. Abuse, losing a parent to drugs or incarceration—so many of the people we serve never had a chance."

When Brevard County received Emergency Rental Assistance during the pandemic, Bob stepped up again. For three years, he managed those funds, helping families avoid eviction and get back on their feet. Now, he's stepping into what may be his most impactful role yet.

Bob recently became certified in SOAR—SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery—a program through Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services (SAMHSA) designed to help people who are homeless apply for disability benefits. The certification process is rigorous, requiring intensive training and evaluation. There are

currently fewer than 500 SOAR dedicated positions nationwide, but for Bob, it's worth it.

"This is a free service for our clients," he explains. "Without SOAR, they'd often have to hire an attorney to navigate the system. That's just not realistic when you're homeless and disabled."

Helping someone apply for disability through SOAR isn't a quick fix—it can take up to six months per person. Bob gathers medical records, completes complex applications, and manages ongoing communication with Social Security. It's slow and detailed work, but Bob never forgets the humanity at the heart of it.

Bob's work is about more than paperwork. It's about helping people finally access the stability and support they've been denied for most of their lives. The process is grueling, but the outcomes are life-changing. Receiving disability benefits can be the bridge to housing, healthcare, and hope.

At Daily Bread, we're aiming to certify 35 people through SOAR in the program's first year. With Bob leading the charge, we're not just helping people apply—we're walking alongside them, every step of the way.

In a system full of red tape and roadblocks, Bob Birmingham is offering something rare: compassion, persistence, and the belief that every person—no matter their story—deserves a chance to begin again.



You are invited to an evening of purpose and possibility for Providence Place — a place where vision meets action, and hope takes root. Join us for a gathering of community, compassion, and commitment.

Thursday, September 25
5:30 to 7:00 pm
The Oasis at Palm Shores
2950 Pineda Plaza Way, Melbourne, FL
RSVP to brandy@providence.place by 9/18

Providence Place is more than a housing development — it's an opportunity to change the trajectory of lives for generations to come. Together, we will build an initiative bold in scope and grounded in impact: to reduce homelessness in our city by 50%.

Come shape the future with us.





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Executive Director

Dr. Jeffrey Njus

MISSION

To ensure that no one faces hunger or homelessness alone.

MAILING ADDRESS

Daily Bread Inc.

PO Box 39

Melbourne, FL 32902

www.dailybreadinc.org

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the division of consumer services by calling toll-free 1.800.435.7352 within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state registration #ch1772. 100% of the new proceeds benefit the mission of Daily Bread Inc.

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Deepening Our Partnership with the Sharing Center



Dear friends,

Shortly after transitioning from our Fee Avenue site to mobile outreach, the **South Brevard Sharing Center** graciously welcomed us into their building on Hibiscus Boulevard. We moved in with our outreach team and administration to share office space, and we also brought our wonderful volunteers to serve alongside the Sharing Center in the Food Pantry.

Together, we expanded pantry operations from **2½ days per week to 5 days per week**, and added **evening and weekend drive-through hours** so that working families can access food outside of traditional business hours.

Even more exciting, we have partnered to transform the pantry into what we now call a **Fresh Choice Pantry**. Instead of receiving pre-packed bags, guests walk the aisles—set up like a grocery store—accompanied by a volunteer “personal shopper.” This way, families can choose the items they truly want and need from the abundant offerings. The results are powerful: **less food waste, more dignity, and greater joy**. Guests love it, and so do our volunteers.

Being at the Sharing Center has been a gift. This partnership has grown over the years, and today it embodies the true spirit of **sharing**—not just giving and receiving, but holding something in common, like sharing a meal around the table. It resonates deeply with the legacy of **Daily Bread** and carries forward into our future as **Providence Connects**.

I am grateful for this collaboration, and excited to see where our shared journey will take us next.

Jeffrey Njus



The Fresh Choice Market is open for business, allowing guests to choose the groceries they prefer rather than receive a pre-packaged box.

Thank you to our grantors!

Grants—both for general operating support and specific programs—are a vital part of Daily Bread's funding mix because they provide the stability and flexibility needed to sustain and grow our impact. General operating grants allow us to keep our doors open every day, fund essential staff positions, and respond to urgent, often unpredictable needs in our community. Program-specific grants, on the other hand, help us expand targeted initiatives such as mobile outreach, healthcare navigation, or our food truck, enabling innovation and measurable outcomes. Together, these funding streams ensure we can meet immediate needs while building long-term solutions to homelessness and poverty.

OPERATING SUPPORT:

Bank of America



Collins Aerospace
An RTX Business

Gale Foundation

**Gemini Family
Charitable Fund**

Leslie L. Alexander Foundation

**Margaret Binz
Foundation**

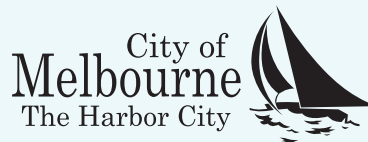


**Sue Pridmore
Foundation**

OUTREACH SUPPORT:



funded outreach vehicles



HealthFirst

funded the food trailer

HEALTHCARE SUPPORT:

**The Albert E. and
Birdie W. Einstein
Fund, Inc.**

FOOD SUPPORT:



Give with Confidence!

Platinum
Transparency
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Candid.

Candid's
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recognizes
philanthropic
organizations
that demon-
strate a deep

commitment to transparency,
accountability, and inclusivity
and operate from a position of
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 DAILY BREAD is becoming



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DIGNITY DAY BREAKFAST

Thursday, October 16, 2025

8:00 - 9:30 AM

Melbourne Hilton Rialto

**Daily Bread is becoming
Providence Connects.**

**Join us in honoring our legacy
and celebrating our future.**



**Sponsorships and tickets available
at dailybreadinc.org/dignity**