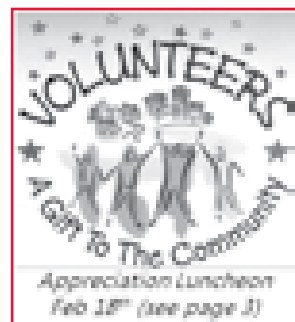


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“No one has ever become poor from giving.” Maya Angelou

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR . . .

It’s the week before Christmas

Today, while preparing for the next newsletter, I am reflecting on the events of the last year.

As I write this, I think of all the blessings we received this year. We have received so much clothing, more than ever received in the past, especially in December.

Our Food bank will see a total of 1,400,000 pounds of food this year, compared to 1,250,000 pounds last year. Volunteer hours have increased in 2016 and will surpass the hours served in 2015. Financial contributions have increased and we feel they will surpass 2015.

Our census this year reflected an increase in employment. Last year 36% of those coming to Daily Bread worked; this year 42% have jobs. Those homeless last year comprised 54% of those who come to Daily Bread; this year the percentage of those homeless is 59%. This year the median age of our clients is 51 years, and 38% of our clients are age 55 and older.

We have great volunteers, more than 547 people, who come at least once a month to the kitchen, service and outreach center, warehouse or thrift shop and help to feed and assist the poor hungry and homeless in the greater Melbourne area. We look forward to celebrating all our volunteers at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on February 18th!

We also look forward to a better year for everyone we encounter through Daily Bread.

I wish you all a happy and holy Christmas, and healthy and prosperous New Year!



John Farrell

Daily Bread

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

FEB / MAR 2017

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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.

A DAILY BREAD STORY . . . by David Vega

I was walking down the street in downtown Chicago a few years ago when my son, about 4 years old at the time, said “Papa how come no one is helping those poor people?” He was referring to the homeless you often see on the streets. I didn’t know how to respond for everyone else but I embarrassingly explained that I wasn’t ignoring their situation I simply did not have any cash. We decided after lunch we would get some money so we could offer help along our walk back home.

My son was so excited to personally offer assistance, gaining confidence with each successive interaction. As I was proudly watched him begins so graceful and respectful, I was surprised by a bystander who decided to intervene. He said, and I quote for emphasis, “Why are you giving that man five dollars?!” He wasn’t asking out of reverence; he was harshly implying the recipient was unworthy. I told him to mind his own business, but his attitude really bothered me.

I wish I could say that this obnoxious stranger was an aberration, but over the years I have had several people proclaim that “beggars” are unworthy. The most common premise is that they are lazy, bad, or use poor judgment, thus getting what they deserve. A few have appealed to my sense of justice by suggesting that I am falling for a despicable farce because they are not truly homeless.

I honestly don’t know the individual motivations but I can tell you that it takes a tremendous amount of courage to seek help. Early in my life I myself fell on hard times, albeit never homeless. And I can humbly confirm the only thing more difficult than believing you can climb out is having to ask for help. I cannot begin to fathom what it must feel like to have to rely on the whim of complete strangers.

As a result of personal experience and my inherent sense of communal responsibility, I have routinely given both my time and money to such worth causes as the United Way, the Alzheimer’s Association, and the Military Warriors Support Foundation. However, reflecting on the story I mentioned above I wanted to find a way to do more. This journey led me to the Daily Bread—a small local organization which caters to the homeless where I volunteer to serve as busboy and waiter during the Easter and Christmas holidays.

Truthfully the proximity to hundreds of people of this plight was emotionally overwhelming. It was heartbreaking to consider that the meal, no matter how elegant, was but a small solution to their much larger problems. But ultimately I learned the value was not so much in the meal itself but in the dignity in which it was offered. Setting the stage for the idea that they are in fact worthy of being served, which translates into the potential for a return to normalcy. This experience has been profoundly positive, bringing me closer to the notion of giving simply for the sake of giving. In essence, allowing the sincerity of the act to drive its own unique value for its recipient.

I recognize that not everyone seeking help is completely forthright, but I don’t believe we should give to bring balance; I believe we should give because doing so is the most wholesome measure of mankind. In the end, it is what makes us human and ultimately divine.

My path is unique to me and holds no bearing on you, but I share this story to ask you to reflect on the quality of your own life and its potential impact on others in need. Even the simplest acts of goodwill can prove to be grand. It is not how much you do; it is simply that you recognize that every little bit of time, money, or even positive thought wonderfully advances the common good.

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Editor..... Larry Sills

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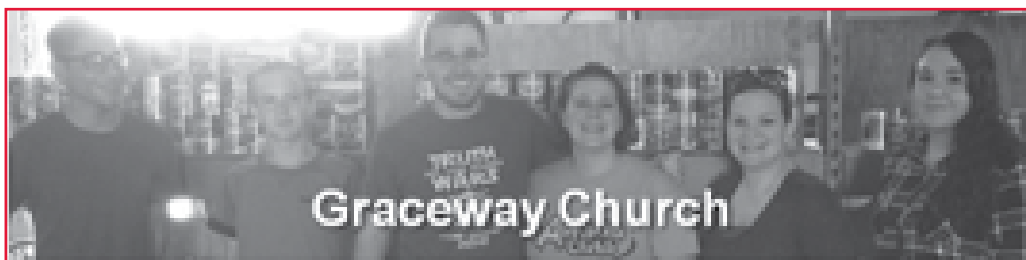
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Bob Moletteire
Bruce Waters

SO MANY PEOPLE TO THANK!



- Daily Bread Food Bank Donations**
Nov - Dec 2016
- Jim & Gerry Peek for \$300.00 donation
 - Ed Gelles & Team gathered 50 turkeys, 40 hams, plus towels, underwear, socks, etc.
 - West Shore Junior H.S. for 400 lbs of food
 - Garden food Service donated 1,000+ lbs of food from customers during Nov/Dec 2016
 - Hartford Apartments/Princeton Apartments teamed up for 200 lbs food
 - Florida Tech donated 4,000 lbs of food
 - Harbor bay Apartments 220 lbs of food
 - Indian River Colony Club donated 690 lbs food for Nov/Dec 2016 over 4,000 lbs for 2016
 - Melbourne Central Catholic (23) students sorted 4,800 lbs of cans
 - Graceway Church Volunteers sorted 2,400 lbs of cans
 - Rockwell Collins Joshua Ryan Department sorted 3,000 lbs of cans
 - C&S Wholesale Grocers donated 3,600 lbs
 - Anonymous Donor 300 lbs of soup
 - Suntree United Methodist Church donated chips, hamburger, hot dog buns
 - Northrop Grumman Melbourne donated (354) food items through the YOU GIVE GOODS Program
 - First Church of Christ Scientist of Melbourne (8) Hams
 - Boy Scout Food Drive collected 97,200 lbs of food this year—what a blessing!



VOLUNTEERS APPRECIATION LUNCHEON



Saturday, February 18, 2017
Our Lady of Lourdes
420 E. Fee Avenue,
Melbourne FL
11:30-2:00 pm

Please allow us to show our appreciation for all you do for our Community! We will share time together with a meal, fellowship, and a chance to show how truly grateful Daily Bread is for your service to the poor, hungry, and homeless. **RSVP IS REQUIRED!** Please respond to your team leader, at your volunteer sign-in station, or email events@dailybreadinc.org by January 31st.

DIGNITY DINING FOR THE HOLIDAYS!



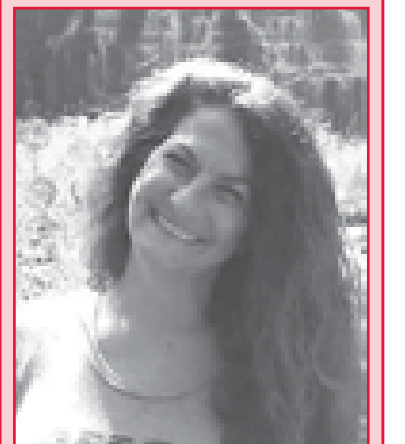
Each year a core team of volunteers plan, cook, and serve a special sit-down meal for the Daily Bread clients (Easter, 4th of July Picnic, Thanksgiving, & Christmas). These photos are from this years Thanksgiving meal. The goal of these events is to embrace the clients with the dignity every human being needs to grow in community. Volunteers are needed to prepare, serve and clean up. One of the greatest gifts we can give to a person in need is our time and caring. **To volunteer for a specific shift** fill out the Volunteer Application (at <http://dailybreadinc.org/>) and email it to kitchen@dailybread.org.



THIS 'N THAT

KITCHEN SPOTLIGHT: "GIVING IS RECEIVING"

 Tami O'Neil is a volunteer at Daily Bread who works in the Kitchen serving, preparing food for the hot meal, and getting the dessert line ready, as well. Recently Tami offered the following reflection on the unexpected affect serving Daily Bread's clients has had on her.



"I initially started volunteering at Daily Bread as an opportunity to serve others. As a Christ follower this is my heart's desire. "Little did I know that serving others would open the flood gates of God's blessings! I have been given love for others, compassion, strength of faith, sense of purpose, strength and gratitude beyond measure. "Not only have I received the above mentioned blessings, as if these aren't enough, but a sense of belonging, family, and a true belief that I belong and am blessed."