



Daily Bread Newsletter | [DailyBreadinc.org](https://DailyBreadinc.org)

SPRING 2025

## DAILY BREAD IS BUILDING A HEALTHY, HOLISTIC, HOMELESS SERVICE SYSTEM

The week of January 12 was particularly challenging for Daily Bread's staff, volunteers, and the unhoused individuals who receive services at the Fee Ave. campus. Over the course of four days, there were three deaths of despair. Jason, Jesse, and Nathan could no longer find the strength to move forward and tragically lost their lives by suicide or overdose. Jeffrey Njus, Executive Director, spoke of these incidents a few weeks later at a meeting of Melbourne's City Council when Daily Bread received pressure to wind down operations in 2025, as opposed to the original plan for closing operations upon the opening of Providence Place on Apollo Blvd. in 2027. Njus said, "I understand the desire of the community to accelerate that process, and we're very open to doing that, and that's not just because of a strong admonition from the City Council. Three deaths of despair in one week are an indication to me and us that a soup kitchen is not doing enough to address these issues, and we can do more as a community. The truth of the matter is that while the homeless population might benefit from a lunchtime meal at the Daily Bread, their real need is for shelter."



Providence Place will reduce unsheltered homelessness in Melbourne by 50%.

At the time of publishing this newsletter, Daily Bread is in negotiations with the City of Melbourne as to when the closure will occur and expects it in the next several months. To ensure that there will be no gaps in service to our neighbors in need, Daily Bread staff are accelerating plans for our mobile outreach and adding a transitional housing component that will house 15-20 of the most vulnerable in hotels and available units while they receive case management.

*(story continued on pg. 2)*

## 2024 IMPACT REPORT INSIDE!

**inside  
this issue**

- 2 • DAILY BREAD IS BUILDING A HEALTHY, HOLISTIC, HOMELESS SERVICE SYSTEM
- 3 • EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: KIMBERLY LOEACK

- DAILY BREAD CHAMPION: MATT MCLAUGHLIN
- 4 • 2024 IMPACT REPORT
- 5 • LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

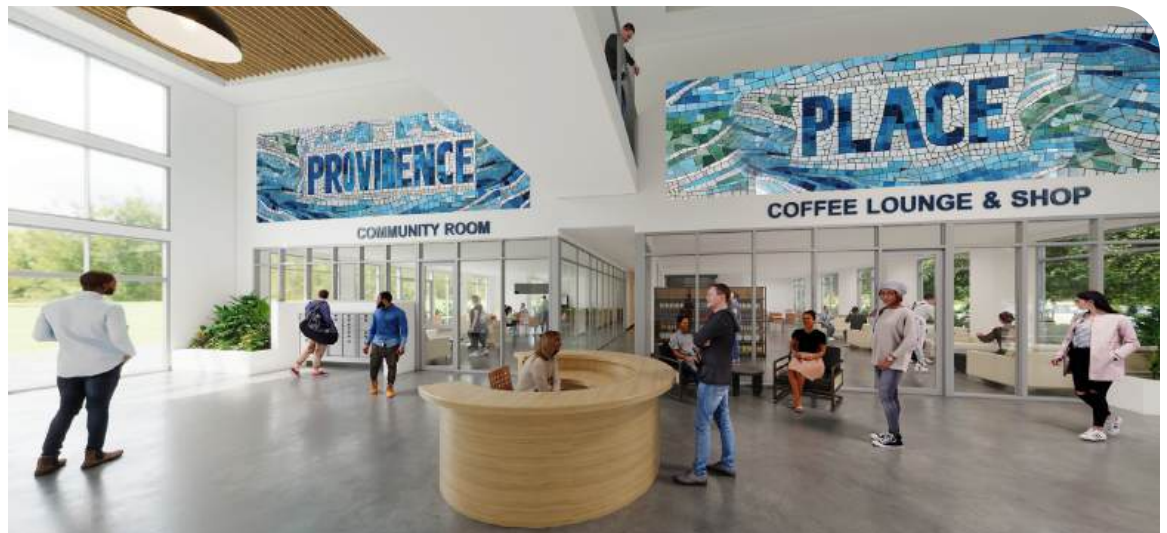
- 6 • YOUR GIFTS TO DAILY BREAD
- 7 • YOUR DONATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

(cover story continued)

Ultimately, the combination of street outreach, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing at Providence Place will provide Melbourne with a healthy, holistic, homeless service system that addresses the immediate needs of individuals experiencing homelessness while also providing pathways to stability and long-term housing.

These three components — outreach, transitional housing, and permanent housing — work together as part of a comprehensive approach to ending homelessness. A healthy system ensures that people not only have a place to stay, but also the support they need to rebuild their lives and regain independence.

Join us for an information session about Daily Bread's Transformation at Duran Golf Club on Thursday, March 27 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. RSVP to [brandy@dailybreadinc.org](mailto:brandy@dailybreadinc.org) to reserve your place.



A rendering of the Providence Place lobby.

## COMPONENTS OF A HEALTHY HOMELESS SYSTEM

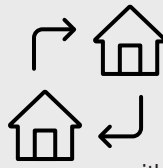
### Street Outreach



Street outreach is the first point of contact for individuals who are living unsheltered. Daily

Bread will deploy two mobile units, a food truck, and Street side Showers to engage with people where they are, build trust, and offer services such as healthcare, and emotional support. Daily Bread Case Managers will also help connect individuals to additional services, including housing and healthcare resources, and encourage them to begin their journey toward stability. Through our outreach efforts, we'll ensure that no one experiences homelessness alone.

### Transitional Housing



Transitional housing provides individuals or families with temporary

accommodation and supportive services while they work on transitioning to permanent housing. This type of housing will include case management by Daily Bread staff, life skills training, job search assistance, and mental health or substance use services. The goal is to help individuals become ready for long-term housing. Transitional housing bridges the gap between homelessness and permanent housing, offering stability during a critical time of recovery and preparation.

### Permanent Supportive Housing @ Providence Place



Permanent supportive housing (PSH) is a key part of

the solution. Providence Place will offer long-term housing that includes both affordable rent and the support needed to maintain housing stability, such as case management, healthcare, and access to services that address any ongoing needs. Providence Place will provide a safe, stable environment and offers tenants the resources and support they need to thrive. The goal is to help individuals transition out of homelessness for good, with housing security and the ability to sustain it over time.

Jeff Njus said this about the transformation,

*"As we build Providence Place and amplify our mobile outreach efforts to people living on the streets, we think of Jesse, Jason, Nathan, and others we have lost in homelessness. We are grateful to be working in this community with renewed energy to provide housing, food, and outreach to our neighbors in need so they know that they matter and that we care."*



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: *Kimberly Loeack*

Kimberly Loeack, Daily Bread's newest Case Manager, came to the United States with her family from the Marshall Islands, a chain of volcanic islands located in the Pacific Ocean between Hawaii and the Philippines and a population of less than 50,000. Kim was in the eighth grade, an age when such a dramatic transition could be particularly challenging for a teen to change schools and meet new friends. Still, Kim recalls that the most significant culture shock came from discovering unhoused people in Florida and the United States. The concept of not having a home did not occur to a 13-year-old from the Marshall Islands, where homelessness didn't exist. Communal living is part of the culture, with multiple families sometimes living under one roof. Kim explained, "People take care of each other back home."

Kim recalls that this realization planted the seed for her desire to become a social worker. That feeling was validated during an internship she held while pursuing her degree in psychology at the University of Central Florida. The internship was at the Women's Center, and she was working with a man who had recently become unhoused due to a daughter suffering from addiction. Kim said, "It broke my heart and that's when I knew I found my calling."

Kim continued working at the Women's Center after graduating and also spent time at DCF Family Allies and Eckerd Connects before joining the Daily Bread team in July 2024. Jeff Njus said this about Kim joining the team, "Kim is our newest case manager, and sometimes it takes time to build trust with people experiencing homelessness who may have learned to be cautious with people. However, Kim's compassionate presence puts people at ease and builds a quick rapport. Our folks trust her, and that allows her to help in beautiful ways."



Kim and Steve, shortly before he was housed in December.

## DAILY BREAD CHAMPION: *Matt McLaughlin*



Matt with Claudia, Daily Bread's Director of Volunteer & Donor Relations.

How we choose to spend our time on this Earth and the legacy we want to leave behind is a question that offers a sense of purpose for many of us. This is the story of Country Bingo owner, Matt McLaughlin, who continues in giving back to the community like the previous owner had done for decades prior.

Country Bingo was founded over 30 years ago by Air Force veteran and real estate investor, Willis Kirk. While Willis ran the bingo hall, located in Palm Bay, seven-year-old Matt would frequent the facility with his mom, "My mom loves bingo, she is in her 60's living in Jacksonville and still plays!" As a youth he became impressed by what he describes as, "A Secret Society" of individuals captivated by playing against the odds. Following the many years of accompanying his mom, Matt was eventually hired on as staff and in 2015 took ownership of the hall after Willis passed. "The family continued running the bingo hall shortly after Willis passed, but they admitted that they didn't have a passion for it. Fortunately, they saw the passion in me and sold me the business."

When Matt took ownership, the first line of business was to continue to give back to the community. "Supporting local charities was an essential part of Country Bingo; I saw first-hand the priority Willis had to donate and the impact that support made to the organizations."

About three years ago, Matt found himself in an unfortunate situation and the need to complete volunteer hours. He chose to complete those hours at Daily Bread in the dining hall. He recalls being moved by the hard-working staff dedicated daily in creating a comfortable environment for the homeless community to come and enjoy a meal at. "I would ask myself, 'How can I help? Can I do more?'" Matt sought me out and posed the idea of establishing a "Daily Bread Day". He explained this would be an opportunity for his customers to bring in a needed Daily Bread item for a discount off a tablet or other bingo-type advantage.

Since the start of this amazing program, Matt comes to Daily Bread twice a month with boxes of men's or women's underwear, bug spray, ponchos, sunglasses, readers, etc. "The customers have really embraced our Daily Bread days; I have customers that specifically play bingo on those days and I have people walking into the establishment simply wanting to donate an item to help."

Matt's influence toward supporting the local community among his customers and the public is proof that Willis Kirks' legacy of philanthropy continues.



## DAILY BREAD

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### President:

Nancy Tomassone

#### Vice President:

Kelly Thayer

#### Secretary:

Robert Rowe

#### Treasurer:

Bernard Bryan

### MEMBERS

LeRoy Darby

Lesli Dooley

Le Greta Hudson

Judge Katie Jacobus

Michael Pirolo

Dr. Liz White

### LEADERSHIP

#### Executive Director

Dr. Jeffrey Njus

### MISSION

To ensure that no one faces hunger or homelessness alone.

### MAILING ADDRESS

Daily Bread Inc.

Melbourne, FL 32901

321-723-1060

[www.dailybreadinc.org](http://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 1.800.455.7352 within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state registration #cb1772. 100% of the new proceeds benefit the mission of daily bread inc.*

# 2024 Impact

Thanks to you, here's what we accomplished

## 2,794

unique individuals served in 2024.

## 1,202

hours of case management provided to 221 unique individuals.



## 14,901

total showers provided.



## 65

individuals, on average, received healthcare weekly in the Brevard Health Alliance mobile unit.



## 135

unique individuals received \$7,752 in prescription assistance.



14 cold shelter nights for

## 212

unique individuals.



# Impact Report

What we did in 2024.

**607,000**

pounds of food served in our dining hall and donated to 25+ other local agencies.



Daily Bread serves a hot and nutritious meal 365 days each year.

**47,236**

total meals served.



**35,129**

volunteer hours provided by 1,241 unique volunteers.



**80%**

of those housed remained permanently housed after one year.



Emergency Rental Assistance provided to

**86** households.

## LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear friends of Daily Bread,  
While we continue our transformation at Daily Bread, **our core principles remain constant, including our commitment to ensure that no one in our community faces**

**the challenge of hunger alone.** Did you know that our food distribution operation through our warehouse supports over 25 food pantries in our community? This allows the food-sharing operations at churches and other organizations to increase their impact in addressing hunger in their neighborhoods.

**We also support Community Meals** many days of the week throughout the area. As we wind down our soup kitchen operation on Fee Avenue, we will ramp up our support for Community Meals. One example of a Community Meal is Christ's Table at Calvary Chapel Eau Gallie. The folks from Calvary Chapel stop by our warehouse every Thursday morning to pick up supplies and prepare a lunch for anyone hungry, including people experiencing homelessness, but not exclusively. This is a meal for everyone, including members of the church who sit down and enjoy sharing a meal with their neighbors in need.

Community Meals address the real need for nutritious and delicious meals. **Community Meals also address the deeper hunger for community**, which is prevalent throughout our society, in which isolation and alienation occur with increasing frequency. On a cold and rainy day recently, I ran into Jimmy, a homeless friend, at Coastline Church. He was there for their Community Meal. I said something about it being a miserable day, weather-wise. He said, "Jeff, every day that I come onto Coastline's property is a beautiful day for me. I love it here!" At Coastline Church, Jimmy finds a meal...but even more, he finds a community that cares.

### **What about your church community?**

We have so many generous churches that have supported Daily Bread over the years with volunteers and funding. I know that some of our churches are considering the possibility of starting their own Community Meal program. If you are thinking about that possibility, contact Jeff Hall, Warehouse Manager at [jeffh@dailybreadinc.org](mailto:jeffh@dailybreadinc.org). We would love to support you and help provide the resources your church will need to have a beautiful Community Meal that can help feed our community, with food and love.

With appreciation,

*Jeffrey Njus*

# YOUR GIFTS TO DAILY BREAD SUSTAIN OUR MISSION:

*To ensure that no one faces hunger or homelessness alone.*

## RECOGNIZING DONATIONS OF \$1,000 OR MORE IN 2024:

Robert & Bunny Adams	Mr. & Mrs. John Dornbos - Charitable Fund	Steven Kreuzkamp	Schaper
Air Force Chaplain Corps	Drendel Family Foundation	Robert & Lynn Kush	Daniel & Diane Scheuerer
Charlene Armenti	Rita Dubois	L3Harris	Sandra Schumaker
Ascension Catholic Church	Anita Dunaway	Tami Leeberg	Seacoast Bank
Ascension Lutheran Church	Eastminster Presbyterian Church	Christi Leeburg	Merrell Shye
Bank of America	Heather Elko	Lenovo	Larry Sills
Richard & Mary Ann Bansemer and Linda Johnston	Embraer Foundation	The Leslie L. Alexander Foundation	Robert Simcox
Jill Barlow	Enterprise Mobility Foundation	James & Karen Lloyd	Simple Generosity
Pedro Basiliati	Debra Espinosa	Juliana Love	Wythe Sims
Gary & Susie Baxter	Linda & Hugh Evans	Mary Gail Lubrani	Spacecoast Freewheelers, Bicycle Club, Inc.
Virginia Berlinrut	Faith Viera Lutheran Church	Peter & Jenna Mannino	St. John The Evangelist Catholic Church
James and Virginia Biedron	Siobhan Farrelly	Margaret R. Binz Foundation	Craig & Sandra Steeneck
George Blackwood	Neil & Geraldine Fernandes	Dennis & Rhonda Lee Mayo	Mona Stevenson
James & Cathy Bouck	Alfonso Finocchiaro	Ann McCandless	James & Mary Suggs
John & Patricia Bowen	First Baptist Church	Frances McCollough	Daniel Talbot
William & Krista Branan	Jeff & Christine Fisher	Darlyne McGee	John Talone
Dorothy Brett	Florida Power & Light	Denis & Katherine McNerny	Dr. Sumeet Thareja
Shirley Brostmeyer	Kim & Martha Fortier	Melissa McLaughlin	Trent Thorman
Shelley Brown	The Gale Foundation	Alesia McMillen	Mark & Nancy Tomassone
Donna Brown	Robert & Beverly Galloway	Chris & Pat Meehan	David Toney
Bernard & Thelma Bryan	John & Cathleen Geist	Judith Mendes	Richard Traut
Deborah Bryant	The Gemini Family Charitable Fund of 2010 Fund	Rob & Karen Monks	Tropical Haven Morning Worship
Byrd-Borland Foundation	Shayna Gleckel	Fred Mullins	Yvonne Trudell
Hoyt & Diane Byrum	Charles & Sharon Glisson	Eva Nagymihaly	John & Melissa Tuite
Calvary Chapel Fellowship of Melbourne, Inc.	Nathaniel & Elisha Gould	Alexander Nelson	Unity Church of Melbourne, Inc.
Ron & Rose Marie Capasso	William Gullede	Della Neve	Al & Sharon Vieira
Gayle Cappola	William Gullede	Richard & Gayle Njus	Christopher & Debra Walden
Ron & Kathie Caprilla	Erich Haeussler	Northrop Grumman Systems Corp	Joel Warner
Don Carlow	David & Kathleen Halpin	David O'Brien	The WAWA Foundation
Matthew & Meredith Carroll	Alexandra Harasym	Roger & Jennifer Ogburn	Bob & Mary Wells
William & Sallie Childers	Charles & Marcia Hardin	O'Neil Injury Law Office	West of Eau Gallie Civic Association, Inc.
Kathleen Churchill	Health First	John & Janet Osborne	Liz White
Bill & Jan Churchill	Edward & Carolyn Hecker	Our Lady of Lourdes Church	James & Susan Wickell
City of Melbourne	Janice Hill	Outdoors Resorts Chapel, Inc.	Leonardo DRS
Roger & Mary Cleaver	Paul & Ashley Hill	Laura Palmer	Steven & Debra Yannotti
Andrew & Kathy Cole	Margaret Hoenigman	Holly Parker	John & Monia Yust
Greg & Julie Cole	Jim & Linda Hollis	David & Linda Patterson	Michael Zarkowsky
Collins Aerospace	Kathleen & Douglas Holton	Joy Patterson	
Community Credit Union	Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church	James & Geraldine Peek	
Community Foundation For Brevard, Inc.	Gary & Sharon Houchens	Maggie Picerne	
Stephen & Robin Cremerius	Carolyn Hough	Nathan & Suzanne Pieri	
Crescent Beach Apartments, Inc.	Immaculate Conception Church	Neils & Tina Poulsen	
Mike & Becky Crews	Indiafest	Falecia Randolph	
Tempy Croft	Debbie Irizarry	Rollin Raymond	
Donald & Susan Cumming	Lawrence Jermyn	Raytheon Technologies	
Jerome Darby	JLJ Outreach Ministries	Eunice Reeves	
Alan & Marcia Defend	Beverly Jones	John Roach	
Drew & Kristin Denkhau	KCF Site Development, LLC	Patrick Roth	
Gene & Elizabeth Detwiler	Stephen Kerns	Robert & Jacqueline Rowe	
Dial Klein Law, PLLC	Susan Kniepmann	Ronald Salvaggio & Laverne Unger Salvaggio	
Nancy Dillen	Alan & Margaret Koechlein	Thomas & Rhonda Sammon	
Lesli Dooley	Lt. Col. Jeffrey & Dr. Tamara Koss	Sharon Schaper & Bill Frohlinger	

## Give with Confidence!



Candid's Platinum Seal recognizes philanthropic organizations that demonstrate a deep

commitment to transparency, accountability, and inclusivity and operate from a position of strong financial health.





Daily Bread is excited to partner with Circles of Care! Every Tuesday, the Mobile MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment) clinic will be onsite at Daily Bread or at a Daily Bread street outreach site. The team will be able to assess all individuals for both substance use disorders and behavioral health disorders, treat them, and provide referrals at no cost.



Daily Bread Case Manager, Vidya, celebrating the recent move-in of Steve and Daniel at Heritage Park.



Thank you to our friends at St. John's the Evangelist, who regularly give their time and resources to our mission!



On December 21st, the longest night of the year, Daily Bread participated in the National Homeless Person's Memorial and paused to remember the 66 unsheltered people who died in our community last year.



In commemorating Martin Luther King Day, the Zeta Phi Betas stopped in with hygiene items and food.



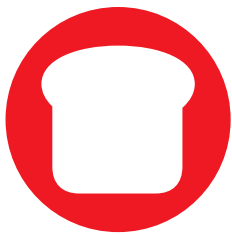
Daily Bread, in partnership with the City of Melbourne and other community volunteers, has held 14 cold night shelters so far this winter, providing a warm place to sleep for 211 unique individuals. For comparison, there were a total of three cold night shelters during the last two winter seasons.

*Thank you to the generous sponsors and attendees*

who made our World Dignity Day Breakfast a success!







**DAILY BREAD**

815 E. Fee Avenue  
Melbourne, FL 32901

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

Melbourne, FL 32901

Permit No. 239

Reserve your sponsorships and tickets at [dailybreadinc.org/chili](http://dailybreadinc.org/chili)

live music by  
local favorite  
AK40



live auction



adult beverages



Chili Cookoff

delicious eats  
& treats



games and  
bounce houses  
for the kids

*Hey Y'all!*

Get your boots on and c'mon down to Front Street for  
Daily Bread's 2nd Annual Chili Cookoff!

Sunday, April 6 ★ 3 to 6 pm

2205 Front Street, Melbourne, FL

2nd  
Annual